Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Kevin M. Hale Award for best Historical Newsletter in New Jersey

April 11, 2019 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - May 9, 1865

"Major General George H. Thomas—Time and History Will Do Me Justice"

Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, April 11th**, at **Camden County College** in the **Connector Building, Room 101**. This month's topic is ***"Major General George H. Thomas—Time and History Will Do Me Justice"***

Bill Vosseler

Bill presents the life and military career of Major General George H. Thomas, USA, Commanding, Department and Army of the Cumberland, the greatest general in the line of Virginians from George Washington through Winfield Scott.

Born in Virginia, George Henry Thomas (July 31, 1816–March 28, 1870) was a West Point graduate, a career U.S. Army officer, and one of the principal commanders in the Western Theater. Undefeated in battle, he was appointed by Lincoln a Major General in the Regular Army, one of only five authorized by Congress. "...it is doubtful whether his heroism and skill ... has ever been surpassed in this world." Abraham Lincoln commenting on General Thomas at Chickamauga.

William S. (Bill) Vosseler holds a BS in Business from Rutgers University. Retired from the Prudential Insurance Co. of America, in 2007 he founded Civil War Recreations, a company specializing in the recreation and worldwide sale of historic Civil War medals, ribbons and uniform related items.

Bill serves as Executive Director of the American Civil War Charitable Trust (ACWCT), a non-profit organization that raises money to promote Civil War study and to help American Civil War related organizations, nationwide, in their historic preservation, veterans' grave restoration, and educational efforts. In 2000, he founded the Union Library Civil War Round Table in Hatboro, PA, which met monthly until 2015.

Bill is also founder and past Camp Commander of the Baker/Fisher Camp 101, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Department of Pennsylvania, and a Legacy Life Member of the 12th Armored Division (WWII) Association. Having served in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam, he is a combat disabled Veteran and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Bill and his wife Peggy reside in Garnet Valley, PA.

Notes from the President...

Spring has sprung and the Phillies are off to a good start smacking the ball around the yard. As you travel to sites and events, be sure to write about it and share with **Don Wiles** so he can include it in our award-winning newsletter. Thank you for all who submitted your dues to **Frank Barletta** to allow us to continue our expansion in Southern New Jersey and our fine programs each month.

Dave Prentiss provided us with a well-researched and enlightening presentation on "Lincoln's Political Religion." All in attendance departed with a deeper understanding of Lincoln's thought process. This month General George Thomas will visit us through **Bill Vosseler**. Join us to learn about the life and career of the Commanding General of the Army of the Cumberland.

Congratulations!! We have reach 1000 likes on the OB-CWRT Facebook page. Keep inviting folks to "like" us. Follow Flat Old Baldy's adventures on out page. Thank you to the members who attended **Joe Wilson's** program on Walt Whitman. A shout out to Joe for a great presentation and for packing the room. Hope to see some of the guest at an upcoming meeting. Thank you to **Dave Gilson** for coordinating the recent update to our Constitution and By-Laws and to **Sean Gilson** for distributing the revised documents to the membership.

Details on the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser will be out soon. Keep purchasing through Amazon Smiles with Old Baldy. We will be moving forward on recording and sharing some of our presentations with our friends and follower who cannot get out to join us in Blackwood. Our information flyer is being updated and should be available

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1 - "Notes from the President"

at our April meeting. We have initiated several projects, reach out to a Board member to learn how you can be involved in moving our Round Table forward in South Jersey. Together we will continue to succeed.

Our trip to Vineland to visited Civil War related sites will be on May 4th, remember to let **Dave Gilson** know if you will be joining us, as he is attempting to determine a head count. May 11th will be "Built in Camden County Day," the first of several Heritage Trail days. More information is available on the flyer available at our April meeting. The next edition of the Camden County History Alliance Heritage magazine will be out next month. Pick up a copy at our May meeting. Plan on attending the South Jersey History Fair on June 8th in Glendora. Let us know if you are interested in serving on out outreach team to share our message at various events.

Join us at the Lamp Post Diner before the meeting for good food and conversation

Rich Jankowski, President

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Constitution & By-Laws

For a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws Contact:
Sean Glisson, Secretary
seanglisson@comcast.net

WEB Site: http://oldbaldycwrt.org
(Under "About Us")

Old Baldy Field Trip to Historic Vineland!

Saturday, May 4th, 10am – 3pm

Meet at the Vineland Historical Society, 108 South Seventh Street, Vineland, NJ at 10am. We will tour the museum, and then travel to the President Grant House, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Landis Park, Soldier's Home, Cemetery and Civil War Cannon. Ending at a local restaurant for a late lunch. We hope there will be many of the members who will join the tour. It should be a fun day of Civil War History.

Contact: Dave Gilson at 856-323-6484 or email: dgilson404@gmail.com to let Dave know if you can join us on May 4th.

Today in Civil War History

1862 Friday, April 11

The North
The House of Representatives pass the bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, which has been passed by the Senate eight days before.

Eastern Theater
After a bombardment of 18 hours, Fort Pulaski surrenders. The Federals take 360 prisoners and capture 47 guns.

Western Theater
General Halleck, in command of the armies of Grant, Buell, and Pope, begins preparations for the Union to move upon Corinth, Mississippi. The town of Huntsville, Tennessee, is captured by Federals, who are now almost astride the Memphis and Charleston railroad.

Naval Operations
At Newport News there is another confrontation between the Monitor and the Virginia, but no shots are exchanged.

1863 Saturday, April 11

The North
Lincoln confers with the Cabinet. Hooker, mindful of security, has briefed the president only on his future plans, and even the formidable secretary of war does not know exactly what the general intends.

Eastern Theater
Longstreet begins a month-long siege of Suffolk, Virginia. Hooker is aware of this further reduction in Lee's strength and gleefully anticipates a major victory.

1864 Monday, April 11

Trans-Mississippi
Banks reaches Grand Ecore and entrenches, throwing a pontoon bridge over the river and asking for reinforcements from New Orleans. Porter's fleet is now in dire peril as the waters of the Red River are falling, threatening to maroon his warships in Confederate territory. A pro-Union state government is inaugurated at Little Rock, Arkansas, with Dr Isaac Murphy as governor.

1865 Tuesday, April 11

Eastern Theater
Shennan's army is marching on Raleigh, planning to intercept Johnston's Confederates.

Western Theater
The small defensive works, Forts Tracy and Huger, are blown up during the night at Mobile. General Maury prepares to evacuate the city.

Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 11th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, Room 105.

American Women And Royal Marriages: NJs "Lady Coras" presented by Melissa Ziobro

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

The Countess of Grantham, Lady Cora of "Downton Abby" fame, introduced the audience to a wealthy American woman marrying the future Earl of Grantham. This was a story made for the screen but in real life there were women who wanted a title, had wealth, and looked toward the European men to wed. These women are called "Dollar Princesses". Between the Civil War and World War I there were close to 500 marriages including a list of ladies from New Jersey. It was a time in Europe in the 19th century when British nobility were not doing well financially even though they owned huge mansions and lots of land. If they could not get production from the land in the growing of grains, for example, and other agricultural production, money was lost. When the United States were growing produces that England had grown in the past the fortunes of people of wealth declined too. This depression turned these wealthy families into second class citizens. The American elite was getting stronger and more successful at the same time wealth was declining abroad.

So how do we get money again to continue keeping our mansions and land? "New Money" was part of the makeup of American socialites. They wanted the social standing like other members of the elite society. These "Dollar Princesses" thought that getting a title and helping the economy in Europe, was a good solution for both the American woman and the European man. There were many British aristocracy that became interested in finding the wealthy American wife with the cash needed to help the British economy and the ladies got their title.

Some examples of notable princesses from the Gilded Age are:

Railroad heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt who married and became the Duchess of Marlborough. They had an elaborate wedding costing between 2.5 to 5 million dollars. They had two sons but, alas, the marriage was unhappy. Divorce followed and Consuelo turned to advancing the cause for women suffrage.

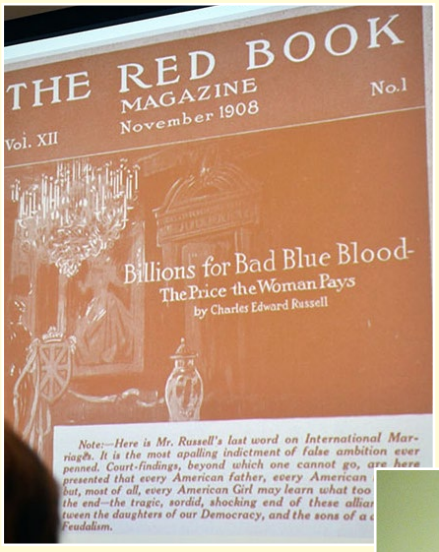
Great granddaughter, Julia Dent Grant married Prince Mikhail Mikhailovich Cantacuzene. The prince was the Russian ambassador in Rome. The couple had three children and lived in St. Petersburg until they had to leave after the Russian Revolution. Julia sewed her jewels into her clothing and escaped to the United States. Again, the marriage was not a happy one and they divorced and Julia and children moved back to Washington D.C.

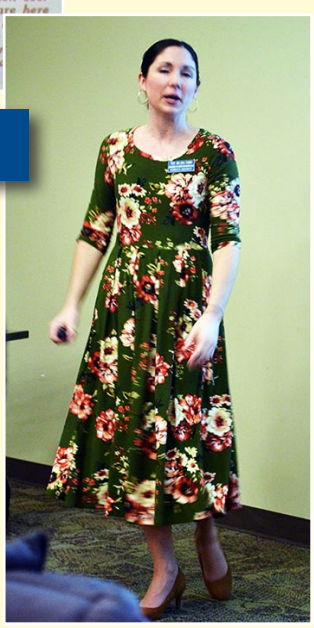
Here were many other women who chose to give their wealth to Europe for a title from New Jersey.

These women are less known then the princesses from other regions but still had the wealth to find a husband with a title in European society.

Here are a few of the New Jersey "Dollar Princesses":

Consuelo Yznaga of Orange, New Jersey married George Victor Drogo Montagu and upon his father's death he became the Duchess of Manchester. They had three children but the marriage was not happy, the Duke abandoned the family. Consuelo was popular in British society, living in London and supporting many charities. Consuelo's parents obtained their wealth by owning a large plantation and sugar mills. They had homes in New York and Newport, RI as an example of this accumulated wealth. When she died, she left an estate valued between $5-6 million.


THE RED BOOK
MAGAZINE
November 1908
No. 1
Vol. XII
Billions for Bad Blue Blood-
The Price the Woman Pays
by Charles Edward Russell
Note:—Here is Mr. Russell's last word on International Marriages. It is the most appalling indictment of false ambition ever penned. Court-findings, beyond which one cannot go, are here presented that every American father, every American mother, but, most of all, every American Girl may learn what too often the end—the tragic, sordid, shocking end of these alliances between the daughters of our Democracy, and the sons of a



Melissa Ziobro

Constance Kinney-Kinnelson from Burlington, NJ married Count Gianotti and became the Countess Gianotti. Her husband was the Grand Master of Ceremonies at the Court of the Quirinal, Rome. They had two daughters. Constance's family earned their wealth from tobacco.

May Campbell Cuyler of Morristown, NJ became Lady Grey-Egerton. The family took over $50,000 dollars out of the country. This also was an unhappy married and they divorced. Her sons were killed in WWI.

Romaine Stone of Morristown, NJ became Lady Monson. She left Morristown to go to Florence, Italy with Lord Monson's family. Her husband was stationed as Commissioner General of the British Red Cross in Italy. They both worked for the Red Cross during WWI

Maude Lorillard of the tobacco company P. Lorillard & Co. of Jersey City, NJ. Today the business is Lorillard Tobacco Company, the oldest tobacco company in the United States. Maude became the Honorable Mrs. Cecil T. Baring. They were being harassed so much that they bought a private island off the coast of Ireland to get away. Maude and her family lived in Rancocas, NJ while she was growing up. Anita Stewart of Elberon, NJ became engaged to Prince

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3 - "American Women"

Melissa Ziobro, Rich Jankowski and Flat Old Baldy

Miguel, Duke of Viseu. The prince had massive debts and felt that marrying an American heiress would make all his financial worries go away. Even with a $5 million-dollar dowry it did not address the problem. Anita did get her title of Princess Miguel of Braganza. During WWI because the Prince was an Austrian subject, Anita and her children first fled to Switzerland, by 1920 the family got back to the United States.

After World War I the "new" American money was being accepted and the idea of the "Dollar Princess" was losing its excitement. With many of these marriages very unhappy and ending in divorce plus the large sums of money that were leaving the United States for other countries was not an acceptable practice anymore. As historian Eric Homberger wrote, "The war turned American attention away from the heiresses, and did much to destroy the world of the European aristocracy."

Melissa's presentation examined a topic that was new to me and I can imagine to the other attendees. Not knowing the title "Dollar Princesses" in our history became a fascinating journey not only in Europe but in our own state of New Jersey. Who new! Rich, Sandy Clark, and myself attended and were happy to see Melissa again. A surprise for Melissa was bringing Flat Old Baldy for a photo opt. Did you know that Melissa is Flat Old Baldy's number one fan? There may be some love in the air between Melissa and Flat Old Baldy! Time will tell! All I can say is that seeing Flat Old Baldy and Melissa together made the night even more special. Thanks Mellissa, for bringing this topic about these interesting families during the Gilded Age to our attention.

"the Rock of Chickamauga."

Major General George Henry Thomas

George Henry Thomas (July 31, 1816 – March 28, 1870) was a United States Army officer and a Union general during the American Civil War, one of the principal commanders in the Western Theater.

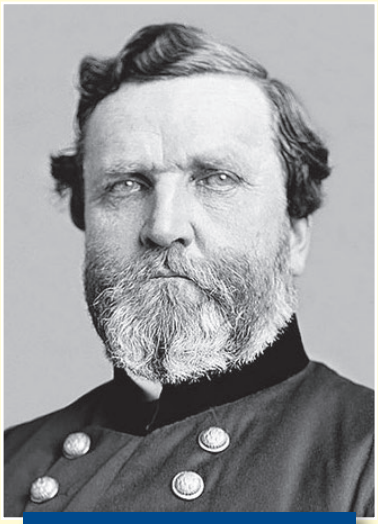
Thomas served in the Mexican–American War and later chose to remain with the U.S. Army for the Civil War as a Southern Unionist, despite his heritage as a Virginian (whose home state would join the Confederate States of America). He won one of the first Union victories in the war, at Mill Springs in Kentucky, and served in important subordinate commands at Perryville and Stones River. His stout defense at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863 saved the Union Army from being completely routed, earning him his most famous nickname, "the Rock of Chickamauga." He followed soon after with a dramatic breakthrough on Missionary Ridge in the Battle of Chattanooga. In the Franklin–Nashville Campaign of 1864, he achieved one of the most decisive victories of the war, destroying the army of Confederate General John Bell Hood, his former student at West Point, at the Battle of Nashville.

Thomas had a successful record in the Civil War, but he failed to achieve the historical acclaim of some of his contemporaries, such as Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman. He developed a reputation as a slow, deliberate general who shunned self-promotion and who turned down advancements in position when he did not think they were justified. After the war, he did not write memoirs to advance his legacy. He also had an uncomfortable personal relationship with Grant, which served him poorly as Grant advanced in rank and eventually to the Presidency.

American Civil War

Remaining with the Union

At the outbreak of the Civil War, 19 of the 36 officers in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry resigned, including three of Thomas's superiors—Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E. Lee, and William J. Hardee. Many Southern-born officers were torn between loyalty to their states and loyalty to their country. Thomas struggled with the decision but opted to remain with the United States. His Northern-born wife probably helped influence his decision. In response, his family turned his picture against the wall, destroyed his letters, and never spoke to him again. (During the economic hard times in the South after the war, Thomas sent some money to his sisters, who angrily refused to accept it, declaring they had no brother.)



Major General George Henry Thomas

Nevertheless, Thomas stayed in the Union Army with some degree of suspicion surrounding him. On January 18, 1861, a few months before Fort Sumter, he had applied for a job as the commandant of cadets at the Virginia Military Institute. Any real tendency to the secessionist cause, however, could be refuted when he turned down Virginia Governor John Letcher's offer to become chief of ordnance for the Virginia Provisional Army. On June 18, his former student and fellow Virginian, Confederate Col. J.E.B. Stuart, wrote to his wife, *"Old George H. Thomas is in command of the cavalry of the enemy. I would like to hang, hang him as a traitor to his native state."* Nevertheless, as the Civil War carried on, he won the affection of Union soldiers serving under him as a "soldier's soldier", who took to affectionately referring to Thomas as "Pap Thomas".

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4 - "Thomas"

Kentucky
Thomas was promoted in rapid succession to be lieutenant colonel (on April 25, 1861, replacing Robert E. Lee) and colonel (May 3, replacing Albert Sidney Johnston) in the regular army, and brigadier general of volunteers (August 17). In the First Bull Run Campaign, he commanded a brigade under Maj. Gen. Robert Patterson in the Shenandoah Valley, but all of his subsequent assignments were in the Western Theater. Reporting to Maj. Gen. Robert Anderson in Kentucky, Thomas was assigned to training recruits and to command an independent force in the eastern half of the state. On January 18, 1862, he defeated Confederate Brig. Gens. George B. Crittenden and Felix Zollicoffer at Mill Springs, gaining the first important Union victory in the war, breaking Confederate strength in eastern Kentucky, and lifting Union morale.

Shiloh and Corinth
On December 2, 1861, Brig. Gen. Thomas was assigned to command the 1st Division of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio. He was present at the second day of the Battle of Shiloh (April 7, 1862), but arrived after the fighting had ceased. The victor at Shiloh, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, came under severe criticism for the bloody battle and his superior, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, reorganized his Department of the Mississippi to ease Grant out of direct field command. The three armies in the department were divided and recombined into three "wings". Thomas, promoted to major general effective April 25, 1862, was given command of the Right Wing, consisting of four divisions from Grant's former Army of the Tennessee and one from the Army of the Ohio. Thomas successfully led this putative army in the siege of Corinth. On June 10, Grant returned to command of the original Army of the Tennessee.

Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga
Thomas resumed service under Don Carlos Buell. During Confederate General Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky in the fall of 1862, the Union high command became nervous about Buell's cautious tendencies and offered command of the Army of the Ohio to Thomas, who refused. Thomas served as Buell's second-in-command at the Battle of Perryville; although tactically inconclusive, the battle halted Bragg's invasion of Kentucky as he voluntarily withdrew to Tennessee. Again frustrated with Buell's ineffective pursuit of Bragg, the Union replaced him with Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans. Thomas wrote on October 30, 1862, a letter of protest to Secretary Stanton, feeling that Rosecrans was junior to him, but Stanton wrote back on November 15, telling him that that was not the case (Rosecrans had in fact been his junior, but his commission as major general had been backdated to make him senior to Thomas) and reminding him of his earlier refusal to accept command; Thomas demurred and withdrew his protest.

Fighting under Rosecrans, commanding the "Center" wing of the newly renamed Army of the Cumberland, Thomas gave an impressive performance at the Battle of Stones River, holding the center of the retreating Union line and once again preventing a victory by Bragg. He was in charge of the most important part of the maneuvering from Decherd to Chattanooga during the Tullahoma Campaign (June 22 – July 3, 1863) and the crossing of the Tennessee River. At the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19, 1863, now commanding the XIV Corps, he once again held a desperate position against Bragg's onslaught while the Union line on his right collapsed. Thomas rallied broken and scattered units together on Horseshoe Ridge to prevent a significant Union defeat from becoming a hopeless rout. Future president James Garfield, a field officer for the Army of the Cumberland, visited Thomas during the battle, carrying orders from Rosecrans to retreat; when Thomas said he would have to stay behind to ensure the Army's safety, Garfield told Rosecrans that Thomas was "standing like a rock." After the battle he became widely known by the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga", representing his determination to hold a vital position against strong odds

Thomas succeeded Rosecrans in command of the Army of the Cumberland shortly before the Battles for Chattanooga (November 23–25, 1863), a stunning Union victory that was highlighted by Thomas's troops storming the Confederate line on Missionary Ridge. As the Army of the Cumberland advanced further than ordered, General Grant, on Orchard Knob asked Thomas, "Who ordered the advance?" Thomas replied, "I don't know. I did not."

Atlanta and Franklin/Nashville
During Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's advance through Georgia in the spring of 1864, the Army of the Cumberland numbered over 60,000 men, and Thomas's staff did the logistics and engineering for Sherman's entire army group, including developing a novel series of Cumberland pontoons. At the Battle of Peachtree Creek (July 20, 1864), Thomas's defense severely damaged Lt. Gen. John B. Hood's army in its first attempt to break the siege of Atlanta.

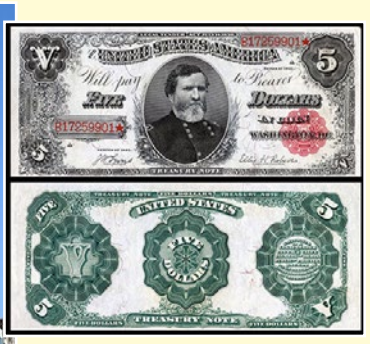
When Hood broke away from Atlanta in the autumn of 1864, menaced Sherman's long line of communications, and endeavored to force Sherman to follow him, Sherman abandoned his communications and embarked on the March to the Sea. Thomas stayed behind to fight Hood in the Franklin-Nashville Campaign. Thomas, with a smaller force, raced with Hood to reach Nashville, where he was to receive reinforcements.

At the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, a large part of Thomas's force, under command of Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, dealt Hood a strong defeat and held him in check long enough to cover the concentration of Union forces in Nashville. At Nashville, Thomas had to organize his forces, which had been drawn from all parts of the West and which included many young troops and even quartermaster employees. He declined to attack until his army was ready and the ice covering the ground had melted

Battle of Chickmauga

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5 - "Thomas"



Thomas Monument at Thomas Circle Washington, DC

Five Dollar Treasury Note

Grave at Oakwood Cemetery Troy, New York

enough for his men to move. The North, including General Grant himself (now general-in-chief of all Union armies), grew impatient at the delay. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan was sent with an order to replace Thomas, and soon afterwards Grant started a journey west from City Point, Virginia to take command in person.

Thomas attacked on December 15, 1864, in the Battle of Nashville and effectively destroyed Hood's command in two days of fighting. Thomas sent his wife, Frances Lucretia Kellogg Thomas, the following telegram, the only communication surviving of the Thomases' correspondence: *"We have whipped the enemy, taken many prisoners and considerable artillery."*

Thomas was appointed a major general in the regular army, with date of rank of his Nashville victory, and received the Thanks of Congress:
... to Major-General George H. Thomas and the officers and soldiers under his command for their skill and dauntless courage, by which the rebel army under General Hood was signally defeated and driven from the state of Tennessee.

Thomas may have resented his late promotion to major general (which made him junior by date of rank to Sheridan); upon receiving the telegram announcing it, he remarked to Surgeon George Cooper: *"I suppose it is better late than never, but it is too late to be appreciated. I earned this at Chickamauga."*.

Thomas also received another nickname from his victory: **"The Sledge of Nashville"**.

White Roses... Civil War Nurses

Each Month I would like you to meet some of these heroic women.

Nurses were not part of the Armies, There was no Nursing Corps. These were women who went off to contribute their efforts to helping the wounded, dying and ill. They helped in Hospitals, Battlefields and Camps. There are very few records and photographs of these brave women so the accounts are few.

Harriet Patience Dame

Dame was born in Barnstead, New Hampshire (or North Barnstead) to James Chadbourne and Phebe Ayers on January 5, 1815. Dame was the youngest of five children. In 1843, Dame moved to Concord, New Hampshire where she lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, and worked at various occupations.By 1861, she ran a student boarding house. She had no formal training as a nurse.

When war came, Dame, aged 46, approached the recruit training station at Camp Union in Concord and offered her services to officers there. Because the camp had no infirmary, Dame was put into service as a nurse.

Dame served with the 2nd New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry as a matron from June 1861 to Christmas 1865 when the regiment was mustered out of service. She served without furlough through two enlistment periods. Her pay as a hospital matron was six dollars a month until 1863, when the wage increased to ten dollars a month.

Harriet Patience Dame

The regiment was mainly made up of men from Concord and Exeter, led by Col. Gilman Marston. Dame marched and camped alongside the troops, often as the only woman among a thousand men. She was appointed matron of the 18th Army Corps hospital in September 1864. Her duties included supervising other nurses, and cooking for the hospital patients, often numbering in the thousands. Marston said of her: "Miss Dame was the bravest woman I ever knew. I have seen her face a cannon battery without flinching while a man took refuge behind her for safety from flying shells. She was always present when most needed." She saw action at first Bull Run, second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. Dame's tending to the men went beyond medical attention; she would sometimes pick strawberries for the wounded, or write letters home for them. Dame's nursing duties varied as well; sometimes she would oversee supplies, other times she would investigate the sanitary conditions of other regiments. Dame remained at this hospital until the end of active war operations, when she reconvened with the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment. On December 25, 1865, the regiment was mustered out of service, ending Dame's service.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 - "White Roses"

This portrait hangs in the New Hampshire State House

She was twice captured in battle, and released by her captors. At the Second Battle of Bull Run, Dame was taken as a prisoner but released because she cared for Union and Confederate soldiers indiscriminately. In once instance, Stonewall Jackson authorized her return to Union lines.

Post-war life

After the war, Dame was appointed by William E. Chandler to a Treasuy Department clerkship in Washington, D.C.,[1] which she held for twenty-eight years until 1895. She did not return to her home state until 1900. Congress voted her a military pension in 1884, though Dame always donated the money to those in needed.

Dame served as the third president of the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War, upon the death of Dorothea Dix and resignation of Dr. Susan Ann Edson.

Dame never married. She died in Concord and was buried at Blossom Hill Cemetery.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

Richmond's Great Homefront Disaster

By David L. Burton CWT, October, 1982

Friday dawned much like many another dreary late winter Richmond day. It was morning in a proud river city grown too rapidly into the capital of an infant nation at war.

By this day, March 13, 1863, Richmonders had become accustomed to the ever-present Yankee menace. They had been outside and around their city for the past twenty-three months. But this fading winter had brought more trouble than even the most stouthearted cosmopolitan Virginian could have imagined. First, a smallpox epidemic had plagued residents, especially poorer ones. Then, in a city whose population had roughly tripled in three years' time, there were the twin problems of inflation and critical food shortages, woes affecting the well-to-do as well as the not so well-to-do.

Alabama's Confederate senator, Clement C. Clay, was alarmed. "A general gloom prevails here because of the scarcity and high price of food," he wrote to his wife from the Rebel capital. . . Really there is a serious apprehension of having to disband part of the army for want of food. In this city the poor clerks and subaltern military officers are threatened with starvation, as they cannot get board on their pay. God only knows what is to become of us."

Confederate War Department diarist Iohn B. Jones put it this way: "The shadow of the gaunt form of famine is upon us!" And as bad as matters were, they would get worse. Richmonders had no way of knowing it, but in a week's time they would be faced with the season's worst snowstorm and the all-too-familiar sorrow over a fallen hero, this time the gallant]ohn Pelham, artillerist extraordinaire.

As they went their ways on this Friday the 13th, Richmonders also had no way of knowing that before noon one of the struggling Confederacy's worst homefront disasters would occur.

The first hint of tragedy was a dull, prolonged roar from the direction of Brown's Island, a mound of dirt in the James River at the base of Seventh Street. The island, described two years earlier as a pretty little wildemess of bamboo and brush wood, had been transfonned into a collection of one-story, frame buildings in which several hundred employees, most of them young girls, produced much of the ammunition that kept the Confederate army fighting.

The roar startled some Richmonders, but many, used to hearing explosions from the testing of ordnance at the nearby Tredegar Iron Works, paid scant attention. Several minutes later, dense smoke made townsfolk aware that something in- deed was wrong. The telltale smoke came from the destruction of a department of the Confederate States Laboratory, an installation referred to in early 1863 as the salvation of the Confederacy.

Joseph Mayo, Richmond's mayor shaken by the Brown's Island tragedy.

"Terrible Laboratory Explosion on Brown's Island—Between Forty and Fifty Killed and Wounded — Horrible Scenes" was how Richmond's Daily Examiner summed up the event.

Within minutes of the explosion, pandemonium broke loose. "A tide of human beings, among them the frantic mothers and kindred of the employees in the Laboratory, immediately set towards the bridge leading to the island," the Examiner reported. However, authorities had already taken possession of the bridge and limited access to the island to rescue and medical workers.

The Examiner gave its account of the scene: "The apartment in which the explosion occurred, about fifty feet in length and twenty in width, was blown into a complete wreck, the roof lifted off, and the walls dashed out, the ruins falling upon the operatives, and the horrors of fire were threat- ened to be added to those of the explosion; but the flames were suppressed.

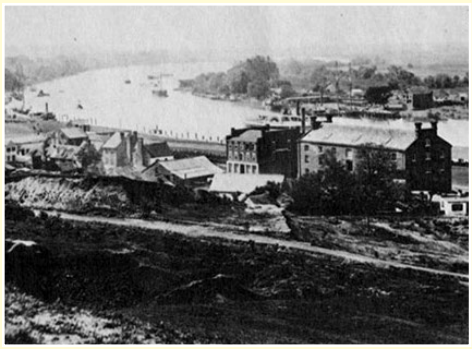
"While the male employees were laboring to rescue the helpless victims, the most heart-rending lamentations and cries issued from the ruins from sufferers rendered delirious from suffering and terror. No sooner was one helpless, unrecognizable mass of humanity cared for and removed before the piteous appeals of another would invoke the energy of the rescuers. Some ten to twenty were taken from the ruins dead, and from twenty to thirty still alive, but suffering the most terrible agonies, blind from bums, with their hair bumed from their heads, and the clothes hanging in buming shreds about their persons. Others less injured ran wailing frantically, and "rushing wildly into the nearest arms for succor and relief. Mothers rushed about, throwing them-

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7 - "Friday the 13th"

selves upon the corpses of the dead, and the persons of the wounded. . . .

"The immediate treatment of the bumed consisted in removing their clothing and covering the body thickly with flour and cotton, saturated with oil; chloroform was all administered. The sufferings of the wounded were alleviated by these means in the interval between their rescue and removal to their homes, or General Hospital No. 2, where many were taken. The retuming ambulances carrying the sufferers were besieged by the friends and relations of the employees, and children clamored into the vehicles crying bitterly in their search after sisters and brothers. The distress among friends was aggravated by the fact that it was utterly impossible to recognize many of the wounded on account of their disfigurement, except by bits of clothing, shoes. . . .



Many young girls and women who died in the laboratory explosion lived in working class slums. Even in peacetime Richmond, this was not a pleasant existence. Here, a Richmond factory-hand neighborhood, "Rocketts."

"From an officer connected with the Laboratory we learn that the department destroyed was in charge of Mr. McCarthy, superintendent. The condemned cartridges were here broken by the girls [the laboratory's employees], and distributed, the bullets into one recepticle and the powder into another. lt is surmised that a percussion cap containing fulminating ingredients got mixed in with the powder and created an explosion. Fortunately, there was but a small quantity of powder in the de- partment, or the greater force of the explosion would have extended the ignition to the next department."

As tragic as the explosion appeared at the time, the magnitude of the human disaster soon became more apparent. By Saturday night, twenty-nine persons had died, and more deaths appeared certain. Then on Sunday, shaken Richmonders could see funeral corteges moving in nu- merous directions through the city, in several instances encountering each other as they wound their ways to the same cemetery.

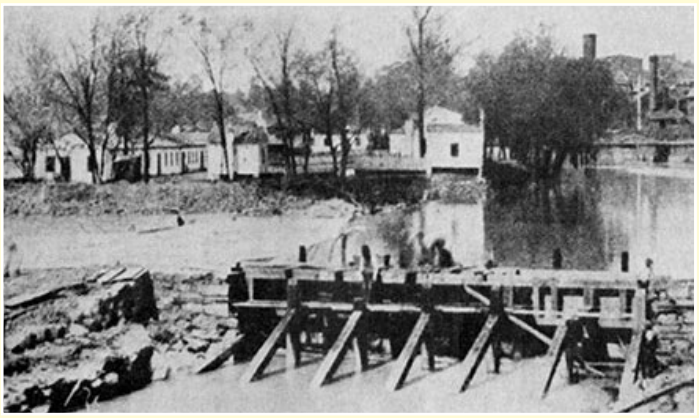
Eventually, at least forty-five of the sixty-eight explosion casualties died. However, because of the incomplete nature of newspapers of the time and Richmond cemetery records, establishing a precise death toll was not possible. Many of the dead were young girls caught up in a war they could hardly hope to understand.

By the Monday after the explosion, additional details of the human agony had emerged. A 15-year-old boy had been wedged between a wall and some timbers, and axes were used to free him. Bumed horribly and suffering from a broken skull, the boy lived until Wednesday.

Several girls whose clothes were on fire had run from the debris and plunged into the river. "All are thought to have come out, save one — Martha Burley, who is missing and is suposed to have drowned by accident or voluntarily in her crazed state of mind," the Examiner reported.

A hero also had come to light. One girl, her clothes in flames, had run toward another laboratory building in which a large quantity of gun- powder and combustibles were kept. A male employee grabbed her just before she reached the threshhold. Witnesses said his actions saved numerous lives and worse damage.

Even though they had become accustomed to the horrors of war, Richmonders were appalled by the laboratory tragedy. ‘Today a great calamity occurred in this city," lones of the War Department wrote in his diary for March 13. "In a large room of one of the govemment labora- tories an explosion took place, killing instantly five or six persons, and wounding, it is feared fatally, some thirty others. Most of them were little indigent girls!"



The site of disaster; the small workshop buildings of the Brown's Island laboratory. This photograph was originally identified "The Laboratory For Small Ammunition At Ricmond. "

Perhaps no one was more shocked than Colonel Josiah Gorgas, the industrious Pennsylvanian who, as the Confederates’ chief of ordnance, was responsible for supplying ammunition for the Confederate army. "A fearful accident occurred at our Laboratory here on Friday, the 13th of March," he wrote. After predicting that the death toll might reach fifty, Gorgas added: "lt is terrible to think of —that so much suffering should arise from causes possibly within our control."

Gorgas knew what had become common knowledge in the capital; the tragedy had been caused by an 18-year-old girl, Mary Ryan.

The colonel wrote in his diary: ‘The accident was caused by the ignition of a friction primer in the hands of a grown girl by the name of Mary Ryan. She . . . gave a clear account of the circumstances. The primer stuck in the vamishing board and she struck the board three times very hard on the table to drive out the primer. She says she was immediately blown up to the ceiling and on coming down was again blown up."

Ryan, a native of lreland, suffered with her injuries until the Monday after the explosion. She died at her father's home on Oregon Hill, a residential area within a mile of the laboratory.

Gorgas, a man to whom strict safety precautions were an almost sacred subject, ordered a thorough investigation of the

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8 - "Friday the 13th"

explosion. So a three-officer board conducted a probe and produced a report. Dated March 25, 1863, it presented an interesting look at operations in a facility in which young girls were pressed into the service of a country struggling for independence.

Captain Wesley N. Smith, superintendent of the laboratory, was in his office across from the island when the explosion occurred. He arrived at the scene within two minutes.

Fifteen or twenty minutes earlier, while making a routine inspection of the works, he had cautioned Miss Ryan about the dangerous work she was doing—filling friction primers, the highly explosive devices used to ignite gunpowder in large field pieces. Smith told the investigating board his warning was not prompted by any carelessness on the part of Ryan, but was in keeping with his habit of enforcing caution upon the laboratory employees.

At the end of the table at which Ryan was working, two or three em- ployees were filling cartridges, and at the lower part of the room was a coal-burning stove. At another table in the room, a number of girls were breaking up condemned cartridges, and also in the room several employees were boxing percussion caps and friction primers. This latter work had been transferred from its normal site while that building was being enlarged.

"Had this work been going on in a building devoted to that purpose exclusively, the bursting of a primer might have been fatal to the individ- ual handling it but could not have caused such general destruction of life," the investigating board quoted Smith as having said. "lt was never intended that any explosive materials should be placed in a room where a stove was used."

Philip Smith, the employees' time-keeper on the island, said he was standing in Main Street at the time of the explosion and hurried to the scene. He was told by one of the wounded the captain had cautioned Mary Ryan earlier that moming. Smith went to see her immediately. She "admitted to him that the explosion had been caused by the bursting of a friction primer which she was trying to remove from the board or form in which it was placed and that in doing so she had rapped the end of the board against the table," the investigators said.

Lizzie Dawson, interviewed while a hospital patient, said she was seated at the same table as Mary Ryan and was breaking up cartridges. From about three feet away, she saw her strike the board against another board. She said she was positive about the cause of the explosion.

Another of the injured, Mary Cordle, had iust emptied a box of powder when the explosion occurred. She said she had seen Mary Ryan previously rapping the board containing primers against the work bench.

Overall, the report indicated many safety precautions were adhered to in the laboratory and that Captain Smith and others made frequent inspections of the shops. But witnesses said they had seen Mary Ryan strike the board containing friction primers on work benches before. The question remained as to why this practice had not been halted.

Richmond rallied to assist the stricken. The city's mayor, loseph Mayo, asked the Young Men's Christian Association to aid in raising funds for the relief of the sufferers and their families. A committee was appointed to solicit contributions, and employees of the Richmond Arsenal and Laboratory pitched in. And the proprietors of two Richmond theaters donated the proceeds of a night's entertainment to the cause.

Although no record apparently exists of the amount of donations, Richmonders responded liberally. Gorgas' wife was active. "Mamma has been untiring in aiding, visiting and relieving these poor sufferers and has fatigued herself very much," he confided in his diary. "She has done an infinite deal of good to these poor people."

Arms-bearing men were touched. Prompted by the mayor's appeal to Richmonders, one soldier wrote to the Richmond Sentinel. "A non-resident of the city, l beg to appeal to all humane people in the city and the State, to contribute to so laudable a purpose. The poor wounded creatures are young females who were dependent on their daily labor for their support. l send you five dollars and am only sorry l cannot afford more."

The Sentinel turned the donation over to the mayor and welcomed similar contributions.

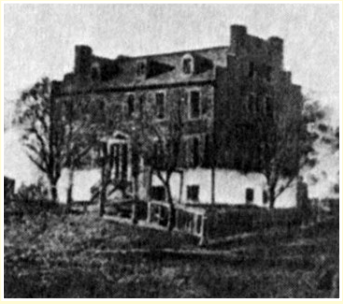
For several weeks, reminders of the calamity cropped up. On April 10, Martha Clemmons, age 25, who was injured in the explosion and then caught smallpox, was buried. The next day, the body of the missing laboratory employee, Miss Burley, was pulled from the lames River and turned over to friends for burial.

lronically, the laboratory had enjoyed a good reputation for safety before the explosion. ln early January 1863, the Richmond Enquirer had reported on a tour of the laboratory departments and given a glimpse of the history of the facility.

Captain Smith had founded the laboratory after his arrival in Richmond in early 1861. He had employed a small number of workers, trained them and, as necessary, hired others.

lnitially, the laboratory operated in tobacco factory buildings near the lames. Later, Brown's lsland had been cleared and the needed buildings were constructed. There, in departments occupied by the females, cartridges, fuses, percussion caps, primers, and rockets were tumed out. lt was estimated these girls, nine to twenty years old, made an average of 1,200 cartridges per day.

Addressing the issue of safety, the Enquirer reported: "Very few acci- dents have occurred at the Laboratory since its establishment—much fewer, indeed, than might reasonably have been expected where so many raw hands have



Two views of the building and buildings, variously known as the City Alms House, City Hospital, or City Hospital No. 1. Injured workers from Brown's Island were treated there. Those that died were buried in Shockhoe Cemetery, in the foreground.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9 - "Friday the 13th"

been recently employed. The establishment has been of inestimable service. . . . It is the general ordnance manufactory of the South."

The laboratory continued to serve the Confederate cause. And although the nearby arsenal, armory, and laboratory at Seventh and Canal streets burned in the evacuation fire of April 2 and 3, 1865, at least some of the Brown's Island buildings survived to face an uncertain future in a fallen capital. But in late May 1863, those events were imponderable.

By that time the laboratory was back in full operation, the destroyed works re- placed, and numerous additions and safeguards implemented. The improvements made accidents almost impossible without great carelessness. Reporting on the new arrangements a writer in the Examiner indulged in patriotic fancy. "Embowered in the deep shade of Brown's Island, with its busy colony of female operatives, the laboratory works are well worthy a visit. Here the delicate hands of the southern maiden put up the little packet of powder and bullet, the thicker finger and unerring aim of the southem soldier sends on its mission of death into the breast and brain of the invader."

Civil War Food and Recipes

By far, the food soldiers received has been the source of more stories than any other aspect of army life. The Union soldier received a variety of edibles. The food issue, or ration, was usually meant to last three days while on active campaign and was based on the general staples of meat and bread. Meat usually came in the form of salted pork or, on rare occasions, fresh beef. Rations of pork or beef were boiled, broiled or fried over open campfires. Army bread was a flour biscuit called hardtack, re-named **"tooth-dullers", "worm castles"**, and **"sheet iron crackers"** by the soldiers who ate them. Hardtack could be eaten plain though most men preferred to toast them over a fire, crumble them into soups, or crumble and fry them with their pork and bacon fat in a dish called skillygalee. Other food items included rice, peas, beans, dried fruit, potatoes, molasses, vinegar, and salt. Baked beans were a northern favorite when the time could be taken to prepare them and a cooking pot with a lid could be obtained. Coffee was a most desirable staple and some soldiers considered the issue of coffee and accompanying sugar more important than anything else. Coffee beans were distributed green so it was up to the soldiers to roast and grind them. The task for this most desirable of beverages was worth every second as former soldier John Billings recalled: "What a Godsend it seemed to us at times! How often after being completely jaded by a night march... have I had a wash, if there was water to be had, made and drunk my pint or so of coffee and felt as fresh and invigorated as if just arisen from a night's sound sleep!"

Soldiers often grouped themselves into a **"mess"** to combine and share rations, often with one soldier selected as cook or split duty between he and another man. But while on active campaign, rations were usually prepared by each man to the individual's taste. It was considered important for the men to cook the meat ration as soon as it was issued, for it could be eaten cold if activity prevented cook fires. A common campaign dinner was salted pork sliced over hardtack with coffee boiled in tin cups that each man carried.

The southern soldier's diet was considerably different from his northern counterpart and usually in much less quantity. The average Confederate subsisted on bacon, cornmeal, molasses, peas, tobacco, vegetables and rice. They also received a coffee substitute which was not as desirable as the real coffee northerners had. Trades of tobacco for coffee were quite common throughout the war when fighting was not underway. Other items for trade or barter included newspapers, sewing needles, buttons, and currency.

Here is a collection of recipes from the Civil War era. One thing you will find is that recipes in that time were written somewhat differently than what you would expect from a modern cookbook. There is generally not much in the way of temperature guides because there isn't really a temp knob on a fire...

Some of these Civil War recipes are fascinatingly vague as well. My personal favorite is the pumpkin bread recipe. Basically all we learn is that the bread does in fact contain both pumpkin and flour. There is no guide to how much of each ingredient should be included, or any guide concerning the baking of the bread...

Some of these recipes (like variations of the Brazilian Stew) would have been served in the Army camps, but others (like the Ice Orangeade) would only have been seen on the home front. I hope you enjoy these interesting Civil War recipes.

Pumpkin Bread:
Boil a good pumpkin in water till it is quite thick, pass it through a sieve, and mix flour so as to make a good dough. This makes an excellent bread.

Peas Pudding:
Take about three quarters of a pint of split peas, and put them into a pint basin, tie a cloth over them (to give room to swell,) put them into boiling water, and let them boil two hours, then take them up, untie them, add an egg beaten up, a little butter, with salt and pepper, then beat up, tie up again, and place them in the water to boil for about twenty minutes more, you will then have a well flavored and nice shaped pudding.

Brazilian Stew:
Take shins or legs of beef; cut them into slices or pieces two or three ounces in weight, or about the size of an egg; dip them in vinegar, and throw them into a kettle, with a dozen onions sliced, but no water. Let it stand over a very slow fire from three to four hours; then season with pepper and salt, and serve hot. Some boiled potatoes, sliced or quartered, will be a great addition; but the principal thing to be observed is that the fire be a moderate one.

Ice Orangeade:

1 and 1/2 pints orange juice
1/2 pint water
1/2 lb. powdered sugar
Six oranges

Take a pint and a half of orange juice, and mix it with

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10- "Civil War Food"

half a pint of clear or filtered water. Stir in half a pound of powdered loaf-sugar. Pare very thin the yellow rind of six deep-colored oranges, cut in pieces, and lay it at the bottom of a bowl or tureen. Pour the orange juice and sugar upon it; cover it, and let it infuse an hour. Then strain the liquid into a freezer, and proceed as for ice cream. When it is frozen, put it into a mould, (it will look best in the form of a pine-apple), and freeze it a second time. Serve it in glass cups, with any sort of very nice sweet cakes.

Biscuit:
Take one quart of flour, three teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, mixed well through the flour, two tablespoonfuls of shortening, one teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in warm water, of sufficient quantity to mould the quart of flour. For large families the amount can be doubled.

Corned beef and Cabbage:
The salt beef furnished [to] the army is of the very best character; rather too highly impregnated with salt, perhaps - a fault easily remedied, however by soaking in fresh water over night. When about to boil it, renew the water which should be clean and cold, and place it over a moderate fire for three hours and a half, skimming it carefully every fifteen minutes. By this means only can the salt and blood be drawn from it, and the meat rendered tender. After it has been on the fire at least two hours, add as much cabbage as will fill the pot to each kettle, taking out a portion of water, so as to be able to get in enough for the whole company, or dividing the meat into more kettles if necessary. Boil gently for an hour and a half after adding the cabbage.

Apple Pie:
Make a plain crust, and line a deep dish; fill it with sliced apples, grate a good deal of nutmeg over them, and lay on two or three thin shavings of butter. Then pour over a teacup full or two of good molasses, according to the size of the pie; lay on the upper-crust, and close it so that the syrup cannot escape. Bake it two hours and a half. The first early apples are better without paring, as a large proportion of the goodness of the fruit is, at that stage of its growth, in the skin.

Modern Recipes
If you did not find those recipes useful, check out these modern adaptions of some classic Civil War recipes. All of these have been clarified and updated so that they can be easily made in a modern kitchen.
Once again, some of these recipes would have been found in camp (hardtack and pork and bean soup) while others (like the apple pie) would usually only be found on the home front.

Hardtack Crackers:

2 cups of flour
1/2 to 3/4 cup water
1 tablespoon of Crisco or vegetable fat
6 pinches of salt
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Mix the ingredients together into a stiff dough, knead several times, and spread the dough out flat to a thickness of 1/4 inch on a non-greased cookie sheet. Using a pizza cutter or a knife, cut dough into 3-inch cracker squares. With the flat end of a bamboo skewer, punch four rows of holes, four holes per row, into each cracker. Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven, turn crackers over on the sheet and return to the oven and bake another 30 minutes. Cool completely.

Mrs. Cornelius's Molasses Apple Pie:

5 green apples (peeled and sliced)
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup molasses

Line pan with uncooked pie crust, fill pie with sliced apples, add nutmeg, cinnamon, and molasses. Cover with lattice and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour, 15 minutes. Let cool and serve with ice cream.

Captain Sanderson's Boiled Pork and Bean Soup:

1 pound dried navy beans
1 pound pork shoulder or butt
1 onion (diced)
1 leek (diced)
1 garlic clove (diced)
1 sprig thyme
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons bacon fat

Soak beans overnight in cold water. Dice pork into 1-inch pieces and boil in water about 1 hour, until tender. Save the stock. In a soup pot, add bacon fat,onions, garlic and leek. Once the liquid is clear, add thyme and vinegar. Add soaked navy beans and the pork stock. Simmer for 30 minutes and then add pork back to pot. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes, until the beans are tender. Season with salt and pepper. Then slightly mash the beans. Serve with johnny-cake or buttermilk biscuits.

Green Tomato Pie:

1 qt. sliced green tomatoes
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup seedless raisins
3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
Grated rind of lemon
1 cup sugar
2 Tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
2 Tablespoons butter
1 wineglass brandy or whiskey
1 1/2 Tablespoon lemon juice

Pour water over tomatoes and let simmer 5 minutes or until tomatoes have absorbed most of the water and seem tender. Add the raisins and cook a little longer. Drain off any remaining liquor, saving the juice and dump the tomatoes and raisins into a 9 inch pie pan lined with uncooked pie dough. Sprinkle with the sugar and flour mixed, and the spices. Dot the surface with butter. Add the grated rind and lemon juice. Now pour over the whole "a spilling wineglass" as they say in Kentucky, of brandy or whiskey. If the pie will hold it, add a few tablespoons of the tomato liquor to moisten the tomatoes well. Top with a slashed solid crust. Set the pan in a hot oven, 450 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 375 degrees and leave for 1/2 hour longer or until crust is brown.

Salt Pork Cake:

1 lb. fat pork, NO lean
1 1/2 pts. boiling water
1 tbsp. baking soda dissolved in water
4 c. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
6 c. flour
1 tbsp. cloves
2 tbsp. cinnamon
2 lbs. raisins

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11- "Civil War Food"

1 c. nuts
1 lb. dates

Grind salt pork and stir into boiling water and soda for 5 minutes. Add sugar and dates, stirring until cool. Add remaining ingredients. Bake at 325 degrees for 75 minutes. Check for doneness with a toothpick. This will make several loaf pan cakes.

Editor's Note: Will find more recipes on the food the Armies ate or tried to. These are the most common ones that you hear of , but of sure I can find some real interesting ones and ones we eat today.

March 14th Meeting "Saving Democracy:

Lincoln's Political Religion And The American Pursuit Of Justice".

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

The fundamental principles of democracy and justice, of leadership, and liberal education were part of Lincoln's early speeches and stayed with him throughout his entire presidency. Mr. Prentiss made the comparison with the "Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" given by Lincoln at the age of 24 and the" Gettysburg Address".
In the 1830's mob attacks were becoming the rule of law and seemed like the frequency of these attacks were initiated by the slavery issue. Some were even thinking a Civil War could come because of this issue. In January, 1838, Abraham Lincoln gave the speech, "Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" telling his audience that they may need to rethink this government for if it is not protecting all people. Maybe a new government is needed. At this time Lincoln was 24 years old but already thinking about people and human nature. Lincoln saw four types of human nature:

1. Hot heads who take the law into their own hands. These people are outraged at the events around them and commit acts of violence because of this outrage.
2. Criminals and would be scoundrels.
3. Law abiding citizens: people who need to be attached to democracy. (middle class) This class plays by the rules.
4. Tyrants who want to seize power and destroy the country's democratic institutions. This could all lead toward a dictatorship who would promise order but would not follow through.

There are three problems with that way of thinking:
1. There would be a moral outrage with passionate disagreement to the point of violence among people.
2. Instead of using a rational argument as part of human nature ambitious demagoguery and tyrants would rule trying to appeal to the desires and prejudice of the people.
3. There are the people who are attached to their political institutions. Believe in them beyond anything else in their life.

Lincoln, even at 24, was a person who thought through everything analytically for he always wanted to make the right decision for the good of the nation. Lincoln was trying to say there is a lost cause in our governing body as long as there are people who are not considered part of this body. These are the people who could be abolished through violence, hatred and self-rule. The governing people need to be intellect, use moderation and their moral views on decisions. The Founding Fathers made the foundation of government. Give gratitude to these men, justice to ourselves and the duty to uphold our political institutions. It is the people themselves who can cause danger to their own government. We must remember the sacrifice we took to make this government happen.

Lincoln continued his ideas when he spoke at the cemetery in 1863 giving the Gettysburg Address. The fundamental principles are a new form of freedom for keeping our nation alive and the sacrifice the men made for those principals. We must keep our government intact. We must never forget what we did in the battles of the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Believe in our nation and make it apart of our human nature. Learning from these sacrifices so we can use them in our own life and in our education.

The Gettysburg Address was short on purpose so we could memorize the sacrifice on the battlefield to keep the principles etched in our mind. The Gettysburg Address lives on in our United States history and in the world. Relying on our political democracy will continue to keep it alive for many generations to come. With a comparison between the

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12 - "March Meeting"

speech when Lincoln was 24 to the Gettysburg Address many years later the fundamental principles that are part of Lincoln's thoughts continued on as he read the Gettysburg Address to a grieving nation struggling with a Civil War.

This was an inspiring presentation and really made us all think about how we look at the democracy we have right now. It is the fundamental principles of democracy that guided Lincoln during his presidency and it is our job to keep it alive for generations to come.

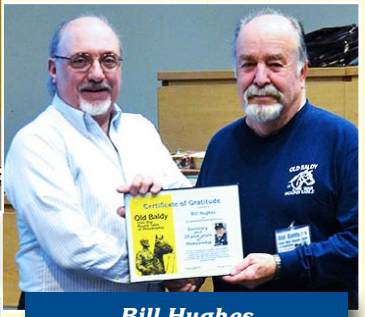
Thank You Mr. Prentiss for an informative talk which leads us to think how is the government we have today facing our principles of democracy?

An Extraordinary April... 1865

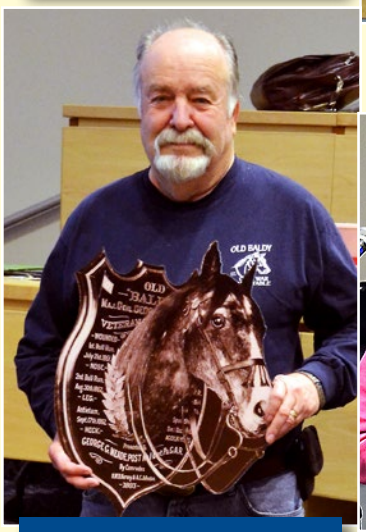
April 1 – Union General Phil Sheridan attacks and routs the rebel forces at Five Forks, Virginia, capturing three brigades.
April 1 – Confederate General Robert E. Lee begins his final defence.
April 2 – An assault along the whole line in front of Petersburg, Virginia. Major General Horatio G. Wright, Major General John G. Parke and Major General Edward O.C. Ord break through the rebel lines, and a brilliant victory is achieved. Twelve thousand prisoners and fifty pieces of artillery are taken.
April 2 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet flee the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, which is taken by Union troops the next day.
April 2 – News received of the burning of the steamer General Lyon, between Wilmington and Fortress Monroe, March 31. Four to five hundred soldiers perished.
April 2 – Battles of Fort Blakely, Alabama and Selma, Alabama
April 3 – The Battle at Namozine Church, Virginia (Appomattox Campaign).
April 3 – The Union forces under Major General Godfrey (Gottfried) Weitzel occupy Richmond, which, with Petersburg was evacuated by the Rebel forces. Rejoicing through the Union States on the fall of Richmond.
April 4 – Fire in Brooklyn, New York. Several firemen killed.
April 6 – Major General Philip Henry Sheridan attacks and routs the forces of General Lee and drives them across Sayler's Creek.
April 6 – Skirmish at High Bridge, Virginia (Appomattox Campaign).
April 7 – Battle of Farmville, Virginia
April 9 – Surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his whole army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia effectively ending the American Civil War.
April 10 – Rejoicing throughout the Union States on account of the surrender of Lee and the end of the rebellion.
April 10 – Appomattox, General Robert E. Lee issues General Order Number 9, his last.
April 11 – President Abraham Lincoln urges a spirit of generous conciliation during reconstruction.
April 12 – Mobile, Alabama occupied by the Union forces.
April 12 – General Stoneman occupies Salisbury, N. C., after a series of victories, having advanced upon the State from the west. Vast amount of military property captured.
April 13 – Battle of Raleigh, North Carolina.
April 13 – Sherman's march through Georgia begins.
April 14 – Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. He is shot while attending an evening performance of the farce Our American Cousin at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. by actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. Doctors move the unconscious President to a bed in a house across the street. An attempted murder of Secretary of State William H. Seward and an attack on his family at his home by Lewis Powell. Seward was badly injured.
April 14 – The flag removed by General Anderson from Fort Sumter in 1861 is raised by him back at Fort Sumter with appropriate ceremonies.
April 15 – Death of President Lincoln. The whole country goes into morning.
April 15 – Inauguration of Andrew Johnson: President Lincoln dies early this morning from his gunshot wound and Vice President Andrew Johnson becomes the 17th President of the United States.
April 16 – Great fire in New York. Loss $2,000,000.
April 16 – The Battle of Columbus and West Point, Georgia (Fort Tyler).
April 17 – Mary Surratt is arrested as a conspirator in Lincoln's assassination.
April 18 – Second great fire in New York. Loss $1,000,000.
April 18 – Arrest of Lewis Powell, for the attempt upon the life of Secretary Seward.
April 18 – Major General William Tecumseh Sherman concludes a treaty with Brigadier General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, which is not ratified. He is ordered to resume hostilities at once.
April 18 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his entire cabinet arrive in Charlotte with a contingent of 1,000 soldiers.
April 19 – The funeral of President Lincoln at Washington.
April 21 – The reward now offered for the arrest of John Wilkes Booth is $150,000.
April 21 – The remains of the late President are taken from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Ill., where he is to be laid to rest.
April 26 – Battle of Durham Station, North Carolina (Greensboro)
April 26 – Battle of Fort Tobacco, Virginia
April 26 – Brigadier General Joseph Eggleston Johnson surrenders to the Union force with all the troops in his department (Department of Tennessee) at Durham, North Carolina
April 26 – Union cavalry corned John Wilkes Booth in a Virginia barn, and cavalryman Boston Corbett shoots the and kills the assassin. Booth was accompanied by David Edgar Herold who was arrested and later hanged.
April 27 – The steamboat SS Sultana, carrying 2,300 passengers, explodes and sinks in the Mississippi River, killing 1,700, most of whom were Union survivors of the Andersonville, Georgia and Cahaba, Alabama Prisons.
April 29 – President Andrew Johnson declares Thursday, June 1, as a day of National humiliation and prayer.
April 30 – Plot discovered to burn the city of Philadelphia.

Flat Old Baldy Awards

Mike Kalichak
5 Year Recognition



Bill Hughes
11 Year Recognition as Secretary



Bill Hughes
25 Plus Years Recognition

Rosemary Viggiano
5 Year Recognition

Heritage Trail
Built in Camden County Day
Saturday, May 11, 2019

Explore the architectural heritage of Camden County, spanning from 1726 to the early 20th century, with beautifully restored historic structures.

For more information, see our facebook page or visit www.CamdenCountyHistoryAlliance.com

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

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 donated to Old Baldy.

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2019

May 9 – Thursday
Martha Moore
"Washington Roebling and the Roeblings' Civil War Connections"

June 13 – Thursday
Milt Diggins
"Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland"

July 11 – Thursday
Sarah Kay Bierle
"From California to Gettysburg - The Hancock Family"

Questions to
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - dgilson404@gmail.com.

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: Sean Glisson
Programs: Dave Gilson
Trustees: Paul Prentiss
Mike Bassett
Tom Scurria
Dave Gilson

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

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