

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

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

July 11, 2019 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

## “From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family”



Sarah Kay Bierle

### The Hancock Family



Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, July 11th**, at **Camden County College** in the **Connector Building, Room 101**. This month's topic is **“From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family”**

In 1858, Winfield and Almira Hancock and their two children moved to California. As a U.S. Army officer, Winfield S. Hancock's duties had taken the family to several remote outposts, but their time in California would be some of their most memorable days. The American Civil War began while the Hancocks were in California, and this conflict presented challenging choices. Their decision - made in California - would impact one of the great battles of the war.

Sarah Kay Bierle is the managing editor for Emerging Civil War's blog and owner and conference coordinator at Gazette665, a California-based business focused on advancing history discussion and education. A graduate from Thomas Edison State University with a B.A. in History, she has spent the last few years researching, writing, and speaking about the American Civil War. Her fourth book "Call Out The Cadets" - a nonfiction study on the Battle of New Market - released this spring from Savas Beatie.

### Notes from the President...

Welcome to July! Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Holiday week. Be sure to write about your adventures and send the notes to **Don Wiles** for the newsletter. Our clothing store is open until July 18th, please place your

orders soon for OBCWRT gear. The sale of Boscov's "Friends helping Friends" coupons will begin soon.

The benefits of membership are posted on our website on the About tab, for you to share with potential members. Our updated information flyer is also on the website to download and print to distribute in your community. Welcome to our new members. We are averaging two a month, let us keep it going. The smaller version of our popular

map of South Jersey Civil War sites is printed and available for purchase. You can follow **Flat Old Baldy's** adventures on our Facebook page. Still need volunteers to assist Steve Peters with our member profiles. Let us know if you need more rack cards.

Last month **Milt Diggins** shared his research on the Slave catcher, Thomas McCreary and the politically blurred distinction between slave catching and kidnapping to an interested crowd. This month **Sarah Kay Bierle** will tell us, over ZOOM, how Winfield Scott Hancock's service in California before the War and the decisions he and his family made impacted the War. Bring a friend for this fascinating presentation from an Emerging Civil War scholar. Remember **Jim Mundy** will be visiting us next month.

Also last month with the assistance of our summer intern **Gurk**, we were able to record and edit **Milt Diggins'** presentation to post to our YouTube channel. He is also developing a template to index the material in our newsletters to allow us to search the articles. When he is done, we will need volunteers to work through the newsletters posted on our website to index the content. If you like the books reviews in the past few newsletters, write one on a book you have read for a future issue.

Planning has begun on our next Civil War Naval Symposium, contact **Tom Scurria** or **Sean Glisson** to support this effort. **Dave Trout** has researched a project on the im-

*Continued on page 2*

pact slavery had on the first seventy years of our nation's government. He will explain it at the July meeting, then members can assist him in turning it into a discussion for a future meeting.

Thank you to all who are working to move our Round Table forward and grow in the South Jersey area.

Please join us for dinner before the July meeting at the Lamp Post Diner.

**Rich Jankowski, President**

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Thursday, July 11

#### Eastern Theater

Rosecrans defeats Pegram's Confederates at the Battle of Rich Mountain in western Virginia. In the most costly battle of the war to date the defeated Confederate casualties total 300, including 60 killed, 140 wounded, and 100 taken prisoner. The cost to the Union is much lighter, with 11 lives lost and 35 other casualties. Meanwhile, a second Union force is in action nearby under General Morris. Attacking Laurel Mountain, Morris forces General Robert S. Gaenett's Confederates to retreat toward the Chat River valley.

### 1862 Friday, July 11

#### The North

General Halleck, an efficient if un-imaginative administrator, is appointed general-in-chief of the Federal Armies. It will be some days, however, before he can arrive from the Western Theater to take up his post.

#### Eastern Theater

Three Confederates are killed in a skirmish at Williamsburg, Virginia .

#### Western Theater

Morgan's raiders attack Lebanon, south of Frankfort. The town is defended by less than 100 soldiers, who are unable to prevent the destruction of a large Federal supply depot.

#### Trans-Mississippi

The guerrilla war in Missouri continues, with 10 Federals and six rebels killed in an action at Pleasant Hill.

### 1863 Saturday, July 11

#### Eastern Theater

Meade begins to organize the Army of the Potomac to attack Lee's positions before the Confederates can withdraw across the Potomac.

### 1864 Monday, July 11

#### Eastern Theater

The fast marching in the oppressive heat reduces Early's strength to some 8000 men. They arrive in front of the Federal fortifications in the early afternoon. Early has 40 union with him but nothing heavier than a 12-pounder

Napoleon. The Washington defenses are now reinforced by two regular divisions; with invalids, short-term men, and raw recruits, The number of men defending the capital reaches 20,000. That night Early plans an assault, but then learns of the reinforcements and orders a retreat.

## A Visit to the Lincoln Cottage and other DC Landmarks

by Jim Heenehan, OBCWRT Member

My wife, Carolyn, and I were in southern Maryland for the first five days of June. We made several visits into DC visiting various places, including the National Portrait Gallery where Carolyn first worked after college, and my old GW dorm which I had not seen since transferring to UConn in 1972 after my sophomore year.

Our Civil War highlight was our visit to the Lincoln Cottage located on what then was the outskirts of Washington, DC. Situated on a large hill (the third highest point in the city), Lincoln and his family spent the summer months at the Cottage to escape the DC heat that enveloped the White House and its environs. The Cottage's relatively remote location also gave Lincoln family some respite from the many people who incessantly sought out the President.



The Lincoln Cottage



Lincoln wrote much of his Emancipation Proclamation at the Cottage and perhaps parts of the Gettysburg Address as well. His presence at the Cottage was known to Southern agents. Their attempt to kidnap Lincoln in 1864 as he returned to the Cottage was foiled by the presence of his military escort. A few weeks later, an assassin's bullet barely missed him, piercing his stove pipe hat. The Cottage is 1.5 miles from Fort Stevens. When Jubal Early attacked the fort in July 1864, Lincoln went over and watched the fighting before being ordered from the walls by the fort's commander.

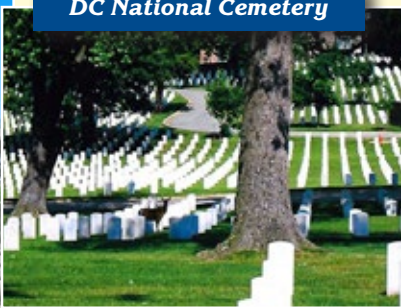


The Cottage is on the grounds of the Old Soldiers Home





DC National Cemetery



WWII Memorial

where aging, destitute veterans were provided with a place to live out their days. Adjoining these properties is the First National Cemetery which began as a Civil War cemetery and has received the remains of our veterans ever since. It is only 100 yards from the Lincoln Cottage and often had 30 burials a week during the Civil War. This visual reminder of the war's cost weighed heavily on the President who felt that each of these deaths was somehow his responsibility.

After our tour of the Cottage, we walked over to the Cemetery. I was surprised to see that the mausoleum near the main gate was that of General John "Black Jack" Logan. He died in 1886 while serving as a US Senator from Illinois. Besides being one of the North's best combat commanders, Logan is credited with starting Decoration Day in May, 1868, when he was Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Also worth mentioning is our visit to the WW II memorial on June 5, the day before D-Day. This was my first visit

to this very impressive memorial. But what really made this a memorable experience

was that shortly after our arrival, a special tribute took place honoring a group of our veterans comprising the Honor Flight Chicago. The group was comprised of 86 Vietnam, 14 Korean and 3 WW II veterans. After some introductory remarks, we all recited the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a soldier singing the National Anthem. The ceremony closed with a bugler playing a haunting version of Taps. As it was playing, I thought of the moving passage in From Here to Eternity where Robert E. Lee Prewitt plays Taps after the death of his friend Maggio. All of us in attendance shall long remember this ceremony honoring our veterans at the WW II memorial on the eve of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

## An All-Woman Confederate Militia Guarded Their Georgia Hometown

by Erin Blakemore, History.com

Like countless other women of the Civil War, the wives, sisters and sweethearts of LaGrange, Georgia watched the majority of men in their town march away to military service in 1861. But while other Confederate women on the home front prepared to nurse the wounded and wait out the war, the women of LaGrange prepared to do battle.

Between 1861 and 1865, a group of 40 LaGrange women organized an all-woman militia, the Nancy Harts. Organized in military formations and skilled in marksmanship and battle tactics, the women were prepared to defend their town against a Union incursion—and near the end of the war, they did.

One thousand, three hundred men left LaGrange during the first year of the war, and the town, which was located in a strategically important spot halfway between Atlanta and Montgomery, Alabama, became a vulnerable target due to its location and its rail lines, which continued to operate throughout the war.

The women of LaGrange and their departing husbands worried that, should the town be attacked, the boys and old

men who remained wouldn't be able to hold Union soldiers at bay. So Nancy Hill Morgan, the wife of a departing officer, suggested that the women form their own militia to defend their town.

"When did you ever hear of a military company of women?" Hart's friend Mary Heard reportedly responded. But soon Heard was at Hart's side to organize a group of women soldiers to fend off Union troops.

They took their name from another woman warrior, Ann Morgan "Nancy" Hart. During the Revolutionary War, Hart, who lived in the then-frontier of Georgia, fought against British Loyalists. It's unclear how many of her reported exploits actually happened in real life, but she was reputed to have killed at least one Loyalist, captured others, and spent years resisting them. She also served as a spy and is thought to have fought at the Battle of Kettle Creek in 1779.

As historian John Thomas Scott notes, Hart's memory was cherished in the South. "By the time of the Civil War," he writes, "the name Nancy Hart seems to have been accepted in Georgia as symbolic of women willing to defend

hearth and home against oppressive foreign invaders."

Hart and Heard's militia consisted largely of their former classmates and their sisters. Armed with a copy of William Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, the assistance of a local man who couldn't fight due to a disability, and the often-outdated weapons the men had left behind, they began teaching themselves to drill like a real infantry regiment. They assigned members ranks and duties.

Using muskets, pistols and other weapons, they drilled twice a week and slowly began to improve their marksmanship and military organization.

The women continued to train as the war progressed, even though they doubted they'd ever see action. In the meantime, they served as nurses for the wounded and sick from nearby battles. But even as they tended to the wounded, the Nancy Harts kept up their training and marched through the streets of LaGrange.

It looked like the Nancy Harts would get through the entire war without firing a shot at Union soldiers. But that changed in April 1865, when Union troops raided West Georgia, destroying manufacturing facilities in a swoop they called Wilson's Raid after commanding officer Brigadier General James H. Wilson. A Confederate officer telegraphed LaGrange to let them know that the nearby town of West Point was under siege. The few men who remained in LaGrange marched away to help defend it, and the Nancy Harts prepared for battle.

The women stepped into their familiar formation and marched to the campus of the LaGrange Female College, which was located on the edge of town. As civilians and the remaining Confederate cavalymen fled, 40 Nancy Harts stood in a group waiting to fight. The fleeing men begged them to hide, but they refused.

Soon, a column of 3,000 federal troops approached, and the Nancies noticed several of their family members among the prisoners that came with them. Union Colonel Oscar LaGrange (unrelated to the town) approached, and asked to speak to the militia's captain. When Morgan complied, she told him that they were willing not to engage in battle if the colonel would promise not to plunder the town.

LaGrange complimented Morgan on her well-trained troops and agreed not to attack homes or civilians. She handed over the town to the attacking soldiers. As LaGrange went back to his soldiers to give orders to take over the town, he was overheard saying "The Nancy Harts could probably use their eyes with better effect than their old guns."

The Union soldiers stayed true to their word and did not attack homes or civilians. They did, however, destroy local warehouses, rail lines, and other strategic targets, and looted local stores. The town's residents were spared, though, and in gratitude, the Nancy Harts cooked dinner for LaGrange.



A painting showing Nancy Hart, the Revolutionary War-era inspiration for the Civil War militia, killing British forces who had invaded her home.

For the town, the Nancy Harts' truce was considered a victory. The women had protected LaGrange without firing a single shot. After the war was over, the group disbanded and the women went back to their everyday lives—as everyday as life could be in a town that had lost a quarter of its men.

Like other upper-class white Southern women, the Nancy Harts were bound by strict codes of femininity, and their use of guns and military maneuvers would have been unthinkable outside

the context of the war. The few remaining accounts of the women show that they enjoyed their drills and the chance to socialize and develop new skills. But when women like Morgan talked about their military service, they emphasized how dainty and womanly they remained, even while toting muskets and pistols. "In feminine dress of ruffled skirts and flowered or feathered heats, their hearts beat in unison," Morgan recalled.

The Nancy Harts weren't the only women who trained for battle during the Civil War: Women in girls' schools in the region also trained for battle. But the Nancies were unusual in that they not only remained prepared throughout the entire war, but that they actually met Union troops. "They were never called to field duty, it is true," Morgan later recalled, "but they stood ever in readiness and rendered a service equally effective as guards over the defenseless and their homes.

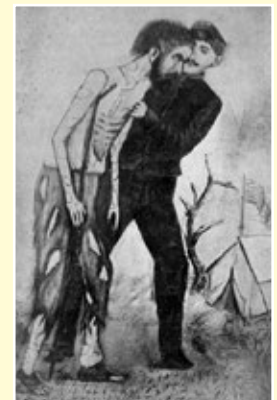
## Patronize An Old "Vet"

CWTI, February 1976

The two unusual pictures in this article were submitted by reader Arthur S. Howard, Scottsdale, Arizona. They are reproductions of two cards offered for sale to the public by E. W. McIntosh, who apparently supported himself after the war by traveling with a guitar and playing his own song, "Dixie's Sunny Land." The message contained on the reverse side of the card depicting McIntosh as a survivor of Andersonville details the old soldier's life and war record:

"The First Photo [actually a drawing] is a copy of the original, taken from a tin type, by a rebel artist at parole camp near Vicksburg, March 28th, 1865; it is a correct photo of E. W. McIntosh, of Co. E, 14th Illinois Infantry, as he appeared after having been confined at Andersonville prison from October 4th 1864 until March 28, 1865. He enlisted at Bloomington, and was mustered in at Jacksonville, Illinois, May 25th, 1861.

When captured by the Rebs, at Ackworth, Ca., his weight was 175



Continued on page 5



pounds, when exchanged he was reduced to 65 pounds, and almost destitute of clothing. Through intense suffering and starvation, he became afflicted with spinal disease, causing mental derangement which incapacitates him for either mental or physical labor. Scurvy also entered his system, causing gangrenous sores to almost cover his body. He is one of the survivors of the fatal steamer Sultana, which was blown up on the Mississippi river April 27th, 1865, and was in the water until the afternoon when he was rescued by some colored men and taken to Overton hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He was discharged at Springfield, Ill., June 30th, 1865, and has been under the doctor's care ever since. He now travels for his health and sells his photo to defray expenses. Every citizen ought to buy one, not only to help the old "Vet" along, but also to show the



rising generation what it cost to purchase the freedom they enjoy today. He also sells his song with music, "Dixie's Sunny Land," which he composed while in the rebel prison pen. Patronize the old soldier that he may go on his way. This Photo and song, 25 cents each, or both for 40 cents."

*McIntosh after the war as he appeared "on the road" with his guitar*

## Embalming and the Civil War

On February 20, 1862, Abraham Lincoln's son Willie lay dying of typhoid fever in the guest bedroom of the White House. Unfortunately, this was not uncommon in Lincoln's day. An estimated 65,000 soldiers alone died from this bacterial infection during the Civil War, to say nothing of the hundreds of civilians who contracted the fever on a daily basis in the 1860s.

At 5 pm that evening, the 11-year-old took his last breath. Overcome with sorrow, the President cried: "My poor boy, he was too good for this earth. God has called him home. I know that he is much better off in heaven, but then we loved him so. It is hard, hard to have him die!" Wanting to be alone in his grief, Lincoln locked himself in his office for the night.



**Willie Lincoln**

As the President struggled with the shock of Willie's death, preparations for the funeral commenced. Henry P. Cattell, who later would handle Lincoln's body after he was assassinated, was hired to embalm the little boy.

Before the mid-19th century, embalming was not typically used in funerary practice. It was mainly employed to preserve specimens after dissection. Surgeons and anatomists often used arsenic when creating dry mount displays from cadaverous remains. Mixtures of arsenic and soap were sometimes used to bathe the insides of a specimen to prevent decomposition and insect infestation.

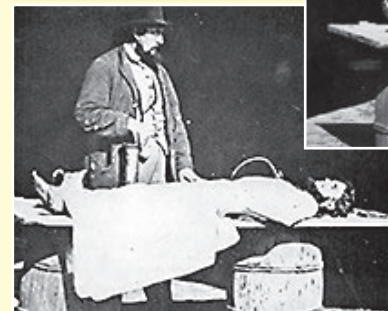
In 1838, the French chemist, Jean Gannal, introduced a new method for preserving human remains in which arsenic was injected directly into the carotid artery. This allowed anatomists to dissect corpses or prepare anatomical specimens without worrying about putrefaction or decay. By and large, the method worked, though many anatomists suffered arsenic poisoning as a result.

A sea-change in embalming came with the Civil War, during which there was an outcry for fallen soldiers to be returned to their families for burial.

The embalming craze took off when an Army Medical Corps colonel (and close friend of President Lincoln) became the first Union officer to be killed. On May 24, 1861, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was shot while removing a Confederate flag from the roof of a Virginian hotel. The flag was so large that it could be seen from the White House. News of the shooting traveled quickly to Washington.

Thomas Holmes—later known as the "Father of Modern Embalming"—offered his services to Ellsworth's family, and the captain's preserved body was taken to the White House, where it lay in state for several days. Afterwards, he was taken to New York City, where thousands lined up to view the funeral

*Photographs of Richard Burr embalming a dead soldier.*



cortege. Mourners on the route displayed a banner declaring, "Ellsworth, 'His blood cries for vengeance.'"

Embalmers soon began to profit from the deaths of soldiers. Over the course of the war, Holmes alone embalmed 4,000 men at \$100 per corpse. In shops in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, he displayed the preserved bodies of unknown soldiers, which he collected from battlefields. Happily, there is no record of an unsuspecting relative stumbling across a lost loved one propped up in Holmes's window.

Embalmers following the Union and Confederate armies around the country were portrayed as vultures fattening themselves on the dead. They pitched tents close to battle sites, and offered soldiers the chance to prepay for their own embalming should they be killed. In January 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant withdrew embalmers' permits and

ordered them beyond the lines to stop them affecting morale.

In 1864, Timothy Dwight of New York made a complaint against Dr Richard Burr, a Washington embalmer, claiming Burr tried to extort money from him by holding his son's body to ransom. Allegedly, Burr took possession of Dwight's son after he died in battle. Without the family's permission, Burr embalmed the body, and then contacted Mr. Dwight, demanding \$100 for its release.



Embalming Hut

own coffins, which were sold from \$4 to \$7 each. In ways such as this, enterprising (if reviled) 19th-century embalmers established the modern American funeral industry. Ironically, before his death in 1900, Thomas Holmes stipulated that his own body should not be embalmed.

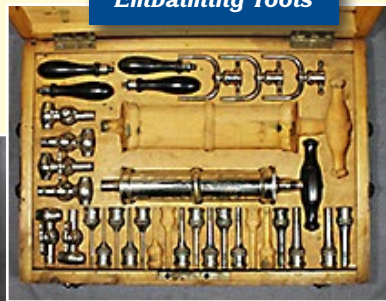
Back at the Lincoln residence in 1862, little Willie's body was laid out in the Green Room of the White House. The poet Nathaniel Parker Willis later described the dead boy's appearance at the funeral:

He lay with eyes closed—his brown hair parted as we had known it—pale in the slumber of death; but otherwise unchanged, for he was dressed as if for the evening, and held in one of his hands, crossed upon his breast, a bunch of exquisite flowers...

According to those in attendance, the family intended "to send [Willie] home to the West" so that he may "sleep under the sod of his own valley" after the funeral. At the last minute, however, Lincoln decided that he couldn't bear to be separated from his dear son's body and had the boy's remains interred in William Thomas Carroll's family vault in Washington.

The president visited the grave several times, and requested the coffin be reopened on at least two occasions. It is said the he could not stand to leave the boy alone in the dark, cold tomb. He would sit with Willie's body for hours on end. Lincoln once admitted to a Union soldier: "Since Willie's death, I catch myself every day involuntarily talking with him as if he were with me."

He never recovered from his grief.



Embalming Tools



Embalming at Gettysburg

Most American embalmers had other full-time occupations, and were sometimes cabinet- or furniture-makers. Hence the embalmer could also make his company's

## Book Review

by Karl Pusch, Member OBCWRT

# "Leadership in Turbulent Times"

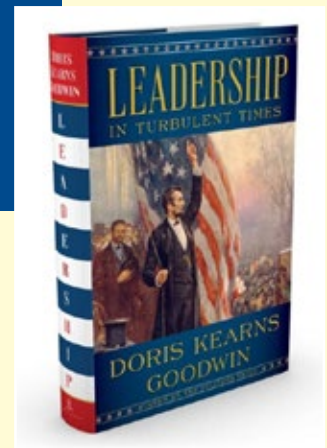
by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
Simon and Schuster, 2018; 473 pages

In this seminal work, Doris Kearns Goodwin circles back through history to examine how four presidents, by their own efforts, rose to a height, suffered a serious, life-changing reverse, then rose again to overcome those tragedies.

She then examines how each of these presidents dealt with a national crisis, effectively cementing their mark in the nation's history. Lincoln had to deal with secession

and civil war, Theodore Roosevelt with a debilitating coal strike, Franklin Roosevelt with the Depression, and Lyndon Johnson with civil rights; additionally, both TR and LBJ had to assume the presidency occasioned by the crises posed by the assassinations of their predecessors.

In Lincoln's case, he fell into a deep depression in the late 1830's. Prior to that he had, through his own efforts, raised himself to a certain level of prominence in Illinois, being elected to the state legislature on the promise of internal improvements - roads, canals, railroads - which would encourage settlement of the West, and provide a means for westerners to ship their products. However,



Doris Kearns Goodwin



Jackson's Maysville veto, followed by the economic downturn starting in 1837, put a stop to government support for internal improvements. On top of that came the death of his first love, Ann Rutledge, his subsequent up-and-down relationship with Mary Todd, and fears about his own economic security.

Finally, Lincoln recovered from his deep funk; married Mary Todd, with his partners built a thriving law practice, and got elected to Congress for one term (strongly opposing the Mexican War). With the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, Lincoln was a last galvanized to a cause – slavery. He would speak against it with a single-minded purpose, notably at the Cooper Union and the 1858 debates with Douglas.

She then shows how Lincoln slowly moved, as the Civil war progressed, to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Goodwin spends a good thirty pages discussing the different aspects of Lincoln's leadership style: changing direction after failure, anticipating contending viewpoints, assuming responsibility, being accessible and approachable, exhausting possibilities of compromise, finding time for contemplation, gathering first-hand information, keeping one's word, maintaining emotional balance and perspective, transcending past resentments, and putting collective interest above self-interest. In all, lessons on which future presidents would draw in handling their own crises.

Next in line comes Theodore Roosevelt. He was a somewhat sickly boy who would, through great efforts, make himself physically robust and learn leadership in the process. The great tragedy occurred in 1884, when his beloved mother and first wife died on the same day. He was disconsolate for two years, went west, then returned to meet his second wife; actually a former girlfriend. Then came his meteoric rise to governor of New York, vice-president, and then president.

The Great Coal Strike of 1902 is the crisis subject of Roosevelt's administration. We must remember that, until the 1930's, coal was the primary fuel used in the US. Almost every home and building was heated using a coal furnace. In May, 1902, the United Mine Workers went on strike over working hours, low pay, and the brutal conditions in the mines. The mine operators refused to deal with the union. The strike wore on into the fall of 1902, with growing concern about the coming winter.

Roosevelt stepped in with a mission for the government: to restrain the rampant consolidation of corporate wealth and power, giving government the power of supervision and regulation over such corporations. Goodwin then analyses the aspects of Roosevelt's leadership style: calculating risks, understanding the situation, remaining initially uncommitted, assembling a crisis management team, controlling the message, controlling one's temper, evaluating options, preparing multiple strategies, documenting proceedings and leaving a record for the future, saving face, sharing credit, and having a single-minded focus on the situation. There are certain similarities to Lincoln, as all three of the other presidents in this study drew heavily upon his style and precedents.

Perhaps, few men were more advantageously situated at the start of life than Franklin Roosevelt. He had every advantage: birth, wealth, family name, education, and ambition. From early life, he had marked himself for great-

ness, at his law firm, in the New York legislature, as assistant secretary of the Navy, and as Cox's running mate in 1920 (the only unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate to later be elected to the presidency). Then came the tragedy of Campobello – contracting polio in the prime of life. For a while he lay low, never letting on how he was affected by this misfortune. In 1924, opportunity came calling, when Al Smith asked Roosevelt to give Smith's nominating speech at the Democratic Convention in Madison Square Garden. No one can improve on Ralph Bellamy's stirring portrayal in "Sunrise at Campobello" as he walked to the podium to give his speech. Four years later, against the advice of supporters, he would buck the tide of the Hoover landslide, and be elected governor of New York.

Then, in 1932 with the country mired in the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt would be elected president. And now a crippled man would teach a crippled nation to walk again. Just as he had done at Warm Springs, he would engage, "... with his fellow patients as architect, developer, program director, head counselor, therapy director, and spiritual advisor..." Again, Goodwin spends about thirty pages discussing what she calls "turn-around" leadership: drawing a line between the past and the future, infusing a sense of shared purpose, leading by example, restoring confidence and morale, telling the story to the public, addressing systemic problems, determining and revealing expectations, being ready to change course, meeting deadlines, stimulating competition, debate and creativity, and forging a team for action and change. "Roosevelt's gift of communication proved the vital instrument of his success in developing a common mission, clarifying problems, mobilizing action, and earning the people's trust." Thus, he could say with satisfaction at the end of the Hundred Days that, "...our form of government can rise to an emergency and can carry through a program in record time."

No two people could have come from different backgrounds than LBJ and FDR. A hardscrabble early life was overcome with a burning ambition to be somebody. He had a knack for putting himself into positions close to power, from which he could extract opportunities and privileges; at Southwest State Teachers College, in the Congressional office of Richard Kleberg, as director of the Texas NYA, and in his first election to Congress. What seemed like an unstoppable force would suffer a rude awakening when LBJ lost a Senate race to Texas' governor, Wilbert Lee "Pappy" O' Daniel in 1940. He made the mistake of reporting his vote totals before all the votes had come in from the "boxes" in east Texas. Johnson was shocked, going into a deep depression, becoming an indifferent Congressman, and acknowledging that the period from 1940 to 1948 was the lowest point of his life.

Then came another opportunity, another Senate race against another Texas governor, in 1948. This time he didn't blow it, but held back enough votes – he won by 87 votes – to secure the victory. There is no use repeating Robert Caro's excellent account of the 1948 election, or Johnson's record as Senate majority leader, except to say that, had he not risen to the presidency after Kennedy's assassination, he probably would have left public life. There was no guarantee that Kennedy would have kept him on as vice-president for the 1964 election.

Yet, here he now was, president by accident, and his first

mission was to reassure the nation, and establish a shared sense of direction. So it was with his speech to the nation on Nov. 27, 1963. Soon after that came a legislative agenda second only to his idol, FDR. The big stumbling block seemed to be the Civil Rights Bill, bottled up in Howard Smith's House Judiciary Committee. Through deft maneuvering, applying pressure intelligently, and withstanding a lengthy filibuster, the Civil Rights bill passed and was signed on July 2, 1964. Next came the Voting Rights Act of 1965; to this day the words that he spoke the week after Bloody Sunday in Selma still ring in my ears as he stopped, raised his arms and said, "And we...shall...overcome."

Johnson's visionary leadership exhibited the following characteristics: simplifying the agenda, making a dramatic start, establishing the order of battle and drawing clear battle lines, honoring commitments and identifying the keys to success, honoring the past and providing momentum for the future, imposing discipline, involving stakeholders, knowing when to take risks, mastering the power of the narrative, rallying around a strategic target, taking a measure of the man, and setting a vision of the future.

Unfortunately, the presidency of LBJ will forever be clouded by the tragedy of Vietnam. Where his political instincts served him so well on the domestic front, those same instincts were absent in dealing with foreign affairs; instead, he allowed "experts" to lead him down a rabbit hole from which there was no escape. Then came the "credibility gap", the failure of the Great Society to deliver on its promises as the Vietnam quagmire deepened, and finally the demise of the Johnson presidency.

At the end, Goodwin discusses the post-presidential life of each of these men. Of course, since both Lincoln and FDR died in office, some speculation is necessary. Yet both of them died at the height of their achievements and popularity. In the cases of TR and LBJ, the after years were filled with some emptiness and frustration; TR tried for the presidency in 1912, split his party, and lost; LBJ returned to the LBJ Ranch where his health deteriorated. Both would die at relatively young ages.

All four of these men had massive ambition, and except for Lincoln, showed little appreciation for humility. Yet each rose, in his own way, to deal with a national crisis; greatness is measured by how a president deals with crises – we do not remember those presidents who merely filled a picture frame during calm waters.

These four men were great because they rose above simple self-interest, and possessed an outsize passion to do good for others. A book like this should help us to raise the expectations we have for our national leaders, our country, and ourselves.



**Walter Heimbach, President, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Author, Myself, Gabor Boritt, Historian, Author**

*Editor's Note:* In 2006 at Gettysburg I had the opportunity to meet Doris Kearns Goodwin. She was the keynote speaker at the Civil War institute at Gettysburg College. We were both inducted into the "FOG" society, which stood for "Friends of Gabor". Dr Gabor Boritt was director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and a very well noted author of Books on Lincoln and the Civil War. Doris Kerns Goodwin is a brilliant scholar and author and above all a fine Lady.

## A Stand Along the Border

by Jerry Don Thompson, CWTI, August 1980

### **Santos Benavides And The Battle For Laredo**

East of Laredo forty-two men waited behind a large corral and watched the face of Federal vengeance materialize in the distance. Three years in the saddle had brought them and their colonel Santos Benavides to this place along Zacate Creek. And the last four months of war, and the Yankees in front of them, were about to dictate the fate of Rebel Texas.

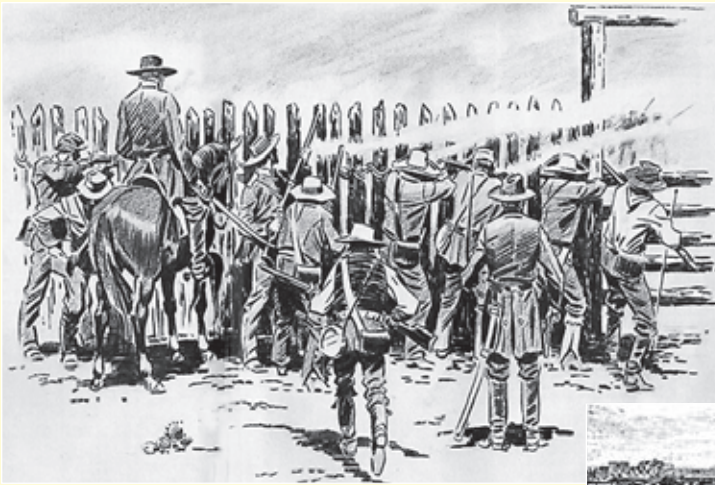
The crisis began on November 2, 1863, when Confederate Brigadier General Hamilton P. Bee confronted the greatest dilemma of his military career. "The enemy are in force. Brazos Island is covered with tents; six regimental flags were counted; twenty-six vessels, some of them very large," Bee wrote from his post at Brownsville, Texas. From this count made on the Texas coast, Bee knew

he was about to be overrun; he had fewer than 100 men to defend the town. They would have to contend with 6,998 black, white, and Mexican-Texan troops from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Texas itself, and distant Maine; all elements of the Union's XIII Corps. They had come down the coast from New Orleans through a vicious storm to participate in Major General Nathaniel P. Banks' broad plan to cut the Texas cotton trade and strangle the Confederacy.

Three days after raising the Federal banner over Brazos Island, the invasion force hit the Confederate coastline at the mouth of the Rio Grande River and began a 30-mile march on Brownsville and its panicked commander. Reporting their arrival on Rebel soil, expedition leader Banks wired President Abraham Lincoln, "the flag of the Union floats over Texas today."

While this news may have filled Washingtonians with a sense





of well-being, in Brownsville it made chaos. As Union troops approached that small town along the Rio Grande a long train of forty-five wagons carrying valuable Confederate supplies raced north for the Nueces River area. Then, acting on orders, Confederates set fire to Fort Brown and "all cotton which was liable to fall into the hands of the enemy." Hastily laid, the blaze soon surged out of control, spreading from the fort to Brownsville itself, within hours destroying an entire block of buildings along the riverfront and ferry landing. Flames increased the Rebels' sense of urgency; several hundred bales of cotton that had not yet been consumed by the fire were thrown into the Rio Grande. "Peril was around me on all sides," Bee wrote as the destruction fever peaked. In burning Fort Brown 8,000 pounds of powder had just exploded, driving the frightened townspeople into terror.

At 10:00 the next morning Federals marched into the battered streets of Brownsville meeting little resistance. The 94th Illinois Volunteers, advance guard of their Union corps, led the way. Their force was augmented five hours later when the 1st Missouri Light Artillery and the 13th Maine Volunteers deployed in the town. From this base in Brownsville, the federals intended to seize the central and upper Rio Grande.

With their mainland base secured and their confidence still running high, the Federals decided to push in-land later that month. With a force of 1,500 men, unionist Texas refugee Edmund Jackson Davis prepared the movement upriver. He had just been promoted brigadier general on the tenth of that month, so with his new commission in his pocket, his infantry loaded on the river steamer Mustang, and the 1st and 2d Texas Union Cavalry to follow along the shore, the force pressed on to its first objective, Ringgold Barracks. They took it with no resistance. From there a smaller detachment of Union cavalry pushed on upstream to the village of Roma, but again found no Confederates. This began a regular pattern; the 1st Texas Union Cavalry, the only mounted unit brought from New Orleans, and the 2d Texas, a Brownsville cavalry unit newly formed of unionist Mexican-Texans, would continue to operate upriver along the Rio Grande. Using

Brownsville as a base, they would drive on into the Nueces country searching for the enemy.

In many ways, by 1863 the Civil War in South Texas had become a civil war within a civil war. It was now Texan against Texan, Mexican-Texan against Mexican-Texan. A nasty, hard-scrabble guerrilla war, it ravaged the already-desolate land and left hundreds dead and thousands starving. And with the hasty retreat of confederate forces from the lower Rio Grande Valley, the only sizeable Rebel force remaining on the river was that commanded by Colonel Santos Benavides at Laredo. He would have to provide the Federals with the fight they were looking for.



**Confederates evacuated Brownsville, Texas, November 2, 1863, fearing arrival of Union troop transports.**

Benavides was born on November 1, 1823, the son of Jose Jesus Benavides and Margarita Ramon, and great-great-grandson of Thomas Sanchez. Santos would live his life under five flags: those of the Republic of Mexico, the Republic of the Rio Grande, the Republic of Texas,

the United States, and the Confederacy. And as a young man he would see political upheaval and first feel the sting of battle during the Federalist-Centralist Wars which rent the Rio Grande Valley from 1838 to 1840. These internecine quarrels made him familiar with civil war and taught him how to rise above it.

During the filibustering Somervell Expedition of 1842, a motley band of rowdy and drunk Texans sacked a small store Benavides operated in Laredo. Being Mexican, Santos was considered fair game by the rules of these Texans' expansionist philosophy. But he resisted taking up arms against them, the Republic of Texas, or later, the American Army when it occupied his hometown during the Mexican War. Instead, Benavides openly cooperated with the Yanquis, and by 1856 managed to become mayor of Laredo. In fact, by the

time of the Civil War, Santos had become a leading political and financial figure along the central Rio Grande. But along with his brother



**Colonel Santos Benavides, defender of Laredo, and his wife**

Refugio—who had also served terms as Laredo's mayor in 1857 and 1859, and his younger half-brother Cristobal, he favored the secessionist cause, and their influence was critical. John "Rip" Ford, a famous Texas Ranger and a leading Texas Confederate, later wrote, "the Benavides family broke ground in favor of secession [and] did the Confederacy an immense favor by declaring for her."

In writing the assessment of the Benavides clan, Ford was just not making a light com-

pliment. In the midst of the labyrinthine and often anarchic political situation that had existed in the Texas-Mexican border region for decades, Santos and his family stood among the few who had managed to keep abreast of the situation. Two others who had managed to do as well were Ford himself and Union adversary Edmund Davis. But along with Santos, they only formed a small part of a crew of fueding characters that had fought out their

per-sonal and political battles under a succession of govern-ments and family alliances. The great American Civil War was only providing a new arena in which these local grudges could be settled, and as in all the previ-ous brawls, securing the loyalty of the Mexican-Texan, or Tejano, population was the key to success.

**Continued in Next Issue (August)**

## June 13th Meeting presentation by Milt Diggins

### **“Stealing Freedom along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, The Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland”**

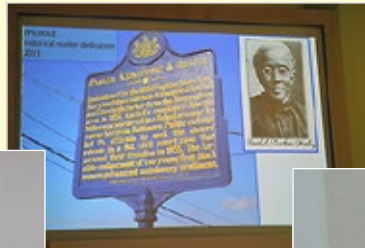
by Kathy Clark,  
Member OBCWRT

This is the amazing story of Thomas McCreary, slave catcher from Cecil County, Maryland. From 1848-1851 he took at least nine people in Pennsylvania and Delaware: in Pennsylvania this was called kidnapping; in Maryland it was called slave catching. Maryland’s slave owners and citizens looked up to McCreary. Baltimore slave dealers and political bosses in Cecil County profited from his activities. Even the Elkton newspapers defended his activities as a way of recovering property and human rights.

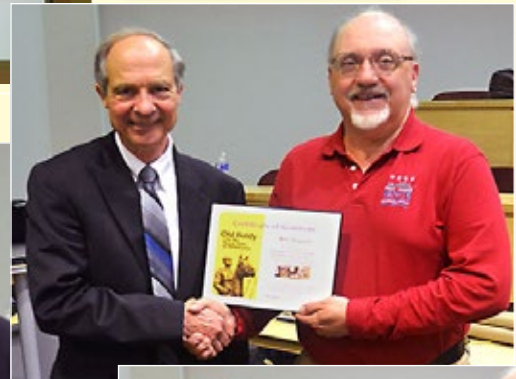
North of the Mason-Dixon Line residents of Pennsylvania called him a villain. His lack of compassion, gave him the label of the “notorious kidnapper from Elkton” by Frederick Douglas and other abolitionists who condemned McCreary for what he was doing. Thomas McCreary caught fugitives for slave owners as well as capturing free Black, taking them to Baltimore and selling them into slavery. He illegally went into slave states and free states kidnapping free blacks and slaves.

Here are some of the cases Thomas McCreary was part of during his kidnaping spree:

April 18, 1848: In the home of Zebulon Thomas, lawyer, activist and magistrate, McCreary and his men rushed to the third floor where a sixteen-year-old girl slept in the servant’s quarters and kidnapped her. This home invasion was done without a warrant. In Baltimore, a busy slave market, Dr. Jacob Sharpless of Downingtown, paid \$500 for the girl’s freedom. Even though there were legal reasons not to stay in Pennsylvania according to the courts, the girl and her mother had enough, arriving safely in Canada. Chester County officials did not indict the kidnapers.



**Milt Diggins**



Downingtwn, 1849: Henry Lee Brown, a free black person, worked for William P. Evans for nine years. Local residents, Amos B. McFarlan and Solomon States were trying to entice Henry with the promise of work in Philadelphia.

They eventually persuaded Brown to go to Philadelphia to seek this job, staying for several days at Star Tavern. Then the story changed. Brown was told that McFarlan’s uncle in Wilmington wanted to hire a coachman. They boarded a train but at the time Brown was suspicious of entering a slave state and resisted. Trying to convince Brown to proceed when a pair of “notorious negro stealers”, Able Jeanes and McCreary came onto the scene. There was no more “nice guy” with McCreary who took, Brown, to Bernard Campbell’s slave pen in Baltimore and sold him as a slave for life. The slave pen questioned this free man captured so Campbell decide to investigate. Philadelphia County charged McFarlan and States with kidnapping and



sentenced to serve six years and five years respectively. Thomas McCreary, free in Maryland, planned his next abduction.

Unionville, 1849: Four men rushed inside a tenant house, no warrant, and pulled Tom Mitchell from his bed as his wife, Elizabeth, was clinging to her husband. Infant daughter, Lorus, started crying but at the same time the intruder starting choking Elizabeth and pointing a gun at her. Tom was dragged outside, bound him, and shoved him into a carriage. Mitchell went to Baltimore but they did not take him before a judge. It was McCreary who sold Mitchell to Wilson, a slave pen owner. A group of Antislavery Quakers rushed to Baltimore and became involved in Mitchell's case. As the group ran into resistance, in Baltimore, the community donated the funds to purchase Mitchell's freedom. At the same time the community was protesting the case and wanted McCreary indicted for kidnapping. McCreary outsmarted everyone again.

1849: McCreary kidnaps John Jackson, seventeen, a free black teenager from Philadelphia who needed a job. He was living in Mt. Holly, New Jersey and was told to go to Maryland for a bogus job offer. John had to cross into Elkin, Maryland to meet McCreary who found him a place to live and a job. Getting friendly with McCreary was not the best idea for Jackson and he was arrested for entering the state and put him in jail. Eventually he got out of jail and was told not to return. Jackson, one month later, returned anyway and was arrested again. Jackson was auctioned off as a slave for life but McCreary purchased him and sold him to Bernard Campbell and shipped to New Orleans. There is nothing in the census of 1850 that showed where Jackson went after New Orleans.

1849: An attempt at kidnapping of Ann Brown from her home in Hedgeville, Delaware. No warrant! The constable and McCreary dragged her off with Ann's brother, Joseph Hyland, who confronted the gang and knocked McCreary to the ground. A trial was arranged while Ann was in the New Castle jail. The Massey gang's testimonies at the trial were not true, thus, they faced arrest for perjury and skipped the final hearing. Ann was out of jail.

By 1850, the slave owners felt there was a need for a stronger Fugitive Slave Law. Now citizens were told that they were compelled to assist with fugitive slaves whether they wanted to or not. Now all they need is a general description of the slave to capture him. This law continued to protect the institution of slavery. Federal circuit court judges ruled over all the fugitive slave cases. It was marshals and deputies issued warrants and they, in turn, would appoint citizens to help in the arrest.

The final event which involved Thomas McCreary, that I want to talk about, is the Parker sisters kidnapping. Elizabeth Parker, age 12, was arrested and accused of fleeing from Baltimore four years earlier with her parents. She was sold to a Baltimore slave dealer and sent to New Orleans. Later, a group of Baltimoreans agreed to pay a dealer a security to return Elizabeth to the city so she can plead for her freedom.

Rachel Parker, 17, was arrested a few weeks later. Eight men from the community rushed to Baltimore with the help of Baltimore Quakers rescued Rachel from the slave pen. Maryland imprisoned her and delayed her case for a year. Rachel's employer, farmer Joseph Miller, charged

McCreary with kidnapping, next day her employer was found hanging from a tree. The sister's plea was finally heard and the claims were dropped.

This kidnapping of the Parker sisters caused the citizens of their community to talk more about anti-slavery issues. This incident ended McCreary's capturing of free slaves and taking them across state lines. McCreary was never catch or tried for any of the events he was part of and ended his life quietly. From 1856-1868 McCreary served as Elkton town bailiff until the Civil War ended this practice. He was sexton of an Elkton church until 1870. Thomas McCreary died at age 70.

### What A Story!

Milt Diggins brought to our round table a story that seems like fiction, but is certainly true. For most of us we did not know the story of Tom McCreary or the practices of kidnapping free slaves and sending them back to the institution of slavery. Going from Pennsylvania to Maryland, crossing the Mason-Dixon line was a dangerous experience for black slaves or free blacks. The slave catchers knew all too well what the results would be if they got the free black slaves into Baltimore. These are some examples of how the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 worked for the benefit of the slave owner and the kidnappers. Thank you, Milt Diggins, for a very interesting presentation along with his book which brings the story into print.

## EVENT NOTICE

**There will be NO First Sunday 'Open House' at the G.A.R. Museum & Library in July. Enjoy your Independence Day Holiday!**

**The next 'Open House' will be on Sunday, August 4, 2019 from 12 noon**

**G.A.R. Museum & Library Open House Program  
FIRST Sunday 'Open House' Civil War related History presentation**

**Sunday, August 4, 2019 at 1:30pm  
FREE & Open to the public! (Donations accepted)**

**"The Victor of Gettysburg: George Gordon Meade & His Civil War Legacy"**

**Prof. Jennifer Murray, Ph.D.  
General Meade historian and author**

**Over 150 years following the end of the Civil War, General George Gordon Meade lies deep within the shadows of the Civil War. Once prominently defined as the "Hero of Gettysburg," Meade is now commonly obscured by the notoriety of Generals Grant and Sherman as well as Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Together, we will explore the prominent place that Meade held among his contemporaries and succeeding generations and in doing so reassert "the Hero of Gettysburg" to his central, defining role in the Civil War and American memory.**

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**THE CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE  
AT MANOR COLLEGE  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DELAWARE  
VALLEY CWRT – AND THE BRAND NEW  
“MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE”**

The Civil War Institute is a personal enrichment program that brings courses in Civil War History to the Delaware Valley in a non-stress, adult environment at Manor College. All of the courses in the program are taught by instructors who are members of the DelVal CWRT.

Classes may be taken individually or as part of a certificate program. Completion of four core courses (each 4 weeks/8 hours), plus any 24 hours of electives are required to receive the certificate.

The classes in the Military History Institute cover all periods of history, both American and World History, from ancient to modern times.

The Academic Building at Manor, also known as the Mother of Perpetual Help Building, is equipped with an elevator, and a ramp from the parking lot. The classrooms have been renovated with comfortable adult chairs and tables and are air-conditioned.

Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA. Call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program, or online <http://manor.edu/academics/adult-continuing-education/civil-war-institute/>

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

\* Indicates Core Course

\*\* Indicates Elective Course/Seminar

**CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CLASSES  
SUMMER SESSION**

**\*\*1863: Year of Decision** – 1 night (2 hrs) - The country had weathered nearly two years of bloody war by January 1, 1863. Although the Union had suffered a devastating loss at Fredericksburg, President Lincoln felt confident enough to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, in hopes of keeping England and France from throwing their support to the Confederacy. The Confederate victory at Chancellorsville came with a terrible price, Lee's attempt to bring the war to the North was costly, and the North gained control of the entire Mississippi River with the fall of Vicksburg. The war would drag on for another 16 months, but neither side would be the same as 1863 drew to an end.

Instructor: Steven Wright, M.A.

Fee: \$30

Thursday, July 25

**\*\*“Be Free or Die”: The Saga of Robert Smalls – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – Of the thousands of escaped slaves who entered Union lines, only one brought a Confederate ship with him. On May 12, 1862, in a feat both daring and brilliant, Robert Smalls, with 15 others, piloted the CSS Planter out of Charleston Harbor and into the custody of the U.S. Navy. Afterward, he served in both the U.S. Navy and Army and earned an officer's commission. Postwar, Smalls became the first African-American member of the U.S. Congress.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier

Fee: \$30

Monday, August 12

**CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CLASSES  
FALL SEMESTER**

**\*\*“Vicksburg Is the Key”** – 2 nights (4 hrs) – Those were President Lincoln's words about the most strategic city in the Confederacy. Vicksburg was a natural fortress that controlled navigation on the Mississippi River, and Jefferson Davis called it “the nailhead that holds the South's two halves together.” U.S. Grant combined persistence and creativity to capture “The Gibraltar of the South” on July 4, 1863.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier

Fee: \$55

Mondays, September 16 & 23

**\*\*Philadelphia in the Civil War** – 1 day (2 hrs) – Philadelphia is best known for its connection to the American Revolution, but the city and its residents played a major role during the Civil War, as well – especially as a supplier of war materiel and as home to many military hospitals. Philadelphia also was a principal station on the Underground Railroad.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Fee: \$30

Saturday, September 21

**\*\*Lincoln's Assassins – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – Abraham Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865, but his death was only part of a wider conspiracy to decapitate the U.S. government. Lincoln, Secretary of State William Seward and Vice President Andrew Johnson were all targeted for simultaneous murders that night. This class will look at the men, and one woman, who were to carry out these

**A Civil War Presentation**



**Following The Ghost of Corporal George Garman**



The Civil War saga of Corporal George Garman and his service in “The Pennsylvania Reserves” are recounted by his great-great-grandson, Joe Wilson. Young George (at left) survived many brutal battles only to suffer captivity in Andersonville Prison.

Known as one of the finest fighting units in the Army of the Potomac, the famed “Pennsylvania Reserves” shed their blood in numerous violent encounters with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

PowerPoint by Joseph F. Wilson - [joef21@aol.com](mailto:joef21@aol.com)

**FOLLOWING THE GHOST OF  
CORPORAL GEORGE GARMAN**

**Tuesday, September 10th, 2019, 7 P.M. Free  
The Center at Camden County College, Blackwood, N.J.**



crimes – who they were, how they became involved with John Wilkes Booth, their roles, arrests, trial and punishment.

Instructor: Hugh Boyle  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, October 10

**\*\*1864: The Year of Grant** – 1 day (2 hrs) – Despite successes at Gettysburg, Vicksburg and Chattanooga the previous year, Union victory was not assured when 1864 began. In fact, by September, the two major Union armies were stalemated, and Confederate victory seemed more likely. Union fortunes turned around dramatically in the fall, due largely to U.S. Grant, who had taken overall command and radically changed how the war would be fought.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier  
 Fee: \$30  
 Saturday, October 12

**\*The Life of the Common Soldier – Core Course** – 4 nights (8 hrs) – Who served in the armies of the Blue and the Gray? What were their living conditions? What were their thoughts as they marched into battle? This class describes the soldier's life, which has been described as "weeks of utter boredom, interrupted by moments of sheer terror."

Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
 Fee: \$105

Wednesdays, October 23 & 30; November 6 & 13

**\*\*"Riding the Rails to Victory" – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – The 1850s had seen enormous growth in the railroad industry, but the Civil War was the first war in which railroads were a major factor. From the Pratt Street riots in Baltimore on April 19, 1861, until the surrenders at Appomattox and Durham Station in April 1865, railroads would play a key role in how both sides conducted their operations, both offensively and defensively. This course will focus on the many major battles and campaigns whose outcomes, without the railroads, could have been drastically altered.

Instructor: Walt Lafty  
 Fee: \$30  
 Monday December 9

### MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE CLASSES SUMMER SESSION

**The Conflict Ignites: Lexington and Concord – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – The American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson called it "The Shot Heard Round the World," when British troops marched into the Massachusetts countryside to seize stockpiled guns and supplies. They met resistance before dawn on April 19, 1775, in Lexington. From Lexington, the British moved to Concord to complete their mission. The American Revolution for Independence had begun. This class will include slides of the area where the battles took place, as well as replica uniforms and equipment from the period.

Instructor: Mike Jesberger  
 Fee: \$30  
 Monday, July 22

**The Bridge on the River Kwai: Survival on the Death Railway – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – The movie "Bridge on the River Kwai" won seven Academy Awards in 1958. The real "bridge" was only one of more than 600 bridges built along the 258-mile "death railway". The entire railway was constructed using more than 61,000 Allied prisoners of war and approximately 250,000 Asian forced laborers. This course will cover the real stories of their capture in Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and Burma. It will explore

the horrendous experiences, the deaths and murders, and many inspiring stories of endurance by those who survived.

Instructor: Walt Lafty  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, August 22

### MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE CLASSES FALL SEMESTER

**Kamikaze: Japanese Suicide Attacks – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – As its fortunes declined in the last days of World War II, the Japanese high command ordered suicide air attacks on the U.S. fleet during the campaigns of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Although it was a desperation move, the Kamikaze ploy was horrifyingly successful.

Instructor: Lance Lacey  
 Fee: \$30  
 Wednesday, September 11

**"Never a More Wicked War ...": The War with Mexico, 1846-1848 – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – The public supported the war at its beginning, although Congressman Abraham Lincoln and Henry David Thoreau spoke out against it and Captain Ulysses S. Grant called it wicked and evil. Although nearly forgotten today, the U.S. war with Mexico was a defining moment in the nation's history. It nearly doubled the size of the United States, lit a fuse that resulted in the Civil War, and served as a training ground for some of the best officers who would serve in that Civil War.

Instructor: Steven Wright  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, October 17

**A Fast Ship in Harm's Way: U.S.S. Indianapolis – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – In one of the darkest chapters in U.S. naval history, the cruiser Indianapolis, after delivering the atomic bomb to the island of Tinian, was torpedoed and sank in less than 12 minutes. Of 1,200 men aboard, over 900 were able to get into the sea, but that was where the real nightmare began. The men were adrift for over three days. The Navy did not report them missing, so no search was done. Soon, the sharks began to swarm. By chance, a plane spotted the men in the water, and rescue operations began. In the end, just over 300 were saved.

What happened next was even more mysterious.

Instructor: Hugh Boyle  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, November 21

**Patriots vs. Loyalists – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – We have been taught that, with the Declaration of Independence, American citizens rose up against the British government. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, only one-third of Americans supported the Revolution. This is the true story of a very personal war of battles and bitterness, often pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
 Fee: \$30  
 Monday, November 25

**Victory or Death: Washington's Crossing and the Battle of Trenton – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) – Christmas is a season of joy and celebration. It is also a time to remember one of the American Revolution's most memorable events. Washington's crossing of the Delaware River and the Battle of Trenton were a major turning point in the

war. The Continental Army captured most of the Hessian force that was garrisoned in Trenton, with only minimal American losses – a dramatic victory that boosted the battered army’s morale. This class will provide firsthand accounts of the river crossing, the nine-mile march and the battle itself, as well as some interactive pieces like period maps, reproduction uniforms and equipment.

Instructor: Mike Jesberger  
Fee: \$30  
Thursday, December 5

## Welcome to the new recruits

**Jim Countryman · Palmyra, NJ**  
**John Lenoe · Deptford, NJ**



**We still have those great  
New Jersey Civil War Maps...  
the price is \$20.00...  
that does not include Rich.**



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**Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto: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.

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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

**August 8 – Thursday**  
**Jim Mundy**

**"In the Right Place at the Right Time - The Tanner Manuscript"**

**September 12 – Thursday**  
**Ron Kirkwood**

**"Too Much for Human Endurance -  
The George Spangler Farm Hospitals  
and the Battle of Gettysburg"**

**October 10 – Thursday**  
**Chuck Veit**

**"African Americans in the Union Navy"**

Questions to

**Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
Founded January 1977**

**President: Richard Jankowski**

**Vice President: Kathy Clark**

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**Annual Memberships**

**Students: \$12.50**

**Individuals: \$25.00**

**Families: \$35.00**

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



# Old Baldy Clothing Store Sale

What are the fashionable Old Baldy Members wearing this summer and fall? Why of course it is high quality Old Baldy apparel offered by Tuttle Marketing Services. The store opens on June 10th. Check out the website Old Baldy Store so see our special branded Tees, Polos, Jackets and Hats. Show your support but be ready to explain our unique organization to people intrigued by Old Baldy on your clothing. It is simple to order, just go to the website, choose the item, size and color. Be sure to add to your cart and then hit PLACE YOUR ORDER. It is that simple. Your orders will be delivered at the August and September meetings.

You need to act right away because the store is only opened for a limited time, June 10th through July 18th, and don't forget to checkout this link <https://tuttlemarketing.com/store/products/old-baldy-civil-war-round-table-651> The Link will also be provided on the Web Site and the Facebook Page.



**Short Sleeve Cotton Tee**  
SKU: SSCT

Gildan 100% cotton, 6.1oz. Short Sleeve Tee  
Color: Navy, Red, Tan, White  
Logo imprinted on left chest

Sizes: Adult: S-3XL  
Adult Sizes: S(34-36); M(38-40); L(42-44);  
XL(46-48); XXL(50-52); 3XL(54-55)  
**\$22.00**



**Long Sleeve Cotton Tee**  
SKU: LSCT

Gildan 100% cotton, 6.1oz. Long Sleeve Tee  
Color: Navy, Red, Tan, White  
Logo imprinted on left chest

Sizes: Adult: S-3XL  
Adult Sizes: S(34-36); M(38-40); L(42-44);  
XL(46-48); XXL(50-52); 3XL(54-55)  
**\$27.00**



**Sandwich Caps**

SKU: SC

Lightweight Cotton Sandwich Bill Cap  
100% Brushed Cotton; Mid Profile  
Color: Navy/White or Stone/Navy  
Adjustable Closure  
**\$22.00**



**Fleece Lined Hooded Jacket**

SKU: FLJ

Dickies Fleece Lined Nylon Jacket  
100% Nylon Shell; 100% Polyester  
Fleece Lining; Water Repellent Finish  
Color: Navy or Black  
Logo Embroidered on Left Chest  
Size: Adult S-3XL  
Chest Size: S(34-36"); M(38-40"); L(42-44");  
XL(46-48"); 2XL(50-52"); 3XL(54-56")

**\$52.00**



**Ladies and Mens Pique Polo**

SKU: SSP

Inner Harbor 6.8 oz 100 % Ring  
Spun Cotton Pique Polo  
2 button placket; woodtone buttons ;  
welled cuffs  
Mens - extended tail with side vents  
Ladies - hemmed bottom with side  
vents

Color: Navy, Red, White  
Sizes: Ladies: S-2XL; Mens: S-3XL  
Ladies Chest Size - front side  
only: S(19.5"); M(20.5"); L(21.5");  
XL(23.5"); 2XL(24.5")

Mens Chest Size - front side only:  
S(20"); M(21"); L(23.5"); XL(25.5");  
2XL(26.5"); 3XL(28.5")

**\$27.00**

Deadline for orders to be placed is Thursday, July 18th. Orders will be distributed at the August 8th meeting. Items are non-returnable due to customization, please contact Jeanne Reith if you have questions on sizing.

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