

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

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

October 10, 2019 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

## “African-Americans in the Union Navy”

Chuck Veit

Join us at **7:15 PM** on  
**Thursday, October 10th,**  
at **Camden County College.**  
This month's topic is **“African-  
Americans in the Union Navy”**

For those familiar with the story of African-American regiments in the Army during the American Civil War, the history of black sailors in the Union Navy offers a surprising and refreshing contrast. United States Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles mandated that all enlisted men be treated fairly no matter the color of their skin, and enforced this order throughout all aspects of naval life. "The Navy has not been in the habit of examining a seaman's complexion before shipping him; 'Can you fight?' is the only question." This is a much-overlooked aspect of the black contribution to the Northern war effort, and deserves to be better known. Navy history offers the only period example of integrated service by men of many races and backgrounds.

Chuck Veit is the author of original research books, including *A Dog Before a Soldier: Almost-lost Episodes in the Navy's Civil War*; *Sea Miner: Major E. B. Hunt's Rocket Torpedo*; *Natural Genius: Brutus de Villeroi and the U.S. Navy's First Submarine*; and two books focusing on the salvage exploits of Massachusetts native, John E. Gowen: *Raising Missouri* and *The Yankee Expedition to Sebastopol*. *Sea Miner* claimed the 2016 award for Narrative Non-fiction from the Independent Publishers of New England, and *Yankee Expedition* won awards in both the Perennial Seller category and Book of the Year in 2017.

Chuck is President of the Navy & Marine Living History Association and is a frequent speaker on 19th century naval topics at area historical societies and Civil War



roundtables, as well as at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Other venues have included the NOAA Maritime Heritage Education

Conference, Mariners' Museum Civil War Navy Conference, and the Naval Order of the United States in St. Petersburg, Florida.

### Notes from the President...

Fall has arrived and we are in our busy season, meeting new folks and spreading our message. Want to thank the membership for their efforts in making our guests comfortable. In speaking to several of our new members they commented on feeling welcome and being part of an enthusiastic group. The "we can do it" attitude is contagious and was felt at our appearance during the Soldiers Weekend at Fort Mott. Let's keep it going and grow our Round Table. Read about the Soldiers Weekend event in this newsletter.

Last month we welcomed **Ron Kirkwood** and his wife **Barb** to tell us about the George Spangler Farm Hospitals. It was well researched and informative on the Spangler family. They stated they enjoyed their visit and hope to return again. This month **Chuck Veit** is returning to New Jersey to present "African Americans in the Union Navy."

**As we expect this presentation to be well attended, the location has been moved to CIM Center Auditorium, Room 202. This is the building at far end of the parking lot along Peter Cheeseman Road next to our usual building. See the map (Page 15) in this newsletter. Bring a friend to this special event.**

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We were represented and participated in the 2019 Civil War Round Table Congress at Jefferson Barracks. It was next to the relatively new Missouri Civil War Museum. Flat Old Baldy says it is worth stopping by the next time you are in the St. Louis area. Our presentation recording project is advancing well as we recently upgraded our equipment to better serve the process. Share our YouTube channel with family and friends in other regions. Let **Dave Gilson** know what you will be sharing with the membership at our January meeting. Thanks to Arlene and Roger for keeping our roster updated with our new members.

Welcome to our new members, look forward to working with you on a project soon. Invite a friend to come check us out. Pick up some Boscov Passes for 25% off from **Maureen Phillips** for Friends Helping Friends Day (October 16th). Sell them for \$5. The next edition of the Camden County Heritage Magazine is out and will be available at the October meeting. Get your copy of our South Jersey Civil War Sites map at the next meeting. Tell American History teachers you know about the map so they can share it with their classes.

This month the Round Table will appear at the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey meeting in Lake Hopatcong (Oct 5), the Civil War weekend at Mullica Hill (Oct 12-13) and the Glassboro Civil War event on October 27th. Continue to share material, like trip reports and book reviews, with **Don Wiles** for our newsletter. Inquire about opportunities with our Preservation committee, the Display unit, Member Profiles or the History Team. October is History Month in Camden County. Be sure check out some of the 55 events scheduled throughout the month.

Join us at the Lamp Post diner for pre-meeting discussions at 5:30 on the 12th.

**Rich Jankowski, President**

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Thursday, October 10

#### **The Confederacy**

President Jefferson Davis, addressing a possible shortage of manpower in the South, is not convinced that slaves should be used by the Confederate Army, although demographic graphics mean that the prosperous and populous North states will always have the advantage of numbers over the South.

### 1862 Friday, October 10

#### **The Confederacy**

President Jefferson Davis requests that 4500 blacks be drafted to assist with the fortification of Richmond. Eastern Theater Stuart crosses the Potomac, above the positions held by the Army of the Potomac. The Confederate raiders destroy property at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

#### **Western Theater**

Union Cavalry commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Boyle capture over 1000 Confederates left behind at Harrodsburg.

### 1863 Saturday, October 10

#### **Eastern Theater**

A series of minor skirmishes take place along the Rapidan as the Army of Northern Virginia maneuvers around Meade's right flank and the Union forces continue to fall back.

#### **Western Theater**

President Davis meets with Braxton Bragg and his senior officers who are seething with discontent. Davis asks them to speak frankly and is disagreeably surprised when Longstreet does just that. Buckner, Cheatham, Cleburne, and D.H. Hill all agree that Bragg's talents would be "better employed elsewhere." Davis is furious; what he wants is another ringing declaration of support for his friend Bragg, such as the one wrung out of Joe Johnston after Stone's River.

### 1864 Monday, October 10

#### **Eastern Theater**

Sheridan withdraws north over Cedar Creek, while VI Corps moves toward Washington via Front Royal.

#### **Western Theater**

An amphibious assault against Bedford Forrest's men on the Tennessee River at Eastport fails disastrously. Confederate fire from the bank damages the gunboat *Undine* and disables some of the transports. Fortunately, the troops who are landed manage to escape.

## In Search of the Ghost of George Garman by Joseph Wilson

by Kathy Clark, OBCWRT Member

The year 1861 was important for one reason only, it was the beginning of the Civil War and most of the young men wanted to be a part of the enlistment process. It was the thrill of fighting in a war that everyone thought would be over in a matter of weeks. Imagine an 18-year-old and what he was thinking while in battle as the bullets were whirling toward his fellow companions and himself. Being scared, young, and in a situation like no other experienced, these young men saw their comrades falling by their side. The illusion of war certainly changed as the men continued to battle the enemy.

Corporal George Garman, Joe Wilson's Great-Great-Grandfather enlisted in the 36th PA Infantry, May 1861, soon after the first shots were fired on Fort Sumter. Andrew Curtin, "Father of the PA Reserves, recruited anyone who wanted to join no matter who they were and renamed the 36th PA Infantry to the 7th PA Reserves. The men went to Camp Curtin for training until the Battle of Bull Run. The effects on each soldier as they went into battle was so scary that many of them ran home in the middle of battle. Lincoln needed these men desperately and called for recruits for a new PA Reserves immediately. George Garman was one of the

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Joe Wilson

men who went to Washington, D.C. to enlist for three years.

Not all of the 7th PA Reserve was used in battles at the same time. George's regiment were one of the Reserve Units that was not called to fight right away. George Garman was leader of the second regiment, John Reynolds was leader

of the first and Edward Ord, the third. Finally, the first Union Victory at Chain Bridge at the Battle of Gainesville under Ord's regiment. The Seven Days Battle, fighting at Beaver Dam Creek which was June, 1862, then next day Gaines' Mill and victory for the Union. This was the first battle where all the regiments went into the fight. All these young men were afraid but like in "The Red Bridge of Courage" men felt that way too until they got the anger and courage enough to fight the Confederate forces.



George Garman

Next was the Battle of Glendale, June 30, 1862, attacked by eight brigades and resorted to hand to hand combat with their bayonets attached. The PA Reserve captured the battle flag, guarded the ranks and were praised for their work. At Harrison's Landing, George Garman, got in a boat to cross the James River and burned Edmund Ruffin's Plantation. Destroying the plantation and helping the slaves escape to their freedom. During this time Meade had recovered from wounds from a previous battle and was back in camp to take over his command.

August 29 and 30, second battle of Bull Run, Reynolds swept down the Chinn Ridge

and rebels began crashing through the woods. The regi-



The Pennsylvania Reserves

ments of the PA Reserves and US Regulars came running up the hill and the fighting continued. The reserves continued their fight at the Battle of South Mountain where the experience was like an Indian-style battle. Then Antietam with Meade's regiment leading the way with George Garman fighting in the bloody cornfield. By September 16, they were at the Joseph Poffenberger Farm which was right at

the Union line. The first Texans with Doubleday in charge were in the same area but they wanted to get away from the Union line, running over and through the PA Reserves. The shells were so close to George Garman's head that he suffered a concussion as a result.



Joe and Gerri and Flat Old Baldy

The Battle of Fredericksburg was the worst battle for the PA Reserves with a 40% casualty rate. At the time George was promoted to Corporal in Company K and went back to Washington, D.C. to guard the railroads. They then marched to Gettysburg with encounters at Plum Run as well as hearing the terrible news that Reynolds had been killed.

The Spring of 1864, was the Overland Campaign and then the Battle of the Wilderness in May 4, 1864. The sad story is that George Garman was captured during this attack and was shipped to Andersonville Prison Camp. With all the battles the 7th PA Reserved participated in during the length of this disastrous war, Garman's worst challenge he ever had in his life was about to happen.

The horror of prison life was something that George endured the best he could under the circumstances. Many soldiers George saw die as a result of the trouble conditions in the prison. Joe gave us a rare picture of the terrible conditions that the soldier's endured while in prison. George survived his ordeal and in December, 1864 George was released but very sick. But even though he was sick he recovered to reenlist in March in the US Veteran Volunteers. After he was finished with his enlistment, he became a tavern keeper and did get married. The last time George was on a battlefield was to dedicate the Pennsylvania monument at Gettysburg. In the year 1924, George passed away at the age of 90 and was laid to rest at the Greenwood Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Again, Joe has done a superior job relating George Garman's life to all of us. The crowd was interested as they listened to Joe's presentation, encouraging questions from the audience relating George Garman's story to their own knowledge of Civil War history. Joe, your knowledge and research on George Garman was important for your family history but equally important was sharing his story for all to hear. It was an enriching PowerPoint demonstration bringing all who attended another story from our Civil War History. Thanks, Joe, for bringing your story to our attention.



# Slaves and Sailors in the Civil War



by Dwight Hughes,  
*Emerging Civil War*,  
February 28, 2018

The enlistment of African Americans as soldiers in the United States Army during the Civil War is a well-examined topic, but less appreciated is the story of freedmen and former slaves as sailors in the navy.

Wartime experiences of these men (and a few women) are as distinct as the environments—ashore or afloat—in which they served.

Men of African descent in the sea service started out ahead

of their land-bound compatriots and benefited from vastly expanded wartime opportunities.

But they did not significantly advance the conditions of service, finishing the war about where they started in better-than-slavery but less-than-equal circumstances.

In the army, African Americans achieved a monumental step forward, a tale of stoic sacrifice and daunting perseverance in the pursuit of freedom and equality as depicted in the popular movie *Glory*.

Starting from total exclusion—the federal Militia Act of 1792 outlawed their services—African-American soldiers sweated, bled, and died their way to broad acceptance as combat soldiers. They escaped bondage and approached equality at least in the enlisted ranks only to have that promise snatched back postwar to the muddy middle ground of segregation and circumscribed citizenship.

The navy always had been racially integrated; there were no laws like the Militia Act. African Americans hazarded their lives and freedom against the nation's enemies in the colonial and United States navies while achieving a level of respect, relatively fair treatment, and economic opportunities generally not available ashore.

They were fully integrated into ship's crews. Although performing primarily manual and service functions, they were not restricted to those roles. They equally manned the big guns, were trained in small arms, and performed

the myriad of seamanship duties expected. With persistence and performance, African Americans could attain petty officer (non-commissioned) positions equivalent to crewman of European descent and were paid accordingly.

Through the quasi war with France, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War, economic growth and westward expansion generated continuing shortages of merchant sailors for the navy to recruit. Restrictions on enlistment of foreigners and general bias by mariners against navy service created increased opportunity for African Americans. Such service also generated controversy, adding fuel for antislavery advocates in the debates on the meaning of liberty.

Commodore Isaac Chauncy wrote of his African-American crewmen during the War of 1812: "To my knowledge a part of them are not surpassed by any seamen we have in the fleet; and I have yet to learn that the color of the skin... can affect a man's qualifications or usefulness." He had nearly fifty onboard and considered many of them among his best men.

Commodore Oliver H. Perry praised the bravery of his many African-American crewmen after the crucial battle of Lake Erie in September 1813. Captain Isaac Hull, commanding the USS *Constitution* (Old Ironsides) in her desperate struggle with HMS *Guerriere* concluded: "I never had any better fighters than those n—ers. They stripped to the waist & fought like devils, sir, seeming to be utterly insensible to danger & to be possessed with a determination to outfight white sailors."

While African Americans faced hardship and death alongside shipmates, such service did not materially improve their lives ashore, and peacetime efforts were made to exclude them from the navy. Navy Surgeon Usher Parsons

recorded that they made up a tenth of the crew of the frigates USS *Java* and the USS *Guerrier*. "There seemed to be an entire absence of prejudice against the blacks...." That was not entirely true but still it applied much more often than on land.

The navy at sea was its own world with its own authoritarian structures, customized through millennia to the unique needs of shipboard life and hardly less strict in its way than slavery. Officers were immersed in a cosmopolitan service accustomed to sailors of all shades and always desperate for men.

It would have been disruptive of efficiency and discipline to place some into a separate category based just on color and treat them differently, and there was no need to. While this was still very much a class system, the qualifications of race, which played such a central social and economic role on land, had little importance at sea.

The policies of the United States Navy changed drastically in the nineteenth century, eventually leading to a career enlisted service. After decades of resistance by traditional-



## Contraband



ists, including many seamen, the ancient practice of flogging was abolished in 1850. The measure to end service of alcohol or grog was passed on the day after the battle of Antietam, September 18, 1862.

These measures reflected the social crusades of the second Great Awakening. Seamen's welfare resonated with many other issues of that socially conscious era, including slavery, and led to significant improvements in the conditions of both merchant and navy sailors.

African Americans continued to enlist in substantial numbers through the 1820s and 1830s, although regulations from the 1840's onward limited their numbers to 5 percent of the enlisted force. Southern officers increasingly brought slaves afloat or enlisted them and collected the salaries.

As the issues heated up, Northern political backlash led to severe restrictions on employment of slaves. At the same time, economic hardship was forcing many other men back to sea taking available berths. African Americans constituted only about 2.5 percent of the enlisted force in spring 1861.

As the war exploded so did the navy. African Americans recruits were mostly freedmen at first, many having naval or maritime experience.

But by September 1861, naval vessels of the blockade, along the coasts, and later up the Mississippi were inundated with fugitive slaves, many wishing to enlist.

Commanding officers desperate for recruits pleaded with Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles for authorization to take them. Despite the ambiguity of the contraband's legal status and the secretary's questionable authority to act, Welles permitted enlistment of former slaves whose "services can be useful."

Recruitment of contrabands (and freedmen) was carried out quietly, out of public view, and with much less controversy than would arise concerning the army. The most recent research has identified by name nearly eighteen thousand men of African descent (and eleven women) who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. From spring 1861 through fall 1864, the percentage of African-American sailors increased steadily from less than 5 percent to a peak of 23 percent—a significant segment of manpower and nearly double the proportion serving in the army.

Contrabands made up a considerable majority of those sailors; nearly three men born into slavery served for every man born free. By fall 1865, most wartime volunteers had been discharged, but African Americans still constituted 15 percent of the enlisted force, more than three times the percentage in service at the beginning of the war.

Even without formal policies, persons of African descent were broadly associated with menial labor and personal service. Class and racial prejudices could informally segregate them and constrain their opportunities afloat. But such practices varied widely, influenced by location, type of vessel, and the personalities of officers and ship's company.

Ships assigned to stores and supply duties, in contrast to warships, were disproportionately manned by African Americans. Ocean-going warships had relatively few, perhaps 5 to 10 percent.

Blockading vessels along the Atlantic coast drew many more, and on the Gulf coast not so many, while ships of the Mississippi Squadron relied mostly on them.

Freedmen from Northern states or other countries were more likely to gain sometimes grudging respect of officers and shipmates, particularly if experienced in the profession of the sea. They spoke and acted in more culturally comfortable ways; they were more likely to be accepted as equals and advance a few rungs up the enlisted ladder.

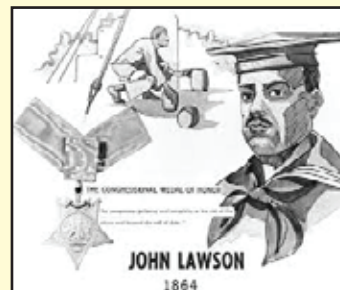
Those from northeast port cities might have commercial maritime experience, perhaps on the burgeoning steam packet service to Europe as cooks, stewards, deckhands, firemen, or engineers. Young men from towns and villages of New England often had two- to three-year whaling voyages under their belts. Along the shores of Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and Long Island Sound, they were familiar with small craft used in oystering, crabbing, and fishing. Many others stoked the furnaces and tended the boilers of river steamers.

Former slaves, however, continued to be stigmatized by a supposition of inferiority, were more stringently segregated among the crews, routinely assigned manual labor and busy work, and rated and paid at the lowest levels. Contrabands also provided valuable labor at shore installations.

The Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia exchanged broadsides with the steam frigate USS Minnesota in Hampton Roads on April 8, 1862. Minnesota's aft pivot gun, manned by an African-American crew, was hotly engaged and two men were wounded.

"The Negroes fought energetically and bravely—none more so," wrote their commanding officer. "They evidently felt that they were thus working out the deliverance of their race."

As in previous conflicts, African Americans of the Civil War navy proved their valor in many hard-fought clashes. John H. Lawson, Landsman, USS Hartford, won the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Battle of Mobile Bay. African-American sailors received 8 of the 307 Medals of Honor issued by the navy during the war.



# Battle of Ball's Bluff revealed a truth: The Civil War was a river war

by Joel Achenbach, October 8, 2011

Ball's Bluff could fit into the back pocket of Antietam or Gettysburg. It's tucked behind a residential neighborhood in Leesburg, lurking in the woods at the end of a gravel road. Like all Civil War battlefields, it's dramatically unlike the Civil War itself. It's quiet. The cannons are harmless, as inert as stumps. The old cowpaths have been converted to hiking trails and dutifully mulched. There's hardly anyone around. You could nap on a blanket.

It is the visitor's challenge to figure out how to read this landscape, how to see it the way the generals did. Add people, noise, smoke, wails, the rebel yell, the whistle of bullets. Add mud.

At Ball's Bluff, you can walk down a trail, past a small national cemetery, and eventually come to a precipice. About 120 feet below, visible through the early fall foliage, is the Potomac River.

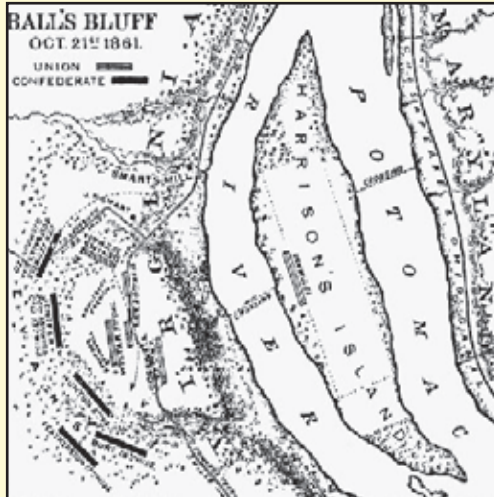
Here, on Oct. 21, 1861, the Union engineered an epic fiasco.

The federals crossed the river into Virginia, seeking to make "a slight demonstration" against an unknown number of rebels believed camped nearby. The Union soldiers had only a few skiffs for the crossing. It was an immaculate setup for a tragedy: sketchy information, a river too deep to ford, not enough boats, and soldiers who couldn't swim.

Ball's Bluff is the tale of a quick, tidy slaughter. It contains broader lessons about warfare, painfully learned as the bodies floated downstream.

## **The river factor**

We think of 19th-century wars as set-piece battles, with armies colliding in cornfields and peach orchards, the soldiers demonstrating their valor as they charge the op-



posing line. But the generals knew there was more to it than that. They knew that success or failure in the war would depend on logistics, on supplies, on feeding men and mules, on lines of communication, on knowledge of the landscape and precision of the maps.

What they saw as they examined the Coastal Survey maps

was a vast territory dominated by rivers. Much of the war was contested on rivers, along their muddy banks, and at the bottlenecks of their bridges.

Rivers were still thoroughfares in 1861. There weren't many bridges then, or even decent roads. As John Keegan writes in "Fields of Battle," during the Civil War "roads were still conceived as part of an internal waterway-portage system, harking back to the wilderness days of the eighteenth century." Roads often ended at the bank of a river, without a bridge. You were expected to switch to a boat.

Rivers shaped the war both strategically and tactically. The Union's initial goal was to encircle the Confederacy by blockading the coast with the burgeoning U.S. Navy (the number of naval vessels grew dramatically in the first year of the war) and by gaining full control of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The encirclement strategy came from the old man who initially led the Union military,

Mexican War hero Gen. Winfield Scott. "Scott's Anaconda," it was sometimes derisively called.

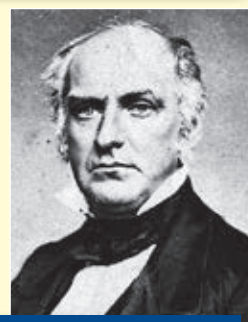
The rivers in the West served the Union well: Not only did the Mississippi cleave the Confederacy and, once controlled, cut off the eastern states from the vast resources of Texas and other western states, but the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers invited invasion of the heart of rebel territory. It was an invitation that Ulysses S. Grant happily accepted when he led his soldiers on steamers up the Tennessee River in early 1862 and, with help from Navy ironclads, took Fort Henry and then Fort Donelson — unmitigated Union victories.

The rivers of the east presented a different story. They were obstacles, as a rule, for maneuvering armies, generally flowing from west to east, and some would loom large in history despite their modest scale (such as the Rapidan, the Rappahannock and the Chickahominy). The historian James McPherson says, "The rivers in the Eastern theater helped the defense, and that means the Confederacy for the most part."

So central were the rivers to the conduct of the war that military units (particularly on the Union side) were named for them: the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Cumber-



**Brigadier General, USA  
Charles Pomeroy Stone**



**Colonel, USA  
Edward Dickinson Baker**

land, the Division of the Rappahannock, the Division of the Ohio and so on.

The Potomac was famously eccentric — alternately impassable with floodwaters and dried to a trickle. Low water helped Robert E. Lee's invasion of Maryland in the late summer of 1862, but floodwaters the next summer nearly trapped his army after the Battle of Gettysburg, and he was lucky to escape across makeshift bridges near Williamsport, Md.

The Potomac carried symbolic importance as the boundary between loyal and rebellious states, and it served as a moat for the U.S. capital, consciously seated by the Founding Fathers in a slaveholding territory, and in 1861 facing a Confederate army just 25 miles away in Manassas.

"As soon as secession happened, the Potomac became the most important river in the Civil War," said Jonathan Earle, an associate professor of history at the University of Kansas. "The Potomac was a psychological border as well as a physical one."

The bridge over the Potomac at Harpers Ferry, W.Va., was burned repeatedly during the war. Engineers mastered the art of laying a pontoon bridge in a matter of hours — essentially placing planks across boats that had been lashed together. But this proved to be a bloody craft at Fredericksburg, as the rebels mowed down the engineers building the bridges for Gen. Ambrose Burnside's army.

Union Gen. George McClellan discovered, in his Peninsula Campaign of 1862, that a heavy rain — "Confederate weather" — could transform a minor tributary such as the Warwick River, which flows into the James, into an almost insuperable barrier. And here's McClellan writing of the Chickahominy as though it were the Nile or the Amazon:

"It was subject to frequent, sudden, and great variations in the volume of water, and a single violent storm of brief duration sufficed to cause an overflow of the bottom-lands for many days, rendering the river absolutely impassable without long and strong bridges."

McClellan was a world-class worrier, always imagining that he was outnumbered and, in this instance, outriveted. Lincoln nearly went mad trying to get McClellan to attack.



"But you must act," Lincoln said in closing one chastising letter in early 1862. McClellan, however, understood the principles of military strategy and was quite correct that attacking without a good plan and proper logistics was a recipe for disaster.

Which was what happened amid the autumn leaves in October 1861 at Ball's Bluff.

### 'A slight demonstration'

McClellan that fall was in the mode of army-building, getting everyone trained, trying to avoid a repeat of the debacle at Manassas in July. One day he learned that Confederates were deployed near Leesburg not far from the Potomac River. McClellan didn't want to lose control of the upriver Potomac and the critical Baltimore & Ohio Railroad that passed through Point of Rocks, Md., and Harpers Ferry. McClellan wired Gen. Charles P. Stone, camped in Poolesville, Md., suggesting that "perhaps a slight demonstration on your part would have the effect to move them."

Stone sent three regiments across the river, one at Ball's Bluff and two at Edwards Ferry a few miles downriver. There wasn't a bridge anywhere along that stretch of the river, and it was too deep to ford, so they had to rely on boats. Only three were available at Harrison's Island, a two-mile sickle of land occupying a bend in the Potomac facing Ball's Bluff. Stone sent a note to McClellan: "We are a little short of boats."

They were also a little short of professional soldiers. The man who quickly took command on the bluff was a sitting U.S. senator from the young state of Oregon. Col. Edward Baker was an advocate of "bold" and "determined" war and a close friend of the president (Lincoln's second son was named for him). Baker was gifted at oratory but impoverished in military strategy. That the Union forces were backed up to a bluff above a river, with only a few skiffs available in the event of a retreat, did not faze him.

When a New York regiment ascended the cow path up the bluff, Baker greeted a newly arrived colonel with a quotation from "The Lady of the Lake": One blast upon your bugle horn/ Is worth a thousand men.

Unbeknownst to Baker, the Confederate commander, Gen. Nathan G. "Shanks" Evans, had sent his men from Edwards Ferry to Ball's Bluff. The rebels had superior position in the woods, picking off Baker's men as they struggled to hold their ground. Baker himself began working artillery pieces. The rebels charged, whooping, and the fight was joined hand to hand. The New York World reported what happened next:

"One huge red-haired ruffian drew a revolver, came close to Baker, and fired four balls at the general's head, every one of which took effect, and a glorious soul fled through their ghastly openings."

Historian Shelby Foote writes: "[H]e who called for sudden, bold, forward, determined war received it in the form of a bullet through the brain, which left him not even time for a dying quotation."

In pell-mell flight, hundreds of Union soldiers scrambled, stumbled and somersaulted down the steep bluff. So many boarded a flatboat that it foundered. Soon all three skiffs had sunk.

Rebels stood atop the bluff and fired at the men below. It

was, the rebels would say later, like a turkey shoot.

Whom the bullets didn't kill, the water did. Dozens of men drowned. Americans, as a rule, couldn't swim in 1861. They couldn't have stayed afloat even if they hadn't been burdened by wool uniforms, boots and heavy weapons.

Of valor the federals had plenty; what they lacked were boats and trained officers who could read a landscape. Ball's Bluff inspired Congress to create the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. It was a star chamber, secretive, radical, and its first victim was Gen. Charles P. Stone, accused unjustly and irrationally of treason and thrown without formal charges into a prison cell in New

York harbor. Stone was eventually released and returned to the Union cause, but his reputation never fully recovered from the Ball's Bluff calamity.

The battle offered an immediate lesson about the importance of military principles, of logistics, of avenues of retreat. Coming after Manassas, it boded ill for a quick suppression of the Confederacy. Anyone in Washington who remained unclear about the challenge facing the Union needed merely to visit the banks of the river. The bodies were washing up. One at Chain Bridge, one at Long Bridge, one all the way down near Mount Vernon.

***This was going to be a very long war.***

## Soldier's Weekend at Fort Mott

by Rich Jankowski, OBCWRT Member



OBCWRT Booth and Display

Our Round Table set up our display at the Soldiers Weekend at Fort Mott and welcomed visitors from across the region. Thank you to **Bob Hahn** and **Jim Countryman** for staffing the morning session and sharing our story with those who stopped by to learn about Old Baldy. The weather was good and our location was along the main path. **Steve Newcomb** who was down from Lansdale to see the exhibits, stopped by our display several times throughout the day and worked on recruiting another new member. **Lynn Cavill** also passed by and said hello. The afternoon was staffed by **Harry Jenkins** and **Frank Barletta**. We met several folks from our area who promised to visit us at a future meeting. We sold several of the South Jersey Civil War site maps, Old Baldy drinking glasses and Boscov passes to increase our treasury. **Dave Gilson** displayed a slide show on our new laptop. A shout out to **Bob Russo** for designing, building and



Dave discussing our purpose to preserving history



Bob Hahn and Steve Newcomb manning the



Harry Showing our upcoming presentations

always improving our great display. Special thanks to **Dave Gilson** for serving from setup to take down, appreciate his efforts. We will be setting up our display at the Mullica Hill Civil War weekend on October 12th, sign up to staff our table at the next meeting. Invite your family and friends to come to Mullica Hill for the event and to visit our display.

## General Meade's "Baldy"

Excerpt from "The Battle of Gettysburg", by W.C. Storrick, Retired Superintendent of Guides, Gettysburg National Park Commission, 1931.

In the first great battle of the Civil War, at Bull Run, there was a bright bay horse with a white face and feet. He, as well as his rider, was seriously wounded and the horse was

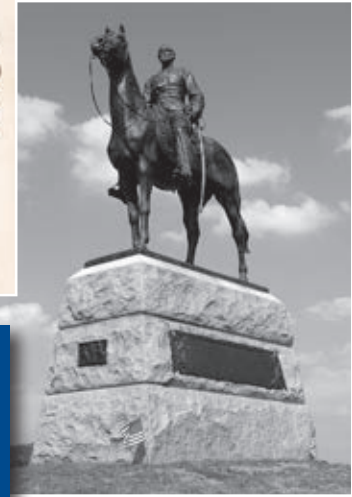
turned back to the quartermaster to recover. In September General Meade bought him and named him "Baldy". Meade became deeply attached to the horse but his staff officers soon began to complain of his peculiar racking gait which was hard to follow. Faster than a walk and slow for a trot, it compelled the staff alternately to trot and walk.



**Old Baldy in Virginia**



**Old Baldy's Original Mounted Head**



**The "Legend" of the General Meade Monument at Gettysburg is that that is not "Old Baldy" that Meade is sitting on but one of Grant's horses that the artist through was more regal.**

"Baldy" was wounded twice at the first battle of Bull Run; he was at the battle of Drainsville; he took part in two of the seven days' fighting around Richmond in the summer of 1862; he carried his master at Groveton, August 29th; at the second battle of Bull Run; at South Mountain and at Antietam. In the last battle he was left on the field for dead, but in the next Federal advance he was discovered quietly grazing on the battleground with a deep wound in his neck. He was tenderly cared for and soon was fit for duty. He bore the general at the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. For two days he was present at Gettysburg, where he received his most grievous wound from a bullet entering his body between the ribs and lodging there. Meade would not part with his and kept him with the army until the following spring.

In the preparations of the Army of the Potomac for the last campaign, "Baldy" was sent to pasture at Downingtown,

Pa. After the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, Meade hurried to Philadelphia where he again met his faithful charger, fully recovered. For many years the horse and the general were inseparable companions, and when Meade died in 1872, "Baldy" followed the hearse. Ten years later he died, and his head and two fore-hoofs were mounted and are now cherished relics of the George G. Meade Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in Philadelphia.

## **Following the Ghost of Lewis and Clark**

*by Joseph F. Wilson, OBCWRT Member*

The weather was beautiful as Gerri and I trekked through the Columbia River Gorge just as Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark did in 1805. I led my own "Corps of Discovery" with me being the Captain and Gerri dutifully following. At least, sometimes. And we didn't have Sacagawea to help us on the journey.

Our SUV transport through the Gorge had a little more horse power than the dugout canoes that Lewis and Clark's party of 31 had when they glided through the beautiful Gorge nestled in the Cascade Mountain Range between Oregon and Washington.

Our first stop was on the Washington side where we followed the exhilarating trail that seemed to go straight up on the ledge of an old lava plug. Thank God for the railings. Definitely not for the faint of heart. The towering 850 foot rock was called Beacon Rock by Captain Clark in his journals. Clark

mentions Beacon Rock several times in his journal as being the spot where they detected tidewater for the first time. And they were still 130 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The trail blazer Daniel Boone could've taken lessons from Lewis and Clark.

Crossing over the "Bridge of the Gods" brought us to the Oregon side where we headed for the enormous 600 foot Multnomah Falls. What a sight to behold! These falls also enchanted Clark as he mentioned the colossal falls in his journal. The falls are so gigantic it would be hard not to notice them while paddling a canoe down the river.

The next stop on the Oregon side was at the Rooster Rock area where the Captains and their party of 31 adventurers, including Sacagawea and her baby, stopped to camp. With a little imagination, you could smell the campfires burning as they gathered strength for the final push to the Pacific Ocean they now knew was near.



The Lewis and Clark expedition anxiously lit out in search of the mouth of the Columbia River where it spills into the Pacific. And Gerri and I lit out after them.

We arrived at Cape Disappointment in Washington where Lewis and Clark first gazed upon the Pacific Ocean after a tumultuous journey of 18 months that started in May of 1804. It was now November, 1805. The daring expedition went up the wild Missouri River, over the snowcapped Rocky Mountains, and down the Columbia River.

I couldn't help myself as Gerri and I caught our first glance of the Pacific Ocean. Without pause I blurted out, "OCEAN IN VIEW! O! THE JOY! These were Clark's words recorded in his journal when finally reaching the ocean that was always the goal.

The explorers didn't linger long in Washington. They crossed over the Columbia River to the Oregon side in search of a better winter camp. I followed the trail along with my one woman "Corps of Discovery."

We tracked them down at Fort Clatsop. The fort would be the home of the "Corps" until spring arrived in 1806 for the trip home. The men built the fort in three weeks. The



Multnomah Falls



Beacon Rock

present fort was rebuilt on the exact location and conforms to the specifications that Clark had described in his journal. Their new home was two miles from the ocean and afforded them protection from the elements and any enemies. A trail we wandered down took us to the canoe landing on the Lewis and Clark River, where one could easily envision the party arriving and beaching their canoes for the winter.

Gerri and I had a great time researching this project and learning even more about an expedition that has always fascinated me. We took an earlier trip to Monticello in Virginia where the idea was born in the mind of Thom-

as Jefferson. Later we ventured to Harper's Ferry where Meriwether Lewis acquired supplies and weapons for the epic journey. Finally, we stood inside Fort Clatsop near the Pacific Ocean.

And we both love geology and nature so we didn't dare leave Washington State without exploring the captivating Mount St. Helens Volcano and the beautiful Mount Rainier National Park.

I actually wanted to do the whole route of Lewis and Clark by canoe on the Missouri and Columbia River, but Gerri mutinied and refused to follow my orders. In 1805, she would've been shot.

## The Siege of Corinth

The siege of Corinth (also known as the first Battle of Corinth) was an American Civil War engagement lasting from April 29 to May 30, 1862, in Corinth, Mississippi. A collection of Union forces under the overall command of Major General Henry Halleck engaged in a month-long siege of the city, whose Confederate occupants were commanded by General P.G.T. Beauregard. The siege resulted in the capture of the town by Federal forces.

The town was a strategic point at the junction of two vital railroad lines, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Former Confederate Secretary of War LeRoy Pope Walker called this intersection "the vertebrae of the Confederacy". General Halleck argued: "Richmond and Corinth are now the great strategic points of the war, and our success at these points should be insured at all hazards". Another reason for the town's importance was that, if captured by Union forces, it would threaten the security of Chatta-



Major General, USA  
Henry Wager Halleck



General, CSA  
Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard

nooga and render Southern control of the track west of that East Tennessee bastion meaningless.

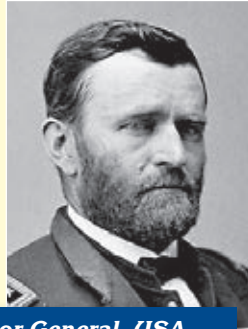
The siege ended when the outnumbered Confederates withdrew on May 29. This effectively cut off the prospect of further Confederate attempts to regain western Tennessee. The Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant took control and made it the base for Grant's operations to seize control of the Mississippi River Valley, and especially the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Grant later within his memoirs would recall the importance Corinth held in the cause to a Union victory in the region: "Corinth was a valuable strategic point for the enemy to hold, and consequently a valuable one for us to possess ourselves of". General C. S. Hamilton would later recount that the importance of Corinth was summed up as such: "The Confederate armies had been driven from the Ohio River, almost out of the States of Tennessee and Kentucky a steady back for a distance of 200 miles Federal



Halleck's Army on the March  
to Corinth

occupation reaching the Gulf States where chivalrous foes had been sure Yankee would never set foot". Sherman too would later write of the importance that Corinth held after the Second Battle of Corinth was concluded: "In Memphis I could see its effects upon the citizens, and they openly admitted that their cause had sustained a death-blow".

With the siege of Corinth completed, Federal troops had the opportunity to strike towards Vicksburg or Chattanooga, but it would be after the Second Battle of Corinth that October that Grant could strike for Vicksburg. The Siege of Corinth was described by General Sherman as a change in the tactics in West Tennessee: "The effect of the battle of Corinth was very great. It was, indeed, a decisive blow to the Confederate cause in our quarter, and changed the whole aspect of affairs in West Tennessee. From the timid defensive we were at once enabled to assume the bold offensive".



**Major General, USA  
Ulysses S. Grant**

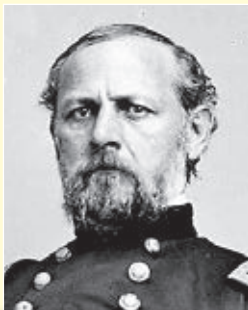
Following the Union Army victory at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck amassed three Union armies—the Army of the Tennessee, the Army of the Ohio, and the Army of the Mississippi—for an advance on the vital rail center of Corinth, Mississippi. Made cautious by the staggering losses at Shiloh, Halleck embarked on a tedious campaign of offensive entrenchment, fortifying after each advance. By May 25, 1862, after moving five miles in three weeks, Halleck was in position to lay siege to the town. Confederate morale was low and Beauregard was outnumbered two to one. The water was bad. Typhoid and dysentery had felled thousands of his men. At a council of war, the Confederate officers concluded that they could not hold the railroad crossover. Sickness had claimed the lives of almost as many men as the Confederacy had lost at Shiloh.

**Battle  
Farmington**

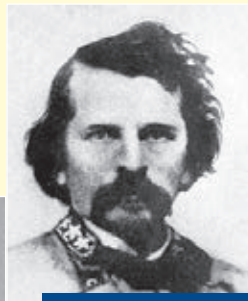
Of Halleck's wing commanders John Pope proved to be the most aggressive during the campaign. Pope led the army's Left Wing and was furthest away from Halleck's headquarters. On May 3 Pope moved forward and captured the town of Farmington only a few miles from Corinth. Instead of moving the Center Wing under Don Carlos Buell forward, Halleck ordered Pope to withdraw and realign with Buell. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard ordered Earl Van Dorn to attack Pope's advanced wing on May 9. Pope made a successful withdrawal and rejoined with Buell. General Braxton Bragg of the Confederate States Army (CSA) had 25,000 men. The Union Army had 12,000 troops on hand. Van Dorn's corps, barely engaged, had 9 casualties. Daniel Ruggles's division on the other hand, which bore the brunt of the fighting, suf-



**Major General, USA  
John Pope**



**Major General, USA  
Don Carlos Buell**



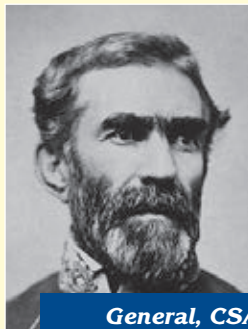
**Major General, CSA  
Earl Van Dorn**

fered casualties of 8 dead, 89 wounded and two missing or captured. The Union Army had 16 killed, 148 wounded and 14 missing or captured.

The 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment was ordered to draw the enemy out as to count their numbers and they withdrew to a swamp north of town. Wisconsin 8th reported 5 killed, 14 severely wounded, and 19 slightly wounded. Old Abe the Screaming Eagle accompanied the Wisconsin 8th Infantry.

**Russell's House**

As the wings of Halleck's army group began to align themselves in front of Corinth, Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman proposed a plan of attack against the Confederate brigade of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, which had created a strong defensive position at the Russell house



**General, CSA  
Braxton Bragg**

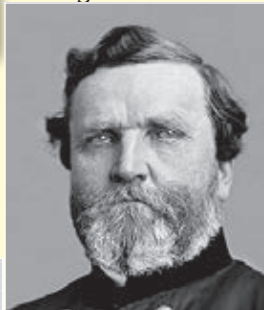
along the Confederate front lines. Sherman met with generals Halleck and George Henry Thomas on May 16 to discuss his plan. Sherman planned for the brigades of Colonel Morgan L. Smith and Brig. Gen. James W. Denver to lead the attack with Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut's division lending support. On May 17 the attack commenced with Denver on the right,

Smith in the center and Hurlbut's reserve to the right. Chalmers offered a stubborn resistance while some of his men fired from within the Russell house. The Confederates almost succeeded with a flank attack against Smith's right but were repulsed by Colonel Thomas Kilby Smith and the 54th Ohio Infantry. As soon as a battery from the 1st Illinois Artillery deployed the advantage was in favor of the Union forces. Chalmers retreated beyond Philips Creek near the Russell house property and Morgan Smith's brigade occupied high ground on which the house stood. Sherman's losses were 10 killed and 31 wounded all of which were from Smith's brigade. Confederate losses were unknown but Sherman

reported 12 dead left on the field. That same day a division under Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman drove off a Confederate force covering a crossing along Bridge Creek.

**Widow Surratt Farm**

On May 21 Maj. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson ordered Colonel Thomas D. Sedgwick to conduct a reconnaissance-in-force against the Confederate trenches along Bridge Creek near Widow Surratt's farm Sedgwick moved forward



**Major General, USA  
George Henry Thomas**

from the Union trenches occupied by Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood's division and deployed the 20th Kentucky infantry at the edge of a clearing and the 1st Kentucky infantry to the left facing a densely wooded area. Shortly after deployment the Kentuckians came under fire. The Confederate resistance was so severe Sedgwick was forced to fall back. Sedgwick brought forward artillery and the 2nd Kentucky infantry while General Wood lent cavalry support from his

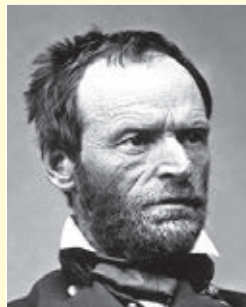
division. The Confederates attempted a flank attack against the 1st Kentucky but the Union artillery (personally supervised by Captain Alvan C. Gillem of Buell's staff) and the 31st Indiana infantry in reserve stabilized the line. The Confederates made three more attempts to turn the Union flank until retiring to a creek beyond the Surratt farm. General Nelson ordered Sedgwick to hold his position until nightfall, then return to the Union camp. A week later General Buell would mount an attack to gain the high ground surrounding the Surratt farm.



**The Charge at Corinth**

### Double Log House

On May 27 Halleck ordered Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman to drive the Confederates from a log house along the Corinth Road and make a strong demonstration against Corinth itself if possible. At the edge of a cotton field along Sherman's front was a double log house which the Confederates had converted into a block house by removing the chinking between the logs. Sherman formed an attacking column with Morgan L. Smith's brigade on the left and James W. Denver's brigade on the right. John A. Logan's brigade (from John A. McClelland's reserve corps) and James C. Veatch's brigade (from Stephen A. Hurlbut's division) were also brought up for support. Colonel Ezra Taylor fired several artillery rounds to signal the infantry attack. Denver and Smith quickly overtook the log house by storm and secured the hilltop position. The Confederates rallied and drove in Sherman's skirmishers but the counterattack was repulsed by the main line of infantry with artillery support. The following day the rest of Sherman's division and artillery moved forward to the new position which offered a good vantage point into Corinth itself.

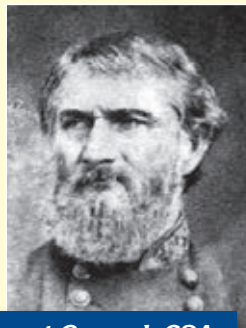


**Major General, USA  
William Tecumseh Sherman**

Generals Ulysses S. Grant and George H. Thomas were both present on the field during this engagement, giving approval for the behavior of operation.

### Surratt's Hill

Confederate infantry had been using a hill in the vicinity of the Widow Surratt farm for picket outposts. With all his wings in line Halleck ordered Buell to clear the Confederates off the Surratt farm hill. Buell chose Maj. Gen. Alexander M. McCook's reserve division to seize the hill to be used as a staging point for a further attack against Corinth. On May 27 McCook organized his brigades into line of attack intending to overwhelm the Confederates by surprise and overwhelming force.[30] The brigades of Brig. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau and Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson would lead the advance, side by side. Colonel Frederick S. Stumbaugh's brigade followed in support of Johnson and Colonel Robert L. McCook's brigade (from

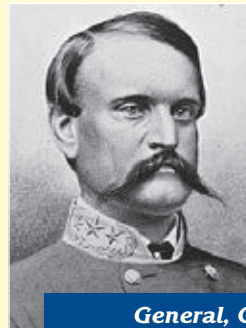


**Lieutenant General, CSA  
Leonidas Polk**

Thomas W. Sherman's division) in support of Rousseau. Johnson's brigade encountered some heavy skirmishing but the hill was taken in short time. McCook's division entrenched and brought heavy artillery to the new position and immediately began to shell the Confederates. Beauregard's artillery responded with minimal effort. The engagement at the Surratt farm hill allowed Halleck to bring forward siege guns for the bombardment of Corinth.

### Bridge Creek

On May 28 Maj. Gen. Nelson ordered Colonel Sedgwick to seize a Confederate-held crossing of Bridge Creek, a small tributary of the Tuscumbia River. Sedgwick moved his brigade out from the main Union trenches with the 2nd and 20th Kentucky infantry regiments in the lead. Sedgwick drove in the Confederate pickets then encountered a larger force guarding the bridge. The Kentucky infantry managed to gain hold of the eastern end of the bridge



**General, CSA  
John Cabell Breckinridge**

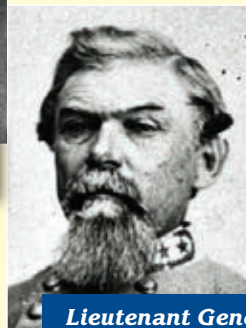
while Sedgwick ordered forward the 31st Indiana infantry and Captain John Mendenhall's artillery battery. These reinforcements and artillery forced the Confederates to abandon the bridge completely.

### Retreat

With the Federal army preparing to lay siege to the town, a Confederate council of war decided to retreat. Confederate commander General P. G. T. Beauregard saved his army by a hoax. Some of the men were given three days' rations and ordered to prepare for an attack. As expected, one or two went over to the Union with that news. The preliminary bombardment began, and Union forces maneuvered for position. During the night of May 29, the Confederate army moved out. They used the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to carry the sick and wounded, the heavy artillery, and tons of supplies. When a train arrived, the troops cheered as though reinforcements were arriving. They set up dummy Quaker Guns along the defensive earthworks. Camp fires were kept burning, and buglers and drummers played. The rest of the men slipped away undetected, withdrawing to Tupelo, Mississippi. When Union patrols entered Corinth on the morning of May 30, they found the Confederate troops gone. The Union forces took control and made it the base for their operations to seize control of the Mississippi River Valley, and especially the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

### Aftermath

John Pope, whose aggressiveness exceeded his strategic capabilities, remarked in his memoirs that Halleck's cautious campaign failed to take full advantage of a glittering array of talented Union officers, including "Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, McPherson, Logan, Buell, Rosecrans and many others I might mention." A



**Lieutenant General, CSA  
William Joseph Hardee**

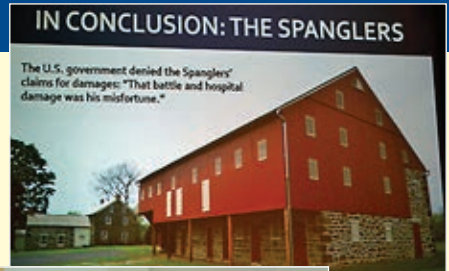
Confederate army led by Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn attempted to retake the city in October 1862, but was defeated in the Second Battle of Corinth by a Union army under the command of Rosecrans. At times during the second battle, Confederate forces seemed to have the upper hand but would fail to follow up their successes leading to a devastating defeat for Confederate forces in that region. Rosecrans had the opportunity to crush rebel forces during the battle but failed to follow up his victory, allowing Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn to escape from destruction. Corinth would ultimately lead to the operations that would open the Mississippi River valley which was considered by General Chief Henry W. Halleck as, "the opening of the Mississippi River will be to us of more advantage than the capture of forty Richmonds".

Confederate Brigadier General Joseph L. Hogg, father of the famous future Texas governor Jim Hogg, contracted dysentery during the siege and died on May 16, 1862.

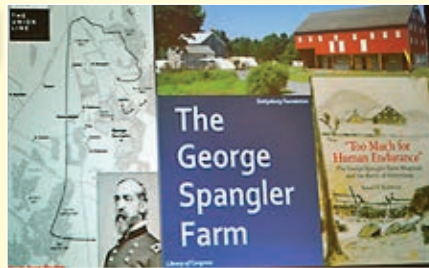


## September 12th Meeting

### “Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg”



Ron Kirkwood



**presentation by Ron Kirkwood**

*by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT*

The Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital opened in 2013 after many years of research on the buildings and sites on the property. The property included Spangler’s land, which was two thirds of the acreage and the Lightner Family’s land, one third, with 166 acres right behind the lines. Some of the acres were used for resting the artillery on the farmland. Roads were right in the area of the farm where the 20th Maine rested until they went to Little Round Top to fight. Many different corps moved on the land at different times such as: the Trenton 4th New Jersey which guarded the ammunition train. The Army of the Potomac based at Spangler had 2700 artillery reserve settled on the farm with 19 artillery battery, 106 cannons and 2300 men of the 9th Massachusetts artillery corps along with many horses.

The First Division caught the heaviest fighting, the casualties were great and many soldiers were brought to the II Corps hospital at Granite Schoolhouse on the Spangler farm. Surgeon in Charge: Dr. William Warren, Chaplin John Henry, Wilbrand Sluckenberg and 145th PA II Corps Ambulance Chief Lt. Thomas Livermore tended to the wounded as best they could under the circumstances. After Captain Matthew B. Cheney, 154th NY went to the Granite Schoolhouse he stated, “One day cured me of a hospital. Give me the picket line every time in place of a hospital.”

Dr. Daniel G. Brinton talked about amputated arms and legs stacked as high as your head. Private Will Southerton, 75th Ohio was glad the 500 patients were in the barn and glad there was a south/southeast westerly wind. Many people volunteered their time to help where needed in the hospital and on the field such as: Dr. Bleecker Lansing Hovey and his wife who both worked as nurses in the hospital.

They always traveled together. Nurse Rebecca Lane Penypacker Price also worked in the II Corps hospital. When soldiers passed on, they were buried on four different sites. It was not until 1872 that graves were relocated to the Gettysburg Cemetery and other cemeteries of choose.

It was said that Brigadier General Lewis Armstrong died in the house on July 5th as a result of fighting at Pickett's Charge. He was buried on the Spangler Farm. Colonel Frances Mahler at the XI Corps hospital also died in the house. Thunderstorms on the 4th and 5th made it very difficult to get the wounded who were not in the front lines to the hospital. Dr. Armstrong (the doctor in charge) was a part of the 73rd Corps who got his education at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. It was the 73rd Corp on July 2nd who went to pick up military personal on the field. Brigadier General Samuel K. Zook positioned at the North end of the Wheatfield, Colonel Ed E. Cross and Lt. George A. Woodruff on day three moved the wounded into the hospital away from the line.

One of the surgeons working in the hospital exclaimed, "The wounded soon began to pour in, giving us such sufficient occupation that the 1st of July till the afternoon of the fifth, I was not absent from the hospital more than once and then but for an hour or two. Very hard work it was, too, and little sleep fell to our share. Four operating tables were going all night and days. Many of them were hurt in the most shocking manner by shells. My experience at Chancellorsville was nothing compared to this and I never wish to see such another sight. For myself, I think I never was more exhausted."

The six members of the Spangler family stayed in one room while the rest of the house was a hospital. If they wanted to get out of the room, they had to step over the wounded to get to the door. When it came to compensation for the house and property the family made a claim for damages from the Federal Government. It was the government who claimed that the damages were not caused by them. The claim was denied! They were finally given only \$90.00 for all the damages that were part of their house and property. The Lightner family and their property were told to leave the land and later the land and house was sold.

The importance of this property during the battle of Gettysburg cannot be understated. It was the Army of the Potomac officers who took advantage of the size of the property, its location where the Union Army could rest their artillery and soldiers before they again went to fight. The position of the land with available access roads was valuable for getting to an area in the fastest time. The members of our group were glad the Spangler property was brought to our attention when talking about the Battle of Gettysburg and its significance to a Union win.

Ronald Kirkwood brought this subject to our roundtable and were impressed with the story he told. Visiting the Spangler Farm is a must to understand the full picture. It took many years to get the site open to the public but well worth the wait. Thank you, Ron, for being a part of our Old Baldy CWRT meeting and opening our eyes to a little-known story of the importance of Spangler property to the Union line. The men, women and the wounded who were part of the XI Corps hospital and the first division, II Corps hospital at Granite Schoolhouse will be remembered for their dedication to helping the lives of the survivors or those who passed from this life to a better place.



### Awards and New recruit and Flat Old Baldy



Pricilla Gabosh  
5 Year Award



Raymond Klein  
New Member



Wayne Blattner  
Returning Member

### 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. 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.

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/>

### CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CLASSES FALL SEMESTER

Continued on page 15



### Society for Women and the Civil War

The Society for Women and the Civil War is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to recognizing the lives and efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War, and to connect with those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past. The Society sponsors the annual Conference on Women and the Civil War, and publishes a quarterly e-journal and monthly e-newsletter. For more information about the Society, please visit their website at [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org).

**\*\* 1864: The Year of Grant** – 1 day (2 hrs)  
 Instructor: Jerry Carrier  
 Fee: \$30  
 Saturday, October 12

**\*The Life of the Common Soldier – Core Course** – 4  
 nights (8 hrs) Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
 Fee: \$105  
 Wednesdays, October 23 & 30; November 6 & 13

**\*\*“Riding the Rails to Victory” – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs)  
 Instructor: Walt Lafty  
 Fee: \$30  
 Monday December 9

**MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE CLASSES  
 FALL SEMESTER**

**“Never a More Wicked War ...”: The War with Mexico,  
 1846-1848 – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) Instructor: Steven  
 Wright  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, October 17

**A Fast Ship in Harm’s Way: U.S.S. Indianapolis –  
 NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs)  
 Instructor: Hugh Boyle  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, November 21

**Patriots vs. Loyalists – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) Instruc-  
 tor: Herb Kaufman  
 Fee: \$30  
 Monday, November 25

**Victory or Death: Washington’s Crossing and the  
 Battle of Trenton – NEW** – 1 night (2 hrs) –  
 Instructor: Mike Jesberger  
 Fee: \$30  
 Thursday, December 5

**Usual Meeting Room - Building 2  
 October Meeting Room - Building 5**



**Room Change  
 Old Baldy Meeting Thursday, October 10, 2019  
 CIM Center, Room (202) CIM Auditorium - Building 5**

**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 2019/2020**

**November 14 – Thursday  
 Cooper Wingert  
 "Targeted Tracks - The Cumberland Valley RR  
 in the Civil War"**

**December 12 – Thursday  
 Krista Castillo  
 "The Illustrations of Thomas Nast: Reconstruction,  
 Politics, and Popular Consciousness"**

**January 9, 2020 – Thursday  
 "Member Sharing Night"**

**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**

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