

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

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

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

## “The Illustrations of Thomas Nast: Reconstruction, Politics, and Popular Consciousness”

(via ZOOM)



Krista Castillo



Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, December 12th**, at **Camden County College**. This month's topic is **“The Illustrations of Thomas Nast: Reconstruction, Politics, and Popular Consciousness”**

The period of Reconstruction remains a point of contention among scholars, academics and amateur historians largely due to the biases and opinions passed down through the generations. It is not until we step back and view the period from the context of the time that we can begin to understand the complexity of the issues involved. The illustrations of Thomas Nast, prominently displayed in Harper's Weekly, reveal popular attitudes towards Reconstruction politics and emerging radical ideologies. In 1864, Nast played a major role in the presidential election. During the turmoil of the Reconstruction period, Nast revealed the corruption of New York City's Tammany Hall, which led to the toppling of Boss Tweed.

Although Thomas Nast's reputation as an illustrator, caricaturist and political cartoonist faded into obscurity over the past one hundred years, most Americans easily recognize the symbols he created such as the Democratic Donkey, the Republican Elephant and the most popular representation of Santa Clause. Nast's deeply rooted convictions and skill transformed his pen into a weapon poised to eradicate injustice, characteristics that remain unmatched in his craft to this day.

Krista Castillo, a native of Northeastern Ohio, came to Fort Negley as the Education Manager in 2008. In 2010,

she was promoted to Museum Coordinator and Site Manager. Krista holds degrees from Mount Union College (B.A., History) and Austin Peay State University (M.A., Military History). In addition to completing internships at the William McKinley National Memorial and Museum in Canton, Ohio and at the Don F. Pratt Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Krista's professional experience includes serving as registrar at the Customs House Museum and Cultural Center in Clarksville, Tennessee and as a receptionist at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Krista has served as president of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable since 2009 and as a book reviewer for Civil War News since 2016. In March 2017, she was profiled by the Emerging Civil War blog in honor of Women's History Month. Krista resides in Clarksville, Tennessee.

### Notes from the President...

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable time with friends and family over Thanksgiving. 2019 has been another successful year for our Round Table. The Board thanks you for your continued support and encouragement of our programs, activities and projects. 2020 will provide us opportunities to shine on the regional and national stage. Be sure to send Frank your dues so you can be part of our journey.

At our November meeting, **Cooper Winger** and **Scott Mingus** explained to us the importance of the Cumberland Valley Railroad to Central Pennsylvania and the Civil War. Thank you to **Paul Prentiss** for taking the photos. To finish out 2019, **Krista Castillo** will join us from Clarksville, TN over ZOOM to tell us about the “*Illustrations of Thomas Nast*.” Bring a friend to witness this informative presentation. Remember Members Sharing Night is next month.

A special thank you to our summer/fall intern **Gurkirat (Gurk) Dhillon** for his outstanding job getting our record-

*Continued on page 2*

ing project up and running. He is unable to continue in his service due to school conflicts. We are all very grateful for his efforts and the recordings he has uploaded to our YouTube channel. We seeking another intern to assist us with our projects.

Twelve members of our Round Table had great trip to visit **Old Baldy** at the **GAR Museum** on December 1st. We had a detailed tour of the Baldy/Meade room by **Dr. Andy Waskie** and a fine presentation by **Walt Lafty** on the *Battle of Stones River*. The GAR Museum has an open house each first Sunday of the month and Baldy always welcomes his friends for a visit.

At noon on December 14th, members of the Board will be laying wreaths at the Beverly Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. Volunteer at [WreathAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathAcrossAmerica.org). You can still sign up to serve as a judge for the Regional Contest of New Jersey History Day to be held at Rutgers-Camden on March 7th. Contact **Rich** or **Frank** for more details. **The Robert E. Lee Library and Research Center** in Woodbridge is liquidating their books. See the flyer Sean distributed for more details.

Read **Frank Barletta's** message on our donations for 2019 to see where the funds we raised were distributed. Remember to use the Old Baldy Amazon Smile portal for all your Holiday purchases.

Planning continues for our **2021 Civil War Naval Symposium**, contact **Tom Scurria** or **Sean Glisson** to get involved. The planning team for the **2020 Civil War Round Table Congress** will be meeting soon, let us know if you would like to assist.

Come to Laurel Hill Cemetery at noon on the 31st for the annual **General Meade Birthday** celebration. Watch this space (and our Facebook page) for details on Old Baldy's birthday celebration in May. Be sure to spread the Old Baldy message to all you encounter during the Holiday Season and invite them to visit us next year.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season with family and friends. Return to us full of good cheer in the New Year.

*If you are available, join us for a pre-meeting meal at the Lamp Post Diner at 5:30.*

**Rich Jankowski, President**

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Thursday, December 12

#### **The Confederacy**

Charleston is not the only thing burning on Southern coasts. The success of Union amphibious operations has led owners of coastal plantations to burn their crops to prevent the seizure of cotton by the North.

### 1862 Friday, December 12

#### **Eastern Theater**

A Federal expedition to Goldsboro, North Carolina, commanded by John G. Foster, gets under way.

#### **Trans-Mississippi**

A skirmish is reported at Little Bear Creek, Alabama.

### 1863 Saturday, December 12

#### **Eastern Theater**

Anticipating another Union attempt to capture Fort Sumter now most of its guns are silent, the Confederates fortify the interior with sandbags, loopholed for rifles and howitzers. Should the Federal fleet effect a landing, the attackers can be raked from neighboring Confederate batteries and the garrison can fight on from within its casemates. Any troops breaking into the interior of the fort would be shot down from the barricades.

### 1864 Monday, December 12

#### **Western Theater**

General Stoneman leads 4000 Federal cavalry from east Tennessee, heading toward southwest Virginia. The Confederates under Breckinridge have fewer than 1500 troops available as the area has been stripped of men to reinforce Lee's embattled army at Petersburg. Thomas wires Haleck, promising to attack the Confederates before Nashville the moment there is a break in the weather.

## A Civil War Cartoonist Created the Modern Image of Santa Claus as Union Propaganda

**Thomas Nast is legendary for his political cartoons, but he's also responsible for the jolly St. Nick we know today**

You could call it the face that launched a thousand Christmas letters. Appearing on January 3, 1863, in the illustrated magazine Harper's Weekly, two images cemented the nation's obsession with a jolly old elf. The first drawing shows Santa distributing presents in a Union Army camp. Lest any reader question Santa's allegiance in the Civil War, he wears a jacket patterned with stars and pants colored in stripes. In his hands, he holds a puppet toy with a rope around its neck, its features like those of Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

A second illustration features Santa in his sleigh, then going down a chimney, all in the periphery. At the center, divided into separate circles, are a woman praying on her knees and a soldier leaning against a tree. "In these two drawings, Christmas became a Union holiday and Santa a Union local deity," writes Adam Gopnik in a 1997 issue of the New Yorker. "It gave Christmas to the North—gave to the Union cause an aura of domestic sentiment, and even sentimentality."

The artist responsible for this coup? A Bavarian immigrant named Thomas Nast, political cartoonist extraordinaire and the person who "did as much as any one man to preserve

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2 - "Nast"

the Union and bring the war to an end," according to General Ulysses Grant. But like so many inventors, Nast benefited from the work of his fellow visionaries in creating the rotund, resplendent figure of Santa Claus. He was a man with the right talents in the right place at the perfect time.

Prior to the early 1800s, Christmas was a religious holiday, plain and simple. Several forces in conjunction transformed it into the commercial fête that we celebrate today. The wealth generated by the Industrial Revolution created a middle class that could afford to buy presents, and factories meant mass-produced goods. Examples of the holiday began to appear in popular literature, from Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (more commonly known by its first verse, "Twas the night before Christmas") to Charles Dickens' book *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843. By the mid-1800s, Christmas began to look much more as it does today. "From a season of misrule characterized by drink, of the inversion of social roles in which working men taunted their social superiors, and of a powerful sense of God's judgment, the holiday had been transformed into a private moment devoted to the heart and home, and particularly to children," writes Fiona Halloran in *Thomas Nast: The Father of Modern Political Cartoons*.

This was as true in the United States as it was in England, even with the Civil War raging. Children received homemade gifts due to the scarcity of materials, Union and Confederate soldiers swapped coffee and newspapers on the frontlines, and some did their best to decorate the camp. "In order to make it look as much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc," wrote New Jersey Union soldier Alfred Bellard.

It was into this world that the talented artist Thomas Nast arrived in the 1850s. Doing his first sketches as a teenager, he became a staff illustrator for *Harper's Weekly*, one of the most popular magazines of the day, in 1862. As Halloran notes, *Harper's Weekly* wasn't just for serious subjects: "It provided political news and commentary on national and international events, but it also offered readers sentimental fiction, humor and cultural news." What better place for Nast to bring his meticulously detailed image of Santa to life? And so, beginning with the January 1863 drawings, Nast began to immortalize the mythic figure of Santa Claus.

In addition to repurposing the imagery of the Moore poem—reindeer pulling a sleigh, sack full of presents—Nast also found inspiration in his surroundings. He based Santa's bearded visage and round belly partially on himself and used his wife and children for other characters, says Ryan Hyman, a curator at the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum. Located in Nast's hometown of Morristown, New Jersey, the museum holds a large collection of his work. "The outside pictures that show rooftops and church spires were all here in Morristown," Hyman adds.

Though they varied from year to year, Nast's Santa drawings appeared in *Harper's Weekly* until 1886, amounting to 33 illustrations in total. Unsurprisingly, the drawings from the Civil War often fell solidly in the realm of propaganda; Nast staunchly supported abolition, civil rights and the Republicans. But even after the war ended, Nast continued to use Santa Claus to make certain pointed political statements.



Continued on page 4

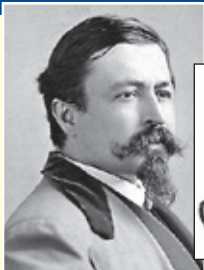
Take the 1881 image known as "Merry Old Santa Claus," probably Nast's most famous portrait of the Christmas deity. To the casual observer, it looks like Santa, with his bag of toys, wearing his characteristic red suit. But actually, Hyman says, it's more propaganda, this time related to the government's indecisiveness over paying higher wages to members of the military. "On his back isn't a sack full of toys—it's actually an army backpack from enlisted men." He's holding a dress sword and belt buckle to represent the Army, whereas the toy horse is a callback to the Trojan horse, symbolizing the treachery of the government. A pocket watch showing a time of ten 'til midnight indicates the United States Senate has little time left to give fair wages to the men of the Army and Navy.

"Nast was always pro-military," Hyman says. "The military was up for getting a raise and he knew how hard they worked and how they helped shape the country."

Even though people may know that Nast gave us the donkey for the Democrats and the elephant for Republicans, and that he took on corrupt New York City politicians, few may realize the role he played in creating Christmas. Hyman and his colleagues hope they can change that, in part through their annual Christmas showcase of Nast's work. "He created the modern image of Santa Claus," Hyman says—though we don't tend to think about Civil War propaganda when we're opening presents today.

*Smithsonian Magazine*

## Thomas Nast Collection



from James Lewis  
Head of the North Jersey  
History and Genealogy  
Center  
Morristown and Morris  
Township Library  
1 Miller Rd.  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
973-538-3473

I noticed that Old Baldy Civil War Round Table's upcoming program is about Thomas Nast. We have one of 8 remaining panels from his Grand Caricaturama and ours happens to be Swinging 'round the Circle in which Nast pokes fun of Andrew Johnson's disparaging remarks about reconstruction while campaigning for re-election. The Grand Caricaturama pieces are 8 x 12 ft! Library of Congress has 5, nearby Macculloch Hall has two but doesn't have the space to display them. We also have a big collection of original work by Thomas Nast and books about his work. We have also digitized the Journal of the Thomas Nast Society and have posted them to our website. For more information on our Thomas Nast digital collection see: <https://cdm16100.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15387coll2>.

I hope you will share this information with the members of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. If you or any of your members are in the area I will be happy to show you and them the Grand Caricaturama and our Thomas Nast collections.

**WEB Site:** <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>  
**Email:** [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
**Face Book:** Old Baldy Civil War Round Table



## 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).

## Women in the Civil War

by Tom Ryan\*

### Elizabeth Campbell Brown Ewell



One of the most unusual marriages of the Civil War involved a dominating widow and a quirky general in the Confederate army. These first cousins, she born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1820 and he in Georgetown, D.C. in 1817, were destined to wed after much had happened in their lives beforehand.

Elizabeth Campbell was the daughter of President James Monroe's ambassador to Russia, George Washington Campbell. The family called her "Lizinka," the nickname for Elizabeth in Russian.

Her marriage to James Percy Brown in 1839, a wealthy slave owner and habitual philanderer, led to a sorrowful existence. Her suffering ended when he committed suicide in 1844.

Lizinka inherited a fortune in land and slaves from her family and her husband. An attractive and wealthy widow, she received attention from eligible males, including Maj. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell, an officer in the Army of Northern Virginia

In August 1862, Ewell, dubbed "Old Baldhead," suffered a wound at the Second Battle of Manassas, and Confederate physicians amputated his right leg. After recuperating, Ewell returned to service as a corps commander in Robert E. Lee's army; replacing "Stonewall" Jackson following his death at Chancellorsville in May 1863.

As a youngster, Ewell had a crush on his cousin Elizabeth. Now, years later, they decided to become man and wife.

In the interim, Lizinka had made efforts to advance Ewell's military career by contacting influential fiends in Washington on his behalf. She, however, also recognized his limitations as a military officer.

Another cousin explained, "When executing orders given by a superior, no doubt he would do well, [but if] it became necessary to decide between a certain sacrifice and a possible or probably great recompense, he would be paralyzed."

As Peter S. Carmichael describes in "All Say They Are under Petticoat Government: Military Commanders and Their Wives" by Bleser and Gordon, Lizinka's domineering personality prevailed, and Ewell's soldiers complained that she was influencing his military performance.

As a result, when Ewell's decision making on the battlefield was deficient, criticism fell on both he and his wife. This led to the perception of Ewell as weak and eccentric. Lizinka changed Ewell in other ways as well. The notoriously profane army officer adopted her religious practices, and converted into a devoted Christian. The earlier question posed about Ewell's decision making ability was manifested at Gettysburg in July 1863. On the first day of the battle, his hesitation to attack and capture Cemetery Hill, the rallying point for Union troops, brought about a shift in the progression, if not the outcome, of this historic confrontation.

Lizinka continued to express herself in a forceful manner, and advised Ewell that other generals were conspiring against him. His men and officers objected when she persisted in accompanying her husband to camp.

Lizinka also implored Ewell to insure that her son from her first marriage, Campbell Brown, now serving on his staff, would never be exposed to enemy fire. This irked those in his command who did not enjoy the same consideration.

When the Union army captured both Ewell and Campbell Brown at Saylor's Creek just before Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox in April 1865, they became POWs at Fort Warren in Boston. Lizinka's strenuous efforts to intervene for their release led also to her arrest.

However, this influential woman not only obtained her own release, but arranged to have dinner with President Andrew Johnson (who took office following Lincoln's assassination) and lobbied for the release of her husband and son.

She returned to Tennessee to find the land barren, the livestock gone, and the buildings rundown. Her efforts to free her husband and son from prison finally bore fruit, and they were reunited in Tennessee.

Post-war life for Elizabeth and Richard was filled with personal confrontations fueled by their volatile personalities. Ewell contracted typhoid fever which infected her as well — leading to her death, followed by his passing three days later, in January 1872.

Elizabeth Campbell "Lizinka" Brown was a strong-willed and self-righteous woman who defied male-dominant Southern customs. Despite time-honored barriers, she lived according to her principles and paid the price to achieve that goal.

## **Amelia Gayle Gorgas**

A number of North-South marriages during the Civil War



era included a young woman born in Alabama, and a man reared in Running Pumps, Pa. near Harrisburg. The military life brought these two together, after West Point graduate Josiah Gorgas found himself stationed at Mount Vernon Arsenal near Mobile, Ala.

Josiah claims he fell in love with Amelia Gayle's voice before he actually met her. Every day "Minnie" read to her sister's children on the veranda of her older brother's

home next door to the arsenal where Josiah overheard her.

They married in 1853, and, after the Civil War erupted eight years later, Josiah resigned his U.S. army commission to enlist and serve as Chief of the Confederate Ordnance Bureau. He earned a reputation as a genius for improvisation to provide sufficient munitions for Rebel military units.

Minnie assured Josiah she would go with him no matter whether he chose the Union or Confederate army, yet he realized "the South has ... wooed and won me," as Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins related in "The Marriage of Amelia Gayle and Josiah Gorgas" (Bleser and Gordon, "Intimate Strategies of the Civil War").

Josiah's assignment brought them to Richmond for the duration of the Civil War, but Amelia fled with her five children when the Union army threatened the Rebel capital in 1862. She and her family were strong Southern advocates; her father had served as governor of Alabama and was a friend of South Carolina's arch-secessionist John C. Calhoun.

The reverse situation occurred in 1865 when Richmond fell to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's forces, Josiah fled South with the departing Confederate government officials while Amelia and her now six children remained in Richmond. Josiah feared arrest and deportation for his service in the Southern army.

Josiah's family in Pennsylvania severed ties with him following his decision to cast fortunes with the South. As a result, he became an active member of Amelia's family.

Amelia and her sister Marie left Richmond after the war, because it was not healthy for the children and she feared for their safety. Josiah remained in Alabama attempting to resurrect his life and find new employment.

When Amelia's attempt to communicate with Josiah's family in the North did not bear fruit, she and her sister moved first to Baltimore, and then on to Cambridge, Md. Later, when Josiah established an iron business in the rural town of Brierfield, Ala., Amelia and the children joined him there — even though she preferred to live in the city rather "to go [in]to the woods...."

The ironworks business was never profitable, and, in desperation, Josiah accepted a job as headmaster of the junior department at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn. in 1869. Life continued to be chaotic for Amelia and the children, who were separated from Josiah for long periods while he attempted to make a living.

The resourceful Amelia never complained, and made do with whatever means available. A year later, a house was

finally built at Sewanee so that the Gorgas family could reunite and move in to their new, yet humble, abode.

Without warning, fate and a longtime friend on the board intervened, when news arrived that the University of Alabama trustees had elected Josiah as president of the school at Tuscaloosa. Even better for Amelia and their five children still living at home, the university provided a mansion for their president.

However, the Civil War and his struggles to make do in the aftermath finally took its toll when Josiah suffered a massive stroke soon after the move to Alabama. Four years later, Amelia became a widow when Josiah passed at age 66 in 1883.

The Good Lord worked miracles on Amelia's behalf, however, when the U. of Alabama trustees provided the family a rent-free house on campus, and appointed her to the position of hospital matron and later as campus postmistress. Amelia lived another 30 years, having survived the trauma and dislocation of the Civil War and difficult readjustment of family life in the aftermath.

\*Tom Ryan is the author of the award-winning "Spies, Scouts & Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign"; available at Bethany Beach Books, Browseabout Books in Rehoboth, and Cardsmart in Milford. His latest book, "Lee is Trapped, and Must Be Taken: Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg, July 4-14, 1863" is due out in August 2019, and can be pre-ordered on Amazon.com. Contact him at [pennmardel@mchsi.com](mailto:pennmardel@mchsi.com) or visit his website at [www.tomryan-civilwar.com](http://www.tomryan-civilwar.com).

## A Visit with Nancy Bowker, Member OBCWRT



Flat Old Baldy, President Jankowski and Vice President Kathy Clark ventured up to Easthampton, NJ to

visit member Nancy Bowker. They to congratulate her and awarded her with her 25-year pin. FOB thanked her for her support of the Round Table over the last quarter century and listened to her memories of the organization. While chatting on her deck about the Round Table and her daughter Jessica, we learned she has written a children's book

about Old Baldy that she hopes to publish soon. The draft was reviewed and it was determined many members and area Civil War enthusiasts will want a copy when it is available. In the days after the gathering, we connected Nancy with our October presenter, Chuck Veit, who publishes. She is pleased with the progress and growth of the Round Table and looks forward to attending a future event. Before departing all ventured down to the barn to meet Nancy's horses. Vice President Kathy Clark and FOB posed with both Yankee Slammer and Shasta. You can learn more about Nancy in her Member Profile written by Steve Peters. It is available on the Old Baldy webpage on Member Profile under the About Us tab. If you would like to interview and write a profile on a member, let a Board member know.

## Harriet Tubman and the Combahee River Raid

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

After seeing the movie "Harriet", knowing Harriet's story of her many trips on the Underground Railroad to free her people, I wanted to focus and find out more on her Civil War experiences. We know Harriet's courage and fortitude by going back into slave territory time and time again. But that is not her whole story for when Lincoln called men to enlist in the Civil War, Harriet felt this was a good way to continue her fight against slavery. First by being a nurse, then expanding her service as a spy and a scout for the Union in South Carolina. She was a supporter of John



Brown, calling her "General Tubman". Harriet also got to know Benjamin Butler and followed his all-white troops to their camps near Fort Monroe, Virginia. It was in this area around the fort and in tent cities which became important housing for escaped slaves.

By March 1862, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew asked Harriet to join his state's volunteers going to South Carolina. Andrew secured a military passage for Harriet aboard the USS Atlantic where she continued nursing the sick and wounded. By November, 1862 Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson with the 1st South Carolina Volunteers arrived in South Carolina, then by early 1863, Colonial James Montgomery arrived with the 2nd South Carolina. The troops consisted of free or escaped slaves which were part of both regiments and all knew Harriet Tubman from before the war. Higginson and Montgomery suggested that a spy network in this area be started and who better to lead the spy group but Harriet herself. By early 1863, Harriet put together a group of scouts to go into the interior of the territory and map out areas that may cause danger to the soldiers. The following group of men that were part of this scouting service were: Solomon Gregory (boat pilot), Mott Blake, Peter Burns, Gabriel Cahern, George Chisholm, Issac Hayward, Walter Plowden, Charles Simmons and Sandy Suffum. The information obtained by the group was passed on to the officers in charge. By March 1863, with accumulated information that Harriet gave to the officers there was knowledge that a large group of black slaves and free men in this area wanted to enlist in the army. Enlisted soldiers, black or white, were needed by the Union Army.

One way to get enlistees was to organize a military operation which became the Combahee River Raid, or "Liberation Raid", 10 miles north of Beaufort. The idea of the raid was to move up the river to destroy the wealthy rice plantations that were all along the banks, liberating slaves and recruiting black soldiers into the regiments. Harriet and her men were on watch along the twisting waterway until they saw the Federal Gunboats, (converted ferry-boats), Harriet A. Weed and John Adams on the evening of June 2, 1863. Tubman went with 150 African-American troops from the 2nd South Carolina infantry and white officers onto the John Adams. With torpedoes in the river at various locations, Harriet became the look-out to help guide the boats



around the mines. By 3am the John Adams reached Fields Point, a Confederate outpost, while the 2nd South Carolina under Captain Carver continued up the river to the Nichols Plantation. They guided the boat to various spots along the shore where fugitive slaves were hiding. Harriet gave the signal by singing, "When that old chariot comes, who's going with me?" The slaves that were hiding would reply, "When that old chariot comes, I am going with you." At that point the slaves ran to the ships and climbed on board. The black slaves were cheering as they saw the warehouses

robbed and planter homes on fire along with many prestigious estates owned by very wealthy families destroyed. The Middleton, the Heyward, the Lowndes and many others families were no longer on the bank of the river. All-in-all over 750 slaves were freed that night. This raid was the largest liberation of slaves in American History.

As these slaves were running to the ship or the rowboats near the shore, Harriet proclaimed, "I never saw such a fight..., Sometimes the women would come with twins hanging around their necks; it appears I never saw so many twins in all my life; bags on their shoulders, baskets on their heads and young ones tagging along behind, loaded; pigs squealing, chicken screaming, young ones squealing." Harriet did not speak Gullah, a language common among coastal slaves: slaves that worked in the fields, not "house slaves" who they did not like. Even though they did not understand each other when Harriet started singing the slaves knew the reply and the signal to get onto the boats. It was Harriet who was able to give the Union officers solutions to problems that would come up as they were going down the river. Hunter gave Harriet money to pay for information about locations that were good for hiding, for example: there were 350 slaves at Newport, 538 slaves at Heyward Plantation. That way the officers knew where to go to find the slaves and get them on the boats.

After the raid, people who lived in the North and the South could no longer state that black soldiers were unfit for military service. It was Major General David Hunter who wrote to Stanton and John Andrew on June 3rd, ... by carrying away their slaves, thus rapidly filling up the South Carolina regiments of which there are now four". The Confederates found out very quickly that Harriet Tubman was the best secret weapon for the Union that was not to be underestimated. Even after this raid, the Federal forc-



es continued to depend on Harriet even though she was not part of any military cause. Harriet continued her nursing duties in Fernandina, Florida where Union soldiers were hospitalized for fever and fatigue. By the summer of 1864 Harriet returned home to Auburn, New York for her own rest and by the time she was ready to go back to her soldiers, peace was declared in early 1865.

At this time Harriet was not recognized by the Government for all she did in the Civil War. After fighting for many years with the government officials, finally in 1888, she was granted a widow's pension of \$8 a month. Not on her service but as a widow upon the death of her second husband, USCT vet Nelson Davis. A few years



later a raise of \$25 was suggested by the House, but it was the Senate who decreased the amount to \$20 and that passed both houses. By February, 1899 President William McKinley signed the pension bill into law. Tubman's military service was now officially over and now she could continue to work for people in her own community. Harriet was a hero in the Civil War with a long lifetime of struggling for freedom by risking her life to help those enslaved. They just wanted to be FREE. Harriet is remembered for many great accomplishments and tributes. One of these special recognitions was that she was the first woman (civilian) to lead a major military operation in the United States with 150 African-American Union soldiers and 700 slaves rescued.

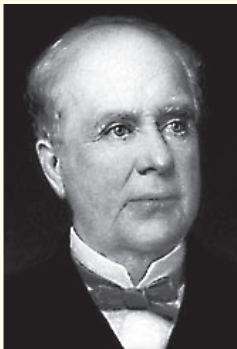
## Terror: 1860s Style

**As Confederate resources began to wither, Davis realized that something had to be done to wear down the resolve of the Northern people.**

by Edward Steers, Jr., N&S, May 2002

**Continued from the November issue....**

He revealed that explosives and incendiary devices were being manufactured in a special house for use against the U. S. fishing fleet and other civilian targets. The operation was under the control of William L. Larry MacDonald, another of Jefferson Davis' capable agents in Canada."



**Dr. Luke Pryor Blackburn**

Among the devices developed was one made of cast iron in the shape of a large lump of coal. The hollow interior was filled with black powder, and the surface covered with a mixture of pitch and coal dust. These "coal bombs" were designed to be placed into coal supplies and find their way into furnaces and boilers in northern manufactories,

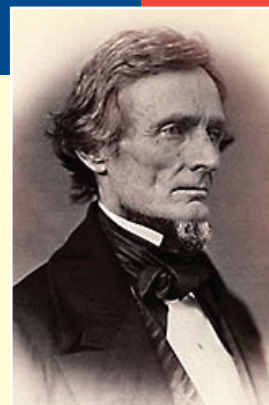
locomotives and ships. Hyams claimed that

several of the bombs were hidden beneath the floorboards of the bomb house. Canadian police raided the premises, took up the floorboards, and found several of the devices described by Hyams. The U.S. Consul in Canada described them in his dispatch to Washington:



**Thomas Edgeworth Courtenay**

These torpedoes are covered with a mixture of broken coal & pitch, & resemble pieces of Bituminous coal—[the bombs] are made of thin cast iron of irregular shapes, hollow & are filled with powder—& covered with the preparation



above mentioned.... Hyams says that they are to be thrown into coal bins in manufactories, steam boats, furnaces, etc. where they will without being noticed, be shoveled along with the coal into the fire, & effect the purpose for which they were designed.

Union colonel Edward Hastings Ripley, who commanded the first troops to occupy Richmond after

its evacuation, found just such a bomb on Jefferson Davis' desk. The coal bomb was the invention of a man by the name of Thomas Edgeworth Courtenay. In December 1863 Courtenay wrote directly to Jefferson Davis offering his services and newly designed "torpedo" to the Confederate cause: "Sir, I propose to organize a 'secret service corps' to consist of such numbers of men as may from time to time be required. Said corps to be employed in doing injury to the enemy....I propose to send a number of the 'corps' to the Northern States, West Indies Island and Europe, to operate on steam vessels, locomotives and all Federal property where steam is used." Three months later, on March 9, 1864, Confederate Secretary of War James A. Seddon wrote Courtenay, authorizing him to employ up to twenty-five men "for secret service against the enemy." Seddon approved use of Confederate facilities and materiel for the production of Courtenay's device." Eighty years later the ingenious device caught the eye of the U. S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II and a detailed description of Courtenay's coal bomb was included in one of their sabotage manuals.

At the time Courtenay was authorized to form his special "bomb squad," Seddon specified that his men were to be paid for their work on a commission basis: "For the destruction of property of the enemy or injury done, a percentage shall be paid in Four per cent bonds in no case to exceed fifty per centum of the loss to the enemy...."

In February 1864 the Confederate congress passed a special act authorizing payment for the destruction of





**Jacob Thompson**

Union property. As in Seddon's earlier authorization of Courtenay's plan, the payment was to equal fifty percent of the value of property destroyed, both the validity of the claim and the value of the property to be determined by a commission established for the purpose. "During the trial of the Lincoln conspirators, Edward Frazier, an

admitted "boat burner" with be-

tween eight and twelve steamboats

to his credit, told the court of numerous boat burnings by Confederate agents including the steamboat Robert Campbell, on which a large number of people died. Frazier also told of the burning of an army hospital in Louisville in "June or July, 1864."

According to Frazier's sworn testimony, Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin authorized \$50,000 as payment for the burning of the hospital:

"\$35,000 down in gold, \$15,000 on deposit,—to be paid in four months.... He gave us a draft on Columbia, S.C., for \$34,800 in gold, and \$200 in gold in Richmond."



**Colonel Robert M. Martin**

Colonel J. H. Baker, provost marshal general for the Department of Missouri, compiled a report in May 1865

on the boat burning activities of Confederate agents within his jurisdiction. Baker listed forty steamboats registered in St. Louis that had been destroyed by enemy sabotage during the war. Included in the report was a list of thirty-two Confederate agents identified as "boatburners."

That boat burning was an effective activity of the Confederacy is evidenced by the sixty-plus steamboats that were sent to the bottom as a result of sabotage. That terror was an object is made clear from a letter to Jefferson Davis by W.S. Oldham, who wrote: "We can burn every transport and gunboat on the Mississippi River...and fill his [Abraham Lincoln's] people with terror and consternation... we have the means at our command, if promptly appropriated and energetically applied, to demoralize the Northern people in a very short time."

Included among the plots designed to strike terror into the people of the North were plans to burn major cities. Principal among these was New York City. The Richmond Whig had been urging Davis and his advisors for some time

to burn New York in retaliation for Sherman's torching of Atlanta and Sheridan's burning of the Shenandoah Valley. In an editorial dated October 15, 1864, Confederate leaders were told, "There is one efficient way, and only one that we know to arrest and prevent this and every other sort of atrocity and that is to burn one of the chief

cities of the enemy....New York is worth twenty

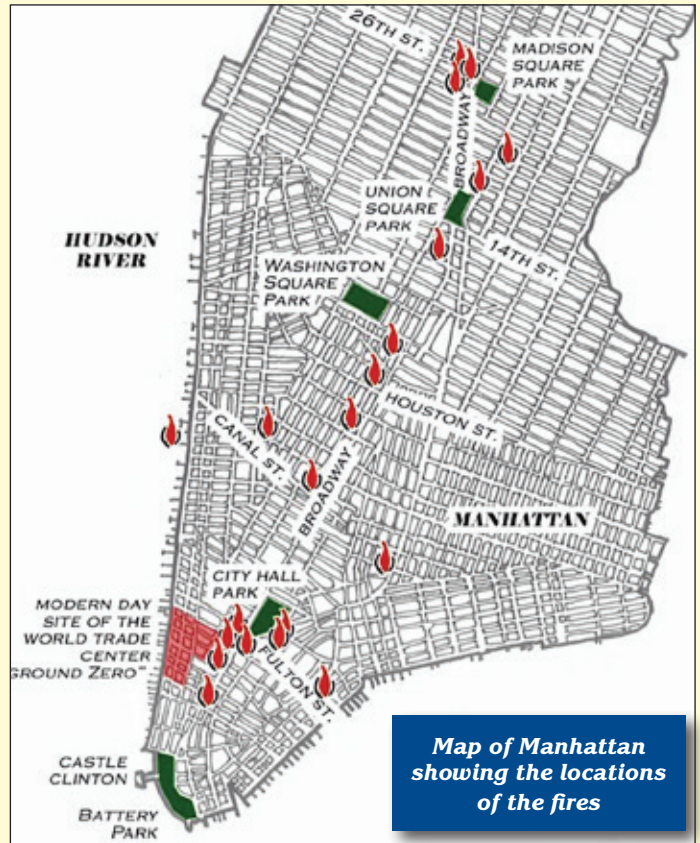


**John Headley**

Richmonds."

Whether Jacob Thompson had read the Whig editorial or not, he was in complete agreement with its proposal. Thompson met with several of his agents in Toronto's Queen's Hotel, where he had his headquarters. Thomas Hines, originally in charge of the attempt to free prisoners at Camp Douglas, was assigned the task of burning Chicago. The infamous Dr. Blackburn was put in charge of burning Boston, and Thompson assigned the task of burning New York to Colonel Robert M. Martin. A total of eight men would attempt to fire the North's most populous city.

The plan to burn New York included a takeover of the city. While police and firemen were distracted fighting the



**Map of Manhattan showing the locations of the fires**

fires and attempting to keep order, Copperheads would rise up and seize certain federal buildings, liberate Confederate prisoners being held in Fort Lafayette, and declare New York a "free city."

November 25 was set as the day to burn New York. Fires were to be started in nineteen hotels. Seven of these were clustered in lower Manhattan, five others were strung out to the north along Broadway reaching as far as 25th Street, and the remaining seven were scattered throughout the city. Each of the hotels could have served as the nucleus of a major conflagration consuming several city blocks, and it is reasonable to believe that most, if not all, of lower Manhattan could have been destroyed. Civilian casualties would have been unavoidable.

In his account written years later, John Headley, one of the arsonists, attempted to play down the probable outcome of the plan, writing that it was their purpose "to set the city on fire and give the people a scare if nothing else." Yet, if successful, the burning of the entire business district of

New York would have gone well beyond giving people "a scare." Such a conflagration would inevitably have consumed people as well as buildings. Casualties in New York, together with Boston, Chicago, and Cincinnati, could well have run into the thousands.

The plan was to use an incendiary chemical known as "Greek Fire," a liquid accelerant that combusted when exposed to oxygen. The original scheme called for fires to be set on Election Day, November 8, in an effort to disrupt Lincoln's bid for a second term. But this was aborted following the arrival of Major General Benjamin F. Butler and a contingent of Union soldiers. The cancellation was temporary, however, as Headley and his crew were determined to go forward with the plan.

Headley was provided with the address of a store on Washington Place where he was to pick up the Greek Fire. Years later he described what happened. Visiting the shop, he was given a leather valise containing 144 glass four-ounce bottles containing the liquid fire. Each bottle was securely sealed and wrapped with paper. Headley noted that they gave off a peculiar odor similar to that of rotten eggs.

At six o'clock on the evening of the 25th Headley and his band of arsonists met at a prearranged "cottage," where the bottles were distributed. It was agreed to set the fires at 8:00 pm. The men then returned to their target hotels, in Headley's case the Astor House. His account continues: "After lighting the gas jet I hung the bedclothes loosely on the headboard and piled the chairs, drawers of the bureau and washstand on the bed. Then stuffed some newspapers about among the mass and poured a bottle of turpentine over it all... I opened a bottle carefully and quickly spilled it on the pile of rubbish. It blazed up instantly and the whole bed seemed to be in flames before I could get out." Having set fire to the Astor, Headley then made his way to two other hotels where he repeated the performance. Each of the conspirators had carried out similar acts at the other hotels. The plan, however, failed. Headley later explained, "All had observed that the fires had been put out in all of the places as easily as any ordinary fire.... It seemed to us that there was something wrong with our Greek Fire."



**Robert Cobb Kennedy**

Not among the original targets was P. T. Barnum's fabulous American Museum located on the corner of Broadway and Park Row. It became one of the targeted sites more by accident than design. Having set fire to their assigned targets, two of the arsonists, Robert Cobb Kennedy and James Chenault, met near City Hall Park and began walking

up Broadway. On reaching Barnum's Museum they decided

to go inside to get off the street. They took the stairs to the fifth floor where they could get a better view of the surrounding neighborhood. Soon they heard the fire alarms and, satisfied that their plan had worked, returned to the street. On the way down the stairs, Kennedy deliberately smashed a bottle of the flammable liquid on the wooden stairs, where it erupted in flame. Within minutes of reaching the street the two men began to hear screams, soon followed by people stampeding from the building. Several of Barnum's employees pleaded with men on the



**A Burner**

street to help them save the numerous animals trapped inside. As with each of the hotels, however, the fire sputtered and was soon extinguished by the New York Fire Department. A year later another fire would reduce the magnificent museum to ashes.

The attempt to burn New York failed. Headley and his compatriots blamed the Greek Fire for having failed to live up to expectations. Had it been sabotaged or altered in some way to ensure its failure, or was it simply a question of its manufacture by a less than qualified chemist? Others surmised that the fires failed to take hold because each of the rooms was sealed tight, denying an adequate flow of oxygen to the fire. Whatever the cause, the plot to burn New York joined the rest of the Confederate attempts to terrorize the North. Years later Headley wrote of Sherman's burning of Atlanta, pointing out that the burning of New York was simply retaliation for Yankee terrorism.

Like Headley, who viewed the attempt to burn New York as a "scare," Kennedy viewed the plot as an instructional lesson. In a statement made shortly before his execution he said: "killing women and children was the last thing thought of. We only wanted to let the people of North understand that there are two sides to this war, and that they can't be rolling in wealth and comfort while we at the South are bearing all the hardships and privations."

Instead of demoralizing Northerners, the Confederates' futile projects did more to unite the citizenry behind Lincoln than it did to turn them against him. But that was because the efforts failed. Had an infectious epidemic spread through Northern cities, coupled with devastating fires and thousands of freed Confederate soldiers fighting their way south through Union territory, Lincoln's support may well have withered away, leaving him isolated in his determination to prosecute the war to its end. Peace at any price may well have become the rallying cry of pro-war Democrats and Republicans alike joining with Copperheads to defeat Lincoln's reelection bid.

On November 8, 1864, Abraham Lincoln was elected to a second term. For the next five months the Confederacy would fight on desperately, reaching for the elusive goal of independence. In her desperation she would turn to a variety of previously unthinkable strategies, including the enlistment of slaves into the army and the use of terror to demoralize her enemy's people. Frequently cloaked in language that described these efforts as directed only at legitimate military targets, reasonable people understood that such claims were spurious at best. Unleashing germ warfare and burning cities, by their very nature, are acts of terror. But the Confederate terror campaign proved to be too little too late.

# Chief Engineer John W. Moore of the USS Richmond Tells the Fascinating “Inside” Story of the Capture of New Orleans in 1862

informative war letter from the vast document collection  
of award-winning Civil War author and historian, Wiley Sword

Being one of the finest contemporary accounts of the engagement for and capture of New Orleans on April 25, 1862, this twelve page equivalent longlost letter is a classic documentary of the crucial events and people involved. Written in diary/journal style while the verjv action was occurring, it is vividly detailed and composed with much writing skill by an engineering officer. He was highly commended by Flag Officer David G. Farragut for his competence and innovation in protecting the sides of the fleet 's wooden warships with heavy chain.

Chief Engineer John W Moore of the USS Richmond. later a rear admiral, was as adept at telling the fascinating “inside ” New Orleans story as he was in engineering competence. Moore was privy to the verjv thinking and actual events as they were planned and executed due to his status as a top engineering officer. As a died-in-the-wool Navy man, John W Moore was a favorite with Flag Officer Farragut and others, and his comments that the Navy deserved all the credit for this enormous victory reflects his sense of justice that the army forces under Maj. Gen. Benjamin E Butler were excluded from national prominence in the campaign.

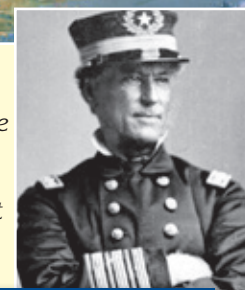
The very excitement of unfolding events does not cloud the professional expertise of Moore in candidly depicting the intense flow of action at New Orleans. His commentary is well focused and pertinent. Virtually the entire letter is dedicated to telling a detailed and fascinating story of the men and events. In one of the truly outstanding naval letters of the war; this day-by-day account is both a discovery in history, and a treasure for future generations to ponder and appreciate.

*U.S.S. Richmond*  
*2 miles below Ft. Jackson, Mississippi River*  
*April 21. 1862*

*Dear Lottie [his sister in Plattsburgh, N.Y.]  
Sent letter this morning. Bombardment still continues. Shells are falling very handsomely this evening. The fort [Jackson] must be a rather warm place for the Rebels. But we hope to cool them off shonly. An expedition from the “Harriet Lane” commanded by the executive officer, Col. [Edward] Lea started today at 1 o’clock to cut the dike around Ft. J. They went down the river from here through the swamp and would land back of the fort and cut the dike and burn the hospital, which is not occupied, as a signal to us that they have performed their work. The river is very high. The fort very low The dike, once cut, the water will rush into the fort and drive the Rebs from it. The deserter I wrote you of in my last accompanied the expedition as pilot. We think he is entirely reliable; his story is straightforward. and Captain [Godfrey] Weitzel of the engineers. who was for a long time stationed there. says the information he gives is entirely correct. Capt. W. is on Gen. Butler’s staff, sent here by the government in consequence of his thorough*



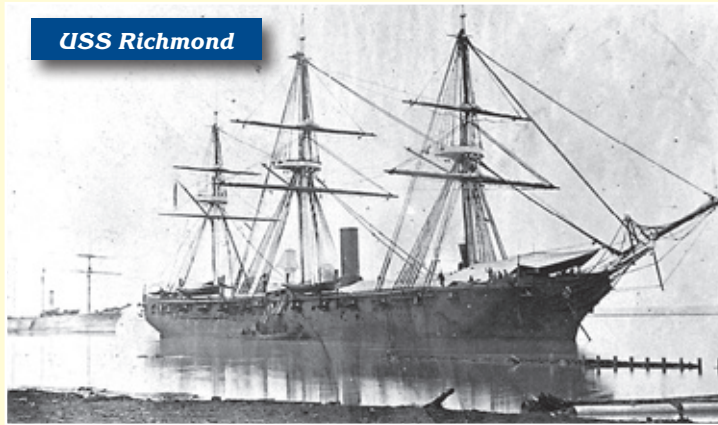
The Battle of New Orleans



Flag Officer  
David G. Farragut

*knowledge of the forts, locality. etc. The expedition this evening he pronounces entirely possible, but of course very hazardous. Should Lea prove successful he will assist us immensely. Should he find his pilot at all tricky, he has orders to shoot him down, and will undoubtedly do it. Genl. Butler has 9000 troops at hand, ready to occupy the forts as soon as we take them. [page 2] The “Iroquois” increased the efficiency of her armament very considerably today. She got a 50 pdr. Sawyer gun from the army. & was very anxious to have atrial of it this evening. She has done far more service than any other ship up here; has been more under fire and has not yet been struck once, though many shots have just escaped her. Her commander, Capt. [John] DeCamp is just the coolest sort of a man. During all his engagements he quietly sits upon his port deck, smoking his cigar, and managing his ship. The other day, while so engaged a shot passed so “near that the sound caused by its passage through the air blew his cap off his head. Looking around, he saw the quartermaster making himself as small as possible, and pitched into him right & left; said he wouldn’t have any dodging on board his ship. He is perfectly fearless, and we’re all right glad he was not deprived of his command. Yesterday one of the small gunboats hit a Rebel steamer when it was reponed to DC [DeCamp]. He became quite angry that he did not do as well or closed his ship considerably nearer, and last night when he saw the little fellows [ships] go up to cut the chain. he followed along to have part in the sport should the enemy fire upon them. And when they did fire. he opened and drew nearly all their fire upon himself. The Sawyer gun is in mighty good hands; will be more efficient, probably, upon [sic] on board that ship than any other in the squadron. She’s the fastest ship in the fleet, and it is the longest range gun.*

April 22nd. The time has arrived. Tonight we make the attack. Tonight will decide a question that has always been disputed by military men; can wooden walls engage successfully against stone ones? Can a casemated fort be taken by ships? We think. yes! We will tonight decide the question. The fleet is formed in their divisions; the "Hartford," "Brooklyn," & "Rich-



mond" in the 1st division, and will [page 3- cross-written in red ink on page 1] devote their particular attention to Ft. Jackson, passing her as near as possible. 2d division; "Pensacola," "Mississippi," "Portsmouth, etc. [will] pass as near Ft. St. Philip as possible, devoting themselves particularly to it. 3d division; "Iroquois" & gunboats will pass up the center, firing upon both, or whichever fort the 2 first [divisions] do not reduce. [Adm. David D.] Porter says he will follow with all his steamers & fire grape and shrapnel at such barbette guns as dare engage. Butler sends a force outside, back of Ft. St. Philip, to storm it in case we pass by without silencing the forts. Should we take them, however, as we fully expect to, he will follow up with more troops and occupy [them] in the morning.

April 23rd. We didn't make the attack last night. We all retired early to get as much sleep as possible before being called to quarters. [We] slept along as usual until about 2 A.M., when we were called to fire quarters, and found a large fire raft coming down upon us. It did no damage, however. It was toward the other side of the river when it burned to the water's edge. As soon as it passed us, seeing no movement toward getting under way, I returned to my bunk and again went to sleep; expecting again to be called every moment—but determined to get all the sleep possible before the engagement. When I woke, it was broad day light, and still we'd not moved. Tonight, however, I think we will certainly go. Porter came aboard this morning to breakfast with Capt. [James] Alden. He brought a New Orleans paper of the 12th, giving us considerable news. By it we saw that Grant's defeat [at Shiloh] was not as bad as we first heard. And by [the] latest dates contained in it, we were rather encouraged to infer the tables were turned by [Maj. Gen. Don Carlos] Buell. The forts have [page 4—cross-written in red ink on page 2] fired but once today. The [Union] howitzers have been throwing 13-inch marbles at them slowly, but this evening have opened faster. Some of our gunboats have been laying all day within range of their guns, occasionally giving them the benefit of a few 11-inch shells. But they've not answered the fire. Why, we can't say. We'll probably move about 2 o'clock. Comdr. [Theodorus] Bailey, 2d division, leading the van in the "Cayuga," followed by "Pensacola," "Mississippi," "Varuna," & others, will keep as near [the] Ft. St. Philip side as possible, & will silence that fort. We of the 1st division, "Hartford," "Brooklyn," & "Richmond," under Flag Officer Farragut will follow on [the] Ft. Jackson

side, & will silence that fort. The 3d division under Capt. [Henry H.] Bell (Fleet Capt.) will follow, keeping the middle of the stream & direct their fire to either or both forts if fired upon. "Iroquois" is [the] leading ship of the 3d division. They will probably not receive much fire, & being the fastest vessels, will keep on up, and capture as many of the enemy's gunboats as possible. We'l

probably not be over 1/2 or 3/4 of an hour under fire, so we'll pass the forts as speedily as possible, & if we do not silence them while passing, will engage them from above, when they will be completely in our power. Our object is to get above, we then have them. We will not fire a gun until they fire upon us. and the first gun fired will be a signal to the bombers to hail their bombs into the forts as rapidly as possible. As soon as they discover us coming up, I suppose they will send down rafts, fire boats, & all sorts of things upon us. But of the result I think there can be no doubt. We must take the forts, and then once taken, New Orleans is ours; and the heaviest blow struck towards the restoration of the Union. [page 5]

April 24th, 9 A.M., five miles above Ft. Jackson. We've met with the most glorious success. At 2 this A.M., signal was made from flag ship to Comd. Bailey. He got his division under way as soon as possible, & we all steamed up the river.

**To be Continued in the Next Issue  
(January)**

## November 14th Meeting

### "Targeted Tracks: The Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War"

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

During the Civil War there were three targeted railroads: Northern Central went from Philadelphia-Wilmington-Baltimore; Franklin Railroad from Harrisburg-Chambersburg; Cumberland Valley Railroad from Hagerstown-Harrisburg. All three of these railroad lines were targeted several times during the Civil War. Location was the key to why these railroads were targeted. The tracks went right through the towns packed with soldiers going to various areas of combat.

In 1841, Fred Watts helped get the Cumberland Valley Railroad started and became its first president. He became "The Father of the Railroad". John Brown and raiders used the Cumberland Valley Railroad to get to Harper's Ferry, staying in Mary Ritner's boarding house. Frederick Douglas also arrived by this train but could not be persuaded to join the raiders. Dr. Isaac Smith said he was on the railroad



Scott Mingus



Cooper Wingert



going to places looking for iron ore but was really bringing guns to help the raiders in Harper's Ferry. Even though there were always personal employed by the railroad to look out for suspicious activity, the Confederate troops targeted the areas because the train tracks went through towns and got supplies to the front lines of battle.

The Cumberland Valley Railroad was not a huge railroad with only twelve locomotives, four baggage cars, eight passenger cars, and 79 freight cars carrying iron ore, meat, pork and other essentials for families and merchants. The pioneer locomotive, built in 1851, was a light weight 2-2-2 tank engine, passenger service train car. The impression was that when the Civil War started it would be over in 90 days. As we all know that did not happen. April 19, the Chambersburg Artillery were shipped to Harrisburg with the 2nd Pennsylvania Artillery on their way to Chambersburg. The troops were to look for the yellow cars so they would not get lost.

The train station had four different trains in one station which was used by the military. June, 1861, troops were concentrated in Chambersburg when Stonewall Jackson seizes Harpers Ferry. Joseph Johnson takes over command and recruits Pennsylvania soldiers who were in Chambersburg back to Harper's Ferry. Johnson (later became the army of the Potomac) wanted to keep the army all together but failed in his attempt to do so and decided to go to the Battle of Bull Run instead. By 1862, rumors started that the confederates were marching toward Pennsylvania so the militia was called to stand guard in case an emergency situation would happen.

John Reynolds takes command of the militia after Patterson left town and was never seen again. The troops went toward Chambersburg where the downtown rails went through town, but never saw combat. It was not long before Reynolds was headed toward Antietam with B&O railroad cars going toward Washington D.C. full of live ammunition. They were going too fast (faster than they should have been going) that they needed to stop every so often to cool down the engine. Reynolds found out that they did not need all the ammunition in Antietam as expected.

September 26, 1862 at 7:30am, heavy fog blanketed the area as the Cumberland Valley Railroad troop trains were engaged in a fog-related accident. Some troops were killed or maned for life. Then Jeb Stuart in his Chambersburg Raid crosses the Potomac near Bridgeport. Destroying the train station burning everything that was part of the station, warehouses, turntables, rolling stock, etc. Burning everything to the ground! The question was "How can we protect the Railroad?" During the Gettysburg campaign destroyed

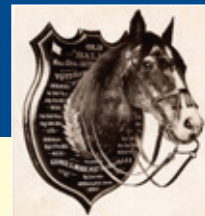
the Scotland Bridge (the troops first thought it was made out of steel) but found out it was made of wood and burned it down.

Hagerstown was destroyed. The New York State National Guard go to Shippensburg to protect the towns. Jenkins and his troops go to Maryland then come back to Pennsylvania leaving the whole area unprotected. He then goes into Mechanicsburg and makes his headquarters in the Railroad Hotel, taking over the entire area. Then there is Pickett, before Gettysburg, wrecked the Franklin Railroad and Cumberland Valley Railroad in 1863 building bonfires to burn warehouses and other buildings after it had just been rebuilt. At this time, Pickett's job was to destroy railroads before he ever thought about Pickett's Charge.

Herman Haupts wanted to rebuild the railroad. The railroad was still needed to get stock and munitions out of town, along with other items that were important to the war effort. He decides to rebuild only the tracks and wait to rebuild the buildings around the tracks after the war so they would not be able to be burnt again. "Tiger John" McCausland's Raid, July 30, 1864, Joe Worley decided to ransom Chambersburg and orders the town torched. The town tried to call their bluff but sadly they were wrong and the town was burnt to the ground. Railroad employees lost their homes and decided to take the Cumberland Valley Railroad back to other areas of Pennsylvania, staying there to build a new life.

The ultimate special assignment was the Cumberland Valley Railroad takes mourners to see the body of Abraham Lincoln, April 22, 1865. The railroad also took soldiers back to their homes after the war to rebuild their lives. From 1861-1865 the railroad system was always in danger of being destroyed as you can see, the Confederate troops did that several times. The Cumberland Valley Railroad had a story to tell during this time and Scott Mingus and Cooper Wingert was able to bring a very interesting and remarkable story to the roundtable.

### New Recruit and Flat Old Baldy



Maria Rodriguez

## **Season's Greetings from the Treasurer's desk**

***It has been another successful year  
for The Old Baldy Round Table.***

***Due to your support, we continue  
to be in good financial condition  
as we enter the new year.***

***Your membership has made it possible  
for all of us to enjoy a year's worth  
of outstanding speakers thanks  
to our Program Coordinator,  
Dave Gilson.***

***Additionally, we have been able  
to continue our goal of providing  
donations to worthy organizations,  
including the following:***

***Memorial Hall Foundation  
New Jersey Historical Society  
Vineland Historical Society  
The Center for Camden County College  
Battleship New Jersey  
GAR Civil War Museum  
Wreaths Across America***

***In appreciation of your membership,  
we will be conducting a raffle  
in which the names  
of all 2019 members will be placed  
in a hat, and the winning member  
drawn will receive  
a free year's subscription  
to "The Civil War Monitor Magazine".***

***Just a reminder,  
your 2020 Membership dues are due  
in January.***

***Thank you for your continued support.***

***Happy Holidays to all!!!***

***Frank Barletta***

## **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.*

**WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>  
Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table**

## **Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2020**

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

**February 13, 2020 – Thursday  
Michael Wunsch  
"Abraham Lincoln & the National Union Party  
Convention, Baltimore, Maryland,"**

**March 12, 2020 – Thursday  
Paul Prentiss  
"Damn the Torpedoes - The Battle of Mobile Bay"**

**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  
Treasurer: Frank Barletta  
Secretary: Sean Glisson  
Programs: Dave Gilson  
Membership: Arlene Schnaare**

**Trustees:  
Paul Prentiss  
Tom Scurria  
Dave Gilson**

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