

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

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

June 11, 2020 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

“The Federal Bridging Operation at Fredericksburg”



Pontoons

shore where he had previously expected to cross unopposed.

Robert Jorgensen

Bobby Jorgensen works in the financial services industry in New York City. Prior to joining the banking world he served as a combat engineer officer in the United States Marine Corps, where he participated in a number of gap crossing operations. He still serves today as a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, May 14** on **Zoom**. This month's topic is **“The Federal Bridging Operation at Fredericksburg”**

December 1862 found Union Major General Ambrose Burnside's winter campaign in Virginia stalled and at risk. Expanding upon a campaign plan he had originally proposed to his predecessor, Burnside had set off on a campaign to outmaneuver the Army of Northern Virginia en route to Richmond. Key to this advance was securing the city of Fredericksburg. Initially Burnside had stolen a march on his adversary and arrived on the outskirts of the city unopposed. However, as November turned to December, logistical delays combined with unfavorable topographic and meteorological conditions to delay Burnside's army on the northeastern bank of the Rappahannock River while the Army of Northern Virginia began concentrating on the opposite bank and around the city. With the elements of speed and surprise no longer on his side, Burnside began modifying his campaign plan to include a deliberate river crossing onto an enemy held

Special ZOOMcast: Monday, June 29, 7pm.

Richard R. Schaus on "Lee Is Trapped, and Must Be Taken: Eleven Fateful Days After Gettysburg, July 4 - 14, 1863".

Winner of the 2017 Edwin C. Bearss Scholarly Research Award, and the 2019 Hugh G. Earnhart Civil War Scholarship Award from the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table.



Richard R. Schaus

“Lee is Trapped”, by Thomas J. Ryan and Richard R. Schaus, focuses on the immediate aftermath of the battle and addresses how Maj. Gen. George G. Meade organized and motivated his Army of the Potomac in response to President Abraham Lincoln's mandate to bring about the “literal or substantial destruction” of Gen. Robert E. Lee's

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retreating Army of Northern Virginia. As far as the president was concerned, if Meade aggressively pursued and confronted Lee before he could escape across the flooded Potomac River, "the rebellion would be over."

Richard R. Schaus., Sergeant Major, US Army (Ret.), served on active duty for more than 30 years in a variety of army and joint military intelligence assignments both at home and abroad. Rick is a lifelong student of the Civil War and American military history, and the Gettysburg Campaign in particular.

Notes from the President...

As we enter our third month of time apart, we long for some baseball and time out of the house. Want to thank everyone for their continued support of our Round Table and its programs. Thank you to all who shared their feedback with us on our Zoom presentations and your vision of the Fall. The Board will review the information from the survey and develop a plan for our near future.

With the College being closed and distancing rules in place, our summer meetings will be held on Zoom. **Dave Gilson** has supplemented our time by scheduling an extra presentation each month. Check the schedule on the last page to see our upcoming presentations. It was great when **Don Wiles** joined us for the John Quarstein event, giving us folks on the broadcast from six states. Several members have also been tuning into the CWRT Congress lectures offered each week. The Congress is planning to come to Blackwood next September when it returns to a live meeting.

Last month at our meeting, **Drew Gruber** wowed the members with the story of the Battle of Williamsburg with the New Jersey troops and an update on our Civil War Trails sign project. It was good to see **Steve Wright** and **Bill Holdsworth** on-line with our guests. We made a donation to the Battlefield Trust to preserve the land Drew mentioned to us about during his presentation. Later in the month **John Quarstein** told us about the Battle of Big Bethel. John will be one of the presenters at our Western Theater Symposium next May.

This month **Robert Jorgensen** will enlighten us on the "The Federal Bridging Operation at Fredericksburg" on our meeting night. Later in the month on the 29th, **Richard Schaus** will share his research from his book on the eleven days after the Battle of Gettysburg. A side note, our own web master **Hal Jespersen** prepared the maps for the book. Plan on joining us for these two presentations. Tune in early and greet your fellow members and guests.

Welcome to new member **Richard Bennet**, we look forward to seeing at our meeting. Thank you to all who sent **Don Wiles** book reviews and notes on what you are doing during this period to pass the time. It was good to see **Harry Jenkins** and **Jim Heenehan** along with **Debbie** and **Bill Holdsworth** at the wreath laying at the Hancock tomb. See the photos in this newsletter. Continue to support local restaurants by ordering take out before our meeting on the 11th... *Happy Father's Day to our fathers and grandfathers. Please continue to be safe, get sunshine each day and join us on-line so we can see your smiling face.*

Rich Jankowski, President

Today in Civil War History

1861 Tuesday, June 11

The North

In western Virginia anti-secessionist counties set up a pro-Union state government, which is recognized as such by Washington.

Eastern Theater

In a skirmish at Romney, two Confederates are killed in a fight with the 11th Indiana Regiment, who have a single, non-fatal casualty.

Trans-Mississippi

Nathaniel Lyon, now brigadier-general commanding the Department of the West, meets the pro-Southern Governor Claiborne Jackson of Missouri and militia Major-General Sterling Price. They try to persuade Lyon that the state is neutral and should not have United States troops quartered in or passing through the state. Lyon, however, knows that Jackson and Price have organized a State Guard in secret for their own secessionist purposes. But even had he wanted to, Lyon can not accept their demands since, even by holding itself neutral, Missouri is taking a secessionist stance. Meanwhile, a Confederate force under the noted Texas ranger Ben McCulloch has crossed the southern boundary of the state and is heading toward Springfield.

1862 Wednesday, June 11

Western Theater

In an action at Monterey in Owen County, Kentucky, Captain Blood's Mounted Provost Guard, together with a battery of Indiana artillery, capture 100 rebels.

1863 Thursday, June 11

The North

Ohio Democrats nominate Clement Vallandigham for governor. Their candidate, already weary of life with his Confederate allies, has now gone into exile in Canada.

Eastern Theater

Hooker, who had won command of the Army of the Potomac by assiduously criticizing his fellow officers, now receives the same treatment. The army's senior commanders jostle to unseat him.

Western Theater

A cool and pleasant break in the weather at Vicksburg is spoiled for the Confederates by the arrival of two 10-inch Columbiads within 100 yards of the rebel trenches. Union guns now bombard the city daily, and many citizens live an underground existence in caves where they are safe from the shelling.

1864 Saturday, June 11

Eastern Theater

Sheridan's cavalry, on its way to join Hunter's forces in the Shenandoah, finds the way blocked by Fitzhugh Lee and Wade Hampton's Confederate cavalry. The battle which fol-

lows at Trevilian Station is indecisive. George A. Custer has a narrow escape when he unknowingly drives his brigade between the two Confederate forces. His wagons and colored cook Eliza are captured, but the girl, called the "Queen of Sheba" by his soldiers, escapes, bringing Custer's valise with her. Sheridan learns that Hunter is not at Charlottesville where he was expected, but at Lexington where he burns down the Virginia Military Institute.

1865 Sunday, June 11

Far West

The news of the Sand Creek massacre reached the Sioux and Cheyenne wintering around the headwaters of the Powder River in March. There was no doubt about their immediate hostility but the attitude of the 2000 or so "friendly" Indians near Fort Laramie remained unknown. By order of Secretary of War Stanton, they were regarded as prisoners and were being shepherded toward Fort Kearny when rival Indian factions came to blows. Captain William D. Fours, commanding the 135-strong escort from the 7th Iowa, intervened and was shot dead. His men were then engaged in a running battle, as the Indian braves covered the retreat of their families and the whole mass of Indians fled for the Platte River.

New Board Member



The Board of Directors of CWRT Congress is pleased to announce the appointment of a new member,

Rich Jankowski. Rich has

been a driving force in support of the CWRT Congress while leading the Old Baldy CWRT.

He will lead the CWRT Congress' Ambassador program. Please join us in welcoming Rich to the board.

Tradition Continues

Bill and Debbie Holdsworth continued the Old Baldy CWRT tradition of placing a wreath on the grave of General Winfield Scott Hancock in Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown for Memorial Day. The official ceremony was cancelled, but Debbie still made the wreath. Bill led a small group to visit some of the generals buried in the Cemetery. These included Zook, Hartranft, and Col. Edwin Schall (killed at Cold Harbor). He read some comments on each man, their service and other accomplishments. Debbie placed a bouquet of flowers at each. At noon, all arrived at Hancock's



tomb where we were joined by Jim Heenehan and Harry Jenkins. After a brief talk by Bill about Hancock, Harry and Jim placed the wreath in front of the tomb. Everyone posed for a distance photo with the wreath. Once again Debbie had the best wreath at the cemetery. A representative from the Montgomery Historical Society open the gate house so we could use the rest room before departing the cemetery. All in attendance agreed it was

good to get out for a worthwhile purpose.

The Old Baldy connection to the Hancock tomb dates back to before our founding. Members of the GAR Post at the Museum held a national campaign to raise funds to restore the tomb after it had suffered vandalism and neglect. Soon after this several of them founded our Round Table. Those present at our May meeting will recall that it was at the Battle of Williamsburg where Hancock received the name "Hancock the Superb." Thank you to all who attended to make this event possible, especially Bill and Debbie Holdsworth.



"Too Much for Human Endurance" Women Came to the Rescue at the George Spangler Farm

by Ron Kirkwood. ZOOM presentation

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

The Spangler farm was a family farm owned and operated by George and Elizabeth Spangler. As the battle of Gettysburg began on July 1st the Spangler family and

their farmland changed dramatically, becoming part of this horrific battle. The family was told to leave the farm for the barn and surrounding buildings were to become the XI Corps Hospital for the wounded and dying taken from the battlefield. Most farmers and their family did leave their farms, but the Spangler family refused.

The family was told that if they stayed, they would have to go to the second floor away from the seriously wounded soldiers. The decision was made to go to one of the second-floor bedrooms, occupying the room for over five weeks. Two adults and four children used one bedroom and endured the moaning, cries and smells of so many wounded. If they wanted to get out of their room the family members were walking over bodies, blood and the reality of death all around them. We must not forget the battle took place in July, which is usually extremely hot and humid, opening a window did not make much difference. The family had only the clothes on their back and little clothing and valuables could be found in the house. The clothing and other possessions were used for the wounded for bandages and other medical needs. The family's lives were in danger all the time.

The Spangler women Elizabeth Spangler, daughters Elizabeth and Sabrina were eager to help with the wounded. Together they baked bread, washed clothes and whatever else was needed to try and make the wounded and dying comfortable. As they looked around their barn and surroundings there were wounded in the barn on the first and second floors along with many other soldiers laying on the ground outside the barn. There was an estimate of over 1900 wounded. Dr. Daniel G. Brinton said the situation for him was just "Too much for human endurance". The doctors, nurses, and volunteers were the caregivers of this war and their compassion given to each soldier was great.

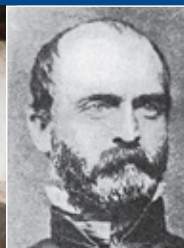
As the gun fire was heard from enemy lines and the fighting on and around Culp's Hill the wounded were taken to the XI Corps Hospital. There were many nurses from other parts of Pennsylvania and other states with many staying after the fighting was over. One such nurse was Rebecca Lane Pennypacker from Phoenixville, PA, President of the Union Relief Society who stayed to nurse the soldiers. Once Rebecca heard of the Battle at Gettysburg, she packed her bags, climbed into a railroad cattle car and arrived in Baltimore. In a few days she was in Gettysburg with the soldiers. Rebecca was from a prominent Pennsylvania family, married to a successful Pennsylvania merchant, Edwin Price. With Rebecca's influence she was able to get news out to volunteers in and around Philadelphia. Women did come to help, and the numbers grew to more than 100. In 1863, supplies were collected and food items through the Ladies Union Society with Rebecca's help. Rebecca and many of the other nurses became a substi-



George Spangler Farm



Kitchen where Lewis Armistead Died



Rebecca Price



Cornelia Hancock



Fanny Barlow

tute Mother, Sister and Wife and called herself a "friend" to all. If it was holding an umbrella over a soldier to shield him from the sun while he was getting his leg amputated or coming to visit a sick and dying soldier singing "Rock of Ages" as he passed

from this earth Rebecca was there to help. Rebecca was nurse to Adjutant and 1st Lt. Joseph Heeney after he had his leg amputated. Unfortunately, he did not survive his wounds, but Rebecca was with him to the end as he spoke his final words "Mother, Home, Heaven". Rebecca's compassion for her soldiers was unending.

Other women who helped was Mrs. Spears who worked in the kitchen, getting supplies from the Phoenixville ladies. She did all the cooking for the wounded. Marilla Hovey wife of Dr. Bleicher Lansing Hovey of Dansville, New York came to help as well. Marilla, as nurse, and Dr. Hovey worked side by side for over twenty years. When the doctor decided to leave his regiment, Marilla joined her husband as they began their work in the XI Corps Hospital as the battle in Gettysburg began. They brought their son, Frank, with them. Frank went on to become an orderly, carrying wounded, rolling bandages, wrapping wounds, providing water and helped with the meals. Marilla worked mostly on the ground floor with the worst of the sick and wounded. The Hovey family were right in the middle of sights, sounds and smells of a battlefield hospital.

Cornelia Hancock who was the first nurse to reach the XI Corps Hospital after the battle. She wrote letters to family members along with her compassionate nursing skills.

Both Cornelia and Marilla worked with the wounded on the first floor. Mary Ann Holland and Brigadier General Frances Barlow's wife were also part of the nursing staff. Mrs. Barlow nursed her husband back to health after being wounded on the battlefield. With her compassionate nursing skills, she was able to get her husband well enough so that he could get back into the battle again. She also worked with the Sanitary Commission to get supplies into town. There were twelve Nuns who also worked in the hospital as part of the US Christian

Commission. It was also said that Confederate General Lewis Armistead died of his wounds in the Spangler's Summer Kitchen.

One final story: Rebecca Price sat with Captain Augustus Vignos from the 107th Ohio after he had his arm amputated. He was not doing very well but with Rebecca's compassion and steadfast devotion Augustus survived. She got him on a train back home to recover fully. Augustus went on to return to the army as Major and served to the end of the war. He had a photo of Rebecca that he carried with him during the war and even after, staying in his possession for over forty years. Many years later Rebecca found him and several other soldiers that she had nursed, and they reunited at the G.A.R. Encampment at Saratoga. All the nurses who worked in the XI Corps Hospital on the Spangler farmland were kind and were faithful to all the wounded who needed their help. It was said that women nurses made the difference in men's recovery. As we have read about the many women who helped with nurs-

ing skills, getting supplies or just sitting with a patient for morale support they did make a difference and were so important to the health of each soldier.

Thanks to Ron Kirkwood for talking about the nurses at the Spangler's farm and their contributions to the wounded not only in Gettysburg. Ron brought the story of the Spangler Farm Hospitals and the importance of this area during the Battle of Gettysburg. It was our pleasure that Old Baldy was able to have Ron come back to our roundtable to speak to us again. We appreciate Ron bringing the little-known story of the Spangler's family, the nurses, the doctors and all who helped with so many wounded and dying soldiers. "THANK YOU" does not seem adequate to say to all the kind and compassionate doctors, nurses, volunteers or ordinary citizens who gave their time to serve the soldiers during and after the battle.



The Pennsylvania Reserves at Gettysburg

By Joe Wilson, Member OBCWRT

Life within sight of the Capitol dome was a pleasant reprieve for a broken organization badly shot to pieces in the many bloody engagements with Robert E. Lee's stalwart Army of Northern Virginia. After a devastating year of combat in 1862, the ravaged division of Pennsylvanians headed to Washington to rest and recruit their mutilated ranks.

But the break wasn't to last.

The "Pennsylvania Reserve Corps of the Commonwealth" initially formed as state militia in May of 1861 under the direction of Pennsylvania's War Governor, Andrew Curtin. When Lincoln took 28 regiments out of the state in April for federal service, a wealth of volunteers were rejected. Curtin, in all his wisdom, gathered up the leftovers and rejects and created his own private army.

Curtin wanted a militia to defend the state from all threats from within and beyond the borders. The state financed force numbered 13 regiments of infantry, several batteries of artillery, and a regiment of cavalry. History came to know them simply as "The Pennsylvania Reserves."

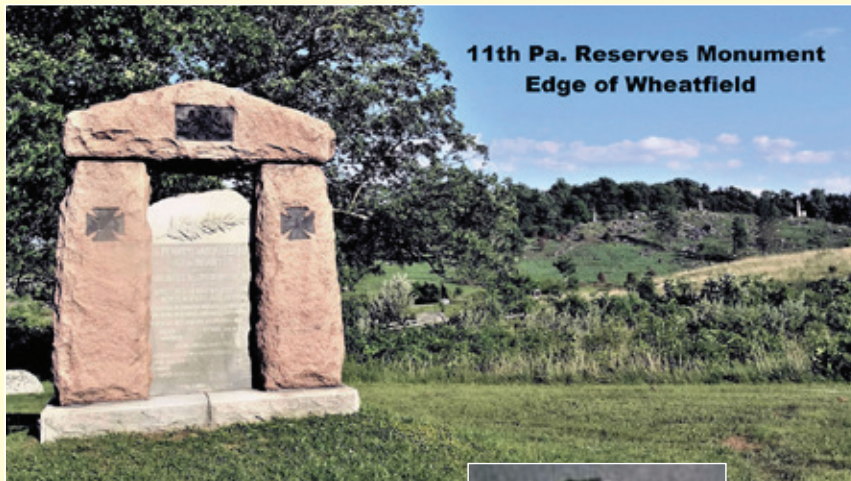
When the Union Army met with disaster at 1st Bull Run on July 21st, 1861, a Confederate army threatened a disor-

ganized Washington. A distressed Lincoln knew just where to go for an already established force. A pressing wire the night of July 21st implored Curtin to send his Pennsylvania Reserves without delay. Governor Curtin, a friend of Lincoln, started his militia for the vulnerable Capitol the next day.

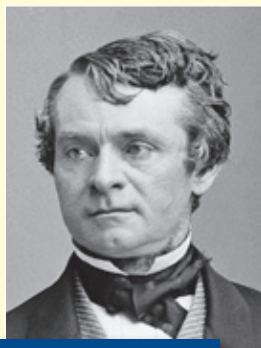
Even once in federal service, everyone still referred to the division as "The Pennsylvania Reserves." But the name "Reserves" hardly represented their function. On many occasions the unit served as shock troops to be fed into the thickest of the battle. The War Department frequently detached the Reserve's artillery and cavalry regiment to serve in various units. But the infantry division of three brigades fought mostly together for the entire war. Some of the finest commanders to ever draw a sword led them in battle. At different times they went into action under the leadership of such famed men as General George McCall, General George Meade, General John Reynolds, and General Samuel Crawford.

By the end of 1862, the hard fighting unit was decimated. A strong 12,000 division of three infantry brigades at the start of the year now resembled a disorganized brigade fielding only 2000 soldiers. A bloody six month stretch in 1862

took a heavy toll. The Pennsylvania Reserves saw heavy fighting in the Seven Days' Battles on the Peninsula, where the single division took more casualties than any of the other four Corps present. The bloodshed continued for the Reserves on Henry Hill at Second Bull Run, South Mountain, in the Cornfield at Antietam, and the year mercifully came to an end after a 40% casualty rate at Fredericksburg.



Curtin's call to bring the shattered division back home to rest and recruit failed. The War Department needed troops in Washington. Guarding railroads in the vicinity of the Capitol proved easy enough. Only an occasional raid by "The Gray Ghost," John Singleton Mosby, shook things up. But Mosby's Raiders didn't scare the veteran soldiers of the Pa. Reserves. Not after facing off so many times in battle with the Lee's celebrated Army of Northern Virginia.



Governor Andrew Curtin

A hiatus from active campaigning pleased the surviving members of the division. But alarming news circulating through camp quickly changed that view. By June, the boys of the Pennsylvania Reserves begged the War Department to let them once again stand before the muskets of Lee's army. A lull in the fighting was no longer welcome.

In early June of 1863, General Robert E. Lee packed up his wagons, gathered his 75,000 man army, and headed north. Soon the newspapers screamed urgent warnings, "CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA!! THE REBELS ARE UPON US!!" The Pennsylvania Reserves demanded they be allowed to rejoin the Army of the Potomac in hunting down the rebel army. Worried Pennsylvania boys watched helplessly as units of the army marched north to confront the aggressors. To be forced to stand idle while the enemy threatened their homes and loved ones infuriated the Pennsylvanians. Swift action followed.



Major General, USA George Gordon Meade

Protesting members of the Reserves took up petitions pleading with officials to allow them to go home to defend their own firesides. They argued their rightful place was inside the borders of their home state fighting the invading southerners, not guarding railroads. Washington hesitated before finally allowing 1st and 3rd brigades to leave the Capitol. Officials insisted the 2nd

Brigade remain to help protect Washington.

Morale soared when told they'd get their chance for a confrontation with the intruding southern army. General George Meade, a fellow Pennsylvanian, knew the mettle of the Reserves from prior service and wanted the veteran troops in his 5th Corps. To serve again under their much loved former commander lifted spirits even



Colonel, USA Samuel McCartney Jackson 11th Pennsylvania Reserve

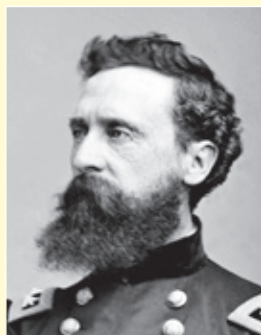
higher.

On June 25th, 1863, the proud Sons of Pennsylvania numbering 3,800 men, struck their tents, loaded knapsacks, and eagerly marched north to defend the sacred soil of Pennsylvania. The small division of the Pennsylvania Reserves, commanded by General Sam Wiley Crawford, turned their backs on Washington and headed out in pursuit of Lee.

Waiting pontoons at Edwards

Ferry brought the Keystone State men across the Potomac River on June 27th into the state of Maryland. They finally caught up with the 5th Corps near Frederick, Maryland. Reports that Meade had just vacated the 5th Corps to command the entire 93,000 man Army of the Potomac pained the Reserves. But disappointment soon gave way to joy for Meade. Command of the 5th Corps then shifted to General George Sykes.

After days of hard marching, the treetops and the green rolling hills of Pennsylvania came into view on July 1st. Thousands of scruffy boots crossed into Pennsylvania to



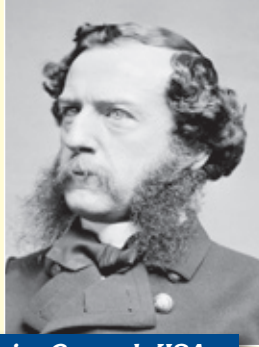
Major General, USA George Sykes

the stirring tunes of the regimental bands trumpeting the momentous event. Tired feet beaten down by the long march now stepped lively pressing the sweet soil of home. Glorious hurrahs thundered across the hillside from a boisterous rabble of native sons fixing for a fight.

General Crawford rested the weary soldiers on the evening of July 1st. But more pressing matters cut the stop short. When news drifted back of the fighting at Gettysburg, the steadfast band

of Pennsylvanians rose to their feet to renew the march and trudged off into the night with even greater haste. For the next 14 hours they pushed a total of 20 miles, finally reaching the rear of the battlefield around noon on the 2nd of July. Since leaving Washington, the loyal boys in blue marched nearly 100 miles in one week to fulfill what every man considered a solemn obligation to defend their families and the good citizens of their home state.

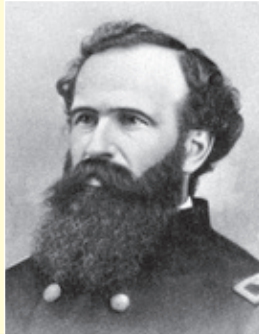
Taking rest at the staging area of the 5th Corps, the boys learned their former commander, General John Reynolds, had been killed. A profound sadness filled the ranks. And then anger took hold. Already harboring sufficient reason to fight, the killing of Reynolds aroused revenge. The 1st Brigade carried with them a beautiful presentation sword for their past brigade leader and planned to honor him in the days ahead. The orphaned sword eventually went to Reynold's sister.



**Major General, USA
Samuel Wylie Crawford**

On the afternoon of July 2nd, exhausted soldiers slept. Others cooked rations. Toward evening, Meade rushed to the south of the battlefield and ordered General Sykes and the 5th Corps to the aid of the besieged 3rd Corps of General Dan Sickles. Orders to quickly fall in echoed through camp.

General James Barnes led the 1st Division to the extreme southern end of the field. The 2nd Division followed General Romeyn Ayres toward the fighting in the Wheatfield. The 3rd Division of the Pennsylvania Reserves marched swiftly toward the summit of a rugged and rocky hill dubbed "Little Round Top."



**Colonel, USA
Joseph Washington Fisher**

Colonel Joseph Fisher's 3rd Brigade consisted of the 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Pa. Reserve regiments. Crawford detached the 11th Regiment from Fisher to bolster the 1st Brigade. Fisher's Brigade then peeled off to the left on orders from Sykes to support the 20th Maine and Colonel Strong Vincent's Brigade already hotly engaged on the far side of Little Round Top.

Fisher's Brigade arrived near the end of Colonel Chamberlain's fight but helped deter any more attacks on that sector of the hill. But Big Round Top still had to be secured. Along with the 20th Maine, Fisher's 3rd brigade drove the rebel sharpshooters off the big hill and secured both hills for the remainder of the battle.

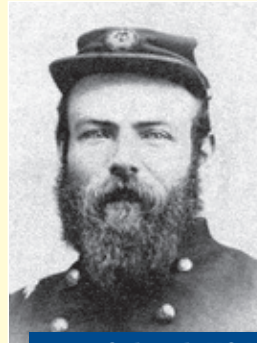
Colonel Buck McCandless pushed forward the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 11th, and 13th regiments. A narrow lane overflowing with bloodied soldiers heading to the rear offered evidence of the hard fight ahead. Undeterred, the determined Reserves marched without hesitation to the sound of the guns. McCandless led the five regiments of the 1st Brigade up the rough terrain to the top of the strategic rise anchoring Meade's left flank.

On gaining the summit, a panoramic scene of the bloody struggle taking place in the valley below came into full view. Outrage soon replaced apprehension as the home state boys eyed the sinister rebel hordes desecrating the soil of Pennsylvania.

Through the thick smoke, the 1st Brigade caught glimpses of Sickles and Ayres off in the distance battling an

imposing southern army in a Wheatfield and Peach Orchard. The victorious rebel host cleared the Wheatfield and chased the faltering Union troops back across the Plum Run Valley with the hope of seizing Little Round Top.

Crawford ordered the men to lay down as the bloodied Union troops passed through their lines. Muskets balls from the pursuing Confederates passed overhead, ricocheted off rocks, and many found their mark. Angry shouts rose up at not being able to respond. Impatient Pennsylvanians gripped their loaded muskets waiting to assail the unruly southerners. Once all the blue clad soldiers cleared their front, Colonel McCandless ordered all five regiments of the Pennsylvania Reserves to rise and fire. At last, the time to strike a decisive blow had arrived. A hail of lead from 1800 muskets greeted the encroaching enemy. A few more volleys stunned the gray tide advancing on the rocky hill. With fixed bayonets, the boys anxiously waited for the order to charge.



**Colonel, USA
William McCandless**

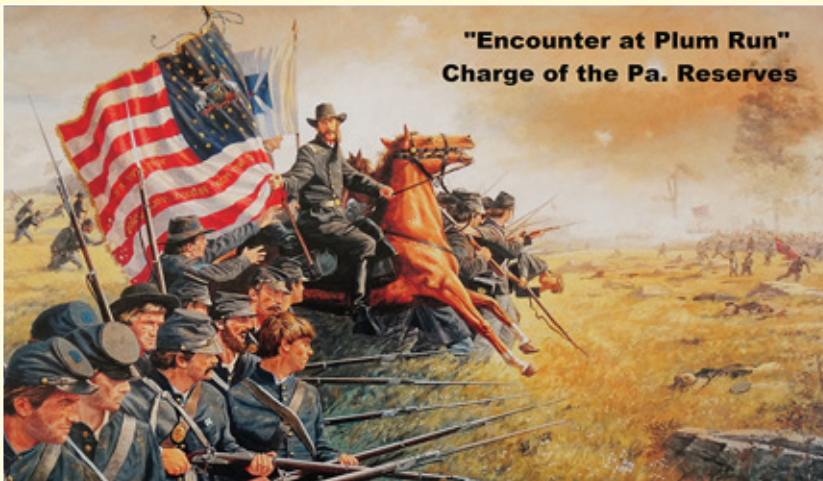
General Crawford rode to the front of the line and gave a short patriotic speech imploring his troops to defend Pennsylvania. After seizing the flagstaff of the 1st regiment, Crawford turned his mount to face the trespassing southerners and shouted above the din of battle the long awaited order to charge. With their own unique battle cry, a dogged

swarm of frantic Pennsylvania boys went screaming and yelling down the slope of Little Round Top into the aptly named Valley of Death. With a pent up fury reserved for their native soil, the attacking Pennsylvania Reserves clashed with the gray clad regiments of Longstreet's Corps and pushed the stunned southerners back across the Plum Run Valley.

A hand to hand struggle at the eastern edge of the Wheatfield convinced the rebels that the fresh troops of the Reserves had gained the upper hand. The defeated foe raced for the woods on the far side of the field. All the colors of the victorious 1st brigade now flapped in the breeze along the stone wall lining the eastern boundary of the Wheatfield. All day the Confederates enjoyed success. The formidable charge of the Pennsylvania Reserves swung the momentum back in favor of the Union.

Darkness brought the bloody day's fighting to an end. The Reserves laid on their arms all night and held the position at the stone wall fronting the Wheatfield. Many spent the night treating the severely wounded men strewn about the battlefield.

The morning light of July 3rd seemed eerily still save for the annoying sharpshooters in Devil's Den occasionally firing into the ranks of the Reserves. Most expected a renewed battle. The booming guns in the distance on Culp's Hill signaled a renewal of the fight in that sector. But along the line, from Little Round Top to Cemetery Hill, all was quiet. Finally, around 1 p.m., a screaming artillery shell toward the middle of the Union line opened an artillery barrage from 130 Confederate cannons that shook the Pennsylvania countryside. Union artillery answered with 90 cannons of their own.

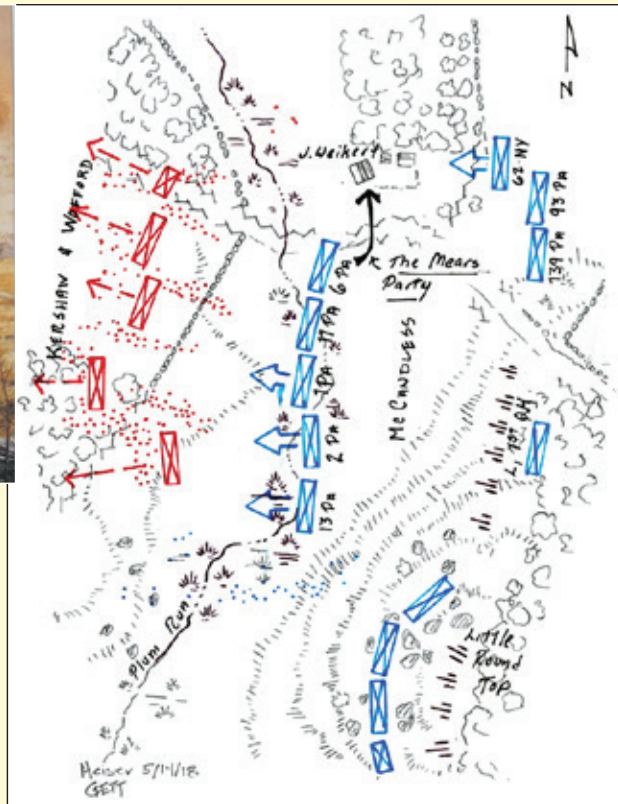


The deafening exchange went silent after ninety minutes. Shortly after the last shot was fired, a mile long line of gray and butternut clad soldiers emerged from the woods on Seminary Ridge. Under the command of General George Pickett, the 13,000 men advanced over the field intent on piercing the center of the Union line. The infamous charge failed in what many consider one of General Robert E. Lee's few blunders.

From the vantage point of the Pennsylvania Reserves, watching the charge was a sight to behold. Boys on the far right of the Reserve's position still looking for vengeance strayed north to fire into the ranks of Pickett's men. Officers tried in vain to stop them.

After the failed Confederate attempt at slicing the center of the line, General Meade feared an attack on the left. Along with his staff, he hastily rode toward Little Round Top. Thunderous cheers rose up in the ranks of the Reserves when they saw Meade arrive on the scene. The commanding general ordered his former command to attack the Confederates in their front.

At the given signal from Colonel McCandless, the Reserves leapt over the stone wall and charged across the Wheatfield and into Rose's woods. Anderson's Georgia brigade offered stout resistance before fleeing toward the Peach Orchard. Over 200 rebel prisoners went to the rear of the Union lines, along with hundreds of muskets and a cannon. James Thompson of the 13th Pa. Reserves earned the Medal of Honor for capturing the flag of the 15th Georgia. The Wheatfield, Rose's Woods, and the outflanked Devil's Den now fell under Union control. The curtain finally fell on the largest battle on the North American continent.



Gettysburg proved to be the bloodiest battle of the war with a total of 51,000 in killed, wounded, and captured. For their part, the Reserves suffered 210 killed and wounded. The citizen soldiers could have avoided the bloodbath and stayed in Washington. But the noble Pennsylvanians chose to fight.

The Reserves consecrated nearly every battlefield in the eastern theater with their sweat and blood. They added more laurels to their stellar record at Spotsylvania, the Wilderness, and their final battle at Bethesda Church in May of 1864. Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin wanted to preserve his organization that made Pennsylvania so proud. But it wasn't to be.

Thanks to Governor Andrew Curtin, "The Pennsylvania Reserves" were born of necessity in the chaos of 1861. Three years later, in 1864, the famed organization faded into the history books as one of the finest fighting units in the Army of the Potomac.

The writer's G-G Grandfather served under Union General George Meade in the 7th Pa. Reserves - joef21@aol.com

Battle of Williamsburg

Zoom Presentation By Drew Gruber

The first battle of the Peninsula Campaign was the Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862. This battle extended into town with troops battling around the homes and public buildings along Duke of Gloucester Street (called Main Street). Confederate General Joe Johnston's headquarters was at the end of the street in the Palmer House (Vest Mansion). Walking along Duke of Gloucester Street is



May 14th Meeting

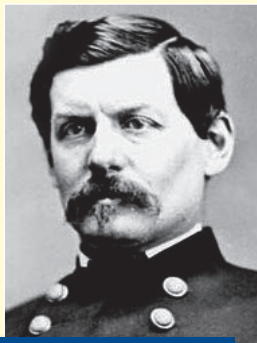
Drew Gruber

Bruton Parish Church which served as a hospital for wounded and dying Union and Confederate soldiers. In the cemetery behind the church are graves of some of the soldiers. At the end of the street is the cam-



pus of the College of William and Mary as Union troops occupied this area with pickets stationed behind the Wren Building on Richmond Road (Stage Road in 1862). This was the unofficial border between Union Soldiers and Confederate Soldiers in town, but the fighting also extended to present day Bush Gardens.

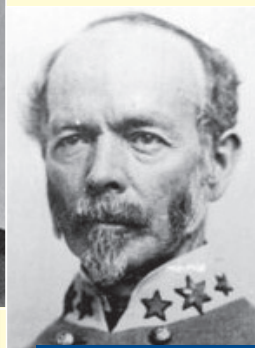
The Confederate troops who were in Yorktown wanted to move on. On the night of May 3rd Joe Johnston's troops started their retreat. In the meantime, it took two hours for McClellan to realize that Johnston's troops had left the area. McClellan decided to get his troops down the York River by boat to try to cut off Johnston's troops. Because it took two days for the troops to board the ships with their machinery, the boat ride down the York River was unsuccessful and had no effect on the battle of 1862. Late on May 4th the Confederate army was already at the earthworks at Fort Magruder. Williamsburg was the narrowest part of the peninsula. As a strategic area the idea was to build earthworks all along this part of the peninsula to make it difficult for Union troops to get through. Robert E. Lee suggested that free black slaves do the digging for all these earthworks and if they refused, they would be sold. This group of slaves built 14 earthworks so that this narrow part of the peninsula was well fortified.



**Major General, USA
George Brinton McClellan**

The Union troops was marching on two roads on each side of the peninsula along the York and James River on their way to Richmond.

General Joseph Hooker's division encountered the Confederate army near Williamsburg assaulting Fort Magruder (an earthen fortification along Williamsburg Road) and on the morning of May 5th the Union forces met the Confederate forces under James Longstreet. As the battle continued the fighting became more intense as Patterson's 2nd New Jersey Brigade along with the 4th, 5th and 6th Brigade began fighting near a ravine. While they could stand on top of the ravine, they could not see into it. The brigades jumped in and confusion reigned. The ravine itself was not clear of undergrowth, fallen trees and swampy ground. The weather did not cooperate either with a misty rain as part of the entire battle. The New Jersey Brigade, in one hour, went through 60 rounds of ammunition per 350 men. The soldiers headed into Wilcox Brigade in the ravine with intense fighting with the Confederate troops from Alabama,



**General, CSA
Joseph Eggleston Johnston**

the New Jersey and New York Excelsior Brigade. It was the New York Excelsior Brigade and others who rushed into the ravine to help the New Jersey troops. They were also met by two brigades of Virginians under the leadership of A.P. Hill and George E. Pickett. There is no doubt that the weather played an important part in the battle, especially in the ravine, where confusion continued as soldiers were slipping and sliding in the mud. This part of the battle became known as the "Bloody Ravine".

The New Jersey regiments were exhausted and out of ammunition while the Confederate troops were forcing the Union soldiers back. The Confederate troops continued to push the New Jersey Brigades off the field. The Confederate offensive then called for soldiers who played drums and brass to start playing. They chose the "The Star-spangled Banner" as they continued to push the Federals back. The drums were wet, and the sound was not the best but between the music, the fighting and confusion the Confederate army captured the Union artillery after the New Jersey and New York troops left. At the height of the Confederate attack

the Union Brigades commanded by John J. Peck on York Road and Union General Philip Kearney slammed right into the Confederate forces. Kearney, "flourishing a sword in his only arm" arrived to stabilize the Federal left. After two hours the Commanders pushed the Confederate troops back into the fortifications around Fort Magruder (where Bush Gardens is today). The battle and the weather did not stop. The Confederate assault broke up as the Union Infantry rushed forward.

The Confederate army quietly abandoned Williamsburg. The Union Soldiers of Hancock's troops for the first time ever, captured a Confederate Battle Flag. McClellan wrote, "Hancock was superb". Seven Union Soldiers were awarded the medal of honor for their conduct in and around the "bloody ravine". The two armies continued onto Richmond.

Why was Williamsburg battlefield not preserved? The battlefield of Williamsburg is a difficult battle to explore. For many years, the battlefield had many people with metal detectors finding bullets, and other war related items from this battlefield. There are no maps, photos or there is no good written report about this area. It is hard to prove the grounds were a battlefield and over time the land has been used up by other real estate and building projects. Archeologists even investigated the grounds and found no evidence of a Civil War Battle basically it had been stripped of all evidence of a battle years before. There were fourteen earthworks and now only four are left. There is one parcel of land that the American Battlefield Trust wants to purchase to save another part of the battlefield from being taken up by realtors or other building projects.



"Jack"
102nd Pennsylvania

There were many brave soldiers from both sides of this battle, but one was a special dog called "Jack". Jack was the mascot of the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry. This regiment was made up of firemen who adopted Jack when he wandered into the firehouse in Pittsburgh. When the men enlisted in the army, they took Jack with them. He was in many battles with his regiment

including Williamsburg, Yorktown, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg to name a few. They said he knew the bugle calls and commands from his own men and would run right into battle without fear. Then after the battle Jack was found on the battlefield looking for wounded men so they could get help. For all his bravery the men collected \$75 to buy him a silver collar. They had a special ceremony just for Jack. On December 23, 1864, the 102nd went on furlough to Frederick, Maryland and when they returned Jack was not there to greet his friends. A reward was issued but Jack was never seen again.

What a story and what a battle! Why is this battle not included in the list of important battles of the Civil War? We thank Drew for his interesting and informative presentation. All of us need to talk about this battle more often and, at the same time, praise the work of the American Battlefield Trust for trying to purchase more acres of the Williamsburg battlefield before it turns into a McDonalds or another business enterprise. Old Baldy is proud to be a part of this project with our historic marker to be placed in one area of the battlefield. Most importantly getting to know Drew with his commitment to bring the Battle of Williamsburg into the history books and classrooms. This will be our future goal to Drew and Williamsburg. As a round table we look forward to visiting the site in person to see for ourselves the area of the battle and surrounding sites with Drew's knowledge and guidance. This will certainly be a special event for Old Baldy.

"Battle of Big Bethel: the First Battle"

May 26th Meeting

Zoom Presentation By John Quarstein



John Quarstein

John Quarstein discusses his book "Big Bethel: The First Battle".

The Battle of Big Bethel was one of the earliest land battles of the American

Civil War. It took place on the Virginia Peninsula, near Newport News, on June 10, 1861.

Virginia's decision to secede from the Union had been ratified by popular vote on May 23, and Confederate Col. (later Maj. Gen.) John B. Magruder was sent down the peninsula to deter any advance on the state capital Richmond by Union troops based at the well-defended post of Fort Monroe. This garrison was commanded by Maj Gen. Benjamin Butler, a former Massachusetts lawyer and politician, who established a new camp at nearby Hampton and another at Newport News. Magruder had also established two camps, within range of the Union lines, at Big Bethel and Little Bethel, as a lure to draw his opponent into a premature action.

Butler took the bait, when he and an aide, Maj. Theodore Winthrop, devised a plan for a dawn attack on June 10,

after a night march to drive the Confederates back from their bases. Butler chose not to lead the force in person, for which he was later criticized. The plan proved too complex for his poorly-trained subordinates to carry out, especially at night, and his staff had also omitted to communicate the passwords. They were trying to advance without knowledge of the layout or strength of the Confederate positions, when a friendly fire incident gave away their own. The commander in the field, Massachusetts militia Gen. Ebenezer Peirce, received most of the blame for the failed operation.

The Union forces suffered 76 casualties, with 18 killed, including Maj. Winthrop and Lt. John T. Greble, the first regular army officer killed in the war. The Confederates suffered only eight casualties, with one killed. Although Magruder subsequently withdrew to Yorktown and his defensive line along the Warwick River, he had won a propaganda victory and local Union forces attempted no further significant advance until the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. While small in comparison to many later battles, Big Bethel attracted exaggerated importance because of the general feeling that the war would be short.

The engagement was also known as the Battle of Bethel Church or Great Bethel.

Wikipedia

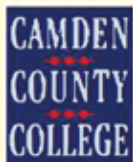
John V. Quarstein is an award-winning author, historian and preservationist. He served for 30 years as director of the Virginia War Museum, and is the director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, Virginia. Quarstein is the author of 15 books and six PBS documentaries. His books include the Big Bethel: The First Battle (2011) and the Henry Adams prize winning The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad (2010).

Welcome to a new recruit Richard (Dick) Bennett Haddon Heights, NJ



Camden County College Events

The Center has been forced by the covid 19 crisis to shift all of the mini-courses to online courses. Under the circumstances, there are no enrollment limits on the size of enrollment Yearly members and those who registered for one course in the summer can now register/or as many courses as you wish, which you can watch in your leisure at a time that you choose, since they are not interactive.



Philadelphia Civil War

INSTRUCTOR: Anthony Waskie
LOCATION: Online
DATES: 6/2-7/2
PRICE: \$45 for the 5-week course

- Week 1:** Philadelphia at the outset of the Rebellion. Its politics, population, manufacturing base, transportation hub and military condition. Preparations for Civil War.
- Week 2:** Philadelphia as 'Arsenal of the Union'; Recruitment of troops; buildup of the Navy Training camps. Famous military units from Philadelphia.
- Week 3:** Philadelphia represented at the War Front. Battles in which Philadelphia commanders excelled. Famous military units in war.
- Week 4:** Lincoln in Philadelphia. The Great Sanitary Fair of 1864. The rise of the Union League. The end of the War and Lincoln's Funeral.
- Week 5:** The Post War era. War in memory. Veterans' groups. Monumentation in Philadelphia.

To register:

contact Valerie Concordia at vconcordia@camdencc.edu or call and leave a message at (856) 227-7200, ext. 4333.

Politics, Culture and Struggle of the American Civil War

INSTRUCTOR: Herb Kaufman
LOCATION: Online
DATES: 6/2-7/2
PRICE: \$45 for the 5-week course

From the election of Lincoln in 1860 through the Confederate surrender in 1865, we examine the major political, economic, military and social aspects of the Civil War. These events are woven together bringing the Civil War into sharp focus as documented through our social and political history

Week 1: 1860 - 1861: The Constitution and the economics of slavery; the campaigns and party platforms; reasons

for secession & the creation of the Southern Confederacy; opening battles & emerging personalities.

Week 2: 1862: America comes to grips with total war; "On to Richmond" the Peninsula Campaign of George McClellan & the Valley Campaign of Stonewall Jackson; Antietam and ascension of Ulysses Grant.

Week 3: 1863: Lincoln & the Constitution; The Emancipation Proclamation; twin victories of Vicksburg & Gettysburg; disaster at Chickamauga; the New York draft riots.

Week 4: 1864: Election of 1861; Lincoln's biggest political mistake; the Copperhead movement; Grant takes command & the Overland Campaign; Sherman's March to the Sea; destruction at Franklin.

Week 5: 1865: The siege of Petersburg and Lee surrenders; the Lincoln assassination conspiracy; the Radical Republicans take charge; the beginning of the southern white supremacist movement.

To register:

contact Valerie Concordia at vconcordia@camdencc.edu or call and leave a message at (856) 227-7200, ext. 4333.

Twentieth Century Revolution

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Blystone
LOCATION: Online
DATES: 6/2-7/2
PRICE: \$45 for the 5-week course

Week 1: The Russian Revolution: Russians go from peasants under a Tsar to comrades of the Soviet Union. The ideas of Lenin frighten the rest of the world.

Week 2: The Chinese Revolution:

After nearly a quarter-century of Civil War, Communists emerge victorious under Mao Tse-Tung. This will forever alter the balance of power in the Far East as hundreds of millions of Chinese become part of the People's Republic.

Week 3: The Cuban Revolution: The largest island in the Caribbean violently emerges from a half millennium of Spanish and American influence. Fidel Castro seeks to impose socialism while the Soviet Union sees an opportunity.

Week 4: 1968: With the United States mired in the Vietnam War and torn by unrest at home, revolutions break out in European capitals with a ferocity not seen since 1848. Women and minorities also seek new opportunities in the form of dramatic social change.

Week 5: The Eastern Bloc: As the Soviet Union's grip on power begins to dwindle, Eastern Europeans seek regime change and modernization. Aided by the United States and Great Britain, it seems the Cold War will end in a people's revolution.

To register:

contact Valerie Concordia at vconcordia@camdencc.edu or call and leave a message at (856) 227-7200, ext. 4333.

Night At The Museum: Questions Of Consciousness In Museums

INSTRUCTOR: Taylor Brookins
LOCATION: Online
DATES: 6/2-7/2
PRICE: \$45 for the 5-week course

Week 1: Introduction to Museums: In this session, we will learn about different types of museums and about the inception of museums as formal historical institutions. We will learn about the first museum practices used 500 years and how they compare and relate to practices today.

Week 2: Does this item really belong here In this session, participants will learn and question the morality of museum's collections. Many museums house and display stolen goods, should these items be returned to their rightful places of origins or are they better off in the hands of seemingly prestigious institutions?

Week 3: Are museums serving all of the public? In this session, participants will learn about the issues with accessibility of museums. Are museums effectively serving all communities?

Week4: Aquariums and Zoos, places of sanctuary or animal prisons? In this session, participants will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of zoos and aquariums.

Week 5: Museums as agents of Social Change?: In this session, participants will learn about the many ways in which museums and historical institutions can serve the public and tackle present and past social issues.

To register:

contact Valerie Concordia at vconcordia@camdencc.edu or call and leave a message at (856) 227-7200, ext. 4333.

The Spanish Flu in Haddon Township (1918)



Prohibited Gatherings, Home Confinements, Canceled Events, Face Masks-sound familiar? The Spanish Flu (a misnomer suggesting that this virus originated in Spain, which it did not) pandemic of 1918 infected millions of people worldwide, including over 600,000 Americans. We do not have an exact count of Haddon Township citizens who contracted or died from this deadly virus, but we can find several articles in local newspapers about its impact.

View and read articles about the Spanish Flu in Haddon Township at: www.facebook.com/haddontwphistoricalsociety

**New Digital Display at
CAMDEN SHIPYARD AND MARITIME MUSEUM
1912 Broadway, Camden NJ
www.camdenSHIPYARDMUSEUM.org
856-541-7447**

Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum has a new digital panel display of Camden's maritime past. It is a sequence of panels, in words and photos, about ships produced at New York Shipyard, other area shipyards and other maritime topics. Please come by and see it once we are allowed to open, hopefully soon!

USS Indianapolis was a cruiser built by New York Shipyard and commissioned in 1932. It had eight boilers, four geared steam turbines and four propellers. It was -610 foot long, beam of 66 feet and capable of 32 knots speed. During WWII the ship served from Aleutian Islands to South Pacific. It was part of task force that bombed Japanese home island military facilities in February 1945. On 31 March 1945, while supporting the invasion of Okinawa a Japanese plane bombed the ship causing flooding and extensive damage. The ship made it back to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California under its own power for repairs.



Society for Women and the Civil War ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Society for Women and the Civil War (www.SWCW.org) will hold its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 24-26, 2020.

This year's theme will be "The Women of the Valley." The keynote speaker will be distinguished author and consultant Jonathan A. Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia.

There will be additional presentations by noted scholars and tours of local sites of interest, emphasizing their roles relevant to the contributions of women during the various Civil War campaigns that took place in the Shenandoah Valley.

The conference is open to non-members.

For more information please visit www.SWCW.org

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2020

June 29, 2020 – Monday (Zoom)

Richard R. Schaus

"Lee Is Trapped, and Must Be Taken: Eleven Fateful Days After Gettysburg, July 4 - 14, 1863"

July 9, 2020 – Thursday

Roseann Bacha-Garza

"The Civil War on the Rio Grande; 1846-1876"

August 13, 2020 – Thursday

Kevin M. Levin

"Searching for Black Confederates, The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth"

September 10, 2020 – Thursday

Amy Murrell Taylor

"Embattled Freedom – Journeys through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps"

Questions to

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

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
Camden County College
Blackwood Campus - Connector Building
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium
856-427-4022 oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
Founded January 1977

President: Richard Jankowski

Vice President: Kathy Clark

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Trustees:

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Dave Gilson

Editor: Don Wiles - cwiles@comcast.net

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