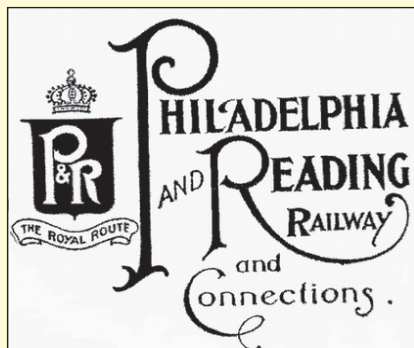


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

November 11, 2021

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

## "Pulling for the Union: The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in the Civil War"

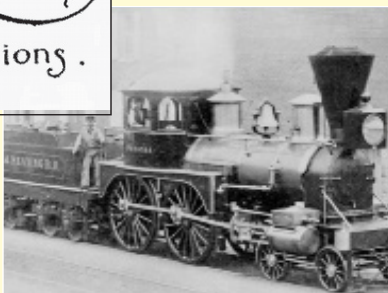


### "Pulling for the Union: The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad in the Civil War"

"Pulling for the Union:  
The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad  
in the Civil War" is a presentation based  
on an exhibit that was displayed at the  
Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in  
Reading, Pennsylvania.

The P&R was the predecessor of the  
Reading Railroad. Chartered in 1833, it  
was an expanding transportation leader by  
the time of the War Between the  
States. Its location, access to coal,  
and power were important driv-  
ers of the North's industrial superiority. The presentation  
includes the many ways the P&R supported the war effort  
with its people and its resources.

Carol Adams is a volunteer who assists the Reading  
Company Technical and Historical Society with its  
educational project, the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum.  
Active with the RCT&HS since 1997, she currently serves  
as chair of Community Outreach, and enjoys modeling,  
exhibit preparation, and other Museum work.



Carol Adams

Join us at 7:15 PM on  
Thursday, November  
11, for an online web  
conference. Members  
will receive **ZOOM**  
dial-in instructions via  
email. This month's  
topic is

### Meeting Notice

On November 11, 2021 we invite you to join us as  
**we resume in-person meetings** at Camden County  
College in Blackwood, NJ in the Connector Building  
Room 101 at 7:15 PM. We will continue  
to simulcast the programs on **Zoom** for the benefit  
of those members and friends who are unable to  
attend. Health and safety protocol at the College will  
require that masks be worn in all indoor public spaces  
regardless of vaccination status. We plan to meet at  
the Lamp Post Diner at 5:30 before the meeting for  
dinner and fellowship. The raffle of the presenter's  
book to a member and the regular raffle for attendees  
will continue for the rest of this calendar year .

### Notes from the President...

We are winding down our 45th year and are staying strong.  
Thank you to all who have supported us this year. We look  
forward to another great year in 2022. As things are  
opening up and more in-person events are planned, we  
hope to see you all soon. As the year concludes, recall  
there is an option to renew your dues on our website under  
the Membership tab. Registration for our Symposium in  
the Spring will open soon, tell your friends and family to  
purchase one for a holiday gift for you.

At our first hybrid meeting in October, **Dr. Caroline  
Janney** visited us on ZOOM to share her research on  
"Lee's Army after Appomattox." It was well received by  
those at the meeting and led to a good discussion. This  
month **Carol Adams** will be joining us to enlighten us on  
the role of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in the  
Civil War. Invite a friend to learn about trains affected the  
War. Next month is our member social event. Join us for  
lite refreshments and discussions about our round table.

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Thank you to everyone who assisted our round table in selling 117 Boscov's coupons for Friends Helping Friends this year. Special thanks to **Lorraine Gancher** and **Frank Barletta** for leading the way. Watch for the opportunity to staff a table at the store next year. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planning and running of our upcoming **Western Theater Symposium** at the end of April. Opportunities are available in marketing, hospitality, door prizes and gathering items for the chance raffle. Contact **Tom Scurria** or **Sean Glisson** for more information.

**Dave Gilson** met some fine folks at the Civil War History Day at the Glassboro train station last month. Perhaps some will join us at a future meeting. Details on our revised book raffle process will be in the December newsletter for your review. Our round table has purchased wreaths to be laid at the Beverly National Cemetery on December 18th as part of **Wreaths Across America**. Visit the website (Wreaths Across America) to volunteer to place wreaths on the 18th. The 2022 theme for National History Day is "Debate & Diplomacy." The South Jersey regional competition will be on March 5th at Rutgers Camden. Consider serving as a judge to choose who will advance to the State contest.

If you are downsizing and have items that could be used for door prizes or the raffle, let us know so they can be picked up. If you have baskets for the raffle, please tell **Kathy Clark**. Safe travels to those venturing into central Pennsylvania later this month. As you are traveling and visiting sites, be sure to leave Old Baldy rack cards and flyers for others to learn about our great group. The OB Board wishes all members, friends and their families a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

*If you are coming to the meeting at the College on the 11th join us for dinner at the Lamp Post Diner at 5:30.*

**Rich Jankowski, President**



### Twenty Five Year Veteran Awards

**Ed Komczyk**  
**Bill Sia**



**Ed Komczyk**



**Bill Sia**

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Monday, November 11

#### The North

The national capital celebrates General George McClellan's appointment as general-in-chief of the Union Army with a torchlight parade through Washington.

### 1862 Tuesday, November 11

#### Eastern Theater

McClellan's plans to bring Lee to decisive battle within days are changed by the new commander. Burnside, who is not convinced that he is competent to do the job, is certain that the way to proceed is to take Richmond. Plans to bring Lee to battle are changed, as Burnside intends to move on Richmond by land via Fredericksburg. Thus Burnside, with a two-to-one superiority in men, throws away the best chance of a decisive victory for the Union.

### 1863 Wednesday, November 11

#### Western Theater

Longstreet's 20,000 men have reached no further than Loudon, the end of the Confederate railroad. He halts here to organize wagons to shuttle his supplies forward as he advances on Knoxville. Skirmishes take place at Greenleaf Prairie, Indian Territory, Natchez, Mississippi, and at Vermillion Bayou, Louisiana.

### 1864 Friday, November 11

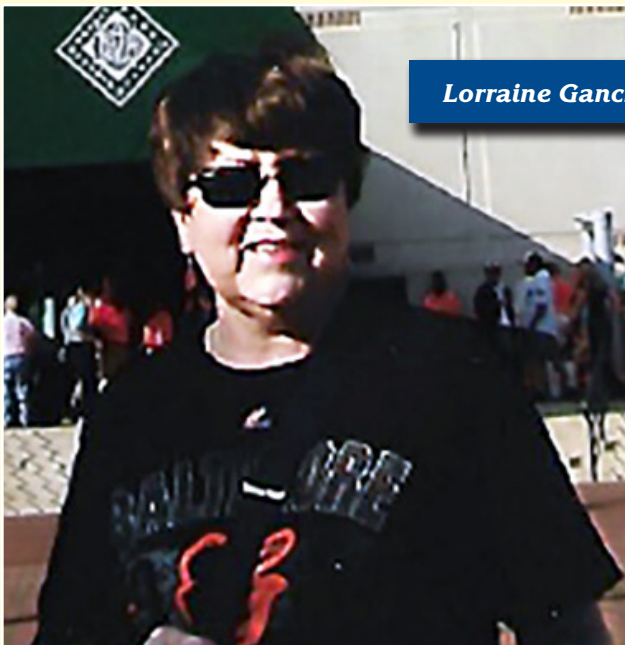
#### Western Theater

Union troops at Rome and Atlanta, Georgia, begin the systematic destruction of everything that could conceivably be used by the Confederates after Sherman departs. No army dependent on wagons can move more than 100 miles from its base—the wagons will consume their loads just coming and going—so Sherman will have no base. He plans to live off the country, seizing Confederate supply depots, fodder, and livestock until he can re-establish communications from a new base on the coast, supplied by sea.

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

# Member Profile - Lorraine Gancher

By Jim Heenehan, Member OBCWRT



Lorraine Gancher

Lorraine Gancher grew up in Garfield, NJ (named after the Civil War general & president), an industrial town along the Passaic River not far from New York City. She often took the train or bus into New York City with family or friends for various excursions. She remembers seeing the Rockettes perform at Radio City Music Hall at Christmas time and the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. She also has fond memories of her trips to the Museum of Natural History, the Bronx Zoo, and the Statue of Liberty.

Back in high school, Lorraine had a strong interest in history. While learning about the kings and queens of England, she and her friends adopted the personalities of various royalty and wrote each other spoof letters. For example, as Lady So and So, the Lady in Waiting to Princess Such and Such, she wrote her friend, the Duke, "We just visited your estate and really enjoyed our stay." Lorraine's love of letters also prompted her to become pen pals with fellow teenagers in England, South Africa and Australia. Her Aussie correspondence continues to this day, causing Lorraine to reflect, "The mail is my friend. I'd hate to see it leave."

After high school, Lorraine attended Montclair State College (now University), where she received a Teaching degree in Social Studies for Junior and Senior High School and a Librarian degree for grades K - 12. Upon graduation, she moved to South Jersey, becoming a librarian in the Bellmawr school system. She first worked 30 years in the elementary school and then 10 years at the middle school as a school guidance counsellor because she received her Master's Degree in Student Personnel Services from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University).

In addition to her librarian duties, Lorraine also helped organize PTA fundraising and various after school activities. These included decorating for the school

dances, and "Read Aloud Night," where she got the mayor, members of the police force and others to read various children's books for the students. Lorraine helped out with all the school activities, like Book Fairs and contests. She also got parents involved and volunteering. On holidays Lorraine dressed up to read to the younger students, performing as a pumpkin, a turkey and even a talking Christmas tree.

The school district appreciated Lorraine's efforts and had a surprise for her before she retired. A friend of hers suggested they attend an upcoming school board meeting to be held outdoors at the school. As Lorraine always went to these school board meetings, she was happy to go. "They were doing work on the outside of the school," Lorraine recollected, "and a drape hung over one side of the building. I had no idea something else was going on. At the end of the meeting, I am called up to the podium, a cord is pulled, the drape comes down, and there is my name in stainless steel letters on the side of the library." The Bellmawr Park Elementary School library is now the Lorraine A. Gancher Library. What an appropriate honor for someone who loves reading and spent her career helping students.

And speaking of kids, Lorraine also raised three stepchildren of her own - James, Kristin and Tammy. They have since moved all over the country but she keeps in touch with letters, phone calls and gifts. Lorraine prefers these more personal interactions to email correspondence.

Lorraine first learned of Old Baldy while taking a course on the Civil War with Dr. Pesda at the Camden County College Civic Center during the Civil War Sesquicentennial. At the course, she met Old Baldy members Joe Wilson and Gerri Hughes, who encouraged Lorraine to join our Round Table, which she did six years ago. Lorraine enjoys reading Civil War letters, has visited Gettysburg, including the Eisenhower farm, and has been to several sites in Virginia. But her love of history transcends the Civil War. She's been to Jamestown, Roanoke, several historic lighthouses, and various places in the Hudson River Valley. Some favorite Hudson River spots include Hyde Park, Olana (Frederick Church's home), Sleepy Hollow, West Point and Bear Mountain.

To this day Lorraine loves taking classes on all sorts of subjects, usually at St. Peters College, Glassboro University or Camden County College. As she notes, "I consider myself an eternal learner as I've been going to classes since I was 5." And fortunately for us, she also learned about Old Baldy at a Camden County College class just a few years ago.



"Flat Old Baldy visiting the library at Bellmawr Park Elementary School."

**Book Review**

**McClellan's War**

**by Ethan S. Rafuse (2005, Indiana University Press)**

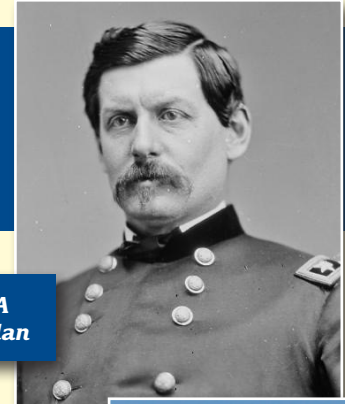
*By Gary Salkind, Member OBCWRT*



While visiting Gettysburg last July, I stopped by a big flea market. There, for a dollar, I picked up a copy of McClellan's War. It certainly makes an interesting read. Author Ethan Rafuse has a view of George Brinton McClellan's military career that is very much at odds with the conventional historical opinion.

Rafuse delves into the political history of America in the first half of the nineteenth century with particular

attention to McClellan's family and their involvement with the Whig party. General McClellan's father, Dr. George McClellan of Philadelphia, was an active and devoted Whig. George B. grew up in and adopted these views. The Whigs believed that the country should be led by "statesmen," wise and stoic leaders who would calmly discern and choose the right path. The Whigs saw themselves in contrast with Jacksonian Democrats, who inflamed the passions of the uneducated rabble and then did whatever that rabble wanted, in order to stay in their elected positions. The Whigs called those Jacksonian leaders "politicians." McClellan believed that he was a statesman, while Lincoln and his cabinet (especially Stanton) were politicians. McClellan also believed that secession was brought about by Southern politicians, and that there was what we would now call a 'silent majority' of Southerners who would welcome restoring the Union, as long as they and their property (including slaves) were not disturbed. Thus, McClellan wanted to pursue "conciliation"



**Major General - USA  
George Brinton McClellan**

- making war on the Confederate Army and the Confederate government, but being nice to the Southern populace in general. As time went on, this brought him into increasing conflict with the Lincoln administration.

Per the author, McClellan was correct in choosing the best war strategy - invading the Virginia tidewater, using the U. S. Navy's complete control of the Chesapeake Bay and the York and James Rivers to transport and supply the Army of the Potomac. Rafuse blames the failure of the Peninsula Campaign on the Lincoln Administration's meddling. Even before the Seven Days (he contends), McClellan planned to shift his base from the York to the James, but Lincoln required him to keep a connection to the north to protect Washington. An interesting point - in 1864, Grant fought the difficult and bloody Overland Campaign, only to wind up besieging Petersburg - with the Army of the Potomac in the Virginia tidewater, supplied through a base on the James, pretty much what McClellan wanted to do two years earlier.



**McClellan's Grave  
Riverview Cemetery  
Trenton, New Jersey**



**Frank Barletta selling the coupons  
at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day.**

**Boscov's  
Friends Helping Friends  
Coupons Sales a Success**

**Thanks to everyone for making  
this project a great success  
for Friends Helping Friends**



# “Those White Roses”

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

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

## **Cynthia R. Tuell Denham**

Compared to more prominent nursing figures like Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix, women like Cynthia Denham often go unnoticed. Because there were over 1000 (documented) nurses working in hospitals during the Civil War, it makes sense that many faded into historical obscurity, despite their years of service to the United States.

With that in mind, it makes sense that Cynthia Denham's life story exists today in pieces; it is documented in a pension file, in few letters from acquaintances, and in recordings about her husband. What we do know about her is as follows.

Cynthia R. Tuell Denham was born on September 13, 1838 in Rhode Island. She was the daughter of the Newport, Rhode Island couple, James and Priscilla Tuell, who married in September 1820. Her father was a harness maker, and it is assumed that the Tuell family resided in Newport for much of Cynthia's early life.

Cynthia Tuell ended up marrying fellow Rhode Islander and jeweler, Daniel C. Denham, Jr on December 9, 1858. He was the descendent of Daniel Dunham, who was once enlisted in the Continental Navy and worked on the U.S.S. "Providence" in the 1770s. The couple had one child after the war, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Denham, on September 15, 1866.

Yet, Cynthia and Daniel were still young and childless when the War broke out, and both decided to join the war cause on the Union side. Daniel enlisted in May 1862 as a private in the Company "L", 9th Infantry, of the Rhode Island Volunteers, while Cynthia joined many other women in becoming a nurse. She started working in approximately September 1863, and served as a volunteer nurse at Lovell General Hospital in Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island.

There are no known soldier or surgeon testimonies made about Cynthia Denham, but much can be inferred from her time at Lovell Hospital. Katherine Prescott Wormeley, a

fellow nurse and Rhode Islander also stationed at Lovell, was the hospital superintendent from September 1862 through the fall of the next year. It is possible that Cynthia and Katherine crossed paths – Cynthia was hired into Lovell in approximately September 1863.

Lovell Hospital was also a relatively unique institution, compared to the hundreds of other hospitals in operation during the War. It was situated in a state and in a location relatively far off from battle, which provided some risk for wounded soldiers having to travel a distance to get medical attention. There were no Civil War battles held in Rhode Island, yet the hospital was still established in 1862 primarily for its proximity to the ocean – this made it easier to transport soldiers by water – and because its size could accommodate hundreds of soldiers at a time. It's likely that Cynthia engaged with Union soldiers and Confederate prisoners, as Lovell was known to house both.

Cynthia's time as a war nurse extended for just under two years, from her enlistment in September 1863 through to her discharge in May 1865. During her tenure, Cynthia may have cared for thousands of soldiers, as the hospital saw over 10,000 patients in its 3-year operating period. Daniel was in the war for a much shorter period of time than Cynthia; the 9th Infantry Rhode Island regiment was mustered out in September of 1862, just four months after Daniel enlisted. It is unclear what Daniel was occupied with while Cynthia was still serving as a nurse, but he was not commissioned into any other regiments for the remainder of the War.

Following the war, it is assumed that the Denhams returned to Newport, Rhode Island. Both Cynthia and Daniel applied for United States veteran pensions, since they served through the Civil War as volunteers, and multiple nurses and soldiers had begun making financial claims for their wartime efforts. In her army nurse pension files, Cynthia further admits that she was unable to sustain postwar employment because of the various ailments acquired while serving and with age. Daniel's application was denied, but Cynthia's file was considered and approved in 1896. Her physician testified that she had an ailing heart, had difficulty with walking and physical exertion, and could not complete housekeeping tasks as she had in the past. Some of these medical concerns can be seen in the state of her signature at the time of pension application. She wrote with a shaky hand, and her name is often written illegibly.

For these reasons, and for her year of service, Cynthia received a \$12 pension from 1896 until her death in 1913.

*Library of Congress By Elizabeth Lindquister, 2019  
Liljenquist Fellow, Prints & Photographs Division..*

## **Jean Margaret Davenport Lander**

Jean Lander burst unannounced into a home in Union occupied Beaufort, South Carolina. "Gentleman," she declared to startled officers quartered there, "to-day I must remove every bedstead in the house to the hospital building."

Her entrance and lines were likely not as spontaneous as they may have seemed. They were probably well-rehearsed



**Cynthia R. Tuell Denham**

and calculated for effect, for she was a celebrated stage star known across America as Jean Davenport.

The story of how she came to Beaufort might have flowed from a playwright's pen.

Born in England, Jean practically grew up on stage. Her father, Thomas, had set aside his legal career to become an actor and theater manager. Her mother also acted. Jean made her first appearance in a play at age eight, starring as Little Pickle in *The Manager's Daughter*. The *London Observer* declared that she performed the part with "an archness and an intelligence far beyond her infantine years."

According to one account, Jean's stage presence inspired literary master Charles Dickens. He modeled the Crummels family, an acting troupe in the classic *Nicholas Nickleby*, on Jean and her parents. The star of the fictional family, Ninetta Crummels, the "Infant Phenomenon," bore a striking resemblance to Jean. Over the next two decades, Jean performed to packed houses in the great dramatic centers of Europe and America, winning acclaim from critics and adoration from theatergoers. In the early 1850s, she made the United States her home and continued to tour on both sides of the Atlantic. Along the way, she met a dashing engineer from Massachusetts, Frederick W. Lander, who had made a name for himself in California. During the Gold Rush years, the government hired him to survey western railroads. In the latter 1850s, he led another survey team to blaze a new route to California through Wyoming Territory. His Lander Trail became part of a national wagon road for eager settlers seeking new lives in the West. Frederick Lander's exploits made him a celebrity on par with another popular pathfinder, John C. Frémont

Jean and Frederick wed in San Francisco in October 1860. "She has left the stage forever, and will hereafter reside in California. By this marriage the American stage had lost one of its finest artistes, and the public will have to wait a long time before they see her equal in certain characters," noted one press report, which also mentioned that her acting career had earned her a fortune estimated as high as \$100,000.

Six months later came the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the start of the Civil War. The newlyweds headed back East, where Lander accepted a brigadier general's commission and distinguished himself in early actions in western Virginia but a severe leg wound received in battle and the rigors of the campaign ended with his death from pneumonia in March 1862 at age 41. Northerners and Southerners mourned his loss. A report in the *New Orleans Delta* paid him a compliment, at the expense of his fellow Union generals, when it observed, "Our generals always lead their commands; theirs generally snuff the battle from afar off. Lander, however, was not one of these; he was a fighting man and an energetic officer."

A widow at 32, Jean devoted herself to perhaps her greatest role—the aid of Union soldiers. Getting started proved a great challenge. According to Thomas Wentworth Higginson, the reform-minded minister,



**Jean Margaret Davenport Lander**

abolitionist and soldier from Massachusetts, "She had tried to establish hospitals, but had always been met by the somewhat whimsical opposition of Miss Dorothea L. Dix, the national superintendent of nurses, a lady who had something of the habitual despotism of the saints."

It is easy to imagine that the stern and autocratic Dix, who preferred older and plainer-looking nurses, frowned on the independent-minded Jean's involvement.

In December 1862, Jean finally scored a success when the federal government

engaged her to serve in hospitals located in the Department of the South. She made her headquarters in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and toured various locations from the Palmetto State into Northern Florida.

Meanwhile, efforts were underway by Higginson and others to recruit a regiment of escaped slaves for military service. Their efforts were successful. The First South Carolina Infantry mustered into federal service in January 1863 with Higginson as colonel and commander. One of his friends, Dr. Seth Rogers, served as the regiment's surgeon. Rogers described a dramatic encounter with Jean in an April 1863 letter home, "Mrs. General Lander drew up her splendid steed before my tent door this afternoon and assured me she would do all in her power for our General Hospital for colored soldiers, now being established in Beaufort."

At some point later that year, Jean occupied a small home in Beaufort and converted it into a shelter. Ironically, two of her inhabitants were Rogers and Higginson. Both officers were recuperating from illnesses when Jean barged in and demanded beds for the new building she had secured for a hospital. Higginson did not note whether or not she secured enough beds or converted the building for its intended use.

By the middle of 1864, both officers had returned to Massachusetts. Jean also returned to the North about this time. In October 1864, she announced her intention to resume her acting career. She made her triumphant return to the stage in February 1865 as Mrs. General Lander. She continued to act until her retirement in 1877.

Jean split her later years between residences in Washington, D.C., and Lynn, Massachusetts. Her death in 1903 at age 74 made national news. An adopted son, Charles Frederick Lander, survived her.

*Library of Congress, By Ronald S. Coddington, historian and editor of the magazine, Military Images.*

## Old Baldy's presentation: October 14th Meeting

# "Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox"

Presentation by Dr. Caroline E. Janney

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

April 12, 1865: the formal surrender ceremony of over 28,000 Confederate troops were assembling in Appomattox Court House around the McLean residence. In McLean's parlor Lee and Grant were discussing Grant's generous proposals for surrender. Lee was discussing, agreeing, and adding his own proposals toward the final agreement. As word spread that Lee had planned to surrender, many soldiers gave up their arms, were given paroles to go back home with a sad heart. The soldiers felt they had lost their country and their cause.



Dr. Caroline E. Janney

Parole was given to the 28,000 Confederate troops who were attending the ceremony. Entire brigades were given passes for transportation for home, rations, and whatever provisions they had with them during battle. Some soldiers, depending on distance, got home in a few days and others took many days. Not all soldiers surrendered! Some troops avoided the ceremony altogether and went home defeated. A proclamation by Major General Thomas Rosser that called all cavalry and artillery men that did not surrender, proceed to Western Virginia to assemble, and wait for the fight. The men were waiting to meet Joe Johnston in the mountains, for additional orders. There was a rumor that Lee had escaped Appomattox with some of his troops and gone to Danville.

It was Grant's hope that issuing paroles to all soldiers would stop the idea of guerrilla warfare. The days after Appomattox, Lynchburg paroled 1600 soldiers who then used the nearby railroad to get home. Winchester, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley sent out instruction to all of Lee's men to turn themselves in, get paroled with the same conditions that was given at Appomattox and returned home. Stanton explained if they did not surrender would be captured and held as prisoner of war. It was Grant's intention to get the war over as fast as possible so many parole sites were set up to get soldiers paroled quickly.

Getting home became a difficult experience for Confederate soldiers. If they tried to pass-through Union line to get to the train station with their rations Confederate soldiers could be arrested and put in jail. If they took the Oath of Allegations to the United States were able to get home with their paroles. Many

Confederate soldiers were detained at Fort Monroe with no money, food, or clothing. On May 1st, Grant interceded to get them home. They did not have to take the oath but being let out of the Fort did not mean they were free men. The soldiers were paroled prisoners of war. Every Confederate soldier who had the paroled papers, took the oath, had to get rid of their uniform. There were still active soldiers still in the fields and for them to stop they had to take the oath, except in West Virginia.

Black troops did not fare as well even though the Emancipation Proclamation was law, white troops continued their animosity toward Black soldiers. The hostility was there for white vs. black was still part of the foundation of their military and domestic life. Food was scarce at times and help was needed from citizens from North and South who hoped to help the troops in need. Civilians were very helpful in finding food for the returning soldiers.

As it turns out being a civilian did not make one a citizen and being paroled may not offer the protection that had

been assumed.

To get through the rebel states the Confederate men always had the threat by vigilante groups organized in communities against these soldiers. West Virginia also worried that after the war was over that the state would be back to being part of Virginia again. Johnson was now president, and the question was asked, "What was going to happen to the Army of Virginia?" Is he going to pardon them and was their amnesty for all? Were the paroles issued to the soldiers enough protection for themselves and their families?

On June 6 President Johnson ordered discharge of all remaining prisoners of war, taking about two months, and then given transportation home. Getting all the Confederate soldiers paroled was another daunting task. Slowly men came to the parole office, received their parole, took the oath, and were then sent home. Their rights were slowly restored. This was also the beginning of the reconstruction period of Civil War history for the sentiments toward the

**Wayne Blattner won the book from Dr. Janney's book at the October meeting. "Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox"**

**A paid member will earn a copy of the presenter's book at the end of the meeting.**

**Regular Book Raffle Winners at the October Meeting - Arlene Schnaare, Rick Zarr and Jack Kauffman**

Continued from page 7 - "October 14 Meeting"

North by many Confederate soldiers had not vanished once the war was over. The Confederate soldier felt that they would not give up hope that their cause would prevail in the future. Thus, they refused to except defeat! I am sorry to say that disbanding the Army of Northern Virginia was not the end of division but would be the start of what would be part of the definition of the Lost Cause as Lee's words stated his soldiers were as right and invincible even in defeat.

Caroline Janney brought an excellent presentation of what took place after the surrender at Appomattox. We

always thought that a surrender was going to be the end of a war as we know it but that does not always seem to be the case. Fighting and hostilities continued for a time especially for both the Confederate and Union soldiers. Thank you, Caroline, for continuing the narrative of Appomattox courthouse and efforts to get the remaining soldiers paroled. This presentation has taught Old Baldy members that there is always more to the background of a story than we think we know or understand. The story continues in Caroline Janney's book, "End of War: The Unfinished Flight of Lee's Army after Appomattox."

## Andersonville Prison Stands Alone!

By Joseph F. Wilson, Member OBCWRT

Folks often brand a particular Union Civil War Prison as "The Andersonville of the North." There isn't any northern prison that even comes close to the suffering and death associated with the Confederacy's vile Andersonville Prison in Georgia.

Naked Union soldiers buried without coffins fill the shallow burial pits in the boneyard that eventually grew to be larger than the actual prison. The 12,919 bodies of Yankee boys moldering in the Andersonville National Cemetery next to the prison bears evidence of the appalling wave of death that swept through the 26 acre prison camp. But the burials don't tell the whole story.

Andersonville opened in February of 1864. Although the prison existed for 14 months, most perished in the summer of 1864. By the end October, over 10,000 dead soldiers already occupied the trenches. From November, until the prison closed in April, 1865, just 1200 died.

Many Union prison camps can be considered deplorable. Elmira in New York, Chicago's Camp Douglas, and Fort Delaware, all have been called the Andersonville equivalent. Other repulsive northern prisons include Rock Island, Camp Chase, and Point Lookout. But none compare to the calamity in Georgia.

Washington officials purposely cut rations to punish Confederate prisoners for the death toll mounting at Andersonville. Medicine request often faced delays for no apparent reason. Approximately 26,000 Confederate prisoners died. Down south, it can be rightfully argued the Confederates simply didn't have any food or medicine for prisoners. Without food to sustain life, the south should have released them. A total of 30,000 Union prisoners died in captivity.

Leaving blame aside, look at the numbers for the three prisons often compared to Andersonville. Being different in size, the percentage of dead to the number of prisoners held is more relevant. For its one year of operation, Elmira

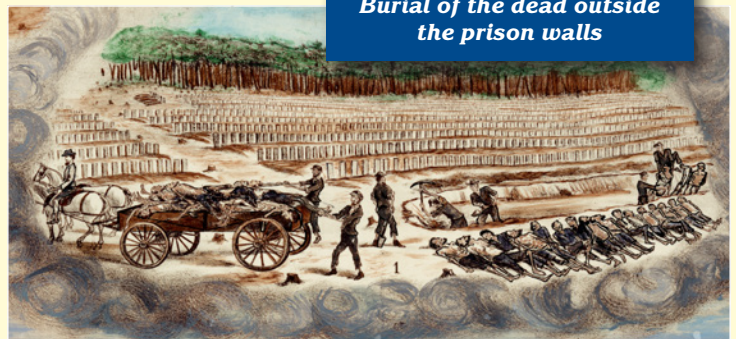


Prison reported 2,933 dead from 12,000 prisoners for a 24% death rate. Fort Delaware operated for two years with nearly 2,500 dead from 32,000 detainees for a 7.9% rate. Camp Douglas functioned for three years listing 4,500 dead against 26,000 prisoners for a 17% figure. Those are the official counts. Numbers of dead at Douglas and Fort Delaware are continually being revised upward.

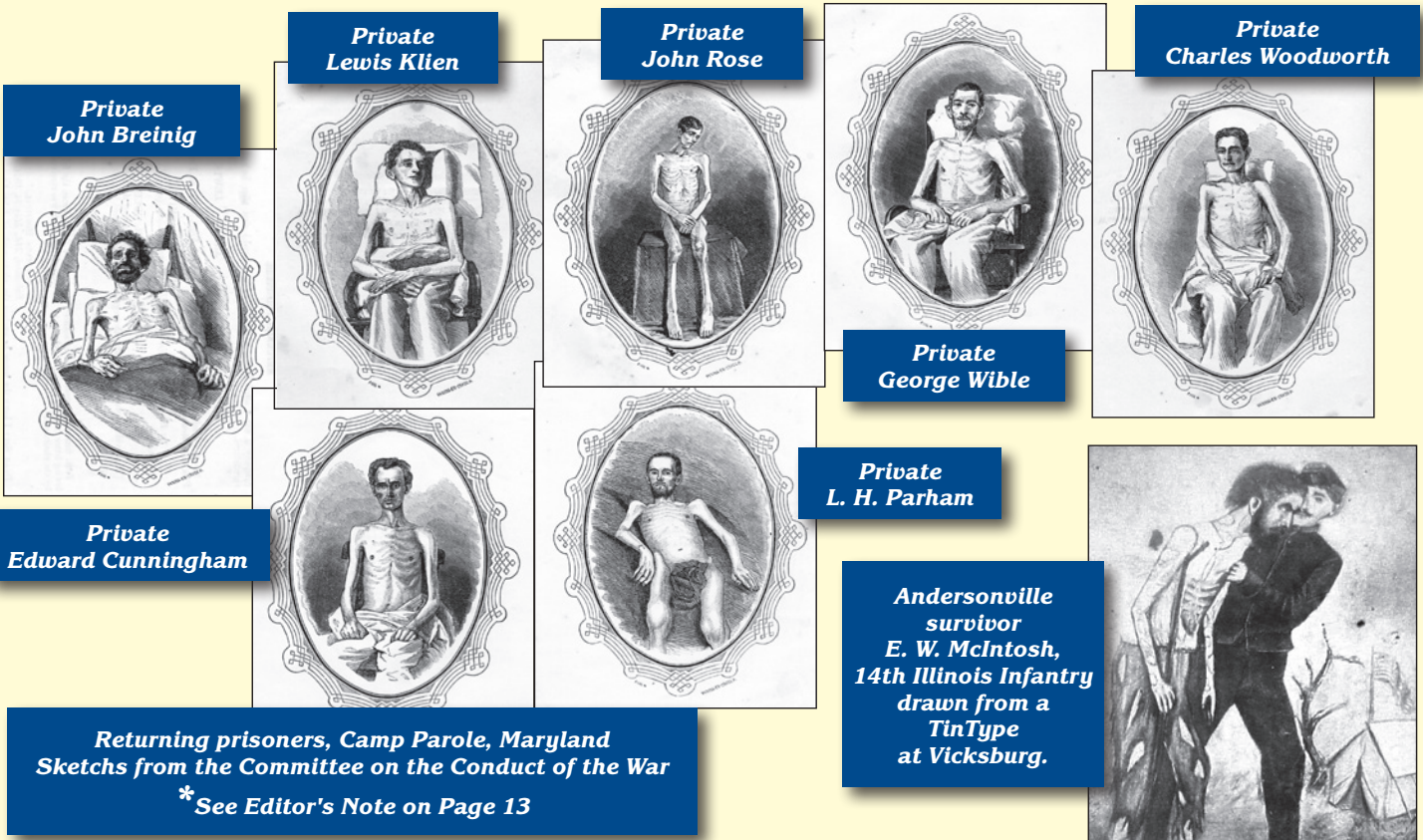
Elmira is often labeled the cruelest prison in the north. A comparison of the worst month at Andersonville to the worst month at Elmira is revealing. In August, 1864, Andersonville tallied 3,000 dead for the month. On average, that's 100 dying every day. For Elmira, the most lethal month was March, 1865, with 491 dead. Confederates died in March at a rate of 16 per day.

To be fair, Andersonville's peak population of 33,000 was almost three times

**Burial of the dead outside the prison walls**







larger than Elmira's total. To compare, you can bring Elmira up to scale by multiplying by three the 16 dead per day. That works out to 48 per day. That's not even half of the 100 dying every day at Andersonville Prison in August. To illustrate further, the 3,000 who perished in one month at the Georgia stockade exceeds the 2,933 who died at Elmira in twelve months.

Andersonville lists nearly 13,000 dead from the 45,000 that passed through the gates for a questionable 29% death rate. Most of Andersonville's prisoners died from May to October. Some writers try to soften the numbers for Andersonville Prison by figuring the daily rate for the entire 14 months of the prison's existence. You'll get a much more palatable number since most died in the summer months of 1864.

For a harsher view of Elmira, folks hype the 24% death rate compared to the 29% at the stockade in Georgia. That seems close if you believe the Andersonville numbers. And those touting Elmira as the worst often mention how the prisoners resorted to the sickening practice of eating rats to avoid starving. Being located in a remote pine forest, Andersonville Prison offered no rats on the menu. Starving prisoners in Georgia would have relished a heaping bowl of rat stew.

In September, General Sherman's capture of nearby Atlanta forced southern officials to move most of the Andersonville prisoners to other prisons. By October, 1864, only 4,500 men too sick to travel remained at Andersonville. That's down from a total of 33,000 just two months ago. After the forced evacuation in September, 1864, the facility could rightfully be labeled a hospital, not a prison.

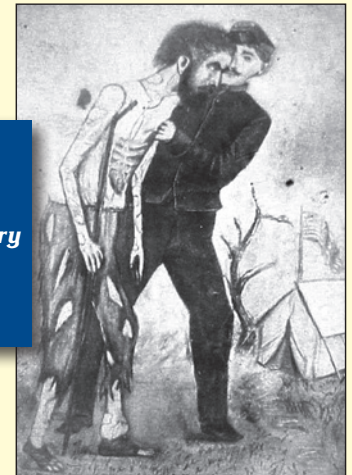
Many gravely ill soldiers close to death limped out of

Andersonville in September only to drop dead in another prison shortly after arrival.

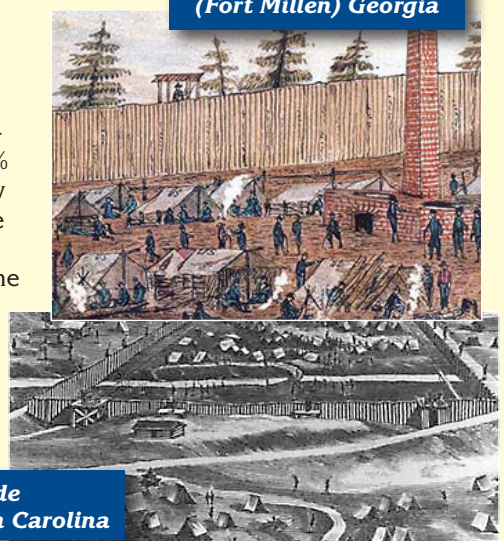
At Camp Lawton in Georgia, 750 transfers died. Contemporary reports list up to 4000 feeble Yankees passed away at the new stockade in Florence, South Carolina. Their cause of death is a direct result of their longer confinement in the Georgia stockade and can be attributed to the disease, starvation, and exposure that already shattered their health.

Had Sherman not prompted an evacuation, the men who died shortly after being moved to other prisons surely would have perished at Andersonville. It's not inconceivable that the stockade's death toll could have reached a staggering 18,000 if Sherman hadn't intervened. Only those 12,919 soldiers buried in the cemetery next to the prison are included in the flawed 29% number.

Also tainting Andersonville's 29% death rate is how they arrive at the number. To get the death rate, the 12,919 dead is measured against the 45,000 men who spent



**Camp Lawton (Fort Millen) Georgia**



**Stockade Florence, South Carolina**

time at Andersonville. But Sherman's captured men spent little time in the stockade. Although the exchange collapsed, Generals John Bell Hood and General Sherman still made private exchanges in the field. Hood offered all the Andersonville prisoners for exchange. A callous Sherman refused to take the useless sick and dying soldiers.

Sherman insisted he only take prisoners out of Andersonville that were his own men who still had their health and could fight. They're included in the 45,000 figure despite being released after only days or a few weeks in the prison camp. And 3,000 of the prisoners moved in September returned to the stockade a second time in winter and were counted twice.

More sick men died as the south moved them by train to various locations while trying to dodge Sherman's advance. Prisoners dying in route went into a hole in the earth somewhere along the train tracks. Others still remain buried in the swamps of southern Georgia.

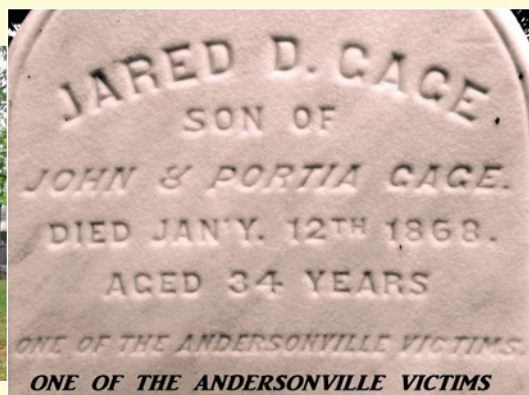
After the prison closed, trains carrying Andersonville prisoners back north deposited those too sick to continue in hospitals along the way where they died. At Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland, lifeless bodies of returning prisoners coming off the steamboats went straight to the cemetery. None of these dead soldiers appear on the Andersonville death list.

Another overlooked aspect is the number of Andersonville prisoners that passed away only weeks or months after returning home. Families up north continued to bury victims of the prison. Barely recognizable prisoners with skeletal frames came back with a debilitating illness acquired in the stockade that finally killed them. They're not counted as Andersonville dead, but the cause of death surely falls on the stockade. Counting all these men could push the number of Andersonville victims soaring to 20,000.

Prisoners even lingered a few years before passing. On a recent tour of Siloam Cemetery in Vineland, New Jersey, tour guide **Bill Hughes**, Member, OBCWRT showed me the grave of former prisoner Private Jared Gage, 15th Illinois Regiment. Some might call Gage an Andersonville survivor. The headstone tells another story. Gage died January 12th, 1868, from the effects of disease picked up at Andersonville. It's the first headstone I ever saw with



**Private Jared Gage**  
**15th Illinois Infantry**



**Corporal George Garman**  
**7th Pennsylvania Reserves**

Andersonville etched in the stone. The stone is clearly engraved "one of the Andersonville victims." Jared's heartbroken parents demanded everyone know who was responsible.

Never mentioned are the thousands of prisoners who lived on for many years horribly maimed for life by the severe disease contracted in Andersonville. Blindness ensued for many. Badly damaged limbs needed amputation. Suicide was common. And alcoholism ran rampant. Former prisoners not able to cope with their condition turned to whiskey.

Veterans who spent time at Andersonville claimed many prisoners were buried inside the stockade. With so many offensive bodies rotting in the summer sun, prisoners pushed the dead into an abandoned well or dug a shallow grave. Long after the war, the Women' Relief Corps took charge of Andersonville Prison Park. President Sarah Winans stated that every time heavy rains rushed down the slopes of the prison, erosion uncovered bones. When the women planted pecan trees, shovels struck buried skeletons. Digging for the flagpole, they found more bones. Veterans had argued for years that many prisoners still remain buried inside the stockade.

My G-G-Grandfather, Corporal George Garman, 7th Pa. Reserves, languished in the deadly stockade for 5 months and survived. It's a small club of men able to call themselves Andersonville Survivors. Hands badly damaged by scurvy prevented George from returning to his trade of blacksmithing. In 1905, George returned along with other former prisoners to dedicate the Pennsylvania monument. For forty years they tried to forget. On this day, men cried openly.

One soldier returned with his family to Andersonville for a reunion and wrote about it in his diary. A blanket went down on the exact spot in the stockade where he struggled to stay alive. The women passed out sandwiches. After one bite, tears started flowing down the former prisoner's cheeks. He refused to eat for the rest of the day. The old veteran said all he could think about were the thousands of his comrades in 1864 that were moaning, crying, starving, and dying.

Anyone trying to compare a Union prison to the Andersonville Stockade should dig deeper to uncover the more ominous story. A closer look at Andersonville will shock the senses. The 12,919 Union soldiers buried next to the prison only represent a portion of the total actually claimed by the stockade. Andersonville is responsible for more dead soldiers than any Civil War battle. And for many crippled and sick survivors, the suffering lasted a lifetime.





New Jersey

Monuments to the Dead  
Andersonville National  
Cemetery



Pennsylvania



Minnesota

The prison remains the most tragic and least covered chapter of the war. The sacred 26 acre parcel of land preserved by the Andersonville National Historic Site is by far the deadliest piece of ground in America!

Joseph F. Wilson lectures on Andersonville Prison and is the producer of the documentary "Civil War Prisons – An American Tragedy" now available on Amazon. Contact - joef21@aol.com

## "Veterans, Monuments & Memory"

Editor's Note:

With all this removal and destruction of America's Monuments hoping that this will change our history. I remembered this article several years back on the erection of monuments and markers on this sacred ground.

from "Hallowed Ground", Civil War Trust, 2013

**"Now, the several States that stood as one in that high cause come here in their own name, – in the noblest sphere of their State rights; –to ratify and confirm this action of their delegates; to set these monuments as seals to their own great deeds and new testament of But these monuments are not to commemorate the dead alone. Death was but the divine acceptance of life freely offered by everyone. Service was the central fact. That fact, and that truth, these monuments commemorate."**

**JOSHUA L. CHAMBERLAIN, OCTOBER 3, 1889**

Thanks to the charisma of the unit's war – time commander and his eloquence at the dedication ceremony – plus a heroic portrayal in the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Killer Angels – the 20th Maine Monument has become among the most visited at Gettysburg. But is just one of the more than 1,300 markers of all sizes and shapes that dot the battlefield, many placed by the veterans themselves. Through their symbolism and placement, these plaques, sculptures and stones tell us much about the men who fought at Gettysburg.

Two dramatically different sculptures compete for the title of Gettysburg's first monument, but both are located within the original confines of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. The cornerstone of the massive Soldiers National Monument – standing 60 feet high and replete with marble statues representing War, History, Peace and Plenty, topped by the "Genius of Liberty" – was laid on July 4, 1865, but



Soldiers National  
Monument



1st Minnesota Urn

not completed until August 1869. Meanwhile, in 1867, the survivors of the 1st Minnesota Infantry, which suffered 82 percent casualties on July 2, dedicated a small marble urn, still planted with flowers today, to their fallen comrades. The first monument to an individual was a bronze sculpture of Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, dedicated in 1872. In 1878 the first two memorial markers appeared outside the cemetery – on Little Round Top commemorating the mortal wounding of Col. Strong Vincent and near the Wheatfield marking honoring the death of Col. Fred Taylor. The first unit to receive a monument on the site where it fought was the 2nd Massachusetts, which led a daring charge across Spangler Meadow near Culp's Hill.

By May 1887, no fewer than 90 monuments to regiments and batteries had been placed on the battlefield — including those to all 30 Massachusetts units engaged —



**72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment**

each one approved individually for design and location by the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association (GBMA). To impose organization to the process, the Association developed the so-called Line of Battle Rule, dictating that monuments would be erected along the line held by the relevant brigade, with those of units that subsequently occupied the same ground staggered to the rear at regular intervals. Units were also to place simple stone markers, at least two feet tall, indicating their left and right flanks.

The process was not without controversy: final placement of the sculptural monument to the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry — the Philadelphia Fire Zouaves — was decided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

These early monumentation efforts, as well as the GBMA's acquisition of land at key battle-field locations, were often driven by veterans groups but financed through direct appropriations from state governments, meaning that the presence of the U.S. Regular Army units and even the Army of Northern Virginia was virtually ignored. Moreover, since the Confederacy had fought an offensive engagement, the Line of Battle Rule, meant that any markers erected would likely be far from where a unit performed heroic deeds or suffered heavy casualties. Further, a lack of Southern desire to commemorate a stinging defeat was coupled with outright hostility toward the idea from within the GBMA. On the battle's 25th anniversary, only two markers alluded to the presence of Southern troops: a plaque near the Angle commemorating Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead's farthest advance during Pickett's Charge (1863) and the 2nd Maryland Infantry monument on Culp's Hill (1863).

It was only after Congress approved the creation of Gettysburg National Military Park in 1895, and the War Department's absorption of the land held by the GBMA, that protection and commemoration of the battle's full scope truly began. Using its power of condemnation, the federal government began acquiring land associated with Confederate positions. Next, the War Department began the process of identifying the location of all Southern units on the field, a process that had largely been completed for the Army of the Potomac using funds allocated by states to the GBMA. By 1921, the War Department had completed the daunting task "[of] plac[ing] the principal tablet or monument of each command at the position occupied by the command in the main line of battle, and to mark the several important positions subsequently reached by each command in the course of the battle by subordinate and ancillary tablets, with appropriate brief inscriptions giving interesting details and occurrences and noting the day and hour as nearly as possible." These granite markers with iron or bronze tablets contain narrative descriptions of the



**State of Virginia**

unit and its role in the battle. Differences in color and shape of various elements distinguish the types of marker — say Union brigade from Confederate division — at a glance, but they lack the sculptural symbolism of individually erected memorials.



**State of North Carolina**

The process of each former Confederate state dedicating a joint monument to its troops along Seminary Ridge began on the battle's 50th anniversary, with the erection of the granite base for the imposing Virginia Monument. Beyond its 26-foot granite pedestal, the monument features a bronze sculpture of six men representing the "sons" of Virginia to whom the piece is dedicated, and a bronze equestrian statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee astride Traveller. The bronze North Carolina Monument was dedicated in 1929, with the granite and bronze Alabama Monument following in 1933. Additional Confederate state monuments were added during and immediately following the centennial period, with the privately funded Tennessee Monument completed in 1982.

The myriad monuments of Gettysburg run the gamut in their designs — from the massive and ornate, to the modest and austere. Initially, there were no restrictions or regulations on design or manufacture, resulting in a small number of monuments built from fragile materials that threatened their longevity. In addition to requiring that all future monuments be erected from granite or bronze, and imposing guide— lines for the size and depth of engraving, the GBMA instituted a number of other requisites for future construction.

Beginning in July 1863, all regiments were to be fully identified with number, state, brigade, division and corps Casualty figures in agreement with the official War Department records were required; a summary of the unit's movements at Gettysburg and overall service record in the war were suggested. Beyond those compulsory items, many of Gettysburg's monuments share symbolic elements, such as the incorporation of official badges designating branch of service — a horn for infantry or crossed sabers for cavalry, for example — and corps — the II Corps's clover leaf or the V Corps's Maltese cross. State seals and other emblems of pre-war life are also common, but largely beyond that, the monuments of Gettysburg are as diverse and unique as the experiences of the units that fought there.

If, beyond the War Department plaques, there is no

“typical” Gettysburg monument, there are a number that are particularly striking and personal in their design. For example, the Celtic cross and prostrate wolfhound, long a symbol of honor and fidelity, are unmistakable hallmarks of the Irish Brigade memorial in the Rose Woods near the Wheatfield. The 73rd New York, or Fire Zouaves, placed both a soldier and a New York fireman — the pre-war occupation of much of the regiment — atop its memorial. A Native American teepee adorns the 42nd New York Infantry, raised under the patronage of Tammany Hall, an institution named for the legendary leader of the Lenape, or Delaware, tribe who negotiated with William Penn during colonial times. The 11th Pennsylvania chose to include a portrait of Sallie, their beloved canine mascot, on their monument.



**State of Pennsylvania**

While the practice of including the names of a unit’s dead, rather than just their number, is not uncommon, one monument goes well beyond the norm. The towering Pennsylvania State Memorial (at 110 feet tall, the largest monument on the battlefield) incorporates individual sculptures commemorating the six Keystone State generals who fought at Gettysburg — plus President Abraham Lincoln and Governor Andrew Curtin — and 90 bronze plaques emblazoned with the names of each of the 34,530 Pennsylvanians who fought in the battle.

A number of individuals have been immortalized in bronze on the battlefield through independent statuary not attached to a unit memorial. Most of these commemorate unit commanders from the opposing armies, but a few are to individuals of lesser rank, or even private citizens. On the first day’s field stands a monument to John Burns, a septuagenarian veteran of the War of 1812, who again took up arms when an enemy army threatened and was wounded three times fighting alongside the Iron Brigade. Near the Gettysburg fire station is a memorial

to Sgt. Amos Humiston, whose body had no identification save a photograph of three children — an image that appeared in newspapers across the nation, leading to his identification and the foundation of the Soldiers’ Orphans’ Home. Visitors to Ziegler’s Grove find a more modern addition to Gettysburg’s monument collection, a 1956 sculpture depicting Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn. Although only a drummer boy at Gettysburg, years after the war, he served as vice commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. The last remaining veteran of the Union Army, Woolson died in August 1956 at age 109.

A monument on the steps to Christ Lutheran Church in town was erected in memory of Rev. Horatio S. Howell, chaplain of the 90th Pennsylvania, who was killed while visiting the wounded inside after it had been converted into a hospital. A statue of Rev. William Corby, C.S.C., near the Weickert Farm commemorates the Catholic priest delivering a general absolution to the Irish Brigade before it charged into battle; an exact copy stands outside Corby Hall at the University of Notre Dame, where he went on to serve two post-war terms as president. Just inside the gates of Evergreen Cemetery, the Gettysburg Womens’ Memorial depicts cemetery caretaker Elizabeth Thorn, who buried 91 casualties of the battle while six months pregnant.

Two of Gettysburg’s most iconic monuments commemorate both Union and Confederate troops, helping symbolize the reunification of the country in the decades following the war. The High Water Mark of the Rebellion, an oversized bronze book bearing the names of the units



**Eternal Peace Light Memorial**

involved in Pickett’s Charge and its repulse, was dedicated behind the Copse of Trees, the spot commonly accepted as the furthest point of the assault, in 1892 by the GBMA. The idea for the Eternal Peace Light Memorial on Oak Hill was born during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the battle, when veterans decided they should erect a symbol of the reunited nation. Bearing the inscription “Peace Eternal in a Nation United,” the dedication of this 85-foot tall monument made of Maine granite and Alabama limestone was attended by more than 250,000 people on July 3, 1938. The occasion marked the last great reunion of Civil War veterans: of the approximately 2,000 old soldiers present, the youngest was 88. In his keynote remarks, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: “All of them we honor, not asking under which Flag they fought then — thankful that they stand together under one Flag now.”

**Editor’s Note... In reference to the Andersonville Article...**

**If you want to read the interviews of Returned Prisoners. You can download the file or read it on your computer about the testimony of Returned Prisoners from Andersonville Prison.**

**The Joint Committee on the Conduct and Expenditures of the War submitted the following report, with the accompanying testimony. House of Representatives Returned Prisoners Report No. 67**

**<https://archive.org/details/fortpillowmassac00unit/page/128/mode/2up>**



## 2022 Western Theater Symposium Information

The event will be held on **April 29 - April 30, 2022**

The speakers, agenda and the facility (Rutgers) will be the same.

We have assembled a terrific, enthusiastic team.

**Still need additional volunteers to ensure success of this Nationally Visible Event.**

*Tickets will go on sale soon in time for Christmas Gifts.*

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

### Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2021, 2022

November 11, 2021 – Thursday  
Carol Adams

“Pulling for the Union: The Philadelphia and Reading  
Railroad in the Civil War”

December 9, 2021 – Thursday  
“Member Social Night”

January 13, 2022 – Thursday  
Mike Bunn

“The Assault on Fort Blakeley:  
The Thunder and Lightning of Battle”

February 10, 2022 – Thursday  
Chris Bagley

“The Horse at Gettysburg:  
Prepared for the Day of Battle”

March 10, 2022 – Thursday  
Jim Remsen & Brad Upp

“Back From Battle: The Forgotten Story  
of Pennsylvania's Camp Discharge”

Questions to  
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