

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

December 9, 2021

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



“Old Baldy Member Social Night”

Meeting Notice

On December 9, 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 .

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, December 9, This month's topic is "**A Social Meeting**" Our Round Table has weathered the global pandemic well. Old Baldy CWRT exits the crisis stronger, expanded and looking forward to 2022. In December to finish the year, instead of a regular meeting with a presenter or discussion, our Round Table will host a social evening. This will be to mark the upcoming Holidays and to welcome back members and guests we have not seen in eighteen months. The event will be available on Zoom for those not yet ready or unable to attend in person. Plan on joining us to discuss our journey this year, our path forward and share good cheer with the membership.

Besides interaction, conversation and fellowship, we will also be discussing several issues about moving forward including our revised book raffle. The topics with discussion points are included in this newsletter for members to review before the 9th. Come out to let us know your plans for 2022 and where you will be taking Flat Old Baldy for an adventure. Your input is important in planning next year for our Round Table. Tom Scurria will provide an in-depth review of the planning so far on our Western Theater Symposium at the end of April. He seeks your feedback on how to make it a superb event for all attendees.

If you are planning to attend in-person please let our secretary, Sean Glisson, know SGlisson@myrepublicbank.com , so we have an accurate count. To prepare, review our newsletters and programs for the year to jot down some comments to pass on the Board. Remember to bring your money to purchase a copy of our South Jersey Civil War sites map. They make great holiday gifts for history minded individuals. You may also renew your membership for next year. Look forward to seeing many smiling faces on December 9th.

Notes from the President

We have gotten through our 45th year and grew our Round Table. Hope all enjoyed some time with family and friends over Thanksgiving and Hanukkah and are preparing for a great 2022. Look for Frank's message about renewing your dues. We have several very good programs coming in the first quarter of the new year. Enjoy the fine articles and photos in this newsletter including a profile of **Steve Peters**, recognizing two long term members for three decades of support and information on our topics of discussion at our social event this month. Thank you for your continued support.

Last month we welcomed fourteen members in person at the College and forty plus on Zoom. It was our best attendance in several decades. Keep tuning in and making us strong. **Carol Adams** joined us to tell us about the Reading Railroad Heritage

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New Member

Richard Zarr
Cedar Lake, IN

30 Year Awards



Herb Kaufman



Harry Jennings

Museum in Hamburg, PA and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad during the war. Her presentation discussed the trains in the war and the men who served and later were involved with the Reading Railroad. The week after her virtual visit, Flat Old Baldy visited the museum to thank Carol. He provided her with her certificate and the other items she earned. Look for an article about his visit in a future newsletter.

This month we will be hold a social event to reconnect and discuss our plans going into next year. In addition to chatting with friends, and exchanging Holiday greetings, we will be discussing a few topics of interest to the membership in 2022. If you plan to attend in-person, let **Sean Glisson** know, so we have a count. In this newsletter, please read the article about our book raffle so you are prepared to contribute to the conversation on the process going forward. Another topic will be our **Western Theater Symposium** which is just five months away at the end of April.

Tom Scurria and **Sean Glisson** will get us a thorough overview of the current planning, present opportunities for members to assist and collect feedback on making the event one of Old Baldy's best. Registration is open for the Symposium, consider asking for or giving a ticket as Holiday gift. Information is available on the last page of this newsletter.

Due to several concerns, it has been decided, instead of a luncheon in January, to combine our 45th anniversary celebration with our picnic in May. Watch for more details and an opportunity to assist on the planning of the event. It will be outdoors in New Jersey. **Wreathes Across America** is December 18th, visit the website (see the box in this newsletter) to donate wreathes or register to place them on the 18th. Several members of our Round Table will be at the Beverly National Cemetery at noon to place wreathes.

As mentioned last month, the regional competitions for History Day need judges to volunteer. Several of our members will be serving again this year. Find more information on dates and rules at <https://wpunj.edu/coe/departments/professional-development-school-community-partnership/njhistory/judges/>. History Day provides an opportunity to interact with young people devoted to the study of history.

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to our collection. This includes **Ed Komczyk, Paul Prentiss, Karl Pusch and Wayne Blattner**. If you are downsizing and have items that can be used for door prizes or the Chance Raffle at our upcoming symposium, please let us know so we may arrange for pick up. **Kathy Clark** is seeking help in gathering items, from local businesses and individuals, for the Chance Raffle. Please contact her for more information.

Safe travels over the Holiday season. We all look forward to hearing about your adventures at our gathering in January.

If you are available, please join us at the Lamp Post dinner at 5:30 on December 9th before our gathering at the College.

Rich Jankowski, President

"Seasons Greeting from the Treasure's Desk"

As we come to the end of another great "Old Baldy" year, I want to congratulate all of our members who make our Round Table the wonderful organization it is. I can't say it strongly enough that it is "all" of our members that make us such a strong and vibrant group. During the last eighteen months we have seen so many Roundtables fade, unable to work in this new challenging environment.

I would like to make some individual shoutouts.

There is no better place to start than with **Don Wiles**. Don produces this spectacular newsletter, month after month at an award-winning caliber, and is major part of the glue that binds us all together.

Special thanks, goes out to **Dave Gilson**. The work he has puts into our speaker's program is why we continue to have such high number of attendees to our meeting. Further, the work he has done to making our Zoom presentation the best that they can be, and now the simulcasting of our live meeting is very special.

WEB Site:
<http://oldbaldycwrt.org>

Email:
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Face Book:
Old Baldy Civil War Round
Table

Continued from page 2 - "Treasure's Desk"

Big applauses, goes to **Susan and Paul Prentiss** for all their work in putting together the "Old Baldy Birthday Party in the Park". Wasn't it great to see so many members in person again? Also, Paul has been the lead as our "Grant Coordinator", which is a major undertaking.

Speaking of work done and yet to do. **Tom Scurria** is working, continuously, on putting together an extra special 2022 Symposium. Also, thanks to his committee members working hard to make it all happen.

Lastly, it goes without saying, thanks to **Rich Jankowski**, who makes us the organization we are, and pushing us to be even better.

As the year comes to an end, it is time again to show your support with your **2022 Membership Dues**. Dues remain the same, \$25.00 Individual Membership and \$35.00 Family Membership.

Starting this year, you will be able to pay your dues online. Just visit our web page, **OldBaldyCWRT.org**, click on, "**Membership**" on the top bar, which will take you to the next page. Choose a method of payment, visa, etc., and then click on "**Buy Now**". This will take you to the submission page, complete form and click on, "**Pay Now**". Done

As always, checks can be forwarded to me at **44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton NJ, 08053**, or in person at an upcoming meeting. Should you have any question, please contact me at 856-334-5856 or frank.barletta@comcast.net.

Please enjoy the blessings of this holiday season, to you and your families.

Frank Barletta

Book Raffle Discussion



In the past, our Round Table, like many others, conducted a book raffle at the end of the meeting each month for attendees. It was to raise funds and distribute books to the membership to learn more about the War. When we met at the Museum tickets were sold and more recently names were written on dollar bills and winners chosen. One benefit to the Round Table was occasionally a winner would write a book review to be published in our newsletter. The book raffle raised about \$350 a year for Old Baldy.

When COVID-19 arrived, the meetings switched to Zoom and the book raffle was suspended. Near the beginning of 2021, the Board decided to raffle off the presenter's book to a paid member as a membership benefit. Soon after that we brought back the regular book raffle for anyone tuned into the meeting over Zoom. No money was collected but it kept morale up, brought in new members and distributed some of our book collection. In October we resumed in-person meetings at the College while also broadcasting on Zoom for attendees unable or not yet ready to return in-person.

With this development the book raffle process will need to be revised again. During our Social event on December 9th, we will discuss the book raffle to collect feedback from the membership. The discussion will be to review the proposals submitted and gather additional suggestions. This will permit the Board to make a decision on a process that would be best for the organization as it moves into 2022. To prepare you for the discussion and get you thinking, the current proposals will be presented here.

The first question we will ask is "why do you think we do the book raffle? (besides we have always done it)." Your answer may be "to raise funds," "for the good will of the organization and visitors," or "to distribute the books that had been donated to the Round Table." It could be "to reinforce and spread knowledge," "to increase audience participation and camaraderie," "to create a good vibe," or something else entirely different. Think about your answer, as it could affect your suggestion on what we should do moving forward.

As mentioned, several proposals have been provided so far. One suggestion is to restart the raffle for in-person attendees as it was before the pandemic to collect funding. This could allow for attendees to purchase multiple chances, at say five for

three dollars. Another proposal is to continue it for all attendees as we currently are doing. A different idea is to collect from those in-person at the meeting and offer those on Zoom the opportunity to purchase a chance in the book raffle in advance. They would send in \$15 for a chance at each meeting. The additional three dollars would cover postage needed to mail the book to the winner. As we have recently received several donations of books, we could offer a variety each month. The return to collecting funds could put some money back into our treasury for our continuing programs.

One of these proposals, a combination of them or another suggestion could be right for our Round Table at this time. Please give the process some thought before our event on the 9th, so we may have a worthwhile discussion. We are also seeking suggestions on the logistics of how to conduct the process to be used. For example, if the advanced chances are sold how will it be implemented? Should we keep a dollar with the name in the bag each month? Should tickets be used? Who should be conducting the book raffle? Your feedback is important on this matter and your participation in the discussion will be valuable in shaping our path forward. We await your comments on this matter.

Member Profile - Steve Peters

By Talon Lauriello,



Steve Peters

Steve Peters was born on September 24th, 1947 in Columbia Pennsylvania and he was also raised there. He attended a self-contained school district, so the other kids were all from his town. Grades 7th through 12th grade were all in the same building and Steve's graduating high school class only had 148 students in it. Given the number of kids in the school district Steve found himself in the same room with some of the other students for 12 years. As you could imagine, he grew very close to some of these kids and they would often do things outside of school together.

"I used to tell people that I had the best of both worlds," Steve said. "I could walk out my back door and be in the middle of the woods; I could also walk out my front door and be in the middle of the city." Steve was a Boy Scout and loved the outdoors. He used to go out to the woods with his friends to catch minnows to use as bait to fish for bass. When they weren't out fishing or hiking, they would go out on the town attending one of the many local restaurants or one of the 2 local movie theaters. One of Steve's other hobbies was stamp collecting. On top of all of that he played baseball, football and wrestled in high school. He and his friends were always afraid to do anything reckless because 2 of his friends had brothers in the police force.

His family would attend car races at tracks just about every week. This tradition started way back in his father's childhood when he fell in love with races. Ever since then Steve's father loved racing and later passed it down to his children. Steve was at a racetrack before he was even 1 year old and grew up with a strong passion for racing. They used to go on Saturdays or Sundays after church to races. Sometimes they had to walk 3 miles between their car and their seat, but it was totally worth it to them. Steve's dad also passed on a love of the North American railroad system. Columbia was one of the main lines of the Pennsylvania railroad, so Steve had many opportunities to see train cars. Steve's dad would take him to see different train cars and tracks.

After graduating high school in 1965, he attended Delaware Valley College where he earned a degree in animal husbandry in 1969. His favorite class was genetics and entomology. The professor of that class loved wrestling and previously knew Steve because he wrestled and played football in college. He worked on the college farm from his sophomore to senior year running the pig and swine operation. He was also a dorm counselor for three years. Steve never got any sports scholarships, so he had to take up these jobs to make his own way.

Toward the end of his college career, he became a part time truck driver and then shortly after graduated college and got a football coaching job in Conshohocken. He moved to Conshohocken and after a year got a job teaching agriculture in Northern Burlington County in Columbus, New Jersey despite not having a teaching

certification. It was a long commute and he did that for a year until he got a job at Wood Archbishop High School teaching biology. He was a football and wrestling coach there for 20+ years. He also served as a high school and college wrestling official for 28 years. He did not need a teaching certification for this job either, but he knew it would make him a better teacher, so he earned one at Temple University. He then switched to teaching environmental science at the same school while taking more college classes to make him better at his job. He worked at Archbishop for a total of 46 years until retirement. While he was teaching, he was also a racecar official and photographer for a national racing publication for 30 years. He was able to attend local races during the school year after classes were over, and travel great distances on the weekend and during the summer.

Steve met his wife Carol in college, they married and had three children. They have been married for 46 years and now have four grandchildren. Nowadays Steve spends most of his time watching sports on television, fishing, driving others in his community or learning about history. Specifically, Civil War history. Steve's interest in history started during a 3rd grade field trip to Gettysburg. Over years, he read books, went to reenactments and researched the historical significance of his surrounding areas. Steve said he would have become a history teacher, but his college did not offer the major.

Soon after retiring from teaching, he attended a Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table (CWRT) meeting and met the "crazy guy in glasses" Rich Jankowski. The speaker at that event was the author of some of the Civil War books Steve was reading, Ed Bonekemper. Steve was blown away by the enthusiasm put forth by Rich and the members Old Baldy, so he joined our Round Table. He is a frequent attendee of the pre-meeting dinners at the Lamp Post Diner, traveling down from Lansdale with Steve Newcomb. His smile and positive attitude are welcomed at our meetings. He also joined the Delaware Valley and the Bucks County Round Tables as well as the GAR museum in Philadelphia.

Old Baldy - Wreaths Across America



While coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies each December on National Wreaths Across America Day is a big part of what we do, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out throughout the year. From our Remembrance Tree program to the Wreaths Across America Museum in Maine, there are many different ways in which you can get involved!

Why We Do It

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 2,500 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day... December 18, 2021

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Continued from page 5 - "Wreaths"

Join us by sponsoring a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local sponsorship group.

The link for members to purchase wreaths and/or volunteer to place them on graves.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Members of our Round Table have volunteered to place wreaths at Beverly Cemetery. OBCWRT also purchased wreaths to be laid.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Monday, December 9

The North

The United States Senate approves overwhelmingly the establishment of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. This is to be set up following the hard-taught lesson that the rebellion of the Southern states is far stronger than had been recognized only six months previously, and that to win the struggle will demand the use of every means within the Union's power. A measure of the change in mood of the Congress can be seen in the vote to table the Crittenden Resolution passed almost unanimously during the summer. This was originally drafted to reassure the South that the war was being fought solely to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution, and that individual states' sovereignty and rights would not be interfered with. This time, however, Congress is saying that it might, and probably would have to, interfere with the civil and domestic institutions of the insurgent states.

Trans-Mississippi

A skirmish at Chusto-Talasa, in the Indian Territories, is notable for the fact that most of the protagonists are Indians. Confederate Indians attempt to force pro-Union Creek Indians from the region, but Creek tenacity is enough to ensure that they hold their ground.

1862 Tuesday, December 9

Western Theater

There is a skirmish at Dobbin's Ferry, Tennessee.

1863 Wednesday, December 9

Western Theater

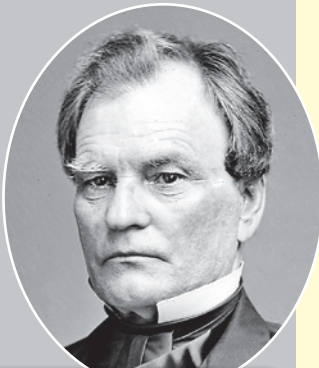
General Burnside is once again relieved of his command, this time at his own request. He is replaced by Major-General J.G. Foster. His failure to assist Rosecrans at Chattanooga and reluctance to pursue Longstreet have aroused much criticism. Meanwhile, Longstreet continues the political battles which dominate Confederate operations in the west; he fires several members of his staff for alleged incompetence during the Knoxville campaign. The charges are later withdrawn.

Black troops mutiny at Fort Jackson near New Orleans. The revolt is quelled by white officers.

1864 Friday, December 9

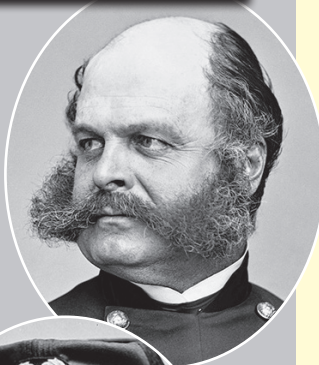
Western Theater

Sherman's leading troops are just south of Savannah. Skirmishing takes place along the Ogeechee Canal. The Confederates have flooded the rice fields, hampering the Union approach to the city. At Nashville the freezing rain continues; the roads are quagmires by day and frozen solid by night.



**Ohio Senator
Benjamin Franklin Wade
(Chairman)**

**Major General
Ambrose Everett Burnside**



**Major General
John Gray Foster**

“Those White Roses”

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

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.

**Adeline Blanchard Tyler
First Nurse**



Adeline Blanchard Tyler: First Nurse

Fridays were usually reserved by Sister Adeline Tyler for her weekly errand of mercy to prisoners at the Baltimore jail. She was about to leave home for the crosstown carriage ride on April 19, 1861, when word arrived that a riot had rocked the city.

She could never have guessed that the event set her on a course for a new mission that touched uncounted lives—and made her a footnote in American history.

The first news Sister Tyler received indicated that the route to the jailhouse was unsafe, and it prompted her to delay her journey by a few hours. When she finally did set out, the violence had largely subsided. But she sensed heightened tensions as her carriage moved through the streets. She observed injured citizens being helped into homes and other places to be treated.

By the time Sister Tyler arrived at the jail, or sometime soon afterwards, she had learned the basic facts of the event that would become known as the Baltimore Riot of 1861 or the Pratt Street Riots: Pro-secessionist mobs had attacked a regiment of Union troops as they marched through town to catch a connecting train to Washington. Moreover, that the soldiers hailed from Massachusetts and that some number of them had been killed or wounded.

The latter detail touched her personally, for Sister Tyler was a Bay State native. Born Adeline Blanchard more than a half-century earlier, she had spent most of her 55 years in Boston. She might have remained in her home state, but fate intervened with the death of her husband, John Tyler, in 1853. A well-known auctioneer in the city 26 years Adeline's senior, he had suffered a stroke.

An active member of the Episcopal Church, she advanced to deaconess and laid the groundwork for a mission of charity to the sick. A major step in her development involved a trip to the Deaconesses' Institute in Kaiserswerth, Germany, to study nursing. One of its notable students, Florence Nightingale, had trained there in 1851.

Sister Tyler returned to America at the conclusion of her classwork and embarked on her mission. Her good works in the city ended in 1856 when she accepted an invitation to lead a church-funded infirmary in Baltimore. She proved an able leader who managed a rapidly expanding organization, though some insiders privately complained that she was overzealous in her charity. In early 1860, her power was curtailed after the church created a new leadership position and installed a man to run the infirmary.

Sister Tyler promptly resigned as Chief Deaconess, but stayed on to train apprentice deaconesses. The change also allowed her to invest more time with the sick, the poor, orphaned children and prisoners.

She worked in this capacity when Southern military forces bombarded the federal garrison of Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861. A week later, the war came to Baltimore when secession sympathizers pelted the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry with bricks and stones as it marched through the city in response to President Abraham Lincoln's call to put down the rebellion of Southern states.

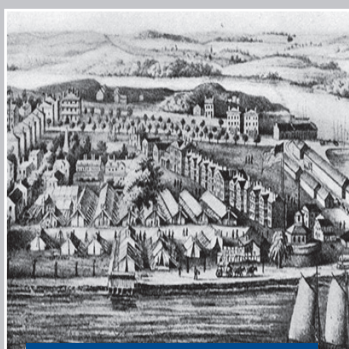
That afternoon at the jailhouse, Sister Tyler absorbed the enormity of the news and took action. She dashed off a note to a friend to help her find out the fate of the wounded Massachusetts soldiers, cut her visit short and left for home.

The friend soon reported back to Sister Tyler. She learned that some of the wounded soldiers had been left behind as the rest of the regiment escaped aboard the Washington-bound train. The abandoned men were taken by the police to a station house, and had received medical attention—though the latter report could not be verified.

“This roused the spirit of Mrs. Tyler,” noted biographers Linus P. Brockett and Mary C. Vaughan in their 1867 book, *Woman's Work in the Civil War*. “Here was truly a work of ‘charity and mercy,’ and it was clearly her duty, in pursuance of the objects to which she had devoted her life, to ensure the necessary care of these wounded and suffering



**6th Massachusetts
Infantry Regiment
sitting and standing around
Battle Monument in
Battle Monument Park,
Baltimore, Maryland.**



**Naval Hospital
Annapolis, Maryland**



**Adeline and John Tyler's
Grave
Mount Auburn Cemetery
Cambridge Massachusetts**

men who had fallen into the hands of those so inimical to them."

The carriage carrying Sister Tyler soon arrived at the police station. By this time, night had fallen. She knocked at the door and explained to the individual who answered that she had come to care for the injured soldiers. Her physical presence must have added emphasis to her heartfelt plea—standing six feet tall and presumably clad in clothing similar to the outfit worn in the carte de visite pictured here, she cut an imposing figure.

Her request was denied with the explanation that the most serious cases had been transported to a local infirmary, and the remainder rested comfortably in an upper room. A skeptical Sister Tyler renewed her request, at least to satisfy herself that they were comfortable. She was again refused admission.

Sister Tyler pushed back. "I am myself a Massachusetts woman, seeking to do good to the citizens of my own state. If not allowed to do so, I shall immediately send a telegram to Governor Andrew, informing him that my request is denied," reported Woman's Work.

The threat of contacting Massachusetts Gov. John Andrew worked. Sister Tyler entered the station and was escorted to the upper room to see the soldiers.

Her worst fears were realized. Two of the soldiers were dead. Two or three more lay in beds and the rest on stretchers. All were still dressed in their uniforms and their wounds had been minimally treated with large pieces of cotton cloth despite that hours had passed since the injuries had occurred. It appeared that they had been drugged.

Sister Tyler determined that two of the men were in critical need of care and negotiated their release. One man, a private, had been shot in the hip. The other, a sergeant, had been clobbered with a glass bottle that left a ghastly wound with shards in his neck. She and her carriage driver managed to enlist the services of a furniture van to transport the soldiers to the Deaconess's Home, where Sister Tyler lived. There they were treated and eventually released.

It may be fairly stated that Sister Tyler was the first nurse to attend Union soldiers wounded in hostility.

A year later, on the first anniversary of the riot, Sister Tyler received a formal Vote of Thanks from the Massachusetts House of Representatives for her actions.

By this time, Sister Tyler had left Baltimore under a cloud of suspicion. Following her life-saving efforts after the riot, she was placed in charge of a military hospital on Camden Street in Baltimore. Here her patriotism came into question after she stated that patients who entered her hospital were treated equally no matter where their loyalties lay. This left an impression that she was a rebel sympathizer, and she was discharged.

Her situation could have been much worse, for others suspected of disloyalty had been stripped of their positions and imprisoned. Sister Tyler left Baltimore with no formal charges and found refuge with friends in New York City.

By mid-1862, the patriotism paranoia that had swept Baltimore and some Northern cities had largely subsided. Sister Tyler lobbied to get back into action. Her reputation was resurrected when she was offered and accepted a leadership position at a military hospital in Chester, Pennsylvania. In this role, and later at the Naval School Hospital in Annapolis, Maryland, her talents for organization benefitted staff and patients.

Stress from her unrelenting schedule led to exhaustion that ended in her resignation in May 1864. She traveled to Europe to restore her health, and returned to the United States in November 1865.

Sister Tyler went on to become Lady Superintendent of the Midnight Mission, a New York City facility for prostitutes and other women deemed "fallen" by society. She resigned her position in 1872 after learning she was ill with breast cancer. She succumbed to the disease in Massachusetts three years later at age 69.

"She will always be remembered as identified with the war from the very beginning," observed an admirer. "She was the only woman in Baltimore who came forward on the 19th of April, 1861, when the men of our Massachusetts Sixth were massacred in passing through that city."

Old Baldy's presentation: November 11th Meeting

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

Presentation by Carol Adams

**By Kathy Clark,
Member OBCWRT**



Carol Adams



Carol Adams volunteers at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum owned by the Reading Company Technical Historical Society. The museum features vintage railroad cars, locomotives, photographs, documents, and artifacts from the Reading Railroad. Located 500 S. Third Street, Hamburg, PA. Displays of model trains of five different scale models and a group of holiday model trains displayed after Thanksgiving. There is a mural on the whole side of the building displaying four different railroad models. Open on Saturday 10am-4pm.

Pulling For The Union:

This is the fact: Northern Industrial establishment was superior to the south as the location to power and coal were a result of the expansion of the Reading Railroad to the Pennsylvania coal mine industry. Anthurite coal, iron ore, and pig iron were the core of the Northern industrial might. Defending the Pennsylvania coal mines were very important to the success of the Northern cause.

One the important men of the Reading Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad was Chief Engineer Moncure Robinson. He formulated rules for grading and curvatures through the Allegheny Mountains parallel along the area of the Schuylkill River. Robinson's idea is that he wanted the train to go over canals and through tunnels. The 93-mile Reading Railroad was built for the anthracite coal mines of Pottsville to Reading to the port of Philadelphia area. He used crush stone as ballast for three of the nine first railroad tunnels in the United States, The Falls River Bridge was another of his achievements.

Weapons And Supplies:

Feasterville became the center for the building of the 3" ordinal rifle built and shipped to different areas by railroad and boat. Armored train cars were constructed to protect workers doing railroad repairs, to transporting troops to their destination to keep everyone safe. Coal was transported by train to the Navy to supply their ships. Soldiers and other personal used the railroad system to get from training camps or other destination. There was a training camp in Harrisburg, Fort Curtin, the largest camp for this purpose.

April 1861-November 11, 1865, a supply depot was established by the railroad to bring supplies to City Point, bringing troops to various hospitals as well as to the battlefields. Financially the Reading Railroad used government bonds to pay operating expenses when a soldier was wounded are given transportation costs free and solders moving from one area to another were given discounted tickets. The Reading Railroad gave money to charities and deposited 2 and a half million in United States Treasury. Near the train lines was a US Army Hospital at Board and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia, PA built in 1861 to make it convenient to get wounded soldiers the help they needed. After the war it was used for other businesses until 1870 when it was demolished.

Women supported the war effort as did Mrs. Rosa Muhlenberg Nicolls president of the Ladies Aid Society. A supply depot was established in Reading so all materials and goods that were collected could be stored. The women came together at the Great Sanitary Fair in Philadelphia in June 1864 on the Logan Square today. The reading and Pennsylvania Railroad donated money and by the end of the fair the ladies raised over a million dollars for the cause. During the Gettysburg Campaign there was an enlistment area at Tenth and Nobile Street in Philadelphia for all employers to join the militia. Employees of the coal mines were encouraged to enlist. As 1863 was near there was a worry that the Confederate troops were getting too close to the north, as they were advancing

Tom Scurria won the book from the presenter at the November meeting. “Moving the Union Army” by General Herman Haupt

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

Regular Book Raffle Winners at the November Meeting - David Wayne, Bill Buchanan, Joe Hauptman and Ed Komczyk

toward Gettysburg, so the important legal documents were hidden in Harrisburg for safe keeping. All victories went to the Union and all-important papers were kept safe.

Pennsylvania And Reading People Of The War:

John Tucker: Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad President from 1844-1856. He became Assistant Secretary of War from a request by Edwin Stanton for one year. In 1862 he supervised the devilmint of the military and department for the armed forces.

Joseph S. Harris: Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad President from 1893-1901. Joseph charted the canals of the Mississippi to help Union troops capture Fort Jackson (June 10) and then on to New Orleans and capture the city. He was an American surveyor and Civil Engineer who did a coastal survey of the Mississippi Sound and Northwest Boundary part of Mobile Bay.

George Frederick Baer: Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad President from 1901-1914. Lawyer, Railroad president, spokesman for the owners of the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902. This was the largest united strike of the United Mine Workers. It took President Teddy Roosevelt to stop the strike from going to stop the workers and labor relations from going any further.

Franklin Benjamin Gowen: Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad President from 1869-1881. Franklin did not serve in the war but paid a substitute to go to war in place of him. This is a legal way that people did not have to participate in war activities.

Colonel Henry Algernon DuPont: By the end of the war Colonel DuPont was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel by the end of the war. He was a US Senator and became a part of the Reading Railroad Company. DuPont built a railroad station at his home at Winterthur for easy access for his family and others to easily get the train to their destination. It is still on the grounds of Winterthur today.

Growth And Strife On The Home Front:

Pennsylvania Railroad profits soured and with the extra profits established new feeder lines, new buildings, the Reading and Columbia Branch as well as new gunboat designs. In 1861 common stocks were the most valuable but by 1896 all stocks were gone and the Pennsylvania Railroad was in bankruptcy. In July 1864, a strike began with the US seizing the PRR under martial law." Crime and violence took over with the addition of the Molly McGuires bringing bloodshed and death to the strikers. After the war the Reading Railroad established a camp from November 1864-July 1865 to help soldiers and former prisoners of war get discharged from the Army.

Gettysburg became a tourist attraction and by 1896 the Reading Railroad took tourists to Gettysburg as a sightseeing event. When there were reunions of the Civil War soldiers, (the first being the 50th Anniversary of the battle in 1913) 70% of the people arrived by train. While there, many of the 57,000 veterans shook hands over the stone fence at Pickett's Charge. The last modern Reading Railroad went to Gettysburg until May 1988.

Carol Adams' presentation was a true learning experience. Learning about the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads during the time of the Civil War brought us understanding why the train became an asset for soldiers going into battle, wounded getting medical attention, goods and supplies coming to and from the North. The use of the train was a valuable resource which was there for some time after the war was over. Thank you, Carol Adams, for bringing your story to Old Baldy CWRT.

A Long Forgotten Medal of Honor!

***By Joseph F. Wilson,
Member OBCWRT***

In Washington DC, residing deep within the confines of the secured treasure vault in the National Archives, an ordinary box collects dust. The cardboard carton holds the unclaimed Medal of Honor that never adorned the deserving hero.

The worthy Civil War warrior never received the medal, nor did any family member ever step up to claim the award. Sergeant James Wiley never knew that President Abraham Lincoln awarded him the nation's highest honor for gallantry at Gettysburg. All the young soldier's attention focused on surviving a battle of another kind.

**59th New York
Infantry Regiment
(Union Guards)**



4th United States



**Lieutenant
Alonzo H. Cushing**



**James Wiley's
Medal of Honor**

President Lincoln signed the honor on December 1st, 1864. James Wiley could not have known of the award as he struggled to stay alive in a Confederate prison. Captivity for most prisoners proved to be the toughest battle of the war. For Wiley, it was a fight he wouldn't win.

Sgt. Wiley only intended to do his duty at the Battle of Gettysburg. Instead, he made history on the second day of the battle. Wiley's action in helping repulse a Confederate charge earned him a spot on the list of 63 other brave soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for their deeds at the epic battle.

In the early morning hours of July 2, 1863, James awoke from his slumber along with other members of the 59th New York Volunteers. Attached to Colonel Hall's Brigade of General John Gibbon's division, the brigade spent the night at the base of Big Round Top just south of the small hamlet of Gettysburg. With daylight barely lighting the way, the brigade marched two miles north on the Taneytown road before halting on Cemetery Ridge with the rest of the 2nd Corps.

The four companies of the 59th N.Y. formed a small battalion numbering 182 men. Due to heavy fighting at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, the regiment consolidated its forces into companies A, B, C, and D. Taking up a position just south of the Copse of Trees, the New Yorkers readied for a fight all knew was coming. Federal troops came under heavy fire on July 2 as the Confederates pounded the Union defenders in the Peach Orchard and on Little Round Top. Now, General Winfield Hancock's battle hardened veterans of 2nd Corps waited to join the fray on Cemetery Ridge.

On the evening of July 2, the fighting that raged all day on the Union left flank finally boiled over to the center of the line. Crouching behind a low fence rail, the small band of the 59th N.Y. awaited the enemy. On their right, the 69th Pa. stretched across the Copse of Trees. To their left, the 7th Michigan bolstered the line. On the left flank of the 7th Michigan, a noticeable gap appeared between the Michigan men and Humphrey's Division of the 3rd Corps, already in retreat from the Peach Orchard.

As the sun began to descend, Confederate General Ambrose Wright readied his brigade for an attack on the Union center. Wright's Brigade consisted of the 3rd, 22nd, and the 48th Georgia regiments, supported by the smaller 2nd Georgia Battalion. In all, Wright sent 1,450 Confederates rushing for the Union position. Two Union regiments, the 15th Ma and 82nd NY, held a forward position along the Emmitsburg Road. Together, they mustered only 700 muskets. Both melted away under the pressure from Wright's Georgians.

Heavy fighting engulfed Cemetery Ridge as a strong push by the Georgia brigade threatened to split the Union army in two. Panic ensued among Union officers who recognized the impending doom should the line be pierced. General Meade rushed reinforcements to halt the gray wave that seemed on the verge of victory.

Brown's Rhode Island battery positioned between Cemetery Ridge and Emmitsburg Road had already been overrun. Alonzo Cushing angled his battery to the left in an effort to halt the marauding Georgians. Firing canister into the left flank of Wright's attack only slowed the charge. Upon reaching the Union defenders, the 48th Georgia collided head on with the 59th NY regiment in desperate fighting along the ridge. While the 48th Ga. clashed with the 59th NY, the other two Georgia regiments breached the Union line with little opposition. The lightly defended gap between General Humphrey's division and the 7th Michigan offered an excellent opportunity for a decisive Confederate triumph. For a fleeting moment, a Confederate victory seemed imminent. But Wright's effort was short lived. Union reinforcements eventually drove the unsupported Georgians off the ridge.

General Ambrose Wright fumed for years over the lost opportunity. Wright contended that with proper support the Confederates would have fragmented the Union army resulting in a Southern victory. The high water mark of Pickett's Charge is well marked on the today's battlefield, while the exact spot of Wright's advance is not known. Historians believe Wright's men penetrated the Union line much deeper than Pickett's men had done on July 3.

The 48th Ga suffered the most casualties in Wright's Brigade. One of the casualties was the flag of the regiment. When the smoke cleared, Sgt. James Wiley emerged

Continued from page 11 - "Medal of Honor"



**48th Georgia Infantry
Colors**



**Camp Lawton
(Fort Millen) Georgia**

from the melee with the battle flag of the 48th Georgia. For his action, he was later awarded the Medal of Honor.

After Gettysburg, the 59th went on to fight in many hot engagements such as the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and the bloody battle at Cold Harbor. Good fortune smiled on Wiley as he always came away unscathed. In the Petersburg campaign, Sgt. Wiley's luck ran out.

On June 22nd, at the 1st Battle of Weldon Railroad, James marched to the rear of the Confederate line as a prisoner of war. Union soldiers captured in the summer of 1864 knew they'd be headed for Andersonville Prison. Surviving the vile prison camp proved to be the most difficult battle of the war for any soldier.

James Wiley arrived at Andersonville in late June when the severely overcrowded prison held 26,000 prisoners on a 16 acre plot of ground. In July, the stockade expanded to 26 acres. Conditions inside the stockade had already plummeted due to a scarcity of food, shelter, and a lack of clean water. A situation that would bring down the healthiest of men.

Only 9 weeks after James took up residence in Andersonville, General Sherman captured Atlanta in early September. With Atlanta being so near to Andersonville, the Confederates began a mass evacuation of the prison for fear of Sherman moving to liberate the prisoners. Nearly all the prisoners were on the move. Sick prisoners stayed behind. By October, the prison population dropped to 4,000 frail prisoners unable to travel.

Wiley boarded a train that fall for Camp Lawton near Millen, Georgia. All the prisoners happily left Andersonville behind. A stay in the Lawton camp would be a short one. Sherman's plans for a sweep across Georgia meant another move. Sherman's grand design for his "March to the Sea" didn't include liberating a single prisoner.

Prisoners crowded into dirty cattle cars to be relocated several times in an effort to evade Sherman. The cat and mouse game continued for two months. While the Confederates moved Wiley all around the state of Georgia, Lincoln approved the Medal of Honor in December for his actions on July 2 at Gettysburg. Still trying to dodge Union troops, the Union prisoners came full circle.

The 5,000 well-traveled prisoners boarded trains with a surprise waiting at the end of the line. Around the third week of December, 1864, the train pulled into a depot to unload the Yankees prisoners. James Wiley stepped off the train onto a familiar platform. Prisoners glanced around for their new home. Shocked prisoners recognized their old home. Off in the distance, Andersonville Prison came into view. Demoralized soldiers marched for a second time from the train depot to the main gate at Andersonville.

**The State of
New York Monument
Front/Rear**



Sgt. Wiley arrived for his second stay at Andersonville already suffering from acute diarrhea. The Georgia stockade offered little hope of regaining one's health. January proved to be a difficult time for James. Prisoners held out to the last before going into the hospital as few men ever returned. Most believed it was a place to die. Wiley must have been suffering badly as he checked into the hospital on January 31.

After only a week, Wiley's fight came to an end. James passed away on Feb. 7 from chronic diarrhea. His lifeless body was thrown onto a wagon with a dozen other cadavers for the quarter mile trip to the burial pits. Burial details laid the dead in the trenches shoulder to shoulder without coffins. Union prisoners on the burial squads placed pine boughs over the cadavers to avoid throwing dirt on the faces of their comrades. James was only 29 years old.

Wiley occupies grave number #12607 in the Andersonville National Cemetery. The number of prisoners buried in the cemetery eventually reached 12,919. Wiley's grave number indicates that he was among the last several hundred to die at Andersonville. The stone is handsomely marked showing his status as a Medal of Honor winner.

Recent contact with officials in Washington has verified that the forgotten medal is

Continued from page 12 - "Medal of Honor"



**The Grave at Andersonville
of
James Wiley
Medal of Honor
1st Sergeant, Company B
59th New York Infantry Regiment**

still stashed away in the National Archives. While the body of James Wiley molders into dust below ground in a Georgia cemetery, his unclaimed medal will likely remain buried in the basement of the National Archives forever. Officials at the Andersonville National Historic Site have tried unsuccessfully to locate anyone related to Wiley.

According to Find a Grave records, Wiley never married, but had a son born in 1859. The information suggests that the boy may have been born out of wedlock and never knew his celebrated father. Not long after the boy's birth, Wiley marched off to war and never returned. Wiley never knew of the medal. It's likely his son also had no knowledge of the award.

At Andersonville, Confederates offered prisoners a chance to escape the horrible conditions by joining the Confederate army. Approximately 800 prisoners took up the offer. All the prisoners who rest in the Andersonville National Cemetery chose "Death before Dishonor." Their dedication and duty to country makes them all heroes.

A marble headstone and the prestigious Medal of Honor makes Sgt. James Wiley a two time hero!

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

Christmas on the Rappahannock

**From
American Battlefield
Trust**

**By
Rev. John R. Paxton, D.D.**

The following is a story from the Civil War published in Harper's Weekly in 1886 by Reverend John Paxton, a veteran from the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Paxton's account takes place on Christmas Day, just after the Union failure at the Battle of Fredericksburg, while performing the often-miserable duty of watch patrol. While on patrol, Paxton and his comrades come upon a group of Confederate soldiers standing across the Rappahannock River, and instead of fighting, the two sides show each other signs of Christmas cheer.

"Gentlemen, the chair of the Professor of Mathematics is vacant in this college; permit me to introduce to you Captain Fraser." Rah! rah! rah! and away we went and enlisted — to go to Richmond. It took us three years to get there. No wonder; there were so many Longstreets to make our way through; so many Hills to climb; so many Stonewalls to batter down; so many Picketts to clear out of the way. It was as hard a road to travel as the steep and stony one to heaven.

No preaching, sir! Can't you forget the shop? Don't you know that you have squeezed yourself into that faded jacket, and are squirming, with a flushed face and short breaths, behind that sword belt, which had caused a rebellion *in medias res*?

I started for Richmond in July, 1862, a lad eighteen years old, a junior in college, and chafing to be at it,—to double quick it after John Brown's soul, which, since it did not require a knapsack or three days' rations or a canteen or a halt during the night for sleep, was always marching on. On the night before Christmas, 1862, I was a dejected young patriot, wishing I hadn't done it, shivering in the open weather a mile back of the Rappahannock, on the reserve picket and exposed to a wet snowstorm. There was not a stick of wood within five miles of us; all cut down, down, even the roots of trees, and burned up. We lay down on our rubber blankets, pulled our woolen blankets over us, spooned it as close as we could get to steal warmth from our comrades and tried not to cry.

Next morning the snow lay heavy and deep, and the men, when I wakened and looked about me, reminded me of a church graveyard in winter. "Fall in for picket duty. There, come, Moore, McMeaus, Paxton, Perrine, Pollock, fall in." We fell in, of course, No breakfast; chilled to the marrow; snow a foot deep. We tightened our belts on our empty stomachs, seized our rifles and marched to the river to take our six hours on duty.

It was Christmas Day, 1862. "And so this is war," my old me said to himself while he paced in the snow his two hours on the river's brink. "And I am out here to shoot that lean, lank, coughing, cadaverous-looking butternut fellow over the river. So this is war; this is being a soldier; this is the genuine article; this is H. Greely's 'On to Richmond.'



**Civil War
Christmas Eve**

Well, I wish he were here in my place, running to keep warm, pounding his arms and breast to make the chilled blood circulate. So this is war, tramping up and down this river my fifty yards with wet feet, empty stomach, swollen nose."

Alas, when lying under the trees in the college campus last June, war meant to me martial music, gorgeous brigadiers in blue and gold, tall young men in line, shining in brass. War meant to me tumultuous memories of Bunker Hill, Caesar's Tenth Legion, the Charge of the Six Hundred, - anything but this. Pshaw, I wish I were home. Let me see. Home? God's country. A tear? Yes, it is a tear. What are they doing at home? This is Christmas Day. Home? Well, stockings on the wall, candy, turkey, fun, merry Christmas, and the face of the girl I left behind. Another tear? Yes, I couldn't help it. I was only eighteen, and

there was such a contrast between Christmas, 1862, on the Rappahannock and other Christmases. Yes, there was a girl, too, - such sweet eyes, such long lashes, such a low tender voice.

"Come, move quicker. Who goes there?" Shift the rifle from one aching shoulder to the other.

"Hello, Johnny, what are you up to?" The river was narrow, but deep and swift. It was a wet cold, not a freezing cold. There was no ice, too swift for that.

"Yank, with no overcoat, shoes full of holes, nothing to eat but parched corn and tobacco, and with this derved Yankee snow a foot deep, there's nothin' left, nothin' but to get up a cough by way of protestin' against this infernal ill treatment of the body. We uns, Yank, all have a cough over here, and there's no sayin' which will run us to hole first, the cough or your bullets."

The snow still fell, the keen wind, raw and fierce, cut to the bone. It was God's worst weather, in God's forlornest, bleakest spot of ground, that Christmas Day of '62 on the Rappahannock, a half-mile below the town of Fredericksburg. But come, pick up your prostrate pluck, you shivering private. Surely there is enough dampness around without your adding to it your tears.

"Let's laugh, boys."

"Hello, Johnny."

"Hello, yourself, Yank."

"Merry Christmas, Johnny."

"Same to you, Yank."

"Say, Johnny, got anything to trade?"

"Say, Johnny, got anything to trade?"

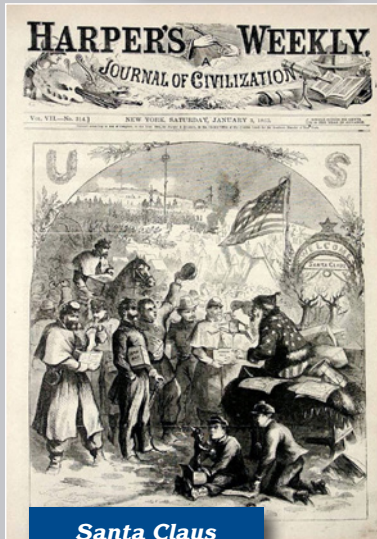
"Parched corn and tobacco, - the size of our Christmas, Yank."

"All right; you shall have some of our coffee and sugar and pork. Boys, find the boats."

Such boats! I see the children sailing them on small lakes in our Central park. Some Yankee, desperately hungry for tobacco, invented them for trading with the Johnnies. They were hid away under the banks of the river for successive relays of pickets.

We got out the boats. An old handkerchief answered for a sail. We loaded them with coffee, sugar, pork, and set the sail and watched them slowly creep to the other shore. And the Johnnies? To see them crowd the bank and push and scramble to be the first to seize the boats, going into the water and stretching out their long arms. Then, when they pulled the boats ashore, and stood in a group over the cargo, and to hear their exclamations, "Hurrah for hog." "Say, that's not roasted rye, but genuine coffee. Smell it, you'uns." "And sugar, too!"

Then they divided the consignment. They laughed and shouted, "Reckon you'uns been good to we'uns this Christmas Day, Yanks." Then they put parched corn, tobacco, ripe persimmons, into the boats and sent them back to us. And we chewed the parched corn, smoked real Virginia leaf, ate persimmons, which if they weren't very filling at least contracted our stomachs to the size of our Christmas dinner. And so the day passed. We shouted, "Merry Christmas, Johnny." They shouted, "Same to



**Santa Claus
with
Union Soldiers**



**A Silk
Christmas Card**

Christmas in the American Civil War (1861–1865) was celebrated in the Confederate States of America but frowned upon and actually fined in Massachusetts. It was seen as an unnecessary expense and should be a day of fasting by the Puritans and Lutherans. The day did not become an official holiday until five years after the war ended.

you, Yank." And we forgot the biting wind, the chilling cold; we forgot those men over there were our enemies, whom it might be our duty to shoot before evening.

We had bridged the river, spanned the bloody chasm. We were brothers, not goes, waving salutations of good-will in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in '62. At the very front of the opposing armies, the Christ Child struck a truce of us, broke down the wall of partition, became our peace. We exchanged gifts. We shouted greetings back and forth. We kept Christmas and our hearts were lighter of it, and our shivering bodes were not quite so cold.

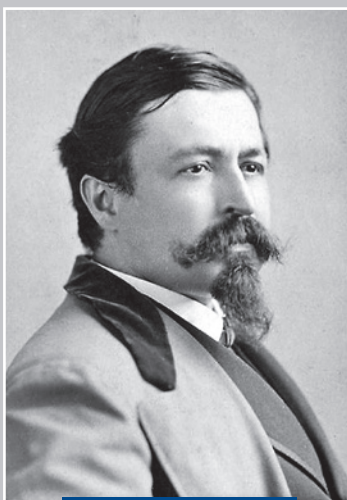
–Christmas Number, *Harper's Weekly*, 1886.

Thomas Nast

From Wikipedia



Santa Claus
by
Thomas Nast



Thomas Nast

Th Nast

Thomas Nast (/næst/; German: [nast]; September 27, 1840 – December 7, 1902) was a German-born American caricaturist and editorial cartoonist often considered to be the "Father of the American Cartoon". He was a critic of Democratic Representative "Boss" Tweed and the Tammany Hall Democratic party political machine. Among his notable works were the creation of the modern version of Santa Claus (based on the traditional German figures of Sankt Nikolaus and Weihnachtsmann) and the political symbol of the elephant for the Republican Party (GOP). Contrary to popular belief, Nast did not create Uncle Sam (the male personification of the United States Federal Government), Columbia (the female personification of American values), or the Democratic donkey, although he did popularize those symbols through his artwork. Nast was associated with the magazine *Harper's Weekly* from 1859 to 1860 and from 1862 until 1886.

Early Life and Education

Nast was born in military barracks in Landau, Germany (now in Rhineland-Palatinate), as his father was a trombonist in the Bavarian 9th regiment band. Nast was the last child of Appolonia (née Abriss) and Joseph Thomas Nast. He had an older sister Andie; two other siblings had died before he was born. His father held political convictions that put him at odds with the Bavarian government, so in 1846, Joseph Nast left Landau, enlisting first on a French man-of-war and subsequently on an American

ship. He sent his wife and children to New York City, and at the end of his enlistment in 1850, he joined them there.

Nast attended school in New York City from the age of six to 14. He did poorly at his lessons, but his passion for drawing was apparent from an early age. In 1854, at the age of 14, he was enrolled for about a year of study with Alfred Fredericks and Theodore Kaufmann, and then at the school of the National Academy of Design. In 1856, he started working as a draftsman for Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*. His drawings appeared for the first time in *Harper's Weekly* on March 19, 1859, when he illustrated a report exposing police corruption; Nast was 18 years old at that point.

Career

In February 1860, he went to England for the *New York Illustrated News* to depict one of the major sporting events of the era, the prize fight between the American John C. Heenan and the English Thomas Sayers sponsored by George Wilkes, publisher of *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*. A few months later, as artist for *The Illustrated London News*, he joined Garibaldi in Italy. Nast's cartoons and articles about the Garibaldi military campaign to unify Italy captured the popular imagination in the U.S. In February 1861, he arrived back in New York. In September of that year, he married Sarah Edwards, whom he had met two years earlier.

He left the *New York Illustrated News* to work again, briefly, for Frank Leslie's *Illustrated News*. [12] In 1862, he became a staff illustrator for *Harper's Weekly*. In his first years with *Harper's*, Nast became known especially for compositions that appealed to the sentiment of the viewer. An example is "Christmas Eve" (1862), in which a wreath frames a scene of a soldier's praying wife and sleeping children at home; a second wreath frames the soldier seated by a campfire, gazing longingly at small pictures of his loved ones. One of his most celebrated cartoons was "Compromise with the South" (1864), directed against those in the North who



Thomas Nast
Self Portrait

From
American Jewish Archives



Isaac J. Levy



Zeke E. Levy

opposed the prosecution of the American Civil War. He was known for drawing battlefields in border and southern states. These attracted great attention, and Nast was referred to by President Abraham Lincoln as "our best recruiting sergeant".

After the war, Nast strongly opposed the Reconstruction policy of President Andrew Johnson, whom he depicted in a series of trenchant cartoons that marked "Nast's great beginning in the field of caricature".

Hanukkah - Adams Run

Following is a letter written by a Jewish Confederate soldier, Isaac J. Levy of the 46th Virginia Infantry, from camp in Adams Run South Carolina, describing to his sister how he and his brother Ezekiel ("Zeke") observed Passover during the Civil War

Adams Run
April 24th, 1864

Dear Leonora

No doubt you were much surprised on receiving a letter from me addressed to our dear parents dated on the 21st inst which was the first day of [Pesach]. [note from LMB: Orthodox Jews are prohibited from writing on Sabbath or a festival] We were all under the impression in camp that the first day of the festival was the 22nd and if my memory serves me right I think that Ma wrote me that Pesach was on the 22nd inst. Zeke [Isaac's brother Capt. Ezekiel J. Levy of the 46th VA] was somewhat astonished on arriving in Charleston on Wednesday afternoon, to learn that that was the first [Seder] night. He purchased [Matzot] sufficient to last us for the week. The cost is somewhat less than in Richmond, being but two dollars per pound. [For point of reference, Matzah in New York City was then 6 cents a pound. LMB] We are observing the festival in a truly Orthodox style. On the first day we had a fine vegetable soup. It was made of a bunch of vegetables which Zeke brought from Charleston containing new onions, parsley, carrots turnips and a young cauliflower also a pound and a half of fresh [kosher] beef, the latter article sells for four dollars per pound in Charleston. Zeke E. did not bring us any meat from home. He brought some of his own, smoked meat, which he is sharing with us, he says that he supposes that Pa forgot to deliver it to him.

No news in the section at present. Troops from Florida are passing over the road enroute for Richmond. 'Tis probable that we will remain in this department and were it not for the unhealthy season which is approaching, would be well satisfied to remain here.

We received this morning Sarah's letter of the 18th inst. [Sarah Levy, Isaac's sister] and are truly sorry to hear that her sight is affected and that in a few days she will have recovered entirely her perfect sight. [Sarah Levy recovered from her eye problems and after the war married her sweetheart Cpl. Edwin Kursheedt, of the Louisiana Washington Artillery.]

*Love to all
Your affectionate Brother
Isaac J. Levy*

Isaac J. Levy was killed in the trenches at Petersburg, August 21, 1864. He was 21 years old. Isaac is buried in the Hebrew Cemetery on Shockoe Hill in Richmond, in the Levy family plot.

Editor's Note

If there are any subjects/articles you would like to see in the newsletter please let me know and I will try and find/put them in. cwwiles@comcast.net

Jews at Gettysburg



**54th New York Infantry
"Hiram Barney Rifles"**

**Eleventh Corps - USA
First Division - First Brigade
Major Stephen Kovacs (C)
Lieutenant Ernst Both
Engaged: 189 Casualties: 102
Location: Wainwright Avenue
Dedicated: July 1890**



**Rabbi
Ferdinand Leopold Sarner**

Ferdinand Leopold Sarner was the first (and only) rabbi to serve as a regimental chaplain in the Civil War. At least two other Rabbis preceded him as part-time hospital chaplains, but Rabbi Sarner was the first to join the troops in the field. If I understand the facts correctly, with the support of President Lincoln, Congress changed the law in Autumn 1862 to allow ordained ministers of any faith to serve as chaplains; previously only Christian denominations were represented.

Sarner was born in Lissa, Posen on February 8, 1820 - actually the Grand Duchy of Posen, which came into existence in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic wars; it was considered part of Prussia. He was educated at the Gymnasium in Hamburg, the Royal Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin, and the University of Hesse. He came to the U.S. in 1859, and through contacts immediately secured a position as rabbi of a congregation in Rochester, New York. He reportedly left after a year due to differences with some influential members, and found another congregation in Shreveport, Louisiana, which was a good fit, except for the war clouds gathering. Being a Unionist at heart, he returned to the North. On 10 April 1863, Sarner was elected to the chaplaincy of the 54th New York Regiment, known as the "Hiram Barney Rifles." Raised in New York City, this regiment was mainly of German origin, although the Colonel and Major were Hungarians.

Although Jews comprised only a small minority of the regiment, Rabbi Sarner, being a learned and cultured German, was readily accepted. He arrived just in time for the Chancellorsville campaign, and was reported wounded at Gettysburg during the July 2 evening attack on Cemetery Hill. He was ultimately discharged on 3 October 1864.

Tom Elmore, Civil War Talk March 5, 2015

From 1872 until his death, served as rabbi of Congregation Beth El Emeth in Memphis. Died in Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878 in Memphis.



**82nd Illinois Infantry
"2nd Hecker Regiment"**

**Eleventh Corps - USA
Third Division - First Brigade
Colonel Edward S. Salomon
Engaged: 318 Casualties: 112
Location: Howard Avenue West
Dedicated: September 1891**

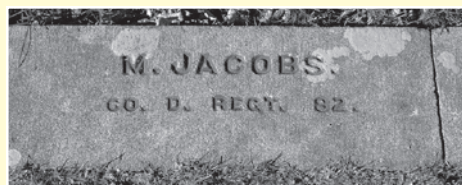


**Colonel
Edward Selig Salomon**

Salomon took command of the regiment when Colonel Friedrich Hecker was wounded at Chancellorsville. Salomon became the highest ranking Jewish Officer in the war. He was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General at the end of the War. In 1869 President Grant appointed him Governor of the Territory of Washington

Company C... 82nd Illinois

The Company was funded by Hebrew residents of Chicago and composed of Hebrews from that area.



Private Joseph Martin Jacobs

Company D, 82nd Ohio Infantry
Private Jacobs is the only known soldier of the Jewish faith buried in the Union graves.

Location: Ohio Section
Row A, No. 4



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 now on sale - Great Holiday Gifts.



Presented by the
Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
of Philadelphia
For information and updates:
<http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org>
FaceBook: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Symposium to be held
in Cooperation with
Rutgers University Camden
Department of History



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Follow Updates on the Website

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-civil-war-western-theater-symposium-tickets-188555403287>

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

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

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2022

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
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
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
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Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net