

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

May 12, 2022

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

## “The Battle of Eltham’s Landing and the New Jersey Brigade”



Drew Gruber

The Battle of Eltham’s Landing, also known as the Battle of Barhamsville, or West Point, took place on May 7, 1862, in New Kent County, Virginia, as part of the Peninsula Campaign of the American Civil War. Brig. Gen. William B. Franklin’s Union division landed at Eltham’s Landing and was attacked by two brigades of Brig. Gen. G. W. Smith’s command, reacting to the threat to the Confederate army’s trains on the Barhamsville Road. Franklin’s movement occurred while the Confederate army was withdrawing from the Williamsburg line, but he was unable to interfere with the Confederate movement.

The Battle at Eltham’s Landing was little more than a heavy skirmish. There were 194 Union casualties and 48 Confederate. Franklin told McClellan, “I congratulate myself that we have maintained our position.” Although the action was tactically inconclusive, Franklin missed an opportunity to intercept the Confederate retreat from Williamsburg, allowing it to pass unmolested.

Drew joined Civil War Trails as the Executive Director in August 2015. He was previously employed with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and was appointed by both Governor McDonnell and Governor McAuliffe to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. He credits his grandfather for his interest in history, whose “Victory at Sea” VHS tapes were constant in Drew’s early years. Drew is fascinated by the lives and experiences of the average soldier and citizen who navigated battlefields, towns, and landscapes during the war. He lives in Williamsburg with his wife Kate and their two cats. He enjoys reading, oysters, craft beer (or spirits), and music. Drew holds his M.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University, a B.A. from Mary Washington College and was the Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellow in Texas Civil War History in 2013.

### Meeting Notice

We will continue to simulcast the programs on Zoom for the benefit of those members and friends who are unable to attend; please email [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net) at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access. Please note our May-12 meeting will be Zoom and in-person at;

Riverwinds in West Deptford;  
Riverwinds Community Center,  
Multi Room C,  
1000 Riverwinds Dr.  
West Deptford, NJ 08086  
Start time 7:00 PM.

Dinner prior will be 5:30pm at;  
Country House Restaurant  
224 Delaware St  
West Deptford, NJ 08086

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Rich Jankowski  
President, OBCWRT

### Notes from the President

Spring has sprung and changes are coming to our Round Table as the flowers bloom and temperatures rise. Take note we are meeting at a different location in May. Our meeting on the 12th will be at the River Winds Community Center in West Deptford. Dinner will be at the Country House Restaurant on Delaware Street. At the meeting will

be an announcement of where our summer meetings will be held. We are looking forward to seeing many members and guests at our 45th anniversary Old Baldy birthday picnic on May 14th at the home of **Susan and Paul Prentiss** in Marlton, NJ. Be sure to RSVP with Paul.

**Gil Hahn** joined us in April to present on the "Campaign for the Confederate Coast." He provided background on shipping and the economic effects the blockade had on the Confederacy. Gil enjoyed having dinner with the members and the tokens we sent home with him. In May, **Drew Gruber** from Civil War Trails will be venturing up to visit us and share his knowledge on "The Battle of Eltham's Landing and the New Jersey Brigade." He will be updating us on the location of our future Battle of Williamsburg CW trails sign and other projects that are in the works. Come out to support this friend of our Round Table.

Our Board has made progress on updating our mission and vision statements. They should be ready for debut by the end of the month. We are also standardizing our logo for our upcoming marketing campaign. This will include purchasing bags with the Old Baldy logo for distribution. We could use assistance in inventorying our prize items and are seeking a coordinator to manage our public display. If interested in helping out, let us know. Continue to invite friends, family and acquaintances to tune into our programs.

Thanks to all who came out to support **Joe Wilson** for his Marchant Marines in World War II presentation. It was good to see everyone and pass out some Old Baldy literature to the guests. The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey meeting in Camden was a big success for our partner the Camden County History Alliance. Thank you to **Dave, Kathy and Frank** for volunteering to assist and for staffing our display. Our community connections expand our reach in South Jersey.

**Bob Russo** will be giving his Wounded Knee presentation to the Del Val CWRT on May 17th on Zoom. If you know of other presentations that might be of interest to our membership, let us know so we may distribute the information. On May 28th, **Bill and Debbie Holdsworth** will lead the wreath laying at General Hancock's tomb at 11 AM at Montgomery County Cemetery in Norristown, PA. Reach out to a fellow member to carpool to the event. The South Jersey History Fair is on June 11th. Thank you for your support of our innovative, distinguished and resourceful group as we continue to promote education and preservation.

**Join us at the Country House for dinner with Drew Gruber on the 12th.**

**Rich Jankowski, President**

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## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Sunday, May 12

#### **The North**

General Benjamin Butler moves troops into Baltimore without authorization. He claims that he has received information that a major disturbance is being planned, and his action will nip a potentially serious riot in the bud.

### 1862 Monday, May 12

#### **The North**

President Lincoln opens the Southern ports of Beaufort, North Carolina, Port Royal, South Carolina, and New Orleans, Louisiana. They had been subject to Federal blockade since the first days of secession, but now are in Federal hands.

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### Membership Awards



**Jim Mullen**  
Mount Laurel  
25 Years

**Western Theater**

Federal troops occupy Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**1863 Tuesday, May 12**

**Western Theater**

Having dispersed much of his infantry and all his cavalry to hunt for Grieson's raiders, Pemberton has no accurate intelligence on Grant's movements. As a result, Gregg's Confederate brigade is surprised by a whole Union corps at Raymond. But Gregg holds his ground, counter-attacking vigorously. McClernand assumes he is facing major opposition. Some 5000 rebels and two batteries hold off an army corps all afternoon.

**1864 Thursday, May 12**

**Eastern Theater**

At 4.30 a.m. the 20,000 men of Hancock's II Corps attack and overrun the Mule Shoe, capturing General Johnston and almost the entire "Stonewall" brigade. In pouring rain, the Confederates counter-attack and block further Union progress. Further assaults by Burnside's IX Corps and Wright's VI Corps get nowhere but in some of the bitterest fighting of the war, waves of troops battle for the northwest face of the Confederate position. Known as "Bloody Angle," the battered entrenchments are fought over from 10.00 a.m. without a break. General Franz Sigel had been an albatross around the neck of the Union Army for several years. His habit of communicating with the War Department via influential politicians had earned him a just rebuke from Grant, and his semi-independent command was stirred into action at the head of the Shenandoah Valley. To prevent the traditional Confederate assault up the valley, which tended to occur whenever the situation in Virginia became unfavorable, Sigel was ordered to march down the valley. At the head of 6500 troops, the German-born Sigel cautiously advances south. Brigadier-General John D. Imboden's 2000 Confederates fall back on the village of New Market where they await reinforcements. Hurrying up from southwest Virginia, John C. Breckinridge brings 2500 veteran infantry to oppose the Union offensive.

**Western Theater**

General Johnston evacuates Dalton, withdrawing to a new defensive line at Resaca.

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**CALLING ALL OBCWRT MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS – IT'S PICNIC TIME!**

Saturday May 14th is fast approaching and have made a lot of progress getting ready for our picnic. We are celebrating Old Baldy's 170th birthday and the 45th Anniversary of our Round Table. Please join us in beautiful Marlton, NJ on Saturday 14 May starting at 11 AM.

Mother Nature is teasing us with beautiful weather and flowers are blooming. Join our merry group of Round Table members and venture out for a few hours in the sun to picnic in Susan and Paul Prentiss' back yard at 16 Heather Drive in Marlton, NJ.

20 folks have RSVP'd and we want YOU to join us too!! Hope to see you there. Please email Paul Prentiss at pprentissfamily@gmail.com to RSVP by May 12th with attendee(s) names, any item you plan to bring and suggestions to celebrate Old Baldy's 170th birthday and our 45th Anniversary. Again - please join us on Saturday May 14th at 11 AM to celebrate Old Baldy's Birthday and our 45th Anniversary with family and friends. Please RSVP by contacting Paul Prentiss at pprentissfamily@gmail.com, 865-745-8336.



## 1865 Friday, May 12

### **The North**

The eight accused of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy all plead not guilty. This is probably a fair plea for Dr Mudd, who fixed Booth's leg, and Mrs Mary Surratt, who kept the boarding house where Booth stayed. But the others are whistling in the wind.

### **Far West**

A column of Union troops under Colonel Theodore H. Barrett captures a Confederate camp at Palmito Ranch on the bank of the Rio Grande. Confederate reinforcements arrive late in the afternoon, and the Federals withdraw during the evening.

## "History At My Doorstep"

By Joseph F. Wilson,  
Member OBCWRT



Old Methodist Church  
and Cemetery  
on Evesham Avenue



Private George Harley  
25th New Jersey Infantry

Walks have become an integral part of my everyday life since retiring nearly 10 years ago. My extended walks have covered a lot of ground in the tiny town of Magnolia, NJ that sits along the White Horse Pike in Camden County. Few things escape my attention. But one small piece of history remained hidden from me for many years.

It was on one of my walks that I stumbled on a nugget of Civil War history that I have walked past so many times. Unbeknownst to me, a Civil War soldier is resting in his grave practically on my doorstep.

A stone's throw from my home is the grave of Private George Harley of the 25th New Jersey Infantry. I have lived in Magnolia for a long time and Private Harley's burial plot totally escaped my radar. Being especially interested in Civil War era cemeteries, I walked through the graveyard many times. That particular headstone never drew my interest as the stone is very hard to decipher. And my aging eyes miss more that I care to admit.

The burial ground is a small cemetery located next to the Old Methodist Church on Evesham Avenue that could be measured in yards rather than acres. The Magnolia Methodist Cemetery was established in 1848 when Magnolia was known as Greenland due to the green marl just below the surface.

But on one recent walk through the cemetery, I had my teenage granddaughter Nicole with me. On this stroll, the old soldier's grave came to light. Thanks to the young eyes of my granddaughter, the weather beaten stone revealed a Civil War soldier who fought in a New Jersey regiment. The long departed soldier survived the slaughter at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

The grave stone is in terrible condition and it was Nicole who actually decoded the weathered stone. Everyone knows that if you shine a light sideways on a carved object you can better decipher what's on the stone. And everyone knows a teenager dutifully carries a cell phone with a light. I don't have either one.

So it was Nicole who revealed that it was Pvt. George Harley of the 25th N.J. Infantry who slept beneath our feet. I totally missed this little historical bit so near to my home for so long. My deceased Yankee neighbor was a veteran of General Ambrose Burnside's ill-advised charge on Marye's Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862.

The 25th N.J. Infantry was a 9 month regiment that was organized in Beverly N.J. in Sept. 1862. The regiment arrived in Washington in October for guard duty in the various forts protecting Washington. In just two months, the green recruits who never experienced battle, received their baptism under fire at the debacle at Fredericksburg. In 1863, the 25th had a small part in repulsing Longstreet at Suffolk, Virginia, before being mustered out of the army.

Surviving members of the regiment never forgot and had seared in their minds the nightmare at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862. Only the lucky

ones lived through the butchery that day. George was one of the fortunate souls who came away unscathed. The 25th N.J. Infantry served under General George Getty at Fredericksburg.



**25th New Jersey Infantry  
Battle Flag**



**25th New Jersey Infantry  
Kepi**

The regiment was ordered to charge the wall at Marye's Heights where the brigade under Colonel Rush Hawkins was cut down in great numbers like the rest of the Union troops. All the Union forces that moved against the wall met with the same disastrous results. The numerous charges ordered by General Burnside against a well defended 4 foot stone wall ranks as one of the most foolhardy acts of the Civil War.

The 25th N.J. lost 85 men at Fredericksburg in killed, wounded, and missing. Many veterans of the 25th likely cursed the leaders who sent them to be annihilated on those exposed fields by the Confederates who were secured behind the well protected wall. So many boys fell before the wall in the useless charges that gained nothing for the Union. Criticism came not only from those soldiers who survived the carnage, but also from the families who lost their sons and husbands in a bloodbath that proved fruitless.

Whenever I pass the cemetery now, I think of a scared young George moving slowly toward the wall with a hail of bullets whistling past his ears. I've been to the Fredericksburg Battlefield many times and stood behind the defensive stone wall that protected the Confederate defenders. The careless decision by General Burnside to continuously charge the fortified wall and sacrifice his troops in such an irresponsible attack seems to be a dereliction of duty.

Private George Harley survived the debacle at Fredericksburg and got to go home to his family. So many New Jersey soldiers never returned from the Fredericksburg Battlefield and fill a soldier's grave in the Fredericksburg Cemetery. They rest far from home and most are buried under the familiar "Unknown Soldier." How George's final resting place came to be in a small cemetery in Magnolia is not known. George went home after the war and died in 1914. He was 80 years old. His wife Ellen, who is resting beside him under a much newer stone, died in 1911.

Private Harley now has a veteran's marker and an American flag flapping in the breeze next to his worn and battered stone. And so it shall for every Memorial Day to come!

**Joseph F. Wilson lectures on Andersonville Prison and Walt Whitman in the Civil War. His documentary film "Civil War Prisons – An American Tragedy" is available on Amazon. Contact – joef21@aol.com**

## **"Operation Second Chance"**

**By John Galie,  
Member OBCWRT**

Flat Old Baldy and I enjoyed another adventure. The last time we hit the trail we went to Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield and saw the Cyclorama at the Atlanta Civil War Museum. This time, we headed back to Monterey Pass Battlefield. Baldy has been to Monterey in the past, mainly because that is where I give my tours and he has joined me there several times...but Friday April 1, 2022 was a very special evening. Baldy joined me on an invitation that I received to give a fireside talk to some Heroes of our military.

16 miles from the Gettysburg Battlefield, nestled on a steep ridge, high in Raven Rock Mountain lies a very special place. The view is spectacular. You look down onto the Carroll Valley with Jacks Mountain to your left, McKee's Hill (a.k.a. Liberty Mountain Resort) to your right, the town of Fairfield almost directly in front of you, and if you have a sharp eye, as General Buford would say, you can see Little Round Top in the far distance.

An ideal place where Veterans can escape and spend a weekend to relax and enjoy the camaraderie of their peers. And that is where Flat Old Baldy was the evening of April 1, 2022. We talked about the Civil war with the group and told a few stories about the battles, over a home baked delicacy that I brought with me....Hardtack. Then Baldy took main stage and stole the show, bragging about all his war stories and even posing with the brave young men and woman who served our country.





There were 5 of our heroes there that night representing the Army, Navy, and Marines and they received Old Baldy as a fellow brother in arms. These are the young Men and Woman who defend and protect us. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude.

The organization that invited me is called Operation Second Chance and here is their website

<https://operationsecondchance.org/>

I can attest to the fact that the work they are doing has a positive effect on the men and women who served. If you are interested, check out the site, anything you can do to support them will make a direct impact to help our Heroes.

## League of Historical Societies 2022 Winter Meeting

By Kathy Clark,  
Vice President,  
OBCWRT

The 2022 Winter Meeting of the League of Historical Societies was hosted by the Camden County History Alliance of the Camden County Historical Society. The long COVID challenges for all of us canceled the winter meeting which was scheduled for 2020. It finally came together on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The long wait and preparation by many volunteers from the history alliance including Old Baldy CWRT was finally here.

The large round tables were draped in black tablecloths and chair covers were in gray. We had a large group of representatives from many areas of New Jersey with approximately 40 attending. Old Baldy was represented by three members of our board Dave, Frank, and me. On each side of the room displays from Camden County Historical Alliance members including Dave who organized Old Baldy's display with rare books, our Camden County map, our certificate honoring our newsletter, and various literature as handouts. Thanks, Dave, for your help! We cannot forget Flat Old Baldy who was peering out from the table. Later he took various photos with Rich, Dave, and presenters.

We were welcomed by President Tim Hart of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and Bonny Beth Elwell of the Camden County History Alliance. There was a league meeting, a coffee break, and chance to look at the displays around the perimeter of the room. The first event was Bonny Beth Elwell from the Camden County History Alliance.

### An Overview of Camden County History

Camden County History began as the crossroad of the American Revolution. Early artifacts dating back to the Lenape Indian tribes can be found in our own Camden County Museum. Early history begins with the Dutch on 1626 with colonies in West Jersey which was then Gloucester and Haddonfield combined. Later the two areas separated and became the beginning of Haddonfield as we know it with Elizabeth Haddon as its founder. Historical sites were built along the river such as the Ebenezer Hopkins House, along the Cooper River and Griffith Morgan House along the Penn Creek. By 1777/78 the British were here with Lafayette and his troops at the battle of Gloucester. The Colonial-era Gabreil Daveis Tavern housed four Revolutionary soldiers and two sons who all fought. The Haddon Heights Historical Society honors the Colonel Joseph Elis Howe House, and the Indian King Tavern was the headquarters of the provincial government during the war. Today the American Revolution Round Table of New Jersey was formed with the Daughters of the American Revolution to celebrate women and their families from colonial times to the present.

Slavery was part of Camden's history between 1727-65 there were slave auctions right in Camden along the river. Pomona Hall located right next door to the Camden County Historical Society and Peter Mott House in Lawnside, the early black settlement called Snow Hill, was one station of the underground railroad. The volunteers of the house also talk about the soldiers and nurses of WWI. By 1827 the Newton Friends Meeting House invited speakers like



Lucretia Mott and Sojourner Truth to speak.

Forming Camden County happened in 1844 when the township split from Gloucester County now with its own Railroad and industry. Barclay Farmstead was growing its own vegetables and gardening. The railroad was building train stations in Berlin, the oldest station, and Magnolia. The West Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was organized. Glass and brick were made and imported as displayed at the Winslow Township Historic Center. Camden County has many historic buildings starting in 1693 to the late 19th century. One example is Collings-Knight House and the Champion School located in Collingswood, New Jersey. Immigration came to Camden in 1880 with 4200 residents and by 1950 the population increased to over 12,400. Camden County Historical Society has records of genealogy by looking at the Walt Whitman House and the Stafford Farmhouse his summer home. Looking into the Gloucester City Historical Society shows an immigration station and Saint Joseph's History Center of South Camden has records as immigrants started attending religious services. Berlin Township History Society also records Black and Italian immigrations.



**Frank at the Tour Table**



**Dave at the Old Baldy Table**



**Frank with Bonnie Beth**



**Donna Harris with Old Baldy**



Industry was booming in Camden County with Campbell Soup Company, the New York Ship Building, Gloucester City Sail, and Battleship New Jersey are part of the industrial revolution of Camden County. The Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum was established, many people worked at the shipyard their entire life it was that important to Camden County's livelihood. The Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Center was founded to bring heroic stories of Holocaust survivors and concentration camp liberators from WWII.

The population of Camden celebrate diversity from the Audubon Historical Society and the Oaklyn seniors, Clementon Historical Museum, Stratford Quaker Store of the 1880's. Going to YouTube there are videos from the Merchantville Historical Society, Somerdale Historical Society, and Waterford Township Historical Society has a rare telephone collection. All these societies deal with various groups of members who help to explain the diversity of Camden County residents.

Today history education must continue to preserve Camden County history. There are many Camden County Historical Sites that need to be open and explored by the residents of the county. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Center and Camden City archives are always available to help historians and residents. All these resources are available and are open to all researchers to continue Camden County history education and bring that history into the classroom and the history books.

The next presenter was Donna Ann Harris, Heritage Consulting, Inc:  
**Camden County Heritage Tourism Plan**

The Camden County Heritage Tourism Plan has been established with financial assistance from the New Jersey Historic Trust through grants from discover New Jersey History license plates heritage tourism June 2017. Second grant was from the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund and the third grant for \$10,000 from the Rohrer Foundation. This created rack card sites and the theme for the map and guide for the Heritage Trails pamphlet. The topics included architecture, immigration, African American history, women's history, rivers roads and rails and colonial history.

Camden County History week began with 32 of 49 organizations open for visitors and manned by 89% volunteers. At this point history week was spread by word of mouth so Camden County History Alliance partnered together to start to put events on their website and Facebook. Rack cards helped to show the hours per month or weekends when the site was open with volunteers attending to welcome visitors. At the feedback meeting on November 2, 2018, they designated some sites as family sites with 50% families going to these sites for the first time. It was decided to expand History Week to a whole month and to continue doing surveys and statistics all to improve and understand who was attending these sites and what was the population like in diversity.

Communication is a big factor in anything that is geared to help the public gain knowledge of what is happening in Camden County. At first there was



only a story from one newspaper and magazine Bonny Beth does two times a year. There is a need to find more ways to get the word out. History training opportunities was available through training volunteers and erecting historic markers for historic sites with the idea of using Trip Adviser, Yelp, Visit South Jersey to show historic markers to the public. As a result of COVID some programs were canceled but did have Zoom events and monthly newsletters.

Welcome to 2022: The magazine is back; History Month is October 2022, and the monthly e-newsletter continues. New grant funds for printing have been requested. There is now a new City Hall kiosk, a City Hall website and now the monthly newsletter is uploaded to the kiosk as well. Now many of these materials are translated into Spanish. It all looks promising as work continues to make the information available from the Camden County Heritage Trails to all. There are many historical sites in Camden County to visit and learn their history. Come out and be a part of Camden County history!

During lunch were able to visit Camden County Historical Society Museum. After lunch there were museum and historic sites by theme: Camden County through times, Early Camden County houses, colonial life, and Walt Whitman. The 2022 Winter Meeting of the League of Historical Societies was a great success. Thanks to all who volunteered to be a part of this great day of events and a chance to network with other society members. Learning about Camden County history is fun for who knows what we will find as we explore.

## Old Baldy's presentation: April 14 Meeting *A Tale of Two Neighbors International Aspects of The American Civil War*

Presentation by Gil Hahn

By Kathy Clark,  
Vice President,  
OBCWRT



Gil Hahn



In 1860 British attempts to acquire Canada. This was not the first attempt starting in 1775 during the Revolutionary War and the invasion failed. Again in 1812, War of 1820, invasion failed. By 1846 there was a dispute over Oregon Country which led to a compromise between US and Britain. In the meantime, James K. Polk started the 1846 war to get land groups in Mexico. To try to acquire Mexico with the Mexican Reform War of 1858-1860. The Civil War in Mexico could not pay back loans that had been accumulated during the 1850's.

At the same time the US was gathering strength of their army and navy in 1860-61 as compared to Britain. US army manpower was not yet equal to France but US military power, was big on shipping interests. The US was growing into a shipping Nation. During the war Britain relied on American grain and on all other agricultural goods. In 1860  $\frac{3}{4}$  of imported cotton fiber with half of all US exports going to Britain. Taxes were collected by US on all imports.

### Timeline I

April 12, 1861 – Confederate troops fire on Fort Sumter

April 15, 1861 – A Federal blockade was initiated because of the Fort Sumter attack. US privateering captures British Merchant ship in 1861 because of the blockade. In international law, regarding customs, each state was as one sovereign nation. The US president Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward stated that a privateer can act like a pirate to capture any ship that goes through the blockade. The nations will capture privateers when the highways open to all traffic. President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of State Judah Benjamin felt that Confederate states could be privateers just like the Federals. Great Britain declared neutral power as stated by Foreign Minister Viscount Palmerston and Prime Minister Earl Russell. The Federal army started to grow. Early in 1862 British proclaimed that a blockade was in effect



capturing some Confederate privateers. Federal troops also captured Confederate privateer because they felt Confederate could do the same to them.

### Timeline II

July 21, 1861 – Battle of Bull Run

October 31, 1861 – Convention in London and agreement to invade Mexico to collect tariff.

November 11, 1861 – USS San Jacinto stops the RMS Trent which was a neutral vessel.

December 12, 1861 – European troops land in Veracruz, Mexico to try to seize repayment of debt.

The British sent 14,000 troops on their way to Maine. They landed in Portland, Maine via Railroad. The length of Canada Border is over 5,525 miles. There was high unemployment in mill workers in Britain but already knew that the Federal troops wanted to save the union. By October 25, 1862, Gladstone proclaimed "they have made a nation". After this Federal victory at Antietam Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

### Timeline III

December 7, 1863 – Steamer Chesapeake seized Nova Scotia

April 10, 1863 – Maximillian becomes Emperor of Mexico

September 19, 1863 – Raid on St. Albans, Vermont. The Confederate raid from Canada by Confederate soldiers to rob banks to raise money and to trick the Federal army into diverting troops to defend their northern border against further raids. They were successful and returned to Canada.

### Timeline IV

November 11, 1862 – Confederate's dwelling in Canada north of Oswego.

December 3, 1862 – Battle of Puebla, May 5, 1862, this was the second invasion of Mexico by France. The battle was won by the Mexican Army. The French did win other battles with Mexico, but this battle was a boost for the Mexican army. The execution of Emperor Maximillian resulted because of this invasion. The CSS Alabama was a ship of war and privateers want compensation from British, but they did not act.

Britain goes to the San Francisco harbor to privateer, but it was Alfred Rubery, British, who pardoned the pirates. He has friends in high places like John Bright from parliament and Charles Sumner in the US. Mexican victory brought about the US celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

Thank you, Gil Hahn, for a very informative presentation on a different aspect of the Civil War. The members of Old Baldy CWRT appreciate you coming to speak as a virtual presentation and on Zoom.

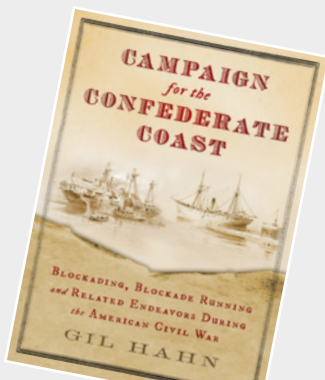
## "The Affair at Hunterstown"

**While the Battle of Gettysburg was raging through its second day, two cavalry forces were jousting in a village five miles to the northeast.**

Late in the afternoon of July 2, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg, a sharp cavalry fight broke out at Hunterstown, five miles to the northeast. Although this was a sideshow, it had some significance in that each antagonist was trying to protect the flank and rear of his main army from a supposed thrust by the other. History has ignored this small affair, and it is easy to see why. The after-action reports are thin, and reminiscences of participants are scarce and obscure.

In piecing together the story, one encounters several puzzles, some of which remain unanswered. The first question is why did Major General Alfred

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**Presenter Book Winner - Ken Funkhouser**

**Regular Book Raffle Winners at the April Meeting - Rick Zarr, Harry Jenkins, Bill Sia and Karl Walko.**



**By Wilbur S. Nye  
CWRTI, February 1976**



**Brigadier General  
Judson Hugh Kilpatrick**



**Brigadier General  
George Armstrong Custer**



**Brigadier General  
Elon John Farnsworth**



**Brigadier General  
Joseph Tarr Copeland**

Pleasanton, dapper and shifty-eyed commander of the Union cavalry corps, ask Hooker to transfer Julius Stahel away when his cavalry division was assigned to Pleasanton's force? The reason given in the reports of the campaign is that Stahel was a do-nothing; but the more reasonable explanation is that Stahel ranked Pleasanton, producing an awkward situation. On June 28 Pleasanton gave the division designated the 3d Cavalry Division to Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick, a brigade commander he wished to promote. This is understandable, but it is not entirely reasonable that at the same time he reorganized the three-brigade division as two brigades, swept out their commanders, and replaced them with two of his personal aides—Captain Elon Farnsworth and Lieutenant George A. Custer. These young men had served gallantly on his staff, but he was jumping them over several quite good regimental commanders who had demonstrated leadership qualities in combat.

Kilpatrick, 27, was a feisty little Celt from New Jersey, a man with a shrill voice, a long red beak, reddish side-whiskers, and scraggly, sandy-colored hair. He had graduated from West Point in May 1861 and there after had enjoyed an active career that fed a boundless ambition. He was brave and impetuous but erratic and lacking in sound judgment. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., in a contemporary letter to his brother, commented, from close observation, "Kilpatrick is a brave injudicious boy, much given to blowing, and who will surely come to grief."

Farnsworth, who was 25, had entered the service from civil life, and during the Battles of Brandy Station and Aldie-Middleburg-Upperville had won Pleasanton's favorable notice by his dash and efficiency. He would not live long enough to prove out his superior's estimate. Custer had graduated from USMA in June 1861, a class behind Kilpatrick, and he very nearly didn't make it because of having acquired close to the limit in demerits. He was 23, a very daring and unconventional young man.

KILPATRICK took command of his new division on June 29 at its bivouac three miles north of Frederick, Maryland. The units were still scattered, two of the regiments being in the vicinity of Turner's Gap to the west, and the Michigan regiments reconnoitering northward along the eastern edge of the Catoctin Mountains. Custer, who did not yet know he was now entitled to wear a star, was out inspecting the corps pickets. Brigadier General Joseph T. Copeland, who had been commanding the Michigan brigade, and was unaware that he had been superseded by Custer, had marched to Emmitsburg on the 27th and from there to Gettysburg on the 28th, arriving shortly after noon. This will surprise most readers, for the impression has long been prevalent that the first major unit of the Army of the Potomac to arrive at Gettysburg was Buford's cavalry division, on June 30.

The people of Gettysburg welcomed Copeland's men joyously, thinking they had been delivered from the enemy who had descended upon them two days earlier. They told Copeland that Jubal Early's Rebel division, with nearly a brigade of cavalry attached, and twenty pieces of artillery, had passed through two days earlier on its way to York. Copeland verified this by capturing messengers passing between Robert E. Lee (at Chambersburg) and Early. He promptly sent the information back to Stahel, adding that Lee's main force was at Chambersburg. The records do not disclose whether this vital information reached Meade, now commanding the Army of the Potomac, and the impression persists that he did not know of it until informed by Buford two days later.

Copeland bivouacked in the knee-deep clover east of Gettysburg, and in the morning received the sad word that he had been relieved of command and was to send his brigade back to Emmitsburg, which he did.

Had the Michigan brigade remained in Gettysburg, their wide-ranging patrols might have discovered that a squadron of Confederate cavalry reached Hunterstown on the evening of the 29th. This is another of the surprises offered by a close study of the Hunterstown affair, for history has insisted that none of Jeb Stuart's cavalry arrived near Gettysburg until July 2. But they did, and this was a squadron of Cobb's Georgia Legion of Hampton's brigade. A Captain Crawford was in command, and he was on a foraging expedition far





**Brigadier General  
Wade Hampton**



**Brigadier General  
Fitzhugh Lee**



**Colonel  
John R. Chambliss, Jr.**

from the main body, then moving north through Westminster. Crawford's chief occupation seems to have been gathering horses from the farmers, but he had seized an important crossroads, for roads came into Hunterstown from five directions and, as it would turn out, it was a key point in the protection of the northeast flank of both armies.

General Kilpatrick had spent most of the 29th near Frederick, assembling his new division (except the Michigan regiments returning from Gettysburg to Emmitsburg), and holding a review. Toward evening he led it toward Littlestown, where he arrived about 10 p.m. His mission was to head off Stuart's cavalry, which was known to have captured a wagon train near Rockville that morning, and after interrupting rail and telegraph communication west of Baltimore was believed to be marching north toward Westminster. Kilpatrick had sent word for the two Michigan regiments at Emmitsburg to join him at Littlestown. They arrived there at daylight on the 30th.

Kilpatrick's regiments were now scattered through the countryside, looking for Stuart, who had spent the latter part of the night at the Shriver farm at Union Mills. The 1st and 7th Michigan regiments of Custer's 2d Brigade and Pennington's horse Battery M, 2d U.S. Artillery had marched north through Hanover to Abbottstown. At 9 a.m. Farnsworth's 1st Brigade started from Littlestown toward Hanover, having received a report that Stuart was headed there from Union Mills. Having a shorter distance to travel than Stuart, they arrived at Hanover before he did.

The 5th and 6th Michigan, Copeland's erstwhile command, remained for a time in Littlestown. One company went on reconnaissance toward Westminster, soon followed by the 5th Michigan under Colonel Russell A. Alger. Late in the morning a citizen ran into town to report a large enemy force five miles out toward Hanover (this was Fitzhugh Lee's brigade, which had diverged to the west to protect Stuart's flank).

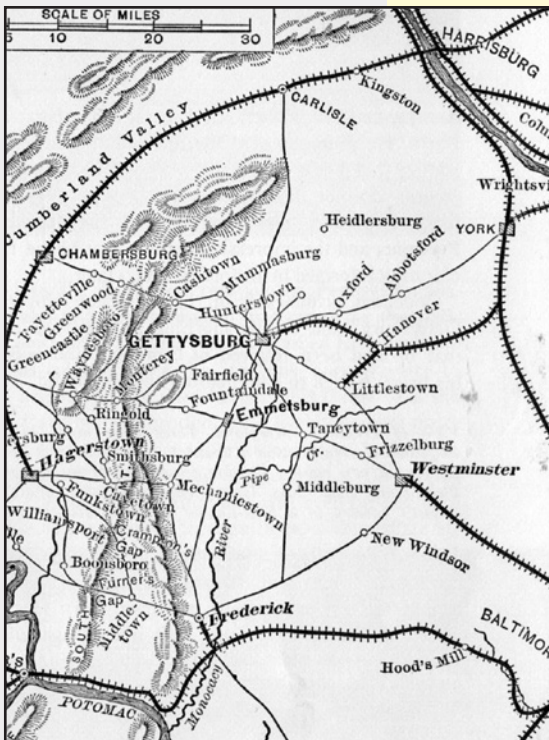
Colonel George Gray had his bugler sound "To Horse!" and soon the 6th Michigan was riding toward Hanover. Several citizens carrying shotguns were seen going on foot along the flank of the column, trying to keep pace with the cavalry and apparently eager to join in the expected battle. When within a mile of Hanover the regiment heard firing in that direction, and turned off into a wheatfield.

What had happened was that Farnsworth's brigade had marched through Hanover, followed by the pack trains of the 5th and 6th Michigan. Chambliss, commanding Stuart's leading brigade, came in from the ridge to the south just in time to see the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Farnsworth's rear regiment, snaking through the hamlet of Pennsville, just southwest of Hanover. Chambliss charged into the flank and rear of the Pennsylvanians, throwing the unit into confusion and capturing the pack trains. Farnsworth, hearing the row, dashed back from the head of his column, faced the 5th New York Cavalry to the rear, and made a countercharge. They threw back the 2d North Carolina and brought on a lively mounted melee that attracted to the scene other troops from both sides. Stuart's captured wagon train was in rear of Chambliss, while the rear brigade, Hampton's was even farther back and unable to get forward in time to be of immediate effect. Fitz Lee was out to the flank fending off Colonel Gray's column. Thus Farnsworth had time to eject the Confederates from town and to stabilize his line facing south. During the lull that ensued, Kilpatrick galloped back from Abbottstown, killing his horse, and placed his two batteries in position on the high ground northwest of Hanover.

Gray's 6th Michigan, moving gingerly over a crest, came face to face with Fitz Lee's brigade which, with two cannon, was facing them. This was Gray's first combat experience, but he had the sense to see that he could not handle his opposition. Leaving a squadron to hold off the enemy, he sidled around to the northwest, but not before he sustained several casualties from the Rebel artillery. By his detour he soon joined other units of the brigade, which had come in from their reconnaissances and were now in line supporting the artillery.

Although little further cavalry fighting occurred subsequent to the Federal

counterattack, other than action between the skirmish lines, the opposing batteries pounded away at each other until nearly dark, when Stuart broke contact. He marched ten miles east to Jefferson, where he rested his units for a few hours before continuing toward York in an effort to make junction with Early. In the morning, learning that Early had marched westward or toward the northwest the day before, he headed toward Carlisle, where he supposed Ewell's corps was assembled. In the evening he found that town occupied by Federal militia. He shelled the town briefly, and burned the nearby Carlisle Barracks. Then, having learned that the main Confederate army was passing through the Cashtown Pass, headed for Gettysburg, he turned toward the latter.



Kilpatrick spent the night of June 30-July 1 at Hanover. He reported to Pleasonton that "Lee's head-quarters are at [East] Berlin." Pleasonton indorsed this to General Meade with the comment, "General Lee's headquarters being at Berlin is very important." Thus Kilpatrick and Pleasonton, consistently imaginative gentlemen, were running true to form; and it is well that Meade paid no attention to their whimsies. Despite this typical bit of romancing, Kilpatrick performed well in his first day of combat as a division commander. He had only been in command of the unit for two days, had not previously seen the brigades assembled, and had had no opportunity to get acquainted with his staff and commanders. Farnsworth and Custer had made a good impression, too. Captain J.H. Kidd, 6th Michigan, writing of the latter after the war, said: "It was here (Hanover) that the Michigan brigade first saw Custer, riding close up to the line of skirmishers, who had been dismounted to fight on foot, giving orders in a tone that was resolute and, to us, reassuring. Under his guiding hand the four regiments were soon welded together as a coherent unit."

On the morning of July 1 Kilpatrick advanced his division to Abbottstown and from there sent reconnoitering parties to East Berlin and beyond. He wrote in his report, "I marched at daylight to Berlin via Abbottstown to intercept Stuart, but failed." Of course he failed! Stuart had gone northeast whereas Kilpatrick marched north. Having once established contact with the enemy cavalry he should have maintained it at all costs. If he really wished to know

in which direction Stuart had ridden, he had only to follow Stuart's "spoor." Seven thousand horses leave a considerable spoor. It is odd, too, that Kilpatrick failed to learn that Early's reinforced division had passed through East Berlin the day before, en route to Heidlersburg to join Ewell. Even in the unlikely event that his trail was invisible, the roadside farmers must have remarked on Early's passage. Yet Early was able to arrive near Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1, unheralded by Union cavalry other than Gamble's rather late warning.

Kilpatrick wrote, "On July 2 I received orders to move quickly toward Gettysburg. I proceeded rapidly across country in the direction of the firing and reached the battlefield at 2 p.m. I received orders . . . to move over to the road leading from Gettysburg to Abbottstown, and see that the enemy did not turn our flank." The last statement, about protecting the flank, is correct, but the rest of this paragraph is probably another flight of imagination. The regimental reports indicate that the division simply marched west from some where between Abbottstown and East Berlin, passed through New Oxford, later turned northeast from the York Road near Guldens Station, and headed toward Hunterstown. This was about 4 p.m.

About midmorning of that same day (July 2) Jeb Stuart's Confederate column arrived at York Springs (then called Petersburg) on its way to Gettysburg. Near Heidlersburg they turned off the pike and took the country road that goes down to Gettysburg via Hunterstown. Likely General Lee, in his message to Stuart, had specified that route since it would bring the cavalry into a proper position covering Ewell's flank. Hunterstown, being the focus of five roads leading into the flank and rear of both armies, was a logical initial objective for both cavalries.



Accounts of residents of the Hunterstown area state that shortly after noon on July 2 Captain Crawford told the citizens that Jeb Stuart's famous cavalry would soon pass through the town and that they might assemble in the square to witness this historic event. Presently the head of the column was seen coming over the high ground to the north, near the old Presbyterian Church. An officer in the lead waved his sword and shouted to the people to disperse, but Crawford said he had given them permission to be there. The long gray column of cavalry, artillery, and captured wagons clattered through the village for an hour or two, went out the Gettysburg road, and disappeared into the woods beyond the Gilbert farm.

General Stuart halted his brigades on Brinkerhoff Ridge three miles southwest of Hunterstown, and rode toward Gettysburg to report to General Lee in person. While he was gone Wade Hampton, sitting on his horse at the tail of the column, had a small adventure that alerted the Confederates to the possibility of enemy cavalry in their rear. Someone fired at him from a copse two or three hundred yards to his rear. He rode in that direction, stopped at a stake-and-rail fence and stared at the thicket, some 125 yards farther back. He saw a Yankee trooper standing on a stump aiming his carbine for a second shot. Hampton drew his revolver and fired at the same instant as the Federal.

Both missed. Both fired again, and Hampton felt the ball go through his jacket, grazing his chest. His antagonist, as he learned after the war through friendly correspondence with him, was Frank Pearson, a 19-year-old soldier from the 6th Michigan Cavalry.

Pearson, evidently a member of one of Kilpatrick's advance patrols, had trouble reloading. His next cartridge didn't seat properly in the chamber of his breechloader. He held up his hand as if signalling for Hampton to suspend firing. The latter sat courteously at "raise pistol" until the Federal again aimed at him. The next exchange of shots rang out and Hampton's bullet shattered Pearson's wrist. The Yankee dropped his weapon, whipped about, and disappeared into the thicket.

At that moment a lieutenant from the 6th Michigan galloped along Hampton's side of the fence and slashed at him with a saber. Hampton's thick hair and felt hat deflected the blow so that he received only a superficial scalp injury. He brought his pistol down almost touching his enemy's chest and pulled the trigger. The weapon mis-fired.

The lieutenant galloped off, with Hampton two leaps behind, furiously snapping his pistol and shouting curses. The enemy disappeared in the hedge and Hampton went back to his command, where a surgeon slapped a court-plaster on his cut.

**Continued in the June Issue**

## **"Congratulations"**

**Village Greenes 2022 Winter/Spring Season Bowling Champs!**

*Congratulations to the "Spare Me" team who captured the 2022 Winter/Spring Bowling League Championship today. "Spare Me" (Frank Barletta, Ann Marie Matt & Jim McGogney) edged out the "Head Pins" team (Al Lyons, Ann Carew & Kathy Barrett) for the win.*



**Frank Barletta, Ann Marie  
and Jim McGogney**



## The Society for Women and the Civil War

“Recognizing  
Women’s  
Efforts,  
1861-1865”

The Society for Women and the Civil War is pleased to announce the  
**22nd Conference  
on Women and the Civil War, The Women of the Shenandoah Valley,  
in Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 22-24, 2022.**

### Conference Highlights:

Living History and Reenacting Workshop  
First Person Impressions of Rose O’Neal Greenhow  
and Margaret Junkin Preston  
Dr. Jonathan Berkey speaking  
on the “Women of the Shenandoah During the Civil War”  
A visit to the world-class Frontier Culture Museum  
Juanita Leisch Jensen presenting a rare Confederate homespun dress from  
the Shenandoah Valley  
Jess Pritchard-Ritter speaking on “Belle Grove’s Free  
and Enslaved Populations During the Civil War.”  
Ashley Sonntag and Susan Wall speaking about reenacting,  
living history, and docenting

### Nightly Hospitality Suite

Farm to table dining, including a Saturday night banquet  
Silent Auction

The venue is the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center  
in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our special conference rate for rooms is \$119 + tax per night,  
plus \$5 parking per day.

To reserve your room, call the hotel at 540-564-0200,  
or go online to Hotel Madison

and Shenandoah Valley Conference Ctr ([travelclick.com](http://travelclick.com))

### Space is limited! Register now!

EmailMe Form - SWCW 2022 Conference Registration Form

Registration Deadline: July 15, 2022

Hotel Registration Deadline: June 17, 2022

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Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

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

June 9, 2022 – Thursday

A. J. Schenkman

“Unexpected Bravery: Women and Children  
of the Civil War”

July 14, 2022 – Thursday

Peter Miele

“Talking Flags - The United States Signal Corps on  
July 1 and Beyond”

August 11, 2022 - Thursday

Dr. Kenneth Rutherford

“America’s Buried History:  
Landmines in the Civil War”

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Camden County College

Blackwood Campus - Connector Building

Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

[oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)

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