

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

October 13, 2022

Civil War Roundtable Congress
The Wallace L. Rueckel
Innovation Award
presented to OB CWRT

The Society For Women
and the Civil War
for Service to the Society
presented to OB CWRT

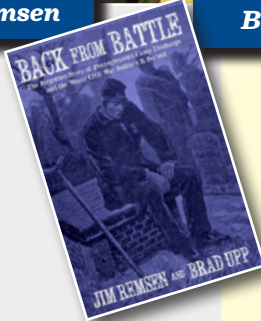
“Back From Battle: The Forgotten Story of Pennsylvania’s Camp Discharge and the Weary Civil War Soldiers It Served”



Jim Remsen



Brad Upp



In the final year of the American Civil War, a special Union Army post was constructed just outside Philadelphia to handle a jumble of returning citizen-soldiers.

Many soldiers bore bullet wounds, broken bones, and other scars of combat. Some had lost limbs. Some were laid low by illness. Hundreds arrived

half-dead as survivors of wretched prison camps. Others were blessedly unscathed—but all grappled with the fresh, ferocious memories of their time at war.

The post, known as Camp Discharge, did its best to move the young Union veterans on to their next assignment or, more often, back to civilian life. During its brief existence, it sat on a bluff overlooking what is today one of the nation’s busiest highways, the Schuylkill Expressway. The post was quickly dismantled, its story forgotten. The authors reclaim that remarkable history and trace the often tumultuous lives of the Pennsylvania volunteer soldiers who passed through Camp Discharge’s gates.

Jim Remsen is a journalist and author of several prior books; *The Intermarriage Handbook*; *Visions of Teatoga*; and *Embattled Freedom*. Since retiring as Religion Editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer, Jim has pursued his keen interest in history, with a focus on underappreciated aspects of our nation’s local histories.

Brad Upp is a board member of the Lower Merion Historical Society and a former educator. His upbringing near Camp Discharge stoked a fascination with history and led him to become a Civil War historian, relic hunter and re-enactor representing the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry. Brad is a skilled collector of artifacts from various periods of history, a passion that has taken him to a myriad of locations throughout the United States.

Notes from the President

Welcome to October. The temperatures have cooled, the Baseball playoffs are beginning and the NBA is coming back soon. The post-award edition of our Round Table begins as we seek new adventures in pursuing our mission and

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 13, at Katz JCC, 1301 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

The program will also be simulcast on Zoom for the benefit of those members and friends who are unable to attend. Please email oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access.

Please join us 5:15 pm at the Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant 13107 Town Center Blvd. Voorhees Township, NJ 08043

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Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT



Flat Old Baldy and President Jankowski welcome member Janet Whaley from Pasadena, CA and presented her membership badge and OB CWRT items.



New Members

Phillip Seasock
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Paul Schultz
Haddon Heights, New Jersey

Profile by Kim Weaver

improving our membership experience. Thank you all again for aiding us in winning the Innovation Award. Be sure to watch the video of **Ms. Carol's** presentation. Welcome to our new Sister Round Table, the Inland Empire CWRT of Redlands, CA. Thank you to the members who staffed our display table at Civil War weekend at Mullica Hill. Welcome to our new members **Paul Schultz** and **Philip Seasock**.

Several members have visited Old Baldy in the GAR Museum at its new location on Frankford Ave and give it a positive review. Boscov's Friends Helping Friends is October 19th, be sure to sell your coupons in advance. The Nominating Committee will be named at the October meeting to announce a slate at the November meeting. Elections will be in December. Consider serving on our Board or leading one of our projects to continue our journey of preservation and education of the Civil War era.

Last month after the award ceremony, **Dr. Elizabeth D. Leonard** gave a talk on her book about General Benjamin Butler and why we should stop calling him a "Beast." Her very fine presentation was enjoyed by one of our largest audiences in years. Between in person and on Zoom we had 73 folks at the meeting. We appreciate Dr. Leonard waiting through the award ceremony and Old Baldy business before speaking to us. This month **Jim Remson** and **Brad Upp** will visit us at the Katz Jewish Community Center at Springdale and Kresson Roads in Cherry Hill. They will share the story in their book *Back from Battle*, about Camp Discharge and the Soldiers it served. Bring a friend to hear about this local site that was just across the river.

Next month **Chuck Viet** will return to tell us about the Battle of Fort Butler in Donaldsonville, LA, in June 1863. Plan on coming out to see a fan of our Round Table. After the election and Bylaw update vote at our December gathering, we will have an end of the year social event for members to mingle and chat with each other. Light refreshments and extra prizes will be available as we celebrate ten years in New Jersey. Details will be provided in a future newsletter.

We are seeking a member to update the pictures on our display board before the Spring. Get your blue Old Baldy reusable bag soon. The Civil War event at the Glassboro Train Station will be on October 23rd 1-4 P M, visit us there. Mark your calendar for Wreathes Across America at the Beverly National Cemetery on December 17th. A shout out to **Kim Weaver** for her continued effort to profile our members for newsletter postings. Keep telling others about our organization and inviting them to visit and check us out.

Dinner this month will be at the Iron Hill Brewery in Voorhees at 5:15. Stop by to chat with Jim and Brad.

Rich Jankowski, President

Member Profile - William (Bill) Sia

When you first meet William (Bill) Sia, you quickly notice his sense of humor. Chat with him for a good while and you come away knowing more than you ever thought possible about American history and the workings of his country's government. "I'm the only guy I know who walks around with a copy of the Constitution in his back pocket."

Born in 1945 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Bill, one of six children, had an idyllic childhood. He idolized his Dad, a veteran of the second World War, who labored in a coal mine (the only job available) for five years before moving his family 120 miles down the road to Levittown to work in a steel mill. Ten-year-old Bill thought he had moved to suburban heaven. "We bought a house, schools went up, I could ride my bike anywhere, my Mom and Dad filled the house with books - it was great growing up there."

After graduating in 1963 from Woodrow Wilson High School, Bill set out to become a teacher. In 1967 he earned a B.A. at King's College and then went on to teach American Government and History to seniors at Pennsauken High

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Continued from page 2 - "Profile"



William (Bill) Sia

School (NJ) for 35 years. He earned a M.A. at Trenton State College in 1982. Bill, a member of the New Jersey Education Association, credits his parents and teachers with his career success. "They steered me to entrench myself in the activities of reading and studying. Even my professors. They all set a good example."

While working at Pennsauken H.S. Bill met Ed Komczyk, then a math teacher and friend of Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. Ed would mention a group meeting to Bill, Bill would say yeah, let's go, and together they would take a train to the Civil War Museum on Pine Street in Philly. They enjoyed those early days of discussions and camaraderie, through the group's move to the Union League and now - with the help of Bill Hughes and others - at Camden County College. "This is where I met a very bright and talented group."

Fast forward 25 years and Bill and Ed remain great friends and loyal Round Table members. Although Bill continues to harbor an interest in the Civil War, he is drawn primarily to the areas of pre-war influences and Reconstruction, a topic he has presented at the Round Table. Bill is extremely proud of the Old Baldy crew. "I can't get over how smart people are in the group. They are so knowledgeable."

Fellow Old Baldy members may be surprised at how knowledgeable Bill is at something totally unrelated to the U.S. Civil War and that is building race cars. With the help of their tech-savvy Dad, Bill and his brother built a 1963 Triumph that they took to the car hill climb competitions in Wilkes-Barre in the 70s. They painted the car red, white, and blue - with stars. The car is long gone (two rich guys bought it; Bill has regrets) but Bill's brother has the frame of a MGB sitting in his garage waiting for a body. Constructing another racer is certainly on Bill's bucket list. Right now, though, he is having too much fun traveling to NASCAR races with his brother.

Bill lives in Marlton, NJ with his wife and college sweetheart, Anna. She is a retired nurse. They have been married for 50 years and have one son, Brian, a computer engineer working at McGuire AFB in NJ.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Sunday, October 13

Eastern Theater

Confederate raiders under the command of noted cavalryman Turner Ashby make a daring assault on Harper's Ferry from their base at Charlestown in the Shenandoah Valley. Although of little value, the raid is a foretaste of the actions of Confederate cavalrymen later in the war.



**Colonel
Turner Ashby, Jr.**

1862 Monday, October 13

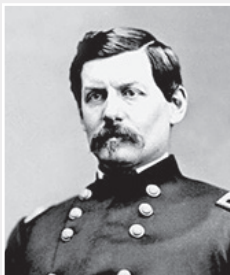
Eastern Theater

The president again writes to McClellan, urging him on. ". . . You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim?"

1863 Tuesday, October 13

The North

Republican Union candidates win a series of state elections. Clement Vallandigham, who has run his campaign from exile in Canada, is defeated in Ohio.



**Major General
George Brinton McClellan**

1864 Thursday, October 13



Clement Laird Vallandigham

The North

Maryland votes to adopt a new constitution which includes the abolition of slavery, but only by a hair's breadth: the vote is 30,174 in favor and 29,799 against—a majority of just 375.

Eastern Theater

Early's Confederates are at their old position on Fisher's Hill while Sheridan advances to Cedar Creek. Mosby's raiders are active behind him, taking up the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad west of Harper's Ferry and wrecking a train. They also take \$173,000 from two US Army paymasters.

Western Theater

Hood threatens Resaca, Georgia, but declines to attack, preferring to destroy the railroad for 20 miles and capture the Federal garrison at Dalton.

CWRT Congress Recognizes Old Baldy CWRT with 2022 Innovation Award



Wallace L. Rueckel Award

Acceptance Speech

Thank you, Miss Carol, for your kind remarks and for representing the CWRT Congress in presenting this award to our Round Table. Thank you to the CWRT Congress Award Committee for honoring our Round Table with this award. Congratulations to the other nominees, you are all doing good work to keep CWRTs relevant and moving forward in our missions of education and preservation. Thank you to the Congress for its efforts across the nation and world.

As I have been explaining to our members over the last several weeks it was a team effort in winning this award. Members like Mike Cavanaugh, Steve Wright, Herb Kaufman and Harry Jenkins kept the organizations going in lean times. Those who served to rebuild it when we came to New Jersey, Bob Russo, Blair and Carol Thron, Rosemary Viggiano and Ellen Preston. Members who stepped up to make a difference Arlene Schnaare and Priscilla Gabosch build our membership program, Ellen created our South Jersey Civil War site map, Bob Russo designed and built our display, Loraine Gancher sells our Boscov coupons, Bill Hughes has organized our history and started our attendance records, Jim Heenehan moved our Book award and profiles along. Our own Statler and Waldorf Ed Komczyk and Bill Sia, keep us entertained. Bill and Debbie Holdsworth keep us plugged into the Hancock event each year. Steve Peters and Steve Newcome who drove down from Lansdale for the meetings. Joe Wilson brings us exposure and knowledge, Bruce Sirak provided guidance and Hal Jespersen keeps our website current.

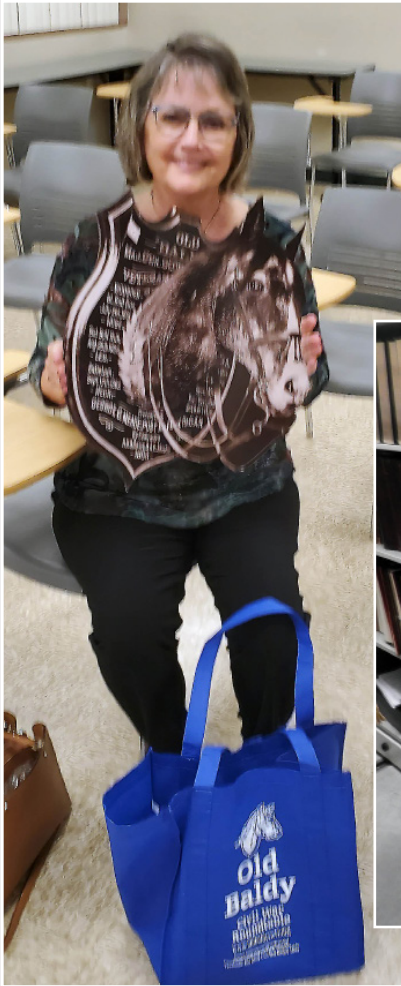
Current Board members Tom Scurria and Sean Glisson planned a great Symposium, Paul Prentiss organized our picnics, wrote our grants as well as the application for this award, and Susan for opening her home for the picnic, Vice president Kathy Clark writes articles for the newsletter, sends cards, represents us at League meetings and listens to the President. Frank Barletta planned and ran our Symposium on the USS New Jersey, represents at the CCHA, got our bags printed, and worked to create Flat Old Baldy. Two pillars are Don Wiles, editor of our award-winning newsletter and Dave Gilson who brings us quality programs each month as well as running our Zoom Broadcast and recordings. Recent members Amy and Dan Hummel who stepped up to run our membership program without any interruption. Rick Zarr is spreading message in Indiana.

Several folks outside the Round Table have assisted and guided us in our journey. These include Hugh Boyle, Andy Waskie, Jim Mundy, Rich Rosenthal and Paula Gidjunis.

Our connections to other organizations both in the Civil War Community and outside has grown our group and made it stronger.



Carol VanOrnum presenting the 2022 CWRT Congress Wally Rueckel Innovation Award



These include Civil War Trails, Battlefield Trust, GAR Museum, ECW, SWCW and LHSNJ, CCHA, CWRT Congress, Wreaths Across America, New Jersey History Day and Camden County College. The policies we have implemented like the membership pins, expanded book raffles, use of Volunteer Match, flyers, rack cards, member profiles and visiting other Round Tables have added value to our organization. Expanding our membership to eleven states with guests tuning in from the Southern Hemisphere has improved our welcoming culture. Our ambassador Flat Old Baldy, FOB, has spread our message across the country and around the world. Thanks to all members, presenters, guests and advisors who have supported us over the years. It is an honor to direct the OB CWRT back to the level it once held nationally. Thank you to all who aided us in getting here and stay tuned for the future as we continued to grow and expand.

Special Guest from Twin Cities

CWRT Congress Vice-president, Ms Carol VanOrnum visited us last month to present the CWRT Congress 2022 Wally Rueckel Innovation Award at our September meeting. Ms Carol arrived a few days in advance to enjoy some treats of our area. After landing, she shot up to the new location of the GAR Museum for a tour with Walt Lafty and to visit Old Baldy. Thanks to Jim Mundy, she had a grand tour of the Union League Club House. She visited the Octavius Catto Memorial by City Hall, General Meade's grave at Laurel Hill Cemetery and the Old Baldy statue in Fairmount Park. She was able to spend time exploring the Art Museum before

dinner with members of our Board. Those present and on Zoom commented that she did a very fine job with the award presentation. If you did not see it or would like to watch it again, the link to the video is <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/video/awards/2022%20Innovation%20Award.mp4> We want to thank you for visiting and let her know she is welcome to return in the future.

New Connection in the West



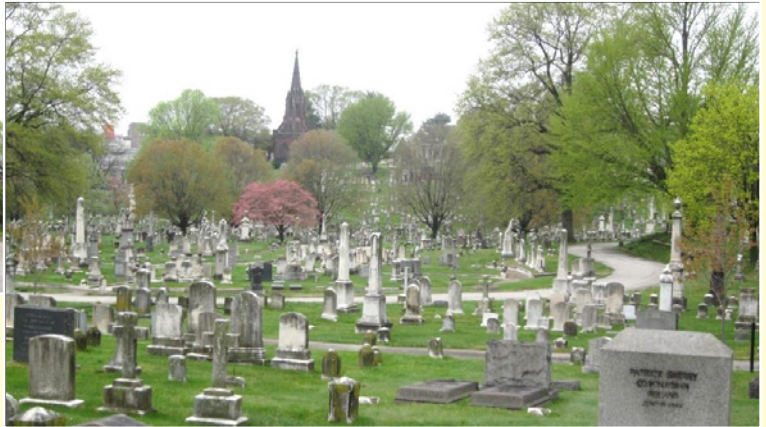
After some discussions and the approval of both Boards, the Old Baldy CWRT has a Sister Round Table relation with the Inland Empire CWRT in Redlands, CA. Their meeting night is the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 PM EST. A link for it will be sent in the days before the meeting. Videos of past meetings are posted on their website. Their Vice-president Mike Hoover already does a superb job of sharing our meeting information. This has brought us guests from around the world. Their newsletter, available on their website, is an entertaining treat each month. In addition to promoting each other's events, we will exchange practices that can benefit the round tables. The IE CWRT recently received the CWRT Congress 2022 Dr. John Bambeil Phoenix Award for a round table that has, "risen from the ashes...accomplishing goals in four major areas: Renewal, Renovation, Reformation, and Redesign." IE CWRT has been influential in getting the Southern California CWRT Alliance going and growing.



Beginning of a strong relationship

We look forward to a productive relationship with our friends out west. Their website is <https://www.inlandempirecwrt.org/home>.

Baltimore's Green Mount Cemetery



By *Dave Gilson*,
Member,
OBCWRT
Sources:

greenmountcemetery.com;
familysearch.org;
civilwarintheeast.com;
findagrave.com; hmdb.org;
wikipedia.com.

Photos by *Dave Gilson*

Green Mount Cemetery was one of the earliest Rural Garden style cemeteries in the United States, dedicated on July 13, 1839. The plan for Green Mount was laid out by Benjamin Henry Latrobe II, son of B. H. Latrobe, one of several architects for the nation's Capital. Latrobe's design for Green Mount incorporated the features typical in rural garden cemeteries of the day: winding paths, mature trees, grassy knolls, shaded dells, and many impressive monuments and statues.

The cemetery is located on a hilly 60 acres at what was then the northern edge of the city of Baltimore. It is the final resting place of more than 65,000 individuals, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The cemetery is replete with fine examples of Victorian art and architecture. Numerous notable individuals from many historical eras are interred here including; Allen Dulles, Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, Sidney Lanier, Harriet Lane Johnston, and Betsy Patterson Bonaparte to name a few.

The Chapel was designed by John Rudolph Niernsee (1814-1885) and James Crawford Neilson (1816-1900). The two had formed an architectural firm in 1848 after working together for the B & O Railroad under Benjamin Latrobe.

The Chapel design is in the Gothic Revival style and is shaped like an octagon. Constructed of Connecticut sandstone, the building features a 102 foot spire, flying buttresses, pinnacles, a porte-cochere, and stained-glass windows. The interior of the Chapel contains a slate floor, stone columns and arches, cathedral ceilings, a stained-glass dome under the tower, and a wrought iron chandelier.

The focus of my visit was Civil War Era individuals, of which there are many. The following are the grave sites that I could find within a few hours on a recent visit.

The focus of my visit was Civil War Era individuals, of which there are many. The following are the grave sites that I could find within a few hours on a recent visit.



1

1



2

1. Joseph E. Johnston (1807-1891): Career US Army Officer, General Confederate States, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, United States Congressman.

2. Arnold Elzey (1816-1871): Career US Army Officer, Major General Confederate States. As commandant of the Federal arsenal in Augusta at the time of secession, he notoriously surrendered his post to the Confederacy, withdrew his command to Washington, and resigned his commission.

3. Benjamin Huger (1805-1877): Career US Army Officer, Major General Confederate States, Vice President of the Aztec Club 1852-1867.



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4. Cadwalader Ringgold (1802-1903): Rear Admiral United States Navy. Served on US Pacific Exploring Expeditions in the 1840s & 50s, and Civil War patrols in the Atlantic and Caribbean against Confederate raiders.

5. Samuel Ringgold (1796-1846): Older brother of Cadwalader. US Army Officer, "The Father of Modern Artillery", purported to be the first US Officer to fall in the Mexican War.



6

6. George H. Steuart (1828-1903): "Maryland Steuart". US Army Officer, Brigadier General Confederate States. Commanded the Maryland Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

7. John H. Winder (1800-1865): Career US Army Officer, Brigadier General Confederate States. As Commander of the Confederate Bureau of Prisons, Winder was the direct superior of Andersonville's notorious commandant Henry Wirz.

8. John Gill (1841-1912): Author of "Reminiscences of Four Years as a Private Soldier in the Confederate Army", a rare Confederate memoir. A Marylander serving in the 1st Maryland Infantry, CSA, the 2nd Virginia Cavalry, and the 1st Maryland Cavalry Battalion, CSA. He was present at all the major engagements from First Manassas on. His narrative is different in that it covers only what Gill saw and did, and does not critique or try to explain general strategy.

7



9. Isaac R. Trimble (1802-1888): Career US Army Officer, Major General Confederate States. Perhaps best known for the Pickett, Pettigrew, Trimble Charge at Gettysburg.



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11

10. Thomas Watson Cooper (1841-Jul 1 1863): 1st Lieut., Co. C, 11th North Carolina Infantry CSA

11. Junius B. French (1837-Jul 1 1863): 1st Lieut., 23rd North Carolina Infantry CSA

12. James B. Lowrie (1838-Jul 1 1863): 1st Lieut., Co. H, 11th North Carolina Infantry CSA



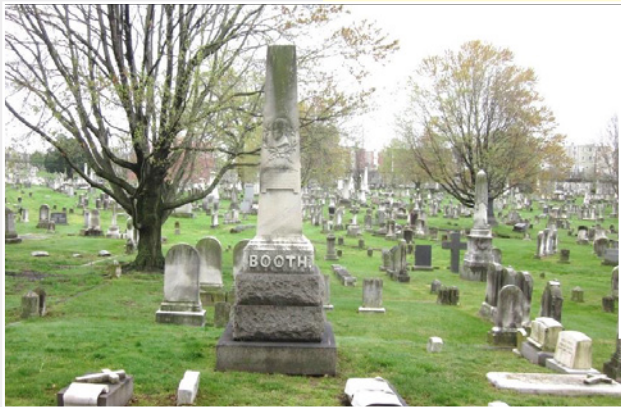
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At Gettysburg, the 11th NC was in Pettigrew's Brigade, Heth's Division, Hill's Corps, and on July 1 fought the Union 1st Corps on Seminary Ridge.

The 23rd NC was in Iverson's Brigade, Rhodes's Division, Ewell's Corps, and suffered over 80% casualties in the July 1 fighting on Oak Ridge.

How did these North Carolina soldiers, apparently killed at Gettysburg, come to be buried in Baltimore?

Green Mount is also the site of the Booth family plot. The family's home- stead, and JWB's birthplace is Tudor Hall in nearby Bel Air, Maryland.



Booth Family Plot



13

13. Junius Brutus Booth (1796-1852): Family patriarch, English stage actor, considered the foremost tragedian of his era. Father of JWB.



14

14. Edwin Booth (1833-1893): Considered one of the greatest American actors of the time, older brother of JWB.



15

15. Asia Frigga Booth Clarke (1835-1888): American writer, sister of JWB.



16

Also interred at Green Mount are two of Booth's co-conspirators;

16. John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865): American stage actor, assassin of Abraham Lincoln. JWB's grave is unmarked and the precise location within the family plot is not known. Some visitors respect a tradition of placing Lincoln pennies face down on various stones in the plot, as these appear on the footstone of Asia's grave.

Some visitors respect a

tradition of placing Lincoln pennies face down on various stones in the plot, as these appear on the footstone of Asia's grave.



17



17. Samuel Arnold (1834-1906): Schoolmate of JWB, Confederate soldier, sentenced to life in prison at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, along with Samuel Mudd, Edmund Spangler, and Michael O'Laughlen. Pardoned by Andrew Johnson in 1869.

18. Michael O'Laughlen





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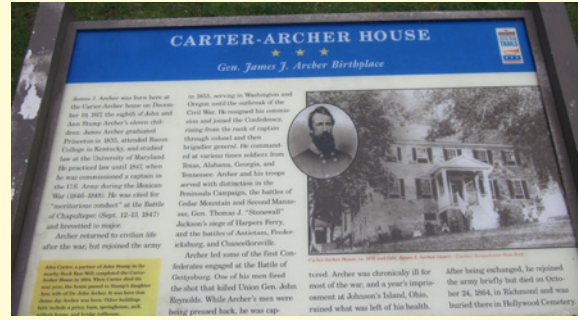
(1840-1867): Baltimore neighbor of the Booth family, Confederate soldier, sentenced to life in prison, died at Fort Jefferson of yellow fever in 1867.

There are a number of other graves of interest that I was not able to easily find, so with some additional research I may make a return trip at some point.

On my way home later that day I made one more Civil War tour stop at Susquehanna State Park near Havre de Grace, Maryland. This is the Carter-Archer House, c. 1804, birthplace of Confederate Brigadier General James Archer (1817-1864).

"Archer led some of the first Confederates engaged at the Battle of Gettysburg. One of his men fired the shot that killed Union Gen. John Reynolds. While Archer's men were being pressed back, he was captured. Archer was chronically ill for most of the war, and a year's imprisonment at Johnson's Island, Ohio, ruined what was left of his health. After being exchanged, he rejoined the army briefly but died on October 24, 1864, [CWT]"

Archer House



By Robert Lynch,
Member,
OBCWRT

More info on the California Brigade

The story I got was that the regiment had erected it's first monument at the high water mark and then the state of Pennsylvania supplied monies to the regiments to erected monuments with the State Seal on them. So the 106th moved it's first monument down to the Cordori Farm House. Where on July 2nd and 3rd the 106th PA and the 15th MA took up positions along the Emmitsburg Road. They built entrenchments of logs and dirt for defense. The fighting in that area had subsided. On July 3rd the 106th was picketing in front of Garnett and Armistead's advancing Brigades. Along the Emmitsburg Road the 106th is pushed back to the ridge at the High Water Mark. The 106th got permission to move their first monument from the High Water Mark area down to the Cordori Farm House Area. That is the one that is there now.

Captain John Lynch, Great Grandfather of the Author, donated the section of land by the Cordi Farm House to move the the first 106th monument to the position that the regiment held on July 2 and 3rd.

The marker on East Cemetery Hill is a July 3rd position marker. This one is kind of confusing. The 106th was sent over to support Howard's Batteries (Wiedrich's) to add to the defense in that area. Time was around 10:00pm on July 2. The marker has July 3rd on it? I just found some info that the regiment was spit up and some



The first 106th PA monument at the High Water Mark

106th Pennsylvania Infantry
"5th California Regiment"
Second Corps - USA
Second Division - Second Brigade
Lieutenant Colonel William L. Curry
Engaged: 280 Casualties: 64
Dedicated: September 1889



The first 106th PA monument at the Cordi Farm House



The second 106th PA monument at the High Water Mark that was paid for by the state of Pennsylvania

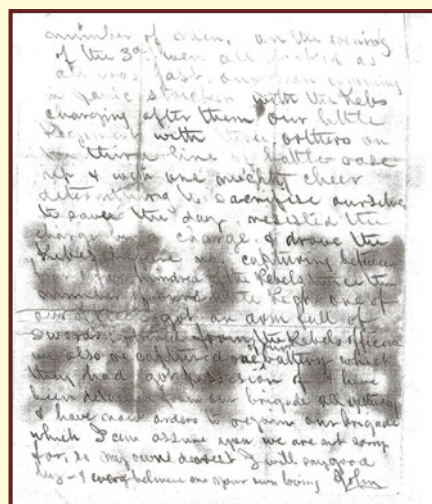
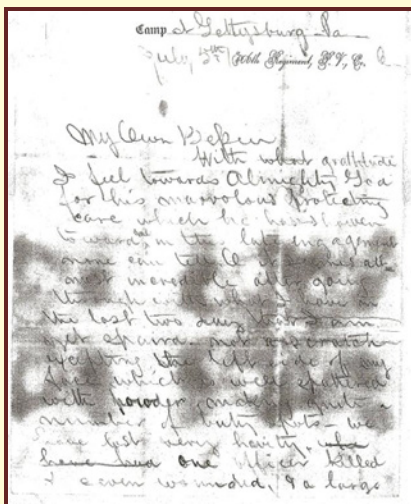


The third 106th PA monument on East Cemetery Hill

companies went to Cemetery Hill to support Howard and the rest of the companies (A and B) stayed at the Cordori house. Captain Lynch was involved as well as his having accepted the sword, in surrender at the Codori Barn, from Colonel Fry of the 13th Alabama Regiment.

In addition, I have attached a copy of the letter which he had written to his future wife two day after the battle. This is just one of 100 letters he wrote during his service in the Civil War.

**Letter from Captain John W. Lynch to Bessie, July 5, 1863
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.**



July 5th, 1863

My own Bessie

With what gratitude I feel towards Almighty God for his marvelous protecting care which he has shown toward me in this last engagement none can tell. O it seems almost incredible after going through with what I have in the last two days that I am spared-not a scratch excepting the left side of my face which is well splattered with powder, making quite a number of dirty spots. We have lost very heavily. One officer killed & seven wounded & a large number of men. On the evening of the 3rd it even all looked as all was lost our men coming in panic stricken with the Rebs charging after them. Our little Regiment with three others on the third line of battle rose up & with one mighty cheer determining to sacrifice ourselves to save the day resisted the charge & drove before us capturing between four & five hundred of the Rebels, twice the number of our own little Regt. One of our officers got an arm full of swords captured from the Rebel Officers. We also recaptured one of our battery which they had got possession of. I have been detached from our brigade all yesterday & have now orders to rejoin our brigade which I can assure you we are not sorry for. So my own dearest I will say good by & ever believe me your loving

John

Continued Next Issue

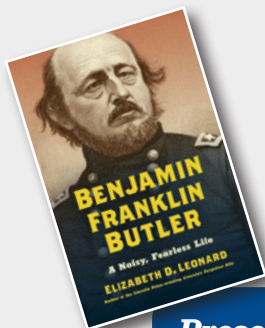
**Old Baldy's September Meeting Review
"Benjamin Franklin Butler: A Noisy, Fearless Life"
presented by Elizabeth D. Leonard**

**By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT**

Major General Benjamin F. Butler was a complicated, beloved, successful lawyer, and businessman. Why then was he called "Beast", "Spoons" and other assorted labels that remain in present day Civil War publications? Despite all the name calling Butler was determined to become a supporter of Black freedom and Civil Rights.



Elizabeth D. Leonard



Presenter Book Winner - Joe Fafara

Dan Ingald, Mike Kalichak, Hal Bliss, William Binzel, Joe Jankowski, Dave Gilson, Carol VanOrnum, and E'yn Fortuna Rodriguez won the attendees raffle.

Butler's mother, Charlotte Ellison Butler gave birth to her son on November 5, 1828, in Deerfield, New Hampshire. His father, John Butler, died of yellow fever in 1819 leaving Charlotte and her six children in financial difficulties. They moved to Lowell, Massachusetts where Charlotte earned money for the family overseeing several different boardinghouses. Benjamin went to boarding school and continued his love of reading and spending many hours in the library. He expanded his knowledge working with factory workers and women continuing to fight for their rights as workers. Butler tried to get into West Point but the year he applied there was no vacancies and did not want to wait until next year to try again. He went back to Waterville College and got his degree, becoming a lawyer, Democratic politician, and businessman. Butler married Sarah Jones Hildreth who was dearly loved and was father of four children. Butler had a policy of always looking at the less fortunate in the society which continued all his life with his commitment to working for the rights of women and Blacks.

When the Civil War broke out, he got an appointment as lieutenant colonel of a group of soldiers of the Fifth Regiment of Light Infantry. Later Butler became Colonel. The first battle was Big Bethel with the plan to get his men ready to invade Richmond. The plan was not successful basically because it was really mismanaged. Later in the war Grant met with Butler to talk about wanting Butler and his troops to "seize City Point" then go to the south side of the river with the objective to get to Richmond. His troops the Army of the James went on to Bermuda Hundred but after that Butler failed to follow Grants orders.

Rather than dismiss Butler from the war altogether General Winfield Scott appointed Butler to Fort Monroe to try to decide what to do with freed slaves which began coming to the fort for help. The slave owners sign a document that the slaves were to be loyal to the Union. June 1861 at Fort Monroe began the policy of treating freed slaves as contraband of war. The policy on slavery helped prepare Northern Whites for eventual emancipation and laid a foundation for future developments in the process of destroying slavery. Butler's contraband policy and actions were the most momentous aspect of his period of command at Fort Monroe. US Congress passed the First Confiscation Act which permitted the confiscation of human and their property that was being used to support the rebellion. One program that Fort Monroe started was to set up a school in Hampton run by a free black woman named Mary Peake. Mary was the first woman of its kind in the south. Even though the slaves who came to the fort were contraband of war Butler said

in his command that they were peaceful people human property that were to be respected. The slave population became the labor force of Fort Monroe, called the "freedom fort".

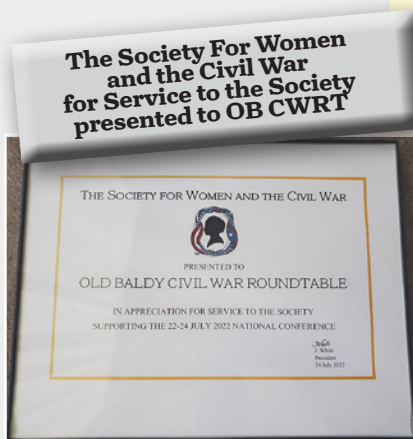
Butler was commanding the newly established Department of the Gulf-Gulf of Mexico west of the Pensacola Harbor and Gulf states. He was assigned command of the land forces destined to co-operate with the Navy in the attack upon New Orleans with an expedition up the Mississippi River. Union troops captured the city of New Orleans without a fight. New Orleans opened a north-south trade route to be deposited in the US treasury. Butler gave New Orleans new drainage system and health regulations, public works program, providing jobs for the poor that are unemployed. Local economy was cleaned up along with the sewer system. He used wealthy white confederates to gain money needed for New Orleans revival. One incident that was disturbing was when William Munford took the flag down that a Federal Solder had hoisted atop the US Mint. William dragged it through the streets and destroyed the flag. Butler used General orders No 111 to catch him and he was hung. He was called "Beast" as he looked at women who were harassing soldiers and spitting on their face. The General Order No.28 discarded the innocence of women and called them women of the street or as we say prostitutes. Butler was released from his command even though he was creating a system that provided food,

Continued from page 11 - "September Meeting"

shelter, education and brought thousands of men into the US Army. Created a free system of prisoner exchange, especially related to Black soldiers. Butler tried to deal justly with both Black and White men for a lasting peace. New Orleans helped Mumford's widow with on going financial support for her and her family.

After the war Butler went on to be elected to the Massachusetts State House with concerns about Black and White Americans who are laborers, farmers, and wageworkers along with Chinese immigration. Working women asked for his help. Civil War nurse Mary Morris' husband addresses Butler to be "a friend to women" and urged him to support laws that would enable women to be equal with men. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton addressed the House Judiciary Committee on January 11, 1871, that women should be entitled to vote under the 15th amendment without further legislation. Butler continued to be a representative in Congress for the next ten years. He led the opposition to Andrew Jackson's reconstruction. Butler went on to be Governor of Massachusetts for a year.

Elizabeth Leonard has given us a portrait of an ambition, accomplished man deserving better treatment than history has generally accorded him. I know I look at Benjamin Butler in a new way and understand him a little better and have a more positive opinion of his life and accomplishments. This was such an important presentation given to our Old Baldy members. We are extremely grateful for Ms. Leonard introducing her book and talking about Butler's life. The book was a great read and one worth having in your library.



By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT



The Society for Women and the Civil War July 22 - 24, 2022

22nd ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Harrisonburg,
Virginia

Continued from Last Issue

At 24 she contracted rheumatoid arthritis which left her with blinding headaches and eye pain which lasted for the rest of her life. Her sister and mother helped her write her poetry and letters.

After the family moved to Lexington, Virginia, Margaret wrote and published stories and poems as well as sharing them with the young children of Lexington. The family became acquainted with a teacher from VMI, Thomas Jackson. He visited many times and talked to both Margaret and her sister Elle. Jackson became very interested in Elle and eventually asked her to marry him. They married but tragically Elle died in childbirth and Margaret's mother died in the same year.

Margaret met John Preston, founder of VMI, and were married in 1857. Margaret was already 36 and acquired John's seven children and then two more of her own. During these years of war and uncertainty Margaret wrote poems about the disaster of the war and wrote a story called "Beechenbrook- A Rhyme of the War". John thought it was so good he had 2000 copies printed. There are only

50 copies remaining after Richmond fell. Margaret continued writing poems after the war was over, writing several books of poems and magazine articles. When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a collection of poems he asked Margaret for three of her own to add to his book. She gave 18 hymns to a southern Presbyterian hymnbook and wrote a poem for the Prince of Wales will he was ill. Margaret felt that her ability to write poetry was a gift from God.



Emily Lapisardi
as
Rose Greenhow





Raylene Hiavaty
as
Margaret Junkin Preston



If you would like to read more about Margaret Junkin Preston, I found Mary P. Coulling's book "Margaret Junkin Preston: A Biography" John F. Blair 1993. This is an interesting overall story of Margaret's life.

**SWCS Annual Meeting and Dinner
Day 1-Friday Night July 22, 2022**

**Keynote Speaker: Jonathan Berkey PhD,
Concord University, Athens, WV**

**"The Greatest Battle Were Fought by the
Mothers of Men: Women Waging War in the
Shenandoah Valley"**

During the war in the Shenandoah Valley there was conflict between soldiers, civilians, and slaves. Both Confederate and Union felt the challenge to maintain family and

community despite the chaos around them. The Shenandoah Valley was fighting in different battlefields on the home front. It was a contested front where Mothers of the men fought their own battles. One encounter with Union soldiers when Shenandoah Valley women refused to interact with them. One woman Cornelia McDonald saw a group of Zouaves in their colorful garb and said, "I would not look at them, though I saw them directly". She continued to pass by Union soldiers who did look at her, but Cornelia continued walked by without being or seeming to be aware of their presence". The officers noticed and laughed as she went by. Women would swear and called them perfect devils and spit on the officers even though they did get knocked down sometimes. The band played Yankee Doodle and the citizens looked out the window and doors swearing and shaking their fists. Mary Miller, Unionist, when General John C. Breckenridge came through the town of Martinsburg, Miller stood in the street with an American flag wrapped around her. She called Confederate traitors for fighting against the American flag.

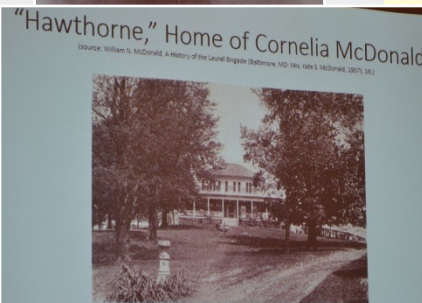
"The Greatest Battles Were
Fought by the Mothers of Men:
Women Waging War in the
Shenandoah Valley"

Jonathan M. Berkey
Professor of History, Concord University

Cornelia McDonald



Lucy and Nellie Buck's slave Eliza found out her husband John was among the slaves taken at Harper's Ferry and that his master intended to sell them. Black Valley slaves were not safe even if they got to Philadelphia. Plundering the town of Winchester soldiers were taking slaves and some women who were secessionists. When McDonald used the Logan house as his headquarters Ann and her daughter refused to leave. so the women were put in a wagon and driven six miles out of town and were left in the roadside. Mary Magill was no longer with her family after writing to the wife of a Northern officer who had come to Magill's home to nurse her sick husband. She was also suspiciously away after writing another letter talking about the treatment of citizens. As Union troops came under fire as they ran through the streets of Winchester with Confederate forces right behind them Union soldiers said that women fired at them as they retreated.



Cornelia Mc Donald left her home "Hawthorne". When her son returned to Winchester, he found the house uninhabitable. Cornelia stayed in Lexington the remaining four years of the Civil War. These women and many others had encounters with both Confederate and Union, while they tried to keep their home and family safe as the Shenandoah Valley was dealing with war and chaos. It was the women of the Shenandoah Valley who influenced the way the war was continuing in their communities.

"The Women of the Shenandoah Valley "

Day 2-Saturday, July 23, 2022

The members of the conference boarded a bus for a **field Trip to the Frontier Culture Museum Staunton, VA.** Exhibits that are part of this museum are part of a frontier culture with people working the site, learning about the history, and answering visitors' questions. Old world cultures and American Indian cultures were two of the first areas that we stopped to visit. The conference offered golf carts for members who were not able to walk the many miles that were part of the distance between exhibits. Old Baldy even joined us



West Affrician Settlement

in the cart where we stopped first at the 1700's Irish forge, 1700's West African Farm, 1600's English farm, 1700's Irish farm, 1700's German farm, 1740's American farm, American schoolhouse, 1820's Mount Tabor Church. Each of these exhibits had been actual buildings that were moved from their original site to the Frontier Culture Museum.

We started our tour with an orientation video in the Octagon Barn. After touring the areas, we returned to have a homemade lunch in the barn. It was a very warm day but with the doors open on both sides of the structure the air seemed to flow through the doors.



Irish Tenant Farm

Bringing the past to life is the theme of this center. It is the largest open-air living museum in the Shenandoah Valley. We learned how early settlers of America cooked and worked their land, saw blacksmiths at the Irish forge, woodworkers, tailors, yarn spinners and many other trades that were part of a growing American culture. After lunch there was a presentation by Juanita Leisch Jensen called "Aunt Cassie's Dress". Using the spinning wheel American cloth was born to be used to make the homespun dress for the women and girls of the household.

During the Civil War and Revolutionary War Confederate clothing items used the homespun fabric for it was the most economical way to make their clothing. Today there are about two dozen homespun dresses in good condition still in existence. There were even songs written about these dresses. In most cases the material used to make the dress was rarely in good condition. When Aunt Cassie's dress was found in the Edinburg Heritage Society in Shenandoah County was known as the last Confederate homespun dress remaining in an original owner's family.

Homespun fabric was thick, scratchy material that was made by women and worn because of the durability of the material. The fabric was used and reused again and again until there was no fabric left. When manufacturers printed manufactured fabric and was available for affluent women it to purchase over the homespun fabric. The feel of the fabric was smooth and not scratchy and worn a lot more then the homespun dress. Still the fabric and construction of the dress continued to be worn, updated, and used until the fabric was reduced to rags. This was called "The Economics of Intended Re-use".

Some of the features of the homespun dress were fasteners such as hook and eyes and decorative buttons and handmade buttonholes. Closure in better dresses have skirt opening in a front side seam with the opening cut into a skirt panel. Bodices can be gathered or fitted. Wearing a homespun dress with an apron kept it clean. There was a pocket inside the dress with a fitted bodice. The construction of these Confederate homespun dresses made a political statement of economic necessity using day dresses with the coarse fabric instead of using any kind of fine fabric. Aunt Cassie's Dress was thought to be Aunt Catherine's dress who was the seamstress but are not totally sure. We think she was the weaver. too. The slogan that is important is "listen to the artifacts these 19th c. artifacts", with a primary purpose to learn about the material culture of the people who made and used the artifacts.

The group went back to the hotel to have a farm to table dinner and later a silent auction. We also had a sing-along of Civil War-era songs including "The Homespun Dress", "Just Before the Battle, Mother" and the beloved "Shenandoah".

"The Women of the Shenandoah Valley"

Day 3-Sunday, July 24, 2022

Speaker Jess Pritchard-Ritter

"Belle Grove's Free and Enslaved Population During the Civil War"

The Civil War was all around the Belle Grove Plantation in 1862. General Sheridan decided to make his headquarters in the Bell Grove Plantation house. There were two women one white and one black who were important to the household especially during the battle that raged in the grass lands in front of the property as the war came close to the home itself. Men were encamped in front of the building with some wounded with tents all around the property and no one wanted to help. Two women, Mary Rebecca Cooley Gordon (Becky) who was a wife, mother, sister and caretaker to James and Benjamin Cooley. They



Frontier Farm



German House and School



Round Barn



Kathy and Old Baldy

were co-owner of Belle Grove. Mary and James Gordon worked and lived at Belle Grove up through the Civil War. James enlisted in the infantry and died shortly thereafter. Becky became a widow with four children and handicapped brother, David Cooley. Becky and her family took care of David for the rest of his life.

During the battle Mary Gordon and her servant Lucy Walker were cooking in the basement of the house even though they both were very afraid. After the fighting Lucy helped tend to the wounded that were laying right outside their door in the grassy area in front of the plantation home. We know a little about Mary Gordon but not a lot about Lucy Walker the black servant who worked at Belle Grove. It was not until Clifton Johnson wrote "Battleground Adventures in

the Civil War" in 1913 that an older black woman talks about her personal account of what she experiences as an indentured servant at Belle Grove Plantation with her father. Jess Pritchard-Ritter thinks the servant's story was Lucy Walker and Lewis Robinson, a free black man in the community.

Display Providers

Ashley Sonntag the operating manager and Museum Curator for the Cedar Creek Battlefield as well as a managing partner of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park in Middletown, VA. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of SWCW. There was a display for the time of the conference of Cedar Creek information and book sale. This exhibit focuses on the Battle of Cedar Creek, life during the 19th century, and local community. Ashley Sonntag and Susan Wall, a SWCW member had a discussion on applying information learned

during the conference to fulfill SWCW mission in respect to reenacting, living history, and docenting. Ashley and Susan's discussion was a culmination of three days of this conference and information about the women of the Shenandoah Valley.



Exhibit of Tools and technology The 1860's-A Decade of Change

Dr. Bob Roger of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association brought examples of interesting tools used during the 1860's such as: refrigeration. Dr. Roger's display contains the earliest patented ice pick and first patented ice shaver used in an ice box. Lighting: wick trimmers 1857 and 1865 and a lamp chimney cleaner of 1861 with improvements in 1865 and 1867. Ice skating- racing skates patented in 1862. Bottles- "Mason Jar" screw top invented which takes the place of a cork. Food-showed the first cheese making factory in the US. Chestnut trees produced many nuts and fish were plentiful. Stand-mounted sugar nippers, meat tenderizers, cheese knife, cheese trier and butter tester. Oysters were popular and affordable for the working class. The first oyster knife was patented in 1854 and the second in 1868. Eli Whitney's nephew patented a nutcracker in 1853. Clothes fasteners-sew on buttons and buttonholes. Tin cans-1860 used tin cans but was patented in 1867 along with can openers. Writing- quill pens still in use, use pen knives as erasers by scraping the ink from the paper used in 1859. Knife sharpeners-patented in 1860. Tooth key-1859 patent dental tooth key made by William Bushnell of Buffalo.

The conference was a wonderful learning experience for all the members who were part of the three days we were in Harrisonburg, VA. There were many people to meet and new friends to greet. Looking forward to next year and a continuation of learning and finding new friends. Come join the group for there is a lot to learn and see. Bring a friend or two to the 23rd Annual Conference, "Women in Government Service", July 28-30, 2023, in Carlisle, PA. It will be a wonderful experience.

A collection of old Tools





Wednesday, October 19th, 2022 8 AM-11 PM

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Beth Twiss Houting

Executive Director
Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center
105 Seminary Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073
215-679-3103 Ext 11
www.schwenkfelder.org



J.F. Hartranft and the Schwenkfelder Experience in the Civil War

Exhibit opens September 24, 2022

Imprisonment, Trial, and Execution on the Lincoln

Conspirators—an Overview

Living history with Mark Grim—Saturday, September 24, 2:00 pm

Fall Day at the Historic Montgomery Cemetery

Saturday, October 29, 10 am to 5 pm

John F. Hartranft's Masonic Connections

Lecture with historian Craig Bird—Sunday,

October 30, 2:00 pm (sponsored by Exile Society)

Governing in an Era of Crisis, Corruption and Calumny

Brown Bag Lecture with archivist Hunt Schenkel

Wednesday, November 9, noon

Dancing Like Hartranft

Demonstration by The Civil War Dance Foundation

Sunday, March 26, 2023, 2:00 pm

The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: Their Confinement and Execution, As Recorded in the Letterbook of John Frederick Hartranft

Book talk with editor Harold Holzer—Sunday, April 30, 2023, 2:00 pm

For program details and registration information,

www.schwenkfelder.org/

Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, 105 Seminary Street, Pennsburg PA 18073

Learn about Medal of Honor recipient John Frederick Hartranft's role in the Civil

War and the experiences of other Schwenkfelder descendants and Perkiomen

Valley residents who served. Post-war, Hartranft was the special provost marshal of

Washington and warden of the Washington Arsenal holding

the Lincoln assassination conspirators as well as governor of Pennsylvania.

Exhibit is available during museum open hours

with FREE admission

Special Programs



The Society for Women and the Civil War

Conference on Women and the Civil War 2023 Call for Presentation Proposals

For the past twenty-five years, the Society for Women and the Civil War has proudly hosted its annual conference focused upon the lives of women during the period of 1861-1865, both in the United States and the Confederate States. Each year, it invites professional and amateur historians, scholars, members of the Society, and members of the public to join us in celebrating women's contributions to our country's history during the Civil War, showcasing original and innovative research in our conferences.

SWCW's 2023 conference will be held in the Cumberland Valley, based at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on 28-30 July 2023. The theme will be "Women in Government Service". The Society invites proposals for presentations examining the lives, service and contributions of USA and CSA Civil War-era women in local, regional and national government operations. Possible topics include the manner in which Dorothea Dix operated her office for recruiting, training and managing US Army nurses; the role of women in Treasury Departments, such as Euphemia Mary Goldsborough Willson for the CSA and Jennie Douglas for the USA; women postal workers, such as Lavinia (Vinnie) Ellen Ream Hoxie; women government scientists, such as Maria Mitchell and general working conditions for women in government service. Proposals for presentations regarding other relevant topics will be welcomed for consideration.

Potential speakers should submit by electronic means:

1. A synopsis of the presentation, of not more than three (3) pages. The synopsis must indicate why the presentation is related to the conference theme. It must also include a description of visual and physical aids used to illustrate and highlight the presentation and identify the technology required to use the aids.
2. A bibliography of the sources used, with an emphasis on the primary sources.
3. A personal biography of not more than two (2) pages, including a listing of credentials, prior presentations (if any), publications (if any) and contact information. Links to on-line presentations made previously are considered quite useful. This should not be construed to discourage amateur historians.

Note that presentations are expected to be of a duration of approximately one hour.

If a presentation is selected, the information provided by the speaker will be included in the conference binder. The speaker may also be invited to have the presentation videoed and to contribute the speaker's summary to a follow-on issue of the Society's scholarly journal, *At Home and in the Field*.

Submissions will be evaluated principally upon the following criteria:

1. Originality of the topic.
2. Relevancy of the topic to the lives and efforts of women living in the USA and CSA during the Civil War era and to the conference theme.
3. Quality of research, highlighting the use of primary sources.
4. Quality of the presentation, including the use of visual aids.
5. Presentation ability of the speaker.
6. Anticipated attendee interest level for the topic.

Submissions from graduate students are encouraged. Subjects examined from a micro-history perspective are also welcomed. Displays accompanying the presentations are also welcome.

Please send submissions, and any questions or inquiries, to: swcw1865@gmail.com ATTN: 2023 Conference Speaker Proposals.

Those chosen to make presentations will receive free conference participation, including conference presentations, field trips, displays, social events and meals. Lodging for the Friday and Saturday night of the conference will be provided for speakers. Speakers will also benefit from conference and general publicity provided by SWCW. Those selected who have published books on Civil War themes are invited to set up tables for book sales and signings – without fee. Speakers will be provided with a one-year courtesy membership in SWCW for the following year which the speaker may care to renew. Speakers are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the conference.

Deadline: All submissions must be RECEIVED by 1 November 2022. Presentation submission indicates the willingness to speak if selected by the SWCW conference committee. In December 2022, the Society will contact all those who have provided proposals.

Old Baldy CWRT Membership Help Positions

Flat Old Baldy (FOB) Social Secretary

Now that the world is opening, folks are traveling and events are happening; requests for FOB to join them and attend functions are being received. He needs a social secretary to schedule his appearances and trips.

Seeking a member to coordinate FOB's schedule so he can best accommodate his fans and spread the Old Baldy CWRT message. Getting FOB out will increase his exposure on our Facebook page.

This member would serve as the main point of contact to reserve FOB and then direct delivery of a FOB to the requesting party.

If interested in assisting to fulfill the mission of getting FOB to where he needs to be,

Contact a Board Member to let us know of your desire.

Display Team Coordinator

The Old Baldy CWRT makes appearances and sets up our display at various events and locations around the region.

These include the South Jersey History Fair, the Soldiers' Weekend at Fort Mott, the Civil War Weekend in Mullica Hill as well as special meetings and activities at the College.

To best serve this function, our Round Table needs an arranger for the Display Team. This member would register our appearance, distribute the sign-up sheet to staff the display, arrange for the set-up and take down of the display. This role of directing our Display Team would allow for a smoother process that will improve the outward face of our Round Table.

To learn more about this opportunity contact Rich Jankowski or Dave Gilson.

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

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2022 - 2023

November 10, 2022 - Thursday
Chuck Veit

**"A Lively Little Battle: New Perspectives on the
Battle of Fort Butler, Donaldsonville, LA,
28 June 1863"**

December 8, 2022 - Thursday
Old Baldy Election Night

January 12, 2023 - Thursday
Allison Johnson

**"The Left-Armed Corps"
Writings by Amputee Civil War Veterans**

February 9, 2023 - Thursday
Timothy Walker

**"Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions
of the Underground Railroad"**

Questions to

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

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

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

**Camden County College
William G. Rohrer Center
1889 Marlton Pike East
Cherry Hill, NJ
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
Founded January 1977**

**President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: Kathy Clark
Treasurer: Frank Barletta
Secretary:**

**Programs: Dave Gilson
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