

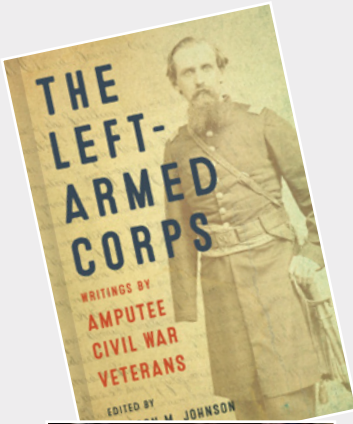
Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

January 12, 2023

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

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

“The Left-Armed Corps: Writings by Amputee Civil War Veterans”



Edited by
Allison M. Johnson

The Left-Armed Corps collects and annotates a unique and little-known body of Civil War literature: narrative sketches, accounts, and poetry by veterans who lost the use of their right arms due to wounds sustained during the conflict and who later competed in left-handed penmanship contests in 1865 and 1866.

Organized by William Oland Bourne, the contests called on men who lost limbs while fighting for the Union to submit “specimens” of their best left-handed “business” writing in the form of personal statements. Bourne hoped the contests would help veterans reenter the work force and become economically viable citizens. Following Bourne’s aims, the contests commemorated the sacrifices made by veterans and created an archive of individual stories detailing the recently ended conflict. The **Left-Armed Corps** makes accessible this archive of powerful testimony and creative expression from Americans who fought to preserve the Union and end slavery.

Meeting Notice
Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, January 12, at Camden County College William G. Rohrer Center 1889 Marlton Pike East 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.

Allison M. Johnson is assistant professor of English at San José State University. A Southern California native, she double majored in English and History at UC Riverside before earning her M.A. and Ph.D. in English at UCLA. She is the author of **The Scars We Carve: Bodies and Wounds in Civil War Print Culture** and the coeditor of **Religion and Its Reformation in America, Beginnings to 1730: An Anthology of Primary Sources**.

Notes from the President

Welcome to 2023 and thank you for a great 45th year of the Old Baldy CWRT. Thank you for your confidence in the leadership during the election. Welcome **Mike Bassett** and **Jim Countryman** to our Board. I mentioned our successes in the December newsletter. We have added three new members since last month. With the passing of the year, we remember those who will not be with us on our journey forward. They include **Gerri Hughes, Hugh Boyle, Sean Glisson** and most recently **Dick Simpson**. We can honor them by continuing our mission of education and preservation as we grow our organization.



Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

As the Rose Bowl Parade theme states we are “turning a corner” to realize our potential to make a difference. Thank you to all who were prompt in submitting your 2023 dues. Look for Frank’s message if you have not done so

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Awards and New Members



Flat Old Baldy presents
Bruce Sirak his 5 year award
pin.

New Members

Stephen McMahon
Marlton, NJ

Gary and Sue DeSiver
Burlington Township, NJ

Dan Ingald
Colorado Springs, CO

Michael Hoover
Grand Terrace, CA



Anita Schwartz

By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT

Profile by Kim Weaver

yet to support our programs this year. Last month after the election we had a fine social event for members and guests to chat, sample some treats and enjoy fellowship. Our next social gathering will be our picnic in May. Watch for the details. This month **Dr, Allison M. Johnson** will Zoom in to report on her book "*The Left-Armed Corps*" about amputee Civil War Veterans. Join us for this unique topic and the literature they wrote. This is the first of our outstanding programs for the year.

Paul Prentiss announced at the December meeting we received a grant from Camden County to cover some of our administrative costs. This frees some of our treasury to expand our projects. We have ordered and received more Old Baldy reusable blue bags. Remind your friends and family to get one for their shopping adventures. It was good to see ten OB members at the General Meade celebration as we placed a wreath for the first time. Look for the pictures in this newsletter. Thank you to the members who helped place wreaths at Beverly National Cemetery on December 17th. Register to serve as a judge for the New Jersey History Day Regional competition on February 25th. The theme is "Frontiers in History."

Glad to report our Battle of Williamsburg Civil War Trails sign project is moving forward. Donations can be made on our website as the campaign with begin soon. Our book inventory/reduction project is moving along. We will soon have a list of the prizes we have gathered over the last several years. As announced last year, we are serving as the Organizational Partner for the Society of Women and the Civil War conference in Carlisle in July. More details will be available soon. Congratulations to **Amy and Dan Hummel** and **Dan Ingald** for their new arrival. Wishes for a speedy recovery for **Bruce Sirak** and **Robin Vaughn**.

We need assistance on several projects including repairing/updating our display board, South Jersey Civil War site map coordination and Flat Old Baldy Social Secretary. We will be organizing a Fall lecture series and possible a trip this year. Let us know how you would like to get involved with our round table. Encourage folks you know to check us out as we strive to reach 100 members this year.

Join us at the Cherry Hill Diner, (2341 NJ-38, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002) at 5:30 on January 12th for a pre-meeting meal and discussion.

Rich Jankowski, President

Happy New Year from the Treasure's Desk

The 2023 Membership Dues are now being collected. Dues remain the same, \$25.00 Individual Membership and \$35.00 Family Membership. Remember they can now be paid online. Just visit our Web Page, click on, "Membership" on the top bar, which will take you to the next page. Choose a method of payment, visa, etc., and click on "Buy Now". This will take you to the submission page, complete form and click on, "Pay Now". Done As always, if you prefer to pay by check, they can be given to me at any meeting or sent to my home at 44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ, 08053.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at
856-334-5856 or **frank.barletta@comcast.net**.

Member Profile - Bill Hughes

Bill Hughes is a Vineland, New Jersey boy, raised up around a father and grandfather whose work ethics and positive role model lives made a deep impact on him.

Bill is a graduate of Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, with a Master of Education degree from West Chester University. He taught physical education and drivers' education at Pennsauken High School for 38 years. He also coached soccer, and refereed soccer and track & field. He was inducted

into the Pfeiffer University Athletic Hall of Fame as well as the South Jersey Soccer Hall of Fame. He served on the board of the Sterling Regional School District for 18 yrs.; before joining the board, he spent 25 years as a volunteer fireman.



Bill Hughes

Over his 81 years, Bill has become quite the writer and publisher as he accomplished with his two books pertaining to the Civil War era. The U.S. General Hospital at Beverly, New Jersey, 1864-1865 traces the hospital's roots and the people who shaped it. "The hospital was the reason for the beginning of Beverly National Cemetery." The book was later used as a source for a mail-related story in "The Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society. The Civil War Papers of Lt. Col. Newton T. Colby, New York Infantry is a compilation of Colby's personal letters, newspaper articles, and accounts of fighting and daily life from other soldiers. Colby served with two New York regiments, the 23rd and the 107th, until getting typhoid fever after Chancellorsville. He served later in the Veteran Reserve Corps as superintendent of the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. at the time of Lincoln's assassination. Colby, recognized as an excellent soldier by his peers and commanding officers, was Bill's great-great-grandfather. "It started with over 100 of his personal letters home to his father during the war. With about 10 years of research on my part, I found many other documents and side stories about him. I felt it was history that should be preserved." (Bill had two other Civil War veteran ancestors, his wife had one.)

Bill is nearing completion on a Civil War history of Vineland, a city that did not exist in 1861. "I have identified over 600 veterans that had something to do with Vineland. There are over 300 veterans buried here, and that to me was an amazing number. I wrote a bio for each one." Two are special: Dr. Charles Brewer, a surgeon general on General Robert E. Lee's staff in Richmond and brother-in-law to Major General J.E.B. Stuart; and Sergeant William Pittenger, one of the Andrews' Raiders who went south and stole a locomotive from the Confederates, spent time in a Rebel prison, and then won the Medal of Honor. It is obvious the substantial amount of time Bill spends on researching Civil War history. He and his wife of 47 years, Marty, have traveled many years in RVs to Civil War sites and have followed J.E.B. Stuart's trail around the Union Army and Colonel John S. Mosby all over Virginia.

Bill is a member of the American Battlefield Trust, Millville Army Air Field Museum, Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society, numerous Elks and Masonic lodges, the NRA, and is a trustee of the historic Siloam Cemetery in Vineland.

As for the Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable of Philadelphia, Bill has been a faithful member for 31 years and is a past secretary. To write the history of the group – founded in 1977 – Bill has had the monumental task of tracking down past members, gathering pictures, and rounding up newsletters. "I have dabbled in many things." We noticed, Bill. Thank you!

Today in Civil War History

1862 Sunday, January 12

The North

The US Navy has grown tremendously in less than a year, with nearly 25,000 seamen in service, as compared with 7500 before the attack on Fort Sumter. But more will be required. The old navy had 76 vessels mounting 1783 guns. When all vessels purchased or building are armed and equipped, the navy will have 264 vessels mounting 2557 guns.

1863 Monday, January 12

The Confederacy

The Third Session of the First Congress of the Confederate States meets in Richmond, where they hear an opening address by President Jefferson Davis.

1864 Tuesday, January 12

The North

Anyone whose name comes up in the draft is allowed to avoid military service if he can pay a \$300 fee. This gives exemption until his name is called again. However, if a drafted man can hire a substitute, his liability is at an end and he is permanently exempt. To service the increasing demand for substitutes, a class of "substitute brokers" is doing a roaring business this winter, charging a fee to find potential soldiers and inducing them to enlist. A lot of men make fast money providing the army with the sick, the useless, and the retarded. The 57 men recruited by the 6th New York Heavy Artillery this winter include 17 physically disabled and several congenital idiots.

Mexico

Federal troops intervene in Matamoros, Mexico, to rescue the US consul. French efforts to subdue the guerrilla armies continue.

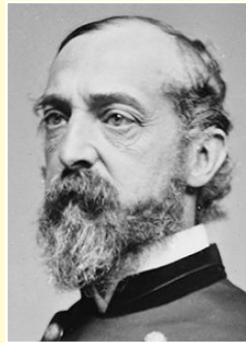
1865 Thursday, January 12

The South

Francis P. Blair meets with President Davis, who hands him a letter to pass on to President Lincoln. Davis is willing to enter into negotiations, but still insists on independence for the South.

By Rich Jankowski,
President, OBCWRT

Flat Old Baldy



**General George Meade's
Birthday/Anniversary
Celebration**

On December 31st at noon, ten members of Old Baldy CWRT attended the General Meade birthday/anniversary celebration at Laurel Hill Cemetery. As a VIP organization, President Jankowski gave greetings from the Round Table and Flat Old Baldy enjoyed a front row seat. Several members were in uniform for the salute.

Nancy Bowker and Mike Bassett place the wreath from Old Baldy on Meade's grave. The networking and camaraderie shared by all on the last day of 2022 was enjoyable. Plan on attending next year if your schedule permits as it is the Civil War event to close out each year.





Old Baldy helps place Wreaths Across America at Beverly National Cemetery



Old Baldy's December Meeting Review "Old Baldy's December Meeting and Social Event"

*By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT*

Our December meeting was planned to be a short business meeting followed by time for a social gathering to meet and greet our members. We wanted to get to know each other a little bit better. Over thirty members attended the meeting in person and some on Zoom. Under the direction of Paul Prentiss, attendees brought a variety of snacks and munchies from cookies to brownies, pretzels, chips and much more for a great display of good food and hospitality.



**Frank, Rich, Alexander,
Evan, Tom, Gabriel**

The first item on the agenda was the election of officers for a two-year term. Mike DiPaolo, from the nominating committee, conducted the election by opening the floor for nominations. No additional names were suggested by the members, Priscilla called for nominations to be closed. As a result, the current officers and our new secretary (Mike Bassett) will continue their responsibilities for another two years. Our new trustee is Jim Countryman.

Secondly, Dave Gilson presented and conducted a vote on updating our mission and vision statements in our By-Laws. It was officially presented at the November meeting. Dave briefly talked about the next two programs for the January and February meetings.

Thirdly, Frank Barletta conducted a ceremony to make Sean Glisson's three sons' honorary members of OBCWRT. The membership badges were given to Alexander, Evan, and Gabriel Glisson by their grandfather, Tom Scurria. We were so happy for the boys not only are they interested in history like their dad but are also bringing a younger voice to Old Baldy. After talking with them I am excited to have them as members and hope they will participate in our roundtable experiences. Welcome!



Family Games Basket



Wine Basket



Gettysburg Basket



Hunley Cross Stitch Basket

Lastly, Dave honored the night guard at the Rohrer Center, Emilio, with an Old Baldy blue bag, a pen and a glass. He got his photo taken with Flat Old Baldy. The guard is always nearby to be of assistance if needed. We thank him for his help and presence in the building.

We now turned the meeting to the well anticipated social part of the evening. Now we have a chance to talk with fellow members and grab a plate of goodies. While members were socializing Paul Prentiss began picking names for the gift baskets and then the book raffle. The Old Baldy CWRT wishes to thank Kathy Clark for the wonderful job she did in creating the prizes.

The following members won prizes:

Ray Klein: Hunley Cross Stitch and basket

Bobby Hahn: Gettysburg basket

Ted Levenhal: Wine basket

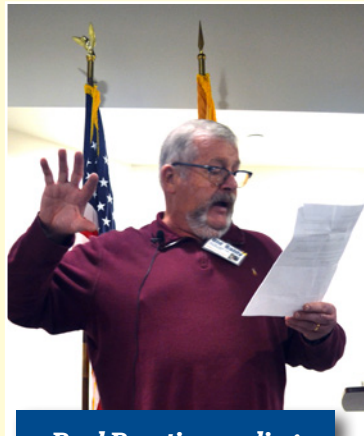
Mike Kalichax: Abe Lincoln books

Philip Seacock: Family Games basket

Barbara Petermay: Coffee Table Book and Visa Gift Card

Gabriel Glisson: Print Gloucester Beach

A fun time was had by all! We hope to have a similar type meeting in the future. We will continue to have interesting programs in 2023. If you cannot attend in person, you may join on Zoom or view the recordings on our website OldBaldyCWRT.org. Please submit your 2023 dues to Frank Barletta in one of the available methods to support our programs.



Paul Prentiss reading the list of Winners



Emilio, (Rohrer Center Security), Flat Old Baldy and Dave Gilson

Happy 2023 to All! Looking Forward to Peace, Understanding and Respect to All Our Fellowmen and Women.

Dollar Book Raffle Winners

- The Battle of Stones River, No Better Place to Die
by Peter Cozzens
- The New Jersey Civil War Odyssey
- The American Story: War between Brothers -
Time Life Books
- Lincoln" His Word and His World -
Home Library Publishing
- Manhunt - The 10 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer
by James Swanson
- Allegiance - Fort Sumpter, Charleston and the
Beginning of the Civil War
by David Detzer
- Gettysburg - A Testing of Courage
by Noah Trudeau

The winning names are in order of selection:

- Tom Scurria - claimed his book
- Barney Yetter
- Bill Buchanan
- Jerry Jennins
- Dan Ingald
- Bill Sia

Winners - please give me your first and second choices so I can make arrangements to get your book delivered. We prefer to give you the book at the next meeting or have a member deliver it to you. Let me know the easiest way to get you your book - thanks! Paul Prentiss

By L. P. Brockett, M.D.,
Mrs. Mary C. Vaughan,
Woman's Work
In The Civil War:
1867-1868

White Roses Woman's work in the Civil War; Margaret Elizabeth Breckinridge

Continued from (December) Issue



Margaret Elizabeth Breckinridge

Her tender heart was moved by the sufferings of the wretched colored people at Helena. She says, "But oh! the contrabands! my heart did ache for them. Such wretched, uncared-for, sad-looking creatures I never saw. They come in such swarms that it is impossible to do anything for them, unless benevolent people take the thing into their hands. They have a little settlement in one end of the town, and the government furnishes them rations, but they cannot all get work, even if they were all able and willing to do it; then they get sick from exposure, and now the small pox is making terrible havoc among them. They have a hospital of their own, and one of our Union Aid ladies has gone down to superintend it, and get it into some order, but it seems as if there was nothing before them but suffering for many a long day to come, and that sad, sad truth came back to me so often as I went about among them, that no people ever gained their freedom without a baptism of fire."

Miss Breckinridge returned to St. Louis on a small hospital-boat on which there were one hundred and sixty patients in care of herself and one other lady. A few extracts from one of her letters will show what brave work it gave her to do.



Hospital Ship

"It was on Sunday morning, 25th of January, that Mrs. C. and I went on board the hospital boat which had received its sad freight the day before, and was to leave at once for St. Louis, and it would be impossible to describe the scene which presented itself to me as I stood in the door of the cabin. Lying on the floor, with nothing under them but a tarpaulin and their blankets, were crowded fifty men, many of them with death written on their faces; and looking through the half-open doors of the state-rooms, we saw that they contained as many more. Young, boyish faces, old and thin from suffering, great restless eyes that were fixed on nothing, incoherent ravings of those who were wild with fever, and hollow coughs on every side—this, and much more that I do not want to recall, was our welcome to our new work; but, as we passed between the two long rows, back to our own cabin, pleasant smiles came to the lips of some, others looked after us wonderingly, and one poor boy whispered, 'Oh, but it is good to see the ladies come in!' I took one long look into Mrs. C's eyes to see how much strength and courage was hidden in them. We asked each other, not in words, but in those fine electric thrills by which one soul questions another, 'Can we bring strength, and hope, and comfort to these poor suffering men?' and the answer was, 'Yes, by God's help we will!' The first thing was to give them something like a comfortable bed, and, Sunday though it was, we went to work to run up our sheets into bed-sacks. Every man that had strength enough to stagger was pressed into the service, and by night most of them had something softer than a tarpaulin to sleep on. 'Oh, I am so comfortable now!' some of them said; 'I think I can sleep to-night,' exclaimed one little fellow, half-laughing with pleasure. The next thing was to provide something that sick people could eat, for coffee and bread was poor food for most of them. We had two little stoves, one in the cabin and one in the chambermaid's room, and here, the whole time we were on board, we had to do the cooking for a hundred men. Twenty times that day I fully made up my mind to cry with vexation, and twenty times that day I laughed instead; and surely, a kettle of tea was never made under so many difficulties as the one I made that morning. The kettle lid was not to be found, the water simmered and sang at its leisure, and when I asked for the poker I could get nothing but an old bayonet, and, all the time, through the half-open door behind me, I heard the poor hungry fellows asking the nurses, 'Where is that tea the lady promised me?' or 'When will my toast come?' But there must be an end to all things, and when I carried them their tea and toast, and heard them pronounce it 'plaguey good,' and 'awful nice,' it was more than a recompense for all the worry.



Breckinridge Grave

"One great trouble was the intense cold. We could not keep life in some of the poor emaciated frames. 'Oh dear! I shall freeze to death!' one poor little fellow groaned, as I passed him. Blankets seemed to have no effect upon them, and at

Continued on page 8

last we had to keep canteens filled with boiling water at their feet." * * *

"There was one poor boy about whom from the first I had been very anxious. He drooped and faded from day to day before my eyes. Nothing but constant stimulants seemed to keep him alive, and, at last I summoned courage to tell him—oh, how hard it was!—that he could not live many hours. 'Are you willing to die?' I asked him. He closed his eyes, and was silent a moment; then came that passionate exclamation which I have heard so often, 'My mother, oh! my mother!' and, to the last, though I believe God gave him strength to trust in Christ, and willingness to die, he longed for his mother. I had to leave him, and, not long after, he sent for me to come, that he was dying, and wanted me to sing to him. He prayed for himself in the most touching words; he confessed that he had been a wicked boy, and then with one last message for that dear mother, turned his face to the pillow and died; and so, one by one, we saw them pass away, and all the little keepsakes and treasures they had loved and kept about them, laid away to be sent home to those they should never see again. Oh, it was heart-breaking to see that!"

After the "sad freight" had reached its destination, and the care and responsibility are over, true woman that she is, she breaks down and cries over it all, but brightens up, and looking back upon it declares: "I certainly never had so much comfort and satisfaction in anything in all my life, and the tearful thanks of those who thought in their gratitude that they owed a great deal more to us than they did, the blessings breathed from dying lips, and the comfort it has been to friends at home to hear all about the last sad hours of those they love, and know their dying messages of love to them; all this is a rich, and full, and overflowing reward for any labor and for any sacrifice." Again she says: "There is a soldier's song of which they are very fond, one verse of which often comes back to me:

*'So I've had a sight of drilling,
And I've roughed it many days;
Yes, and death has nearly had me,
Yet, I think, the service pays.'*

Indeed it does,—richly, abundantly, blessedly, and I thank God that he has honored me by letting me do a little and suffer a little for this grand old Union, and the dear, brave fellows who are fighting for it."

Early in March she returned to St. Louis, expecting to make another trip down the river, but her work was nearly over, and the seeds of disease sown in her winter's campaign were already overmastering her delicate constitution. She determined to go eastward for rest and recovery, intending to return in the autumn and fix herself in one of the Western hospitals, where she could devote herself to her beloved work while the war lasted. At this time she writes to her Eastern friends: "I shall soon turn my face eastward, and I have more and more to do as my time here grows shorter. I have been at the hospital every day this week, and at the Government rooms, where we prepare the Government work for the poor women, four hundred of whom we supply with work every week. I have also a family of refugees to look after, so I do not lack employment."

Early in June, Miss Breckinridge reached Niagara on her way to the East, where she remained for a month. For a year she struggled against disease and weakness, longing all the time to be at work again, making vain plans for the time when she should be "well and strong, and able to go back to the hospitals." With this cherished scheme in view she went in the early part of May, 1864, into the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, that she might acquire experience in nursing, especially in surgical cases, so that in the autumn, she could begin her labor of love among the soldiers more efficiently and confidently than before. She went to work with her usual energy and promptness, following the surgical nurse every day through the wards, learning the best methods of bandaging and treating the various wounds. She was not satisfied with merely seeing this done, but often washed and dressed the wounds with her own hands, saying, "I shall be able to do this for the soldiers when I get back to the army." The patients could not understand this, and would often expostulate, saying, "Oh no, Miss, that is not for the like of you to do!" but she would playfully insist and have her way.

Nor was she satisfied to gain so much without giving something in return. She

went from bed to bed, encouraging the despondent, cheering the weak and miserable, reading to them from her little Testament, and singing sweet hymns at twilight,—a ministering angel here as well as on the hospital-boats on the Mississippi.

On the 2d of June she had an attack of erysipelas, which however was not considered alarming, and under which she was patient and cheerful.

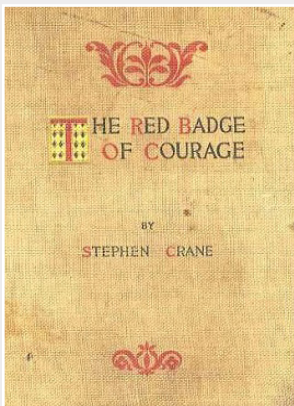
Then came news of the fighting before Richmond and of the probability that her brother-in-law, Colonel Porter,[E] had fallen. Her friends concealed it from her until the probability became a sad certainty, and then they were obliged to reveal it to her. The blow fell upon her with overwhelming force. One wild cry of agony, one hour of unmitigated sorrow, and then she sweetly and submissively bowed herself to the will of her Heavenly Father, and was still; but the shock was too great for the wearied body and the bereaved heart. Gathering up her small remnant of strength and courage she went to Baltimore to join the afflicted family of Colonel Porter, saying characteristically, "I can do more good with them than anywhere else just now." After a week's rest in Baltimore she proceeded with them to Niagara, bearing the journey apparently well, but the night after her arrival she became alarmingly ill, and it was soon evident that she could not recover from her extreme exhaustion and prostration. For five weeks her life hung trembling in the balance, and then the silver cord was loosed and she went to join her dear ones gone before.

"Underneath are the everlasting arms," she said to a friend who bent anxiously over her during her sickness. Yes, "the everlasting arms" upheld her in all her courageous heroic earthly work; they cradle her spirit now in eternal rest.

Civil War historical fiction 1

'The Red Badge of Courage'

By Tom Rayn,
Civil War Author,
Historian



First Edition

Having been born six years after the end of the Civil War, aspiring young author Stephen Crane learned firsthand about "combat" on the football field rather than the battlefields of the bloody conflict between North and South. Yet, reading the anthology "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War" lit a spark that led Crane to produce a critically-acclaimed depiction of the psychology of men in battle.

The 24-year old was living at the Art Students' League in New York at the time, and was struggling to make ends meet by free-lancing for newspapers such as the Herald and Tribune. Crane's first novel, a grim story based on the skid row areas of the Bowery titled "Maggie, a Girl of the Streets," failed to attract much attention even though it broke new literary ground.

Crane's investigation of the Civil War led him to craft a story about a Union soldier confronting the trauma of going into battle for the first time. Henry Fleming failed to heed his mother's pleading not to enlist in the Union army, but remain on the farm helping her with the chores.

Henry was drawn toward the great adventure dominating the local newspapers and conversations of the people in his small town. He soon found himself at the battlefield, and took stock of his potential to stand resolute in the face of enemy gunfire.

The youthful soldier pondered whether being killed outright was preferable to the nerve-wracking test of demonstrating valor in the face of the enemy. For Henry, matters became further complicated when a comrade informed him of a premonition of his own death — a not uncommon battlefield phenomenon.

Crane creates a vivid image of the chaos engulfing the combatants tearing at each other with frantic sound and fury. Henry's regiment was successful in repulsing the enemy's initial attack.

The test materialized during a second enemy charge across the battlefield. With shells exploding overhead and bullets whizzing through the trees rising to a deafening crescendo, Henry, along with the surviving members of his unit, "ran like a rabbit."

Continued from page 9 - "Red Badge of Courage"

When he finally reached a location of relative safety among wounded soldiers far behind the lines, a feeling of shame and guilt caused Henry to yearn that he had sustained an absolving wound of his own that would be his red badge of courage.

Compounding Henry's remorse, his friend, Jim, who had a premonition, appeared from among the crowd with a serious wound that was bleeding profusely. When Jim collapsed and died before his eyes, Henry fell into a rage and shook his fist in anger.

Author Crane has now set the stage for an intense transformation on the part of his protagonist. For those who wish to read this work of fiction and learn the outcome for themselves, it is sufficient to say that the drama endures until a satisfactory conclusion is attained.

First published in 1895, the Red Badge of Courage has never been out of print. Civil War veterans praised the story for its realistic impression of actual battlefield experiences and emotions.

Crane wrote a sequel to "Red Badge," a short story titled "The Veteran" that features Henry Fleming in the post-war years. In a scene from this story, Henry admits to the town grocer who asked if he was ever scared during the war, "Well, I guess I was. Pretty well scared sometimes. Why, in my first battle I thought the sky was falling down. I thought the world was coming to an end. You bet I was scared." (<http://www.online-literature.com/crane/2543/>)

The adventurous author Stephen Crane experienced considerable excitement during his own brief life. He married Cora Taylor, and both served as correspondents who covered a war in Greece before settling in Sussex, England.

These adventurous activities took a toll on Stephen's delicate health, and he passed away in Germany from tuberculosis at age 28. His legacy is a novel of 145 pages that remains to this day the epitome of a soldier's experience in wartime.

Tom Ryan is the author of the award-winning "Spies, Scouts & Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign," and "Essays on Delaware during the Civil War." Signed copies available at Bethany Beach Books, Browseabout Books in Rehoboth, and Allison's Card Smart in Milford. His latest book with co-author Richard M. Schaus, "Lee is Trapped, and Must Be Taken: Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg, July 4-14, 1863," is due out in May 2019. Contact him at pennmardel@mchsi.com or visit his website at www.tomryan-civilwar.com.

Civil War historical fiction 2

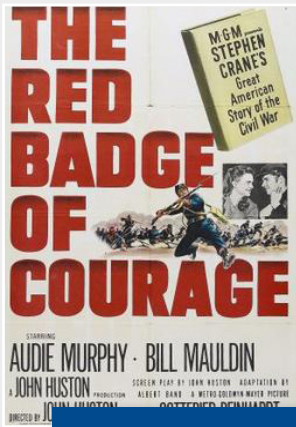
'Cold Mountain'

During the siege of Petersburg, Va. in 1864, the Union army attempted to blast a hole in the formidable line of entrenchments protecting the Confederate defenders from attack. Pennsylvania coal miners now serving in the military dug a tunnel under these entrenchments, and loaded the cavity with explosives.

The resulting holocaust subsequently led to more Yankees being killed or wounded than Rebels, yet one of the latter unfortunates was a young North Carolinian. While recovering from a severe neck wound in a hospital after a train ride back to Raleigh, North Carolina, Inman, the soldier, decided to walk away from the madness that engulfed the country the past three years, and return to Cold Mountain in the western part of the state where Ada, his beloved, awaited and prayed for his survival from the ravages of war.

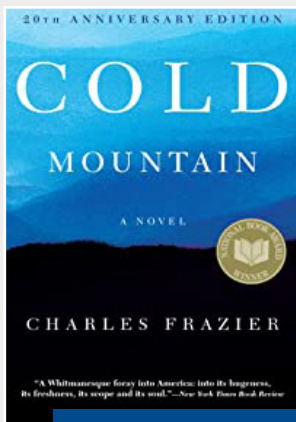
Charles Frazier grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, and, as the author of this novel, introduces the readership to this remote region and its people. Inman's experiences during the long trek of some 400 miles on foot and the characters he encounters along the way are the heart of this story.

Hinting what lies ahead, the author employs a quote from British biologist Charles Darwin's journal written 25 years earlier: "It is difficult to believe in the dreadful but quiet war of organic beings, going on in the peaceful woods, & smiling fields." Inman had to overcome a number of obstacles to reconnect with Ada, a comely, well-bred Charleston, S.C. native who had migrated to Cold Mountain with her father to escape the unhealthy climate of the coastal areas.



Movie Poster

By Tom Rayn,
Civil War Author,
Historian



Latest Book Cover

Frazier's descriptive narrative brings the scenes along the route Inman traveled into sharp focus. The author blends the countryside and the residents who inhabit it into a series of diverse encounters that reveal the complexion of Inman's mind as well as his heart.

From the blind-from-birth vendor pushing his cart of boiled peanuts outside the hospital in Raleigh to the three ne'er-do-wells Inman fought off at a small roadside community, this venture was off to an animated and challenging beginning.

Before long, he arrived at a wide body of water that required ferry transportation from "an apple-cheeked girl, dark about the head and skin so as to suggest Indian blood back a generation or two" who drove a hard bargain by charging him \$20 to cross over the Cape Fear River in her dugout canoe. The short trip, however, quickly transformed into a dangerous encounter.

While Inman employed ingenuity fueled with determination to reach his promised land, Ada, after the death of her father, had trouble adjusting to the demands of living on Cold Mountain. The educated yet less than resourceful young woman learned to rely on Ruby, a local girl well acquainted with the fine arts of survival in an arduous environment.

While the war continued to rage throughout the southeastern states from Virginia down through the Carolinas and Georgia, Inman traipsed in the opposite direction. Along the road in the dark of night, he encountered a dastardly country preacher about to dispatch a young woman carrying his illegitimate child in her womb – the author, however, propels Inman to the rescue!

The diverse characterizations continue during this lengthy sojourn, including a band of gypsies on the road toward Salisbury, and Odell the peddler who offered Inman a pull from his flask of Tennessee liquor with "flavors of smoke and leather and other things brown and rich."

Ultimately, Inman survived the perilous and grueling journey, only to encounter an unavoidable threat. Danger lurked on Cold Mountain, just as it did on the lowland battlefields Inman had abandoned.

Three million readers worldwide propelled "Cold Mountain, a 1997 publication, to the National Book Award, and this American odyssey ranks among the best Civil War novels. A 2003 film of the same name based on Cold Mountain's storyline stars Jude Law (Inman), Nicole Kidman (Ada), and Renée Zellweger (Ruby).

Tom Ryan is the author of the award-winning "Spies, Scouts & Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign," and "Essays on Delaware during the Civil War, available at Bethany Beach Books, Browseabout Books in Rehoboth, and Allison's Card Smart in Milford. His latest book, due out in May 2019, is titled "Lee is Trapped, and Must Be Taken': Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg, July 4-14, 1863." Contact him at pennmardel@mchsi.com or visit his website at www.tomryan-civilwar.com.

Conscription in the Confederacy

By Lowell H. Harrison,
Civil War Times,
July 1970

The draft, unpopular everywhere, nowhere met greater resistance than in the beleaguered Confederacy. Indeed, the interference of some officials with its workings bordered on treason.

In the spring of 1861 enthusiastic Southerners hastened to join the provisional army' before the Federals surrendered. The ages of volunteers ranged from 13 to 73, and the Confederate War Department had to refuse some 200,000 men because of inadequate supplies and camp facilities. The Tallapoosa Thrashers, the Bartow Yankee Killers, the Clayton Yellow Jackets and hundreds of other outfits were eager to join the fun while it lasted. Victory should be swift, for one Southerner was the equivalent of several Yankees—one to five being the generally accepted ratio.

A year later, in the spring of 1862, the Confederacy had to resort to conscription to preserve its armies. This action, denounced by many Confederates as incompatible with state and individual rights, was the first



general conscription in America. Neither President Davis nor the Confederate Congress wanted it; their reluctance was overcome by absolute necessity.

The early volunteers usually joined a company organized by some prominent citizen in the neighborhood. Most of the men supplied their own weapons some of them Revolutionary flintlocks. Officers were elected by popular vote. Once organized, the company's services were tendered either to the state governor or directly to Confederate authorities. Most of these volunteers enlisted for six months or a year, although few expected the war to last that long.

But the war did not end, and the flood of volunteers soon slowed to a trickle. The most devoted enlisted at once; those who had not succumbed to the initial enthusiasm were not likely to join later when it became evident that the war would be prolonged. Proud individualists were repelled by the realities of army life and camp discipline. One bitter Alabamian wrote that the soldier "is under worse taskmasters than any negro. He is not treated with any respect whatever. His officers may insult him and he has no right to open his mouth and dare not do it."

Many Southerners were fundamentally opposed to secession and the war, and there were large pockets of opposition to the Confederate government and its measures. Such areas provided few volunteers; they would later provide much opposition to conscription.

Breakdown of the volunteer system was bad enough, but early 1862 saw the threatened disintegration of the Confederate armies even as the Union forces prepared for a spring offensive. The bulk of the 12-month enlistments were about to expire and, despite promises of lengthy furloughs and \$50 re-enlistment bonuses, few veterans indicated any willingness to remain in service. There was a distinct possibility of a military collapse which would soon terminate the war. When President Davis reluctantly asked for compulsory military service, he called it "absolutely indispensable." The purpose was twofold: first, to retain men already in service; second, to secure additional troops.

Congress passed the Conscription Act by majorities of nearly two to one, and it became law on April 16, 1862. White men aged 18 to 35 were made eligible for conscription for three-year terms. The one-year men already in service were drafted for two additional years, but the re-enlistment promises already made were honored. Substitutes were permitted if they were not themselves of draft age and were otherwise eligible.

A popular referendum on conscription would probably have defeated it, but most leading Confederates accepted it as unavoidable, and many of the more influential news-papers lent their support. "It should have been adopted at the commencement of the war," the Southern Confederacy editorialized. "It is the only just, equitable, and practicable method of raising and keeping up the army. . . Even the one-year men who now found themselves serving for two additional years accepted the extension philosophically; they had become somewhat resigned to the inexplicable ways of the Army after a year's exposure to the mysteries.

Administration of the Conscription Act was assigned to the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office in the War Department. A special Bureau of Conscription was established in December 1862; under severe criticism, it was abolished in early 1865 and its functions were handed over to the generals of reserves. Brigadier Generals G. Rains, C. W. Field, and Preston headed the bureau in that sequence, but Assistant Secretary of War A. Campbell, formerly a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was the dominant figure.

The bureau's role was not always accepted by the Army, and there were frequent clashes over jurisdiction. In January 1863 General Joseph E. Johnston won permission to conduct conscription in his department. After the end of 1862, conscription west of the Mississippi was handled by authorities there with so little reference to Richmond that statistics are not even available for the trans-Mississippi command.



**Brigadier General, CSA
Gabriel J. Rains**

One or two "camps of instruction" were established in each state under the supervision of an officer who held at least the rank of major. Enrolling officers were assigned to each congressional district and a non-commissioned officer or private to each county, city and town. The en-rolling officers made public announcements designating time and place for draft eligibles to report. Those who failed to do so, if caught, could be arrested and imprisoned. When the conscripts arrived at a camp of instruction they were given medical examinations, vaccinated, encouraged to contract some of the minor camp diseases, and given basic instruction in military discipline.

The medical examinations were subject to frequent abuses. The Richmond Dispatch reported that rheumatism had become increasingly popular among those trying to dodge service. "Gout is also much sought after; but in these hard times few families can get above rheumatism." Medical examinations improved somewhat after early 1864 when a law declared a physician could not serve on a medical board within his own congressional district. But some examinations were so cursory as to pass almost anyone. One man was reported conscripted who had never been able to walk over a quarter mile in a day.

The provision for substitutes obviously favored the wealthy over the poor. Congress had intended to provide a way of retaining in civilian life men with urgently needed skills, but it was often used for draft evasion, and it fostered lasting resentment. If a principal could find a substitute who was himself exempt from the draft, they went to camp together. If the substitute passed the medical examination he was enrolled and the principal received a certificate of discharge. A company was allowed only one substitute a month, but this provision was often ignored.

Men were often certified who were overage and in poor physical condition. Foreigners and underage youths were other groups among which substitutes could be sought.

By late 1863 Richmond newspapers carried advertisements offering as much as \$6,000 (perhaps worth \$400 in gold) for an acceptable substitute. One apprehensive civilian in Hanover County offered a 230-acre farm for a replacement. Some substitutes deserted and sold their services repeatedly. Substitution probably caused more resentment than conscription itself, and it contributed few good soldiers to the Army. It was repealed at the end of 1863, and the principals were declared eligible for the draft.

Since some men had to remain in civilian occupations, Congress passed an Exemption Act just five days after it approved conscription. Among the major classes of exemptions were: Confederate and state officials and their clerks; mail carriers and ferrymen on post roads; pilots in marine service; most railroad and steamboat employees; telegraph operators; ministers; employees of mines, furnaces, and foundries; printers; presidents and professors of colleges and academies; teachers of the deaf, dumb, and blind; teachers of at least twenty pupils; personnel in public hospitals and lunatic asylums; and one druggist per drug store. The Secretary of War was empowered to exempt textile workers if necessary.

Controversy over exemptions began at once and continued until the end of the Confederacy. Exemptions provided more ways of evading the draft than substitutions, and many Southerners took full advantage of the possibilities. Teaching suddenly developed a gratifying growth in a section which had lagged behind most of the nation in providing educational facilities. Some teachers with fewer than twenty students even offered free tuition to attract registrants. Villages which had never boasted a drug store saw the opening of apothecary shops. Young men developed an avid interest in even minor political offices; in Greene County, Georgia, some two dozen men competed for three local posts. In protest, a group of women put up a slate of candidates comprised of old men. Imaginative civilians who desired to retain that status found still other ways of avoiding military service.

Continued next (February) Issue

Members and Guests.

Please join us next Wednesday January 11 at 6:30 PM
Pacific time and 9:30 PM Eastern Standard time
for the exciting program below.

Captain Terry C. Pierce explores the character and leadership of the battles Union officers and soldiers.

In his Pulitzer prize-nominated novel "*Without Warning; A Reluctant Union Hero and the Men he inspired.*" Captain Terry C. Pierce explores the character and Leadership of the battle's key Union participants examining the role it played as they made agonizing decisions leading up to and during the bloodiest battle ever fought on US soil. In his presentation, Captain Pierce will discuss what he learned of the character and leadership of the key Union officers and soldiers during his ten years of research for "Without Warning." In addition, he will discuss multiple examples of how the success and failures of these Union combatants can be directly traced to their character.

Click on the link below to learn more about Captain Pierce's background and an introduction to this program.

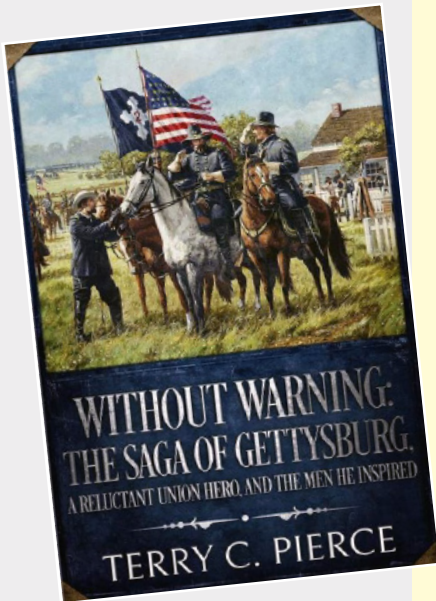
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Kevin M. Hale Award
for
best Historical Newsletter
in New Jersey

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2023

February 9, 2023 - Thursday
Timothy Walker

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

March 9, 2023 - Thursday
Dan Casella

"We are not Soldiers, but Bulldogs:
Cedarville Men in the 7th NJ"

April 13, 2023 - Thursday
Brad Gottfrie

"Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the
Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns"

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

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