

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

February 9 and March 9, 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

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



In early December 1861, a group of newly minted infantrymen walked into a Washington City photographer’s studio dressed in their freshly issued sky blue overcoats and arranged themselves to have their likeness taken. The five men were either directly related to each other or were friends before they answered Abraham Lincoln’s call for volunteers and enlisted about a month earlier. Their overcoats were unstained from the rigors of any campaign and their cloth forage caps were stiff from the warehouse. As they waited for the photographer to lift the cover off his lens, they made last-minute adjustments to those coats and caps, the position of their hands, and the expression on their faces. None of these men had any idea of the trials and tribulations that lay ahead during the course of their three-year enlistment.

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on
Thursday, March 9,
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.



Dan Casella

The green soldiers were a part of Company H of the 7th New Jersey Infantry, a regiment recruited out of Cumberland and Gloucester Counties in southern New Jersey. Cedarville and Fairton, where these men hail from, are small towns close to Delaware Bay. The area is interlaced by tidal rivers and streams, and many buildings from as far back as the 1750s to the turn of the early 20th century remain. The vacation destination of Cape May is not far away.

Some 160 years after it was taken, that image would send me on a quest to learn all I could about these men. I would quickly find out that Cedarville and Cumberland County have a rich and proud Civil War history.

Dan Casella writes from Cedarville N.J. A chef by training, he spends many weekends interpreting the Civil War to the public as a member of Liberty Rifles living history organization. President of the Lawrence Township Historical Society since 2019, he hopes to compile dozens of accounts in the society’s collections into a book about Cedarville men in the war.

Notes from the President

As the NBA season heats up, and March Madness is upon us, Spring and baseball are right around the corner. Our round table continues to prosper from our fine membership. Welcome to new members **Barbara Peterson** and **Peter Moelker**. Submit your dues to be part of our 2023 journey. Let us know how you would like to contribute to our ongoing success by working on a project.

At our meeting last month, we learn much about the Maritime Dimension of the Underground Railroad from **Timothy D. Walker** who joined us from

- President's Notes Page 1
- Treasure's Desk Page 2
- Member Profile Page 2
- New Member/Awards Page 2
- Today in History Page 4
- Hal Jepsen Page 4
- Civil War Trails Page 6
- Battle of Williamsburg Page 6
- Left Arm Corps Review Page 9
- Raffle Winners Page 10
- Sailing to Freedom Review Page 11
- Raffle Winners Page 12
- Conscription Page 13
- Cold Mountain Page 10
- Conscription Page 11
- SoCa I CWRT Presentation Page 17
- SWCW Conference Page 18
- General Meade Lecture Series Page 19
- Meeting/Speaker Schedule Page 19



Awards and New Members



Flat Old Baldy presents Bob Russo his 10 year award pin.

New Members

Lisa and Tom Burdak
Waterford Works
Peter Moelker
Mullica Hill, NJ
Barbara Peterson



Rich, FOB and Les Taylor



FOB and Ted Leventhal

By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT

February 9 Profile
by Kim Weaver

Continued from page 1 - "President's Notes"

Massachusetts. The interesting, well-researched presentation was enjoyed by the room full of in-person attendees as well as the Zoom crowd. Be sure to read the book. This month **Dan Casella** will visit to tell us about the men of Cedarville, NJ who served in Company H of the 7th New Jersey Infantry Regiment. Be sure to invite a friend to come enjoy learning about New Jersey history. Remember recordings of our past presentations are posted on our website.

In this newsletter is information on the Society of Women and the Civil War conference to be held in Carlisle, Pa on July 28-30. Frank provides an update on our Battle of Williamsburg Civil War Trails sign fundraising project. Information is also accessible on the Facebook event page and our website. **Jim Countryman** is working on our Fall lecture series to be held with the Center. If you would like to assist him on this project, please contact him. Watch for announcements of upcoming events where we will setting up our updated display to share the Old Baldy message.

The **Peter Carmichael** presentation sponsored by the Southern California CWRT Alliance had good attendance with viewers from across the nation. The Meade lecture series we co-sponsor with the North Jersey CWRT had 140 attendees for the **Jeffery Hunt** presentation. Recordings of the January and February lectures are available on the Old Baldy CWRT YouTube page. The next lecture will be **Dr. Jennifer Murray** on March 23rd. Details to connect are in this newsletter. The presentation by **Dr Robert Hicks**, sponsored by the Friends of LaMott also had members and friends of OB CWRT in attendance from coast to coast. Thank you to all who are supporting these and other broadcasts.

Several members served as judges for the regional New Jersey History Day competition at Rutgers Camden. Save the date of May 13th for our annual picnic to celebrate Old Baldy's birthday. Send **Don Wiles** a write up on a recent adventure you have taken or a book you have read. Also let us know if you hear of any broadcast that might be of interest to our membership. Your input and feedback are welcomed as we are focused on improving the membership experience. Flat Old Baldy has been out and about visiting sights and people. Watch for a write up of his adventures in future newsletters.

We will meet for a pre-meeting meal and conversation at Cherry Hill Diner at 5:30 on the 9th.

Rich Jankowski, President

Join us on our journey

Thank you to all who have paid their 2023 membership dues to support our mission and programs. If you have not been able to do so yet, there are several options to help us meet our goals and advance our journey. The cost is \$25.00 Individual Membership and \$35.00 Family Membership. They can be paid online

(1) by visiting our Web Page (OldBladyCWRT.org), click on the "Membership" tab on the top bar. On the next page, choose a method of payment, visa, etc., and click on "Buy Now". This will take you to the submission page, complete the form and click on, "Pay Now".

(2) You can bring your check to the March meeting to pay in person. Or

(3) you can send the check to my home...

44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ, 08053.

Member Profile - Richard Marine

Richard Marine is fascinated by the Civil War. Whether it is restoring his 1855 wood frame house in Woodbury, New Jersey, remembering and honoring the black soldiers and sailors in blue, or collecting original anti-slavery



Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

newspapers and old books, Rick is a serious student-story teller of the era. "I love it and I live it. I have a passion for it."

Born in Woodbury, Rick was in college when he joined the Navy. He spent six years on active duty (aviation), two additional years in the reserves (aviation), then returned to college to finish his degree. He then became employed with the U.S. Postal Service, where he eventually retired after 23 years.

Always interested in history, Rick bought in April 1978 the empty pre-Civil War house. With the exception of a kitchen added in the 30s or 40s, the 19th century treasure boasted its original design and hardware. Rick has painstakingly preserved the house for 44 years and has furnished it in period pieces. "There is something spiritual about my house. It is very comforting."

Oddly enough, Rick's house was marked for demolition - several other pre-Civil War houses all in a row nearby had been bulldozed by a car dealership - but he stood defiant. The business offered to buy the house; they even offered to move it. "I couldn't sell it. To me, it's a historic site. Camp Stockton was across the street. But that's gone now too."

Rick found out about the location of Camp Stockton after he found out that First Sergeant William S. Garwood was the first owner of his house. Garwood had enlisted in the 12th NJ Company A, which mustered into service at the Federal training camp in September 1862. Rick takes care of Garwood's gravesite (some 4-5 miles away), and he has done the same for five other 12th NJ boys interred in the same cemetery.

A reenactor since 1979, Rick was surprised to discover that he belongs to the same regiment as Garwood. As a member of 12th NJ Company K and various other units, Rick educates and entertains the public to share his deep respect for American Civil War history. He has participated in the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with the 4th Texas Company B and the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh in southwestern Tennessee. One of Rick's passions is doing living history events. "I'm just a soldier, a private. When I speak to the public, I cover some uncommon subjects that I have researched and, in some cases, personally experienced." The subjects include the Pioneer Corps in both the Union and Confederate Armies; dogs and other animals that served as pets and regimental mascots; the grand assortment of tents and shelters of the War; and the role of the newspaper to expose the uncomfortable reality of slavery and give voice to the growing group of abolitionists.

Among the many places Rick presents is the Camp William Penn Museum in Cheltenham, PA. It sits on the grounds of what was Pennsylvania's only training camp (established in 1863) for African American soldiers and the largest of 18 in the nation. Rick is determined that we honor the sacrifice of The United States Colored Troops. "I don't understand why slavery was not denounced in America until the Civil War. You ask people if they know blacks fought and how many and they don't know. Black soldiers should be acknowledged. They, like all American military veterans, must not be forgotten."

Rick was invited to the museum's La Mott Day commemoration last year to show his collection of original Civil War era anti-slavery newspapers - Garrison's "The Liberator" and "Gazette of the United States" dated October 23, 1794, the first paper he ever bought, are among the many. "I wanted to know what Americans knew about what was destroying the country, if anything. I was looking for coverage of the important issues of the day that referenced slavery, like the Dred Scott trial, the Fugitive Slave Act, the House of Representative's Gag Rule of 1836, etc."

Inside Rick's house, whose purchase in 1978 set all his historical discoveries into action, is a bookcase he made that holds his collection of old books. Some were written by soldiers coming out of the Civil War. One, the oldest, was published by George Washington in 1795.

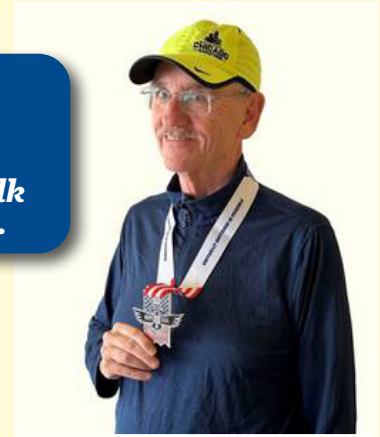
**Rick, an Old Baldy member for 10 years, wishes to thank fellow member Don Wiles for his contribution long ago to Rick's interest in dogs of the Civil War, when he acquired for Rick an image of Sallie, the mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry.*



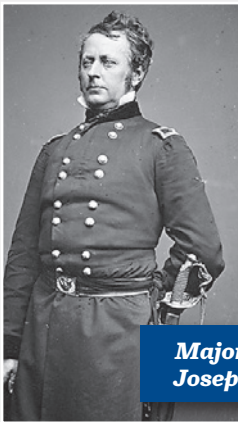
Rick Marine

Congratulations

to our webmaster Hal Jespersen
for recently finishing the Route 66 virtual walk
(2280 miles) from Chicago to Santa Monica.



Today in Civil War History - February



Major General
Joseph Hooker

1862 Sunday, February 9

Eastern Theater/Naval Operations

Following the Union success at Roanoke Island, Federal gunboats cross Albemarle Sound toward the mouth of the Pasquotank River in search of remaining Confederate vessels in the area.

1863 Monday, February 9

The Confederacy

General Hooker takes steps to improve the intelligence position of the Army of the Potomac. Outpost duty had been neglected, and it was said that the Confederates knew what was happening within the Union lines as well as the Union commanders did. On taking command, Hooker had found not one record or document at his headquarters that gave any information with regard to the enemy. General Butterfield, one of his corps commanders, will write "There was no means, no organization, and no apparent effort to obtain such information. We were almost as ignorant of the enemy in our immediate front as if they had been in China. An efficient organization for that purpose was instituted, by which we were soon enabled to get correct and proper information of the enemy, their strength and movements."

Naval Operations

Du Pont experiences delays in obtaining supplies for his fleet. This also applies to the other Union commands who likewise run short of machine oil, clothes, and dried fruit. Coal is not always such a serious problem since it could often be obtained locally. Freshwater supplies for the smaller vessels, on station for weeks at a time, are always a source of concern as they lack facilities for producing their own water.

1864 Tuesday, February 9

Eastern Theater

109 Union officers dig their way out of Libby Prison, Richmond. It is the largest escape of the war; 59 men reach Union lines, 48 are recaptured, and two drown. The leader of this audacious escape, Colonel Thomas E. Rose, is unfortunately among those returned to the prison.

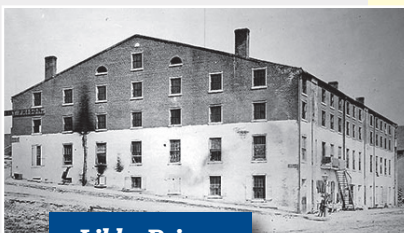
1865 Thursday, February 9

Eastern Theater

General John M. Schofield assumes command of the Department of North Carolina, joining his XXIII Corps at Fort Fisher, ready for an assault on Wilmington. Robert E. Lee persuades President Davis to offer amnesty to deserters who return to their regiments within 30 days.



Rear Admiral
Samuel Francis Du Pont



Libby Prison

Today in Civil War History - March

1862 Sunday, March 9

Eastern Theater/Naval Operations



Monitor/Virginia

Troops from the Army of the Potomac move out from Alexandria, but find the Confederates have moved toward the Rappahannock, away from their previous positions, and the Federal force returns without having made contact. In Naval Operations, the Virginia moves out into Hampton Roads to complete the destruction of Union naval forces in the area, but this time encounters a new opponent, the USS Monitor. Looking like a tin can stuck onto a plank, the Monitor is a much worthier opponent than she seems. The Virginia, looking as one observer puts it, "as if a barn had somehow put to sea," comes out to finish the USS Minnesota, still stuck fast. The Monitor, only a fifth the size of the Confederate vessel, moves to cover the help-less frigate. In one of the most dramatic naval battles of the war, the two unusual opponents set about each other. Virginia opens fire first, but most of her heavy broadside passes right over the low-slung, Northern vessel, only one shot from a 100-pound Armstrong gun even partially penetrating the thick iron of the Monitor's turret. In the maneuvering which now takes place, the Virginia runs aground, and Monitor moves in to batter her with 168-pound cast iron shot. All bounce harmlessly off the larger vessel's sloping armor. After refloating, Virginia breaks off to attack the Minnesota, and in spite of being hit at least 50 times by the wooden frigate's broadside, shows no damage. Monitor again intervenes, and in another exchange of shot, neither side much harms the other. After Virginia attempts to ram the smaller vessel, again with no effect, both sides break off the engagement.

1863 Monday, March 9

Western Theater

General Banks concentrates 17,000 men at Baton Rouge. Supposed to advance up the Mississippi while Grant comes south from Vicksburg, communications between the two Federal armies are very poor. Washington intended Banks to join Grant in the assault on Vicksburg but the Confederates had fortified Port Hudson, 135 miles above New Orleans. Some 12,000 rebel troops and 21 heavy guns blocked Banks' advance. Meanwhile, at Vicksburg, a second "Quaker ironclad" made from logs with pork barrels piled up as a fake funnel, is set adrift to run past the batteries during the night. Confederate gunners treat it to a warm reception, wasting much precious ammunition.

1864 Tuesday, March 9

Eastern Theater

Grant receives his command in a ceremony attended by the Cabinet. Afterward he has a long talk with Lincoln, quickly winning the president's confidence. Following his interview, Grant leaves Washington, announcing to some people's surprise that his headquarters would not be in the capital, but in the field, next to that of the Army of the Potomac.



Major General
Hugh Judson Kilpatrick

1865 Thursday, March 9

Eastern Theater

Bragg's battle at Kinston continues with heavy skirmishing but no break-through. The veteran Confederate cavalry leaders Wade Hampton and Joe Wheeler surprise Judson Kilpatrick's Union troopers in their night camp at Monroe's Cross Roads, Virginia. The unpopular Union commander is nearly captured in bed, and the rumor that he fled without his trousers leads the battle to become known as the "Battle of Kilpatrick's Pants."



*By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT*

Announcement of Campaign to Install a Civil War Trail sign in Williamsburg, VA

Our goal for the campaign is twofold: to bring attention to The Battle of Williamsburg, which is greatly overshadowed by its city's tourist-emphasized colonial history, and to show how the Battle was influenced by the Third Brigade, the "Jersey Brigade," and the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. **(Following this article is a brief overview of the Battle written by Drew Gruber, Executive Director of the Civil War Trails.)**

The Third Brigade was led by Brigadier General Francis E. Patterson, a Philadelphia native and buried at Laurel Hill. Similarly, New Jersey native General Philip Kearny, "The One Armed Devil," played a vital part in the Battle's outcome as did Winfield Scott Hancock, who led a critical counterattack. It is from this Battle that Hancock earns his nickname "Superb." As you know, the Round Table has been instrumental in the preservation of the Hancock tomb at Montgomery Cemetery and placement of a wreath there annually.

What makes this campaign so special is we have had a most generous donation pledge from an anonymous donor to match our donations up to \$2,500.00. So, for every dollar we donate, it doubles. If we can reach the full-pledged donation amount, not only can we install the sign, but we will be able to fund the annual maintenance cost of \$200.00 for a number of years. We also would like to install a stone garden at the base and a walkway from the adjacent parking to the sign. Further, we plan to place a commemorative plaque at the site noting Old Baldy's sponsorship of the sign.

The timeline for the installation could be as early as this fall. Having said that, we know things can happen with any project, therefore, we are planning a formal dedication ceremony of the sign on the anniversary date of May 5, 2024. It is our intention to schedule a car caravan or bus to the dedication, depending on the number of members planning to attend. This would be an overnight trip, with attending the dedication and touring other Civil War sites in the vicinity. Depending on our overall fundraising success, we hope to be able to subsidize the bus cost. More importantly, we plan to offer an all-expenses-paid trip (transportation, meals and overnight stay) to one winner who will be selected from a drawing of all donors.

We can do this! Let's push it over the top! Donations can be made by going to our web page and clicking on the "Donate" button, in person at a monthly meeting, or by sending a check to Frank Barletta, 44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053.

The Battle of Williamsburg

*By Drew Gruber,
Executive Director
Civil War Trails*

The Battle of Williamsburg, fought on May 5, 1862, was the first battle of the Peninsula Campaign during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Union general George B. McClellan, in an attempt to march his Army of the Potomac up the Peninsula between the York and James rivers, had initially stalled at Yorktown, where he feared his 130,000 men faced perhaps 40,000 Confederates. In fact, John B. Magruder's force numbered between 11,000 and 15,000. McClellan spent a month preparing for a siege, and when he was finally ready to advance, Magruder retreated to Williamsburg. There, on May 5, the advancing Union army met the Confederate rearguard, under James Longstreet, in a daylong and inconclusive battle. The battle turned particularly fierce at what became known as the "bloody ravine," where, in the pouring rain, Union soldiers from New York and New Jersey fought Virginians under A. P. Hill and George E. Pickett. After various attacks and counterattacks, the day ended with Confederate general Jubal A. Early's men being cut down as they charged across a field and through a farmyard. The next day, Confederate forces continued to retreat toward the capital at Richmond, and events at Williamsburg were largely overshadowed by the fierce fighting that lay ahead.

Background

Since June 1861, Confederate soldiers and impressed slaves had been building a defensive line just east of Williamsburg. Located partly in James City County and partly in York County, Williamsburg numbered 1,895 people, according to the federal census of 1860, 743 of them enslaved. Its location at the narrowest part of the Peninsula between the James and York rivers meant that any Union advance toward Richmond would have to pass through the former capital. The defensive fortifications at Williamsburg and another line to the east at Yorktown were built to defend against such an advance.

The Williamsburg defenses consisted of fourteen earthen forts, or redoubts. The largest of these, called Fort Magruder, was linked with the remainder of the line by an intricate network of trenches, rifle pits, and felled trees.

By the spring of 1862 the Army of the Potomac, more than 130,000-men strong and under the leadership of the Union general-in-chief George B. McClellan, began its march up the Peninsula intent on taking the Confederate capital at Richmond from the southeast. Confederate general John B. Magruder's much smaller force—numbered at between 11,000 and 15,000 men—was charged with delaying the Union advance and thereby allowing other Confederate forces to consolidate.

On April 5, 1862, both armies had settled around the Yorktown defensive line. Ever cautious and relying on faulty intelligence, McClellan believed that he faced as many as 40,000 men. After some initial maneuvering and

skirmishing to test the Confederate defenses, he prepared for a siege. Capitalizing on this delay, Magruder coordinated with other Confederate units that were making their way to the Peninsula and Richmond, so that by the end of April, Confederate forces in the area added up to about 56,000 men. Even so, McClellan's intelligence inflated Confederate strength to more than 100,000 men.

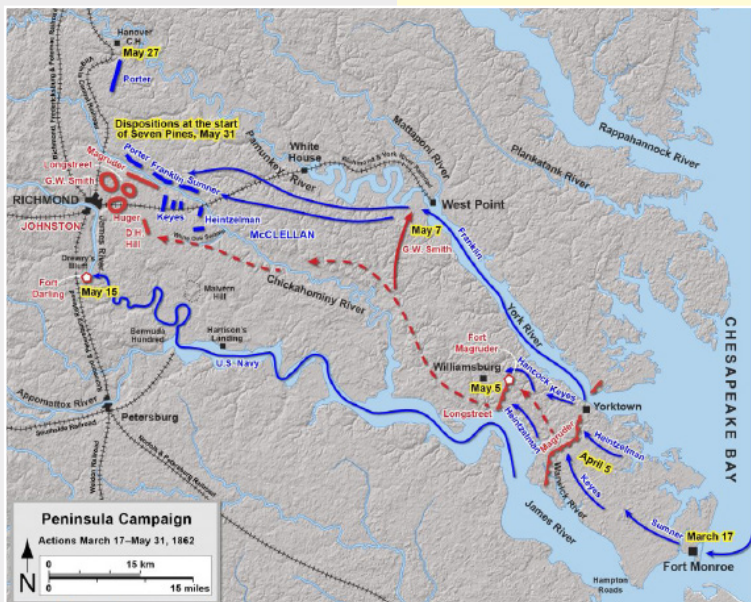
During the evening of May 3 and under the cover of its own artillery, the Confederate army abandoned the Yorktown line and began falling back toward Williamsburg, about twelve miles away. The subsequent Union pursuit on May 4 resulted in skirmishes along Hampton and York roads just outside Williamsburg.

The Battle

At dawn on May 5, 1862, leading elements of the Army of the Potomac deployed in a driving rain just short of Fort Magruder. Union cavalry, artillery, and infantry pushed Confederate skirmishers back to their fortifications. Behind the leading Union skirmishers and stretched out for miles on both Hampton and York roads was the majority of the Army of the Potomac. Since McClellan arrived late in the day, field command fell on a number of his divisional and brigadier generals.

Under the overall command of Joseph E. Johnston, much of the Confederate army had already passed through Williamsburg on its way from Yorktown to the defenses of Richmond. As the battle intensified throughout the day, however, several of these units countermarched, or turned around, coming to the aid of Confederate general James Longstreet, who was in command of the rearguard at Williamsburg.

By mid-morning, Union infantrymen from New Jersey, under the command of General Francis Patterson, had turned off Hampton Road and charged into the ravine southeast of Fort Magruder. There they were met by Confederate troops from Alabama and Mississippi commanded by General Cadmus M. Wilcox, of North Carolina. Supported by their respective artillery, these brigades clashed in the confusing undergrowth, felled trees, and swampy ground, slipping and sliding and occasionally mistaking friend



for foe. Colonel Nelson Taylor's "Excelsior Brigade," made up of New Yorkers, rushed into line to support the Jerseyans and was met by two brigades of Virginians under A. P. Hill and George E. Pickett, who had rushed to support Wilcox.

According to Union general Joseph Hooker's official report, "The battle had swollen into one of gigantic proportions." Close quarters and hand-to-hand combat was commonplace. With the New Jersey regiments exhausted and out of ammunition, the combined strength of more than a dozen Confederate regiments began to force the Union soldiers back. Lieutenant Lawrence Meem, adjutant of the 11th Virginia Infantry Regiment, captured the moment in a letter to his father, dated May 10, 1862: "As we were going out of the ravine a tremendous cheer was sent up in the woods ... [and] the whole Regiment commenced double quicknin up the hill cheering as they went."

By noon and with the rain still falling, both sides were heavily engaged and strengthening their lines. The battle had reached its sixth hour. Williamsburg's public buildings and private homes were inundated with the dead and dying. Private John Taylor Chappell, of the 10th Virginia Cavalry, later wrote that despite the rain and wounded, Williamsburg residents "with field glasses were watching the tide of battle as it ebbed and flowed." A few miles to the east at Union headquarters on York Road local slaves reported to Union general Erasmus D. Keyes that, as Keyes wrote in his official report, "some of the enemy's works on his left were not occupied." Union general Edwin V. Sumner dispatched Winfield Scott Hancock with a brigade of infantry and artillery to investigate.

As the afternoon wore on, the large Confederate counterattack had shoved the Union infantry across Hampton Road. Short of ammunition, Colonel William Dwight Jr., commander of the 70th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, sent a message to his superior, Nelson Taylor, "Tell Col. Taylor we will all die here or hold the position." Union artillery Major Charles S. Wainwright saw the Union lines collapsing and instructed his gunners to hold their fire until the Confederates got closer. He later wrote in his journal that, "three rounds to a gun then blew the whole thing away." Their combined tenacity was not enough to stem the overwhelming tide of cheering Confederates, some mounting the captured Union guns, waving their flags wildly. At this moment, during the height of the Confederate attack, a fresh Union brigade commanded by John J. Peck appeared on York Road and slammed headfirst into the Confederate onslaught. At the same time, along Hampton Road, Union general Philip Kearny, "flourishing a sword in his only arm," pitched his tired infantrymen into the Confederate flank. Over the next two hours they forced the Confederate soldiers back into the fortifications around Fort Magruder.

Late in the afternoon, as the battle and the weather showed no signs of slackening, Hancock's maneuver and subsequent occupation of the empty redoubts was discovered. Longstreet reluctantly dispatched Jubal Early to secure this section of the Confederate line, reasoning that, as he explained in his memoir, *From Manassas to Appomattox* (1896), "We were only fighting for time to draw off our trains." Only two of Early's four regiments emerged from the dense, tangled undergrowth to challenge Hancock's commanding position. Charging across a field and through a farmyard toward the Union line, the disjointed Confederate assault was cut to pieces by concentrated infantry and artillery fire. Just as the Confederate lines began to break, Union infantry rushed forward. Hancock later wrote in his official report, dated May 11, that as night fell, "For 600 yards in front of our line the whole field was strewn with the enemy's dead."

Aftermath

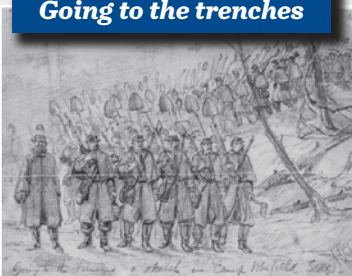
During the night of May 5, 1862, the Confederate army quietly abandoned the Williamsburg line. Ten hours of sustained combat had produced 4,000 casualties (including those killed, wounded, and captured) and no significant change in the position of the armies. For the first time ever, Union soldiers—Hancock's men in this case—captured a Confederate battle flag. In a telegram to his wife, McClellan wrote, "Hancock was superb." (The adjective stuck as the general's nickname.) Seven Union soldiers were awarded the Medal



A Tempting Breastwork



Camp Winfield Scott



Going to the trenches



Kearney at Battle of Williamsburg

of Honor for their conduct in and around what would now be known as the "bloody ravine." As the two armies marched west toward Richmond, Seven Days' Battles would overshadow the fight at Williamsburg in all but the veterans' accounts.

Private Edwin Y. Brown of the 1st Massachusetts Infantry commented, "The battle of Williamsburg has received less importance in history than it has merited." Scholarship at the beginning of the twenty-first century, however, has reasserted its significance. The battle provided many enlisted men and officers alike their first taste of combat and, for Union soldiers specifically, another obstacle built by enslaved laborers. Reports and letters home commented on how, at Yorktown, slaves were sent out under hazardous conditions while Confederate soldiers remained protected by earthworks. Perhaps more selfishly, Union soldiers also took note that the lines at Yorktown and Williamsburg and, later in the war, at Petersburg and Richmond, were dug by African Americans. Union soldiers, of course, dug their own.

As argued by the historian Glenn David Brasher and others, such observations began to change the course of the war. At Yorktown, Williamsburg, and for the remainder of the Peninsula Campaign, even those Union soldiers without prior antislavery or abolitionist sentiments began to discuss the issue and raise concerns about the value of slave labor to the Confederates. In fact, in *The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the Fight for Freedom* (2012), Brasher asserts, "The issue of slaves fleeing to Union lines was less important in the debate over emancipation than was the military contribution of African Americans" to both sides. Moreover, according to Brasher, the Peninsula Campaign "was more important for bringing about emancipation than was the Battle of Antietam"—the battle later that year that provided President Abraham Lincoln an excuse to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

Old Baldy's January Meeting Review

"The Left-Armed Corps: Writings By Amputee Civil War Veterans"

*By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT*

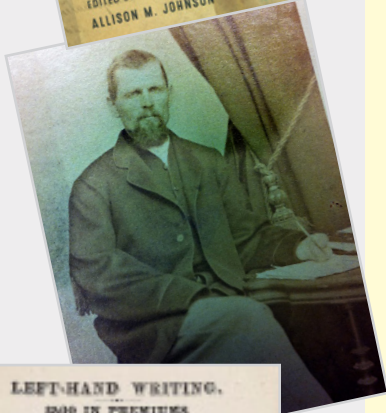
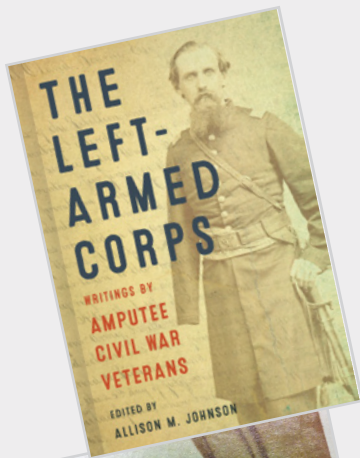
William Olana Bourne, hospital chaplain of New York Central Park Hospital, organized two left-handed penmanship contests for Union soldiers. The soldiers understood and celebrated their experience in the Civil War, their sacrifice, losing a limb or hand, and their ability to find work after the war. They were part of the membership in a club called the "the Left-Armed Corps". William B. Bourne wanted to have this contest to see if the men can have good penmanship using their left hand as he called "the unwritten war". He wanted to show that amputees can be a productive part of society.

Bourne's objective was to help men who lost their right arm, hand, or use of their right arm. He had books where soldiers put their stories of their experiences of the war written with their left-hand. At least eight left-handed men who wrote in the books participated in these left-handed contests.

Left-handed newspapers helped the amputees to try to understand their handicap. This left-handed corps were amputee veterans who were working in penmanship and writing during the Civil War. To have any kind of work or personal writing the veterans had to learn how to write with their left-hand. Bourne's New York newspaper "The Soldier's Friend" penmanship from pages 1-7 published narratives of left-handed veterans of the US Colored Troops. He was promoting formally enslaved black men to join the Union cause with the publishing of his paper. "The Soldier's Friend" was a Union paper and after the war, was said to be "too radical and too Black". This newspaper would offer a way to find employment for the corps of disabled soldier, sailors, and members of their families. "The Soldier's Friend" was the official publication for the left-handed contests. The first contest was June 1865 with over 270 men competitors the first year, not as many in the second year. The men were not entering battle ever again but could be employed in government jobs with business penmanship, political ambitions, and the ability to write home.



*Edited by
Allison M. Johnson*



A Grand Exhibition of a list of contributors, photographs of the contestants, prize essays were published which was exhibited in New York and Washington D.C. General Ulysses S. Grant visited the exhibition and said, "these boys write better with their left hand than I do with my right". The second contest instructions were more specific than the first. Entrants had to use only black ink, send photographs, original essays, poems, tales, incidents, and anecdotes of the war.

The Left-Armed Corps entrees developed a range of anxieties and their own thoughts on their own masculinity. They worried about how to support their family for although they did get a pension it was not always enough income. They needed to supplement their pension They worried if they had a sweetheart, she may reject the soldier because of their loss of their right arm. "The Empty Sleeve" was a badge of courage during and after the war but the things that faced these men were still great.

Many songs were written and became popular with "the empty sleeve". Many men mourned the loss of their "right arm". It was William Sherman, who felt the loss of these body parts by so many of his soldiers and on making the Union whole again. Even though the contests helped contestants to work on their penmanship with their left-hand some men did not go into desk jobs, but some went back to farming while others looked for other kinds of work.

Men of Valor and Veterans of Post War New Jersey:

Phineas P. Whitehouse

Corporal Co. C, 6th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry

He submitted his entry to both contests as well as publishing poems and stories in "The Soldier's Friend". He was 20 when he enlisted and was in the battle of Fredericksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. He suffered a gun shot to his wrist making his fingers stiff and hand of no use to him in any kind of labor. He continued writing poems and married with 3 children. By 1880 was a widower and journalist/ Died in 1910 in South Carolina.

Thomas Perrine

Second Sergeant Co. G. 140th Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry

Thomas was wounded in Chancellorsville which was his first and only battle. He went back to college in 1866 and then law school. He wrote the "Sinister Manuscript" an epic poem of right arm vs. masculinity with thoughts of the romantic part of his life. Married in 1878 with two stepchildren and a son. Dairying was his profession. Died of his wounds in 1890 at 48. He felt losing his right arm was evil and wrote his epic about his anxiety.

Alfred Whitehouse

Private Co. D. 8th New York State Militia (Washington Grays)

Born in London, England, called himself Bourne's "left arm soldier friend". Became a US

Citizen in 1861, lived with his parents and was a sign painter in NY City. Married and continued sign painting with his left hand. Trustee of 15th St. Baptist Church and was elected chaplain of his post of the GAR in 1909. He worked as an appraiser for the NY Custom Service. He entered both contests. He finished painting the sign he was working on after the battle at Spotsylvania Court House before having his arm amputated.

William Moore Fithian

Corporal, Co. K. 12th NJ Volunteer Infantry

Enlisted in Bridgeton, NJ August 1862. Spotsylvania Court House suffered a gunshot wound that disabled his right arm and hand. Despite his injuries he continued his work as a tinsmith. Died in 1908.

James Mangan

Private Co. D. 15th NJ Volunteer Infantry

Sussex County, NJ Married with 2 children. Wounded fighting in the "Bloody Angle" at Spotsylvania Court House where the Union lost 151 men in 30

Presenter Book Winner - Steve McMahon
Alex Glisson, Mike DiPaolo, Lynn Cavill,
Jim Heenehan, John Galie... won the attendees

minutes while advancing on the entrenched Confederates. Two months after giving his writing sample to the contest he was admitted to the NJ Home for Disabled Soldiers, died in 1869 of asphyxia.

In the NJ Infantry 2% were left-handed, by 1850 10% were left-handed. By the end of the war the majority were left-handed.

The subject of a left-armed corps was a fascinating story told by our own Civil War veterans. Allison Johnson brought the idea of learning to use our left-hand to write legibly again was taken for granted but for these men it was a slow process of relearning. The 2 contests that some men entered was a way to help achieve their goal of writing with their left-hand. This was a great story with many men telling their own testament as to how they lost their right arm and how they coped with their loss. Thank you, Allison, for a wonderful presentation.

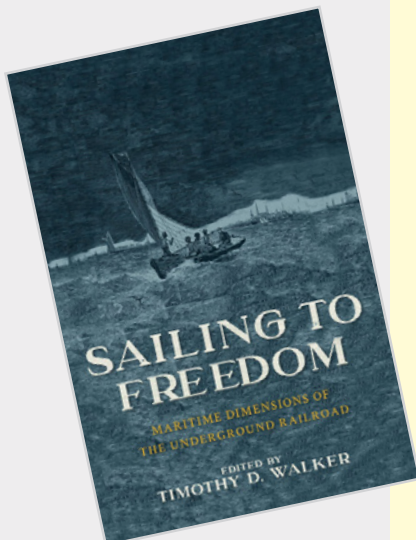
Old Baldy's February Meeting Review

"Sailing To Freedom: Maritime Dimensions Of The Underground Railroad"

By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT



Edited by
Timothy D. Walker



We think of the Underground Railroad with Harriet Tubman overland leading a group of slaves to freedom. They were on their way to northern free states of Pennsylvania and onto Canada. Slaves who were living in states near the Atlantic Ocean would escape northward by starting their journey aboard a steamship. If a slave was living in the Charleston or Savannah area that was the most obvious way to start their Underground Railroad experience. They were able to get to the North within four or five days with help in the North from people who are part of the Underground Railroad.

The success of these escapes were short journeys that began in one of the slave states that bordered a free state such as Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, or Iowa. Slave narratives say that 70% escaped by water. John Jacobs, for example, worked on a whaling ship and escaped by sea who was the brother of Harriett Jacobs. Elizabeth Blakely escaped from Wilmington, NC. With the help of Abolitionists and Quakers would get the slaves from the ship to people who worked with the Underground Railroad.

As time went on sea coast towns started to enact laws so officials would go on board the ship before it left port looking for run away slaves and would not let the ship sail. Ship's Captain would be libel if they knew an African American was on board. If the ship was able to leave port and get into international waters (three miles offshore) that would be a free area to be in and the runaway slave would be safe.

As a result of the slaves working on ships docked in port, they learned seafaring skills and knowledge how to handle water vessels, a knowledge of coastal geography, how to read tides, currents, channels, and navigational hazards. The enslaved men established direct and indirect contact with other ship's crews from other northern free states. They had access to ships going out to sea. As a result, escape by sea in these states was a logical option. In most cases the enslaved did not get assistance from anyone in the Underground Railroad, especially in the far south of the US. Basically, until he or she got on the ship going north would the Underground Railroad assist that slave into a northern free state.

In New Bedford, Massachusetts many African American slaves worked on whaling ships. The population currently were Quakers and free African Americans. The New England ship's captain and crewmen assisted fugitive slaves by stowing them away in cargo until they reached a northern port. Escaping slaves called New Bedford the "Fugitive's Gibraltar" for the lengths to which its people safeguarded them from capture. The average of one to five sailors were black men who learned the geography and skill of whaling. They either worked on the docks or on the waterfront ports. Whaling jobs were encouraged by the Quaker owners of whaling ships. Men who were slaves

often served on long whaling voyages to evade capture and enslavement. It was hard work and many men only lasted one to two voyages before finding another job along the waterfront or went on to the North to freedom. It was very hard work even life altering.

While working on the docks the African American man learned many aspects of the waterfront and became just as skilled as the operators of ships or their crew were able to do. They became stevedores, longshoremen, river boatmen, cargo crewmen, fishermen, ferrymen, deck hands, pilots, and knew how to repair if needed. By 1840 the reputation for once enslaved people to work on the whaling ships was prime basically because they did not want to be caught by slave-catching bounty hunters. New Bedford was the premier whaling port. Captain Paul Cuffe operated ships from New Bedford to England with an all African American crew. Frederick Douglas in 1838 sailed into New Bedford with a seaman's protection paper that was borrowed from a free black sailor. He took a job as a day labor on the docks. Douglas, Anna, and children made New Bedford home for seven years.

Bounty hunters were always a threat to the free slaves even in free states. Owners of slaves who have gone missing posted their advertisements in newspapers and on posters. With always new fugitive slave laws being renewed or changed the African American free slave was always being careful about where he was and what he was doing. Notices of lost slaves were everywhere. Ship's captain could be hanged for taking away their slaves and were offered rewards if the captain was caught sailing with the fugitive slave. The fugitive slave act of 1793 was in effect so the owners of slaves would put ads in Northern newspapers, publishing reports of their last known location. When a ship's Captain came to port with the fugitive slave on board, he was aware of all the ads. Ads were up and down the coast in Northern and Southern ports. Since newspapers only came out once a week it gave the slave added time to continue to move toward the North.

Here are some examples of ways and firsthand accounts of men who escaped to the North. William Grimes in 1814 stowed away aboard the Boston sloop "Casket" from Savannah, Georgia to New York. The crew of New Englanders wanted William to leave with them so made a hole in a bale of cotton to stow away for the entire journey. Siah Hulett Carter escaped in a stolen boat to board the USS Monitor on May 16, 1862, which was anchored in the James River at City Point. He followed the ship in the stolen boat until the Monitor's crew would let him on board. He survived the sinking off Cape Hatteras and served in the US Navy for the remainder of the war. He was discharged May 19, 1865. Dempsey Hill, a waterman, broke into the Beaufort Customs House to steal naval charts and then hid them in a cemetery. He and four other slaves delivered the charts to the blockading Union naval squadron. They told the officers they wanted to be a sailor and freeman. Hill

served through the war and then worked as part of the crew. He settled in Wareham, Massachusetts. We cannot forget the women and children who William Still helped successfully to escape at League Island in Philadelphia. They came from Norfolk, Virginia and were searched twice for contraband cargo. They arrived at night and carriages were waiting to take

them to Philadelphia freeing dozens of slaves.

During the Civil War New Bedford was a recruiting station for the African American 54th Massachusetts Infantry regiment. Sgt. William H. Carney was the first Black soldier to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor and Frederick Douglas's sons, Charles and Lewis served with the 54th. His third son, Frederick Jr. worked as a regimental recruiter with the Union army in Mississippi.

What a story to tell! Thank you, Mr. Walker, for bringing to our roundtable a story that we seldom hear about when talking about the Underground Railroad and fugitive slaves living along the Atlantic Ocean. This brings a new perspective to the plight of runaway slaves and their determination to get North to a free state. Through your many narratives and other author's articles the story comes to the forefront as an interesting topic to explore. We appreciate the story and the book you have published and the stories you told.

Presenter Book Winner - Janet Whaley

Harry Jenkins, Gabriel Glisson, Rick Zarr, Evan Glisson, Gary Kaplan, Ed Komczyk, Dan Hummel.... won the attendees raffle.

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.

Continued from (January) Issue

During the spring of 1862 some 500 young men in Mobile, unable to resist sentimental ties to their old countries, secured certificates of citizenship from consular agents of foreign countries. Until October 1862 a man could not be drafted outside the state where domiciled, and some young men developed a keen interest in travel. A number of them with enough wealth to indulge their fancies enjoyed prolonged sojourns in Canada or various European countries.

There were protests against such practices, but there were other protests that the exemption act had not gone far enough. The Administration soon concluded that more had to be done to protect workers in certain vital areas. The supplementary act of October 11, 1862 expanded the exempt classes: tanners; shoemakers; blacksmiths; wagon-makers; millers; munition makers; ship-builders; salt makers who produced over twenty bushels a day; miners; charcoal and coke burners; one stockman for 500 head of cattle or 250 horses and mules; one editor and the necessary printers for each newspaper; members of such pacifist denominations as Friends, Nazarenes, Dunkards, and Mennonites, provided a substitute was furnished or \$500 paid the government; and physicians who had

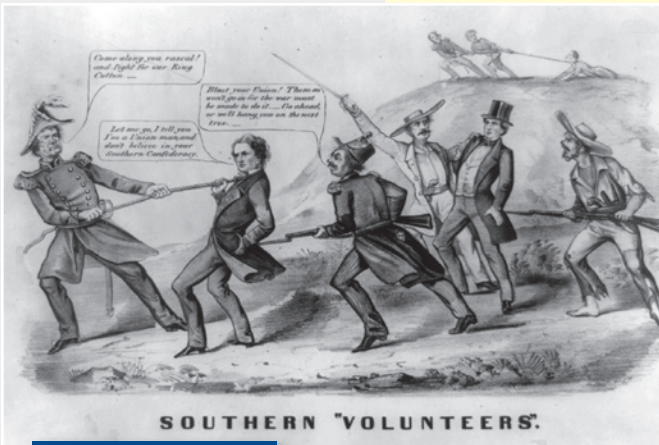
practiced at least five years. The President and Secretary of War were authorized to expand the list if necessary.

One other exemption aroused intense opposition among many lower and middle class whites. One owner or overseer could be exempted on a plantation with twenty slaves if no draft-exempt white male was present. This "twenty-nigger law" (reduced to fifteen in early 1864) was denounced, by those who could not take advantage of it, as class legislation which resulted in a "rich man's war and a poor man's fight." Modified by an act of May 1, 1863, it applied thereafter only to plantations belonging to dependents, minors, imbeciles, and men in military service. For an overseer to qualify he must have worked in that capacity prior to April 16, 1862, and \$500 would have to be paid the government when he was excused. Fewer overseers actually used this loophole, but the proviso did much to discredit the exemption system.

The Exemption Act of October 1862 made a futile effort to end or curtail some of the abuses in the system. Potential draftees were to be taken into service if qualified to pursue ordinary civilian occupations, and proof of occupation was required for such suddenly popular professions as medicine and teaching. In a vain attempt to curb rising prices Congress required that exempted artisans and manufacturers hold the sales price of their products to no more than 75 percent above the cost of production.

As the war dragged on, the government made several changes in both the conscription and exemption acts. The age limit was extended to 45 in September 1862, and in February 1864 the limits were stretched to 17 to 50. The latter change led General Grant to comment that the Confederacy was now robbing both the cradle and the grave. In theory, however, the 17-year-old boys and 46-50-year-old men were to be used for guard duties and for local defense against Yankee raids; they were expected to relieve thousands of soldiers aged 18-45 for active duty in the field. The 1864 act also retained for the duration of the war the soldiers already in service.

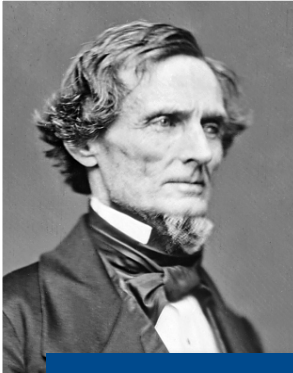
After the summer of 1862 the Secretary of War, as an alternative to making exemptions, sometimes detailed soldiers to civilian plants. This practice resulted in anguished complaints from the generals who lost men, but by



Resistance
to Conscription



An Unidentified
boy soldier



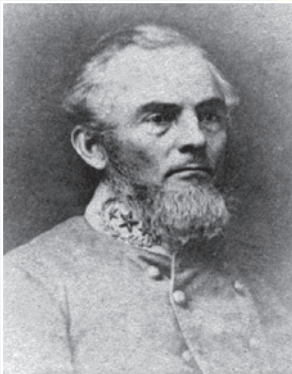
Jefferson Davis

December 1863 the Administration was urging it as a principle. The proposal was that all men of military age would be enrolled; the President would then detail to non-military functions those who were unfit for active service or whose skills were needed in essential occupations. Such a plan would have ended many of the weaknesses in the conscription system, but Congress, jealous of executive power, would not accept such a drastic change. Instead an act of February 17, 1864 merely tinkered with the existing system. Exempted classes were slashed in half, chiefly in the areas of agricultural and industrial production, while most professionals and public service employees continued to be protected. "Boards of Investigation" composed of men 45-50 years of age, were set up in each county to strengthen administration of the program.

Davis continued to urge the end of class exemption, but Congress passed a bill on March 11, 1865 which ignored his recommendations and revoked nearly all the executive details which had been made. The President then vetoed the measure. As the Confederacy fell, its Congress and President were engaged in bitter conflict over the exemption problem.

Incomplete Confederate statistics indicate that at least 100,000 men were exempted from military service and some 25-40,000 others were detailed to non-combat duties. The "system" did not make efficient allocation of man-power, and its operation had a deleterious effect upon Confederate morale.

Even had few exemptions been made, a basic problem for the South was the disparity between Union and Confederate manpower resources. No matter how great the Southern effort, it could be matched by a much smaller Northern one. The 1860 census reported 4,010,000 white males aged 15-40 in loyal states; the same age group in the eleven Confederate states numbered only 1,140,000. The Confederate Army reached its peak strength of some 263,000 available for duty in early summer, 1863; the peak Union strength of 620,000 was reached at the end of the war. No conscriptive program could compensate fully for such disparities, but an adequate one would have narrowed the gap.



**Brigadier General, CSA
Gideon Johnson Pillow**

Opposition to the war was so strong in some parts of the South that conscription broke down almost completely. Peace societies, the counterpart of the more famous "Copperhead" movement in the North, flourished in many areas. In November 1864 President Davis told Congress that "a dangerous conspiracy exists in some of the counties of southwestern Virginia, and in the neighboring portions of North Carolina and Tennessee, which it is found impracticable to suppress by the ordinary course of law." Even the suspension of habeas corpus failed to solve the problem.

Desertion was a major complication in the manpower problem for both armies. but the South was less capable of bearing the loss. Some soldiers deserted to sell their services as substitutes. Others, including some foreigners and Unionists, had been forced into a war which they did not understand or accept; many of them escaped as soon as possible. Many men, although devoted to the Confederacy, went home to care for their families.

Some deserters could be gathered up by scouring the countryside, but this required more troops than could be spared. In mid-1863 General Gideon Pillow estimated that some 8-10,000 deserters infested the Alabama mountains where "They rob, burn, and murder the unarmed and defenseless population of the country with impunity." General Pillow organized twenty miscellaneous companies of conscripts, volunteers, and exempts and used them to capture 6-8,000 deserters, but such successes were rare.

General Preston declared in March 1865 that with 100,000 deserters at large the crime had lost the stigma once attached to it. As the war neared its close, thousands of soldiers departed for home without waiting for any formal surrender.



**Brigadier General, CSA
William Preston III**

State rights caused many problems for the Confederacy, and conscription was one of the areas in which it led to particular difficulties. Few leaders denied the need for conscription by 1862, but many of them believed it could best be handled through the states. At least four states had initiated some kind of state conscription prior to the 1862 act, and one modern Southern

historian contends that "A modified system of national conscription, managed by the several states, would have recognized state pride and responsibility and have worked much more efficiently than the system that was adopted."

As it was, conscription did much to disrupt federal- state relationships. Georgia's Governor Joseph E. Brown denounced conscription as "a palpable violation of the Constitution," "a dangerous assault upon both the rights and the sovereignty of the State," and "a rapid stride toward military despotism." President Davis resorted to the doctrine of implied powers to justify such action; to Brown, this was a more serious attack upon constitutional liberty than anything done by the United States government prior to Georgia's secession. To thwart the President's conscription acts, Brown created thousands of minor, and for the most part superfluous, state jobs to keep Georgians out of the draft. Davis later maintained that this action of Brown's cost the Confederacy over 15,000 men, but 8,000-10,000 is a more reasonable figure. Still, this was the equivalent of two good army divisions, and might have made all the difference at Stone's River or Chickamauga. What was worse, Brown's chief conspirator in the attempt to keep men out of the service was none other than the Confederate Vice President himself, Alexander Stephens, Governor Zebulon Vance of North Carolina was nearly as vehement in his protests, and for a time he protected even more potential soldiers than did Brown. Such opposition from prominent Confederates must have encouraged draft dodgers and deserters.

The Confederate manpower situation after 1863 resembled a leaky bucket. Conscription and volunteers brought in recruits from a dwindling pool of eligibles, but losses from military attrition, the generous granting of exemptions, and desertions exceeded the gains. Month after month, campaign after campaign, the Northern armies grew while Southern ones decreased; more men had to be found or the war was inevitably lost.

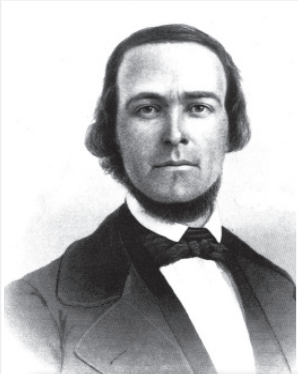
In their great need the Confederate authorities finally turned to the one great reservoir of manpower still available—the Negro slave. No other action of the Confederate government better reveals its desperation, for use of the Negro as a soldier struck at the very heart of the "peculiar institution." Howell Cobb put it well: "If slaves will make good soldiers, our whole theory of slavery is wrong."

But in 1860 the eleven states that later constituted the Confederate States of America contained close to 3,500,000 slaves, nearly 40 percent of their total population. Since the average age of the blacks was less than that of the whites, the male slaves of military age probably numbered well over 500,000. Of course the use of slave labor had released more whites for military service than would otherwise have been possible, and a number of slaves had been used in military support roles. But the urgent need now was for fighting men.

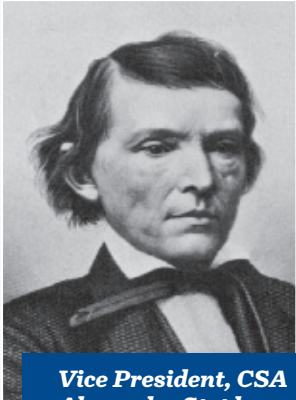
Negroes had been used in substantial numbers in the American Revolution and the War of 1812, and the United States had enrolled Negro troops since 1862. Some Southerners raised the issue quite early in the war but, except in a few rare cases, Negroes were rejected for military service. The War Department refused such a suggestion in 1861 because "there is a superabundance of our own color tendering their service."

Many slaves accompanied their masters into the field and performed camp chores while others helped by driving wagons and digging fortifications. Such usage was placed on a more systematic basis by an act passed on February 17, 1864, the same day as a conscription law. Recommended by Davis and designed "to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves," it authorized the employment of up to 20,000 blacks for non-combat duties with the armies. They were not soldiers, and they were not to be used as such.

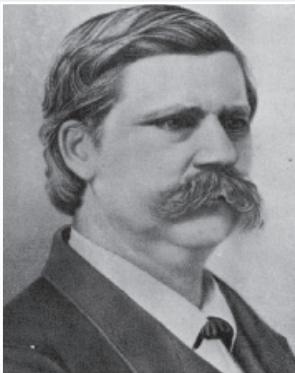
General Patrick R. Cleburne of the Army of Tennessee pushed the issue of combat usage. Irish-born Cleburne argued that no other solution would provide more than temporary relief from the increasing shortage of fighting men. Convinced that the Negro would make a good soldier, Cleburne offered to give up his cherished division and lead a black one. His ideas were expressed



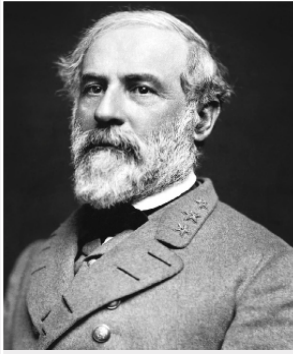
**Georgia Governor, CSA
Joseph E. Brown**



**Vice President, CSA
Alexander Stephens**



**North Carolina Governor, CSA
Zebulon Vance**



**North Carolina Governor, CSA
Zebulon Vance**



**Negro Camp Servant
on the March**



**Negro Servant to maybe
a Confederate Officer**

in a paper which General Johnston presented to his general officers on the evening of January 2, 1864. "If they can be made to face and fight bravely against their former masters," Cleburne argued, "how much more probable is it that with the allurements of a higher reward, and led by those masters, they would submit to discipline and face dangers?" The "higher reward" he proposed was freedom.

The paper excited sharp differences of opinion among the generals, and Johnston refused to forward it to Richmond on the grounds that it was essentially political in nature. But General W. H. T. Walker was so incensed at the suggestion that he sent a copy directly to the President. Davis asked that it be suppressed, and Cleburne obeyed.

But others advocated the same idea as the war turned against the South. Governor Henry W. Allen of Louisiana wrote Secretary of War A. Seddon on September 26, 1864 that "The time has come for us to put in the army every able-bodied negro man as a soldier . . . I would free all able to bear arms . . . In October the governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi endorsed the idea; of the five governors present at the Augusta meeting, only Watts of Alabama objected.

During the following months the question was discussed vigorously in both civilian and military circles. Davis opposed the scheme in his November 7, 1864 message to Congress, but he added an important qualification: "But should the alternative ever be presented of subjugation or of the employment of the slaves as soldiers, there seems no reason to doubt what should be our decision."

Decisive support for the use of Negro combat troops came in January from General Lee. Assured by his corps commanders that there would be little opposition from the veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia, Lee threw his vast prestige behind the proposal. In February, when Congress debated the issue, Lee wrote that the measure was "not only expedient but necessary . . . In my opinion, the negroes . . . will make efficient soldiers . . . I think those who are employed should be freed."

Opposition was still strong, and Davis could not bring himself to an open espousal of the idea. But the Union armies were efficient lobbyists for the measure, and the House bill, introduced on February 10, 1865, passed ten days later. The Senate procrastinated until March 9; Davis signed the bill on March 13. Two days later General Lee received a petition from the 49th Georgia Infantry asking that its depleted ranks be filled by conscripted Negroes.

The act authorized the President to ask for the services of as many slaves as he deemed necessary for military duty; both the slaves and the masters had to consent to their service. If the request did not produce enough men, the President could call for as many as 300,000 slaves with each state assigned an equitable quota. No more than 25 percent of the male slaves aged 18-45 could be taken from any state. The slave-soldiers were not freed by the act, but it was generally assumed that freedom would be granted later.

An order was issued for the enrollment of Negro troops. but it came months too late to have any practical effect. A few companies were raised. chiefly in Richmond where some of them paraded on March 22. but the end of the Confederacy was at hand. Fighting ceased before any of the Confederate Negro troops saw combat action.

It is still difficult to assay the effectiveness of Confederate conscription. The most careful study of the draft concludes that conscription, directly or indirectly, provided some 300,000 men for the armies east of the Mississippi River. about one-third of their total strength. Other authorities contend that 25 percent would be a more accurate figure. The greatest value of conscription was the retention in service of veterans whose enlistments would otherwise have expired. Without these men the military collapse would have come much sooner.

But the conscription system was inefficient and filled with abuses, and anti-war sentiment rallied in opposition to it. Above all, by neglecting the issue of state rights, it provided a focal point for anti-administration forces.

Despite the dangers of a decentralized system, better results might have been obtained with a general law which operated through the states. This solution was rejected, and the increasing ineffectiveness of conscription was one of many factors which contributed to the collapse of the Confederacy.

The SoCal CWRT Alliance Presents

The Civil War in California

by Zach Foster

Tuesday, March 14th

6:30 PM Pacific Time

9:30 PM Eastern Time



Zach Foster

Hear the incredible true stories of when the Civil War came to California. This will include coverage of the California Volunteers and state militia held down the Golden State for the Union; major battles in the Trans-Mississippi and Pacific Theaters; Confederate ships captured on the Pacific Coast; how the California soldiers took Arizona back from the rebels; California government officials who defected to the CSA; and quixotic Confederate guerrilla wars in California.

Zach Foster is a former reserve soldier and military contractor with a BA in Political Science from Cal Poly Pomona. He's the man behind The Civil War: Wild West Edition on YouTube, which focuses on the War Between the States and Territories from Texas to the Pacific Coast. He's the author of two Civil War nonfiction books to be released in 2023.

***Join us Tuesday, March 14th, at 6:30 PM Pacific time or 9:30 Eastern time.
The Zoom link is below.***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87564440940?pwd=YlFNdm-9CYWlndlc3SXJsRFRmNDRhZz09>

Meeting ID 875 6444 0940

Passcode Lincoln

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Mike Hoover

President - Secretary

Inland Empire Civil War Round Table

Winner of the CWRT Congress 2022 Phoenix Award

IECWRT@gmail.com

inlandempirecwrt.org



**The Society
for Women
and the
Civil War**

**“Recognizing
Women’s
Efforts,
1861-1865”**

Breaking News:

The Society for Women in the Civil War 23rd Annual Conference

“Women in Government Service”

July 28-30, 2023 in Carlisle, PA

Website: www.swcw.org.

Email contact: swcw1865@gmail.com

**Conference Hotel Location: Comfort Suites Hotel
Downtown Carlisle. PA**

Members - Full registration \$325.

Non-members - \$375.

Register before July 15, 2023

To get the conference rate must register before June 17, 2023.

Reserve by phone or by email:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/D102L8>

***Some of the topics to be discussed are Civil War dresses,
Richmond spies, Black nurses, Unknown Women of the War,
Dorothea Dix, and Harriet Dame and more to come.***

***There will be more information in the next newsletter.
We are honored to be a conference partner.***

The Society for Women and the Civil War (SWCW) is dedicated to recognizing the lives and contributions of women who lived through, or participated in, the American Civil War, as well as supporting those who research, reenact, or otherwise honor these women of the past. The society sponsors an annual conference and two publications: the monthly “Calling Card”, which provides announcements of events of interest, and “At Home and in the Field”, a quarterly e-journal which features the research interests of members.

SWCW sponsors the National Registry of Women’s Service in the Civil War. The Society offers scholarships to college and high school students. It supports the research of members, provides opportunities for cooperation in that research, and mentors author members.

SWCW encourages members who are reenactors and living historians. It offers presentations and networking to assist them in researching their subjects and in establishing and strengthening their impressions. Annual memberships for individuals (\$25.00), for individuals (plus one) (\$40.00), for students (\$15.00), and for organizations (\$55.00), are available and provide discounts for registration for the annual conference and access to members-only benefits. Dues for the calendar year may be paid via PayPal at SWCW’s website or via postal mail.

SWCW Contact Information

Website: **www.swcw.org**

Facebook: **Society for Women and the Civil War**

eMail: **SWCW1865@gmail.com**

Postal Mail:

Society for Women and the Civil War, Inc.,

P.O. Box 3117

Gettysburg PA 17325

Editor's Note

I would like to apologize for skipping the February Issue of the newsletter. It was do to an unexpected illness on my part. I was not able to finish the issue. So this is a kind of a joint February/March issue.

The article on the Confederate Conscription is very interesting and informative... the beginning of the article was in the January Issue and can be found on the WEB site.

Also if there are any specific articles that you would like to see please let me know and I am always looking for articles/photos from you members.

Don

**North Jersey Civil War Round Table
And
Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
Present**

The Winter of Gen. Meade Lecture Series

March 23, 2023 6:36 PM

**A Class of Vultures:
General Meade & the
Committee on the Conduct
of the War**

**Presented by
Dr. Jennifer Murray,
Professor
Oklahoma State University**



A Zoom presentation only.

Please request link at NJCivilWarRT@aol.com

You will receive subsequent notices of the lectures, but once your request is acknowledged, it will be good for the three lectures.

FYI: Links are sent the Wednesday before the lecture.

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

**Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT
Speakers and Activities
for 2023**

**April 13, 2023 - Thursday
Brad Gottfried**

**“Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the
Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns”**

**May 11, 2023 - Thursday
Walt Lafty
“Walt Whitman”**

**June 8, 2023 - Thursday
Steven Knowlton**

**“Thirteen Months in Dixie, or, the Adventures
of a Federal Prisoner in Texas”**

**July 13, 2023 - Thursday
Randy Drais
“Women at Gettysburg”**

**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: Mike Bassett
Programs: Dave Gilson
Membership: Amy and Dan Hummel**

**Trustees:
Paul Prentiss
Dave Gilson
Jim Countryman**

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net