

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

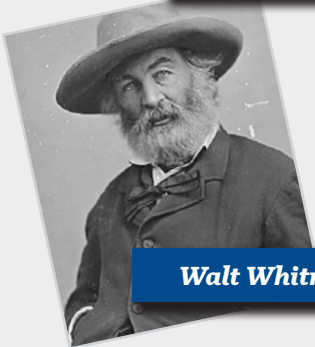
May 11, 2023

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

## “The Real War Will Never Get in The Books – The Civil War’s Poet Patriot Walt Whitman”



Walt Lafty



Walt Whitman

This presentation will focus on how the Civil War impacted the life and writings of Walt Whitman. While many people know him as a poet and author, it will be his love of country and his contributions to the war effort during the Civil War which will be highlighted.

Walt Lafty has been active in various Civil War groups for almost twenty years. Currently those include the Delaware Valley CWRT where he is a board member as well as a member of the preservation committee; and he is also an active member of the Old Baldy CWRT.

In addition, Walt is a volunteer and research administrator at the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia. He is also a member of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Hatboro PA, where he serves as the camp secretary, and he is also a member of the General Meade Society.

### Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, May 11, 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](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net) at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access.

### Notes from the President

Welcome to May, NBA playoffs, the continuing MLB season and hopefully more stable weather. For those who join us for dinner before the meeting the sudden closing of the Cherry Hill Diner has moved us to the **Kettle & Grille in Marlton for our May meal. It is in the Crispin Square Shopping Center at 230 North Maple Ave.** Hoping to see many of you at our annual picnic on May 13th at the home of **Jan and Marty Wilensky**. Please let Jan know you are coming and what you will bring so she can have an adequate plan.

Last month **Brad Gottfried** visited us with **his wife Linda**. He shared his comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns through Lee’s Invasions of the North. Many in attendance gave positive comments on the presentation. The Gottfried’s enjoyed the items we sent them home with and the photo with Flat Old Baldy. This month the research administrator at the GAR Museum in Philadelphia, **Walt Lafty** will tell us more about the “Poet Patriot Walt Whitman.” Join us as Walt shares his always thorough research on this important local hero of the War. Tell others in the area to attend on May 11th.



Rich Jankowski  
President, OBCWRT

Thank you to **Jim Countryman** for completing and submitting the CWRT Congress Sustainability Challenge. It is another way for our round table to be recognized for the progress we have made in the last several years. Thank you to **Arlene and Roger** for stepping up to coordinate the sales of the Old Baldy

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American Battlefield Trust  
for 25 Year Service to the Trust  
presented to OBCWRT

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

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

reusable blue bags. There are other tasks to help our round table, let us know how you want to be involved. Thank you to **Vice President Kathy Clark** for coordinating our partnership with the Society of Women and the Civil War on their Symposium in July.

Our campaign to raise funds for a Civil War Trails sign for the Battle of Williamsburg is progressing well. Review the article in this newsletter and follow the progress on our Facebook page. An event has recently been launched that is updated regularly. Officers from our Round Table attended the League of Historical Societies meeting in Bordentown last month. Watch for a review of it in the June newsletter. The next League meeting will be June 17th in Flemington. At our meeting **Paul Prentiss** will have processes and procedures ready for you to review and consider performing. Be sure to visit the "Seventeen Men" exhibit in West Chester before July 1st.

See the article about Flat Old Baldy's photo with **Wally Rueckel** and his visit to the Brunswick CWRT last month. Learn more about our Vice President Kathy Clark in her profile this month. Follow Flat Old Baldy each week on his 'Welcome Wednesday' feature on our Facebook page.

If you have won a book in our monthly raffle, consider writing a review and sending it to **Don Wiles** for a future newsletter like **Jim Heenehan** did last month. We received a nice thank you letter from the Danville Vermont Historical Society for the donation we made to help them purchase the artifacts of a Vermont soldier for their collection. They invited us to stop by when in the area.

**Bill and Debbie Holdsworth** will be leading the Old Baldy delegation to place a wreath at the grave of General Winfield Scott Hancock at 11 AM on May 27 in the Montgomery County Cemetery in Norristown. Join them for this long-time tradition of our round table. The South Jersey History Fair will be on June 10th at Gabreil Daveis Tavern in Glendora. Sign up at our meeting for a session to staff our display and share our message with the attendees. Flat Old Baldy has some interesting adventures planned for this summer. If you would like him to accompany you on a journey, please let us know because like an elephant he is always ready to travel.

See you for dinner at Kettle & Grille at 5:30 on May 11th.

**Rich Jankowski, President**



By Frank Barletta,  
Treasurer, OBCWRT

## Exciting Progress with The Williamsburg Civil War Trail Sign Campaign

First, we are making great progress in meeting our goal. We are only \$830.00 away from achieving our matching donation. Remember, we have been challenged by an anonymous donor to raise \$2,500.00, for a matching contribution. After completing the matching effort, we will still need to raise another \$2000 to complete the planned campaign. It will remain open until the full amount is collected. To make this campaign even more exciting, at the April meeting, I presented two prizes that will be won by a drawing of all donors to the campaign. The first is a signed William McGrath Limited Edition Lithograph of the CSS Hunley, Sinking The USS Housatonic, off Charleston, SC. (This lithograph was generously donated by one of our great members)

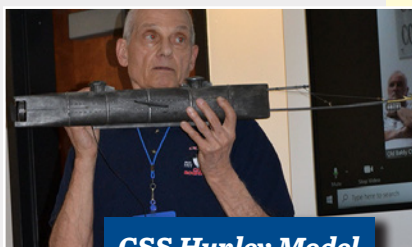
The second prize is an extremely detailed metal model, with stand, of the Hunley, with extended spear and explosive charge.

As you know, we will conduct a trip to Williamsburg next year for the dedication ceremony of our Trail Sign. It is scheduled for May 5, 2024, on the anniversary of the Battle of Williamsburg. In conjunction with the trip, we will also draw a third ticket for a paid trip to this ceremony for one of our donors.

You don't want to miss out on the opportunity to win one of these great prizes, especially the chance to be there for the unveiling. Our goal is within our reach. Please follow the campaign on the Williamsburg Campaign Event on our Facebook page. Direct your friends, family and associates to it to learn more about this project. Thank you all for your donations to date.



CSS Hunley Print



CSS Hunley Model

## Member Profile - Kathy Clark

by Kim Weaver

Kathy Clark



Kathy Clark often wonders what life was like for women in the American Civil War. The females, white and black, who had a deep devotion to family and community and who stepped forward to risk their lives to do good. One of those selfless women who Kathy admires is Harriet Tubman, the “She-Moses.” Tubman was enslaved, escaped, and helped others realize freedom on the Underground Railroad. The abolitionist and social justice activist is documented to have rescued at least 70 people during 13 trips to her native Maryland, and instructed dozens of others on how to escape on their own. “Harriet Tubman was an exceptional person with courage. Just to



get people out of the south she put her life on the line. She could have been easily caught. She gave up everything for herself to help black men, women and children. She was on a Liberty ship to help liberate enslaved people from plantation homes. And then at the end she cared for black people in her house in Auburn, NY.”

In addition to her interest in women in the Civil War, Kathy is intrigued by the hospitals of the era, and also Walt Whitman and Clara Barton, both self-taught nurses. She is a member of the

Society for Women and the Civil War, and has been vice president of Old Baldy CWRT for six years, a member for nine.

Born in 1947 in East Camden, New Jersey, Kathy thought she would work as a secretary when she grew up. “There were not a lot of jobs open to women then.” What she really wanted to do was become an artist, perhaps illustration or fashion design. In her junior year of high school - with her father's support - she attended weekend classes at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia and soon came to like acrylic painting (still enjoys it.) But then her father died, and Kathy made the decision to go college and study elementary education. She graduated in 1969 from Temple University. “I did it for him. I thought he would be extremely proud of me graduating from college.”

In 1972 Kathy moved to Mount Laurel, New Jersey with her husband Bill. After seven years teaching second-graders in Maple Shade Township, Kathy decided to leave the classroom. She would work from home helping Bill with his residential and commercial security business. (Sadly, Bill died in 2007. They were married for 38 years.)

Kathy fills her daily life with counted cross-stitch and reading mystery and history books. She writes articles and reviews of Old Baldy meeting presentations for our newsletter. For the 2018 Civil War Navy Symposium on board the Battleship New Jersey, Kathy was responsible for soliciting donations from businesses and organizations for the raffle auction. She takes photos at Old Baldy events, which means we have no photos of her!

Kathy found Old Baldy through continuing education classes at The Center at Camden County College. She was in a Civil War class and picked up information on Old Baldy. Rich Jankowski happened to be there and encouraged her to attend a meeting. She did, and Old Baldy CWRT is all the better for it.

She became interested in the Civil War after taking American History in college. Once the history bug bit, Kathy and Bill visited historic Gettysburg and later went on steamboat trips to Vicksburg and Shiloh. At that time there were Civil War lectures on the trips. She also has followed the escape trail of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth, starting at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. and ending at the Garrett farm in Bowling Green, Virginia. “Booth is not my favorite person. His southern views were way off.”

With a strong wanderlust, Kathy took to traveling all over the world, including



### Awards and New Members



Flat Old Baldy presents Frank Bartletta 10 year award pin.

### New Members



FOB and Steve McMahan

a solo New York to Southampton, England trip in October 2008. The QE2, in tandem with the QM2, was making its final transatlantic voyage before retiring to Dubai. Why go solo? Her traveling companion discovered at the last minute that her passport was somewhere other than her purse.

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Saturday, May 11

#### **Trans-Mississippi**

Unrest continues at St Louis. Seven more people are killed in clashes between rioters and the 5th Missouri Reserve Regiment of the United States Army.

#### **Far West**

Large pro-Union demonstrations take place in San Francisco, California.

### 1862 Sunday, May 11

#### **Eastern Theater**

The CSS Virginia, the former USS Merrimac, draws a great deal of water due to the weight of armor she carries. Because of her draft she is unable to navigate the shoals of the James River to get to Richmond. She is destroyed by the Confederates to prevent her from falling into Federal hands.

#### **Trans-Mississippi**

A minor skirmish is reported at Bloomfield, Missouri..

### 1863 Monday, May 11

#### **Western Theater**

Clement Vallandigham applies for a writ of habeas corpus while languishing in a military prison at Cincinnati, Ohio. Mobs supporting him burn the premises of a Republican paper in Dayton.

### 1864 Wednesday, May 11

#### **Eastern Theater**

There is little action at Spotsylvania as Grant maneuvers 60,000 men from four army corps into position for a concerted attack tomorrow. Unfortunately, Lee withdraws the 30 cannon which dominate the Mule Shoe, planning to withdraw from the Spotsylvania lines soon. Six miles north of Richmond at Yellow Tavern, J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry hold off superior numbers of Union cavalry. Sitting on his horse behind a line of dismounted troopers, Stuart fires his pistol at the advancing Federals, crying, "Steady, men, steady. Give it to them!" Then he reels in the saddle, mortally wounded. Handing command to Fitzhugh Lee, the "Cavalier of Dixie" is taken to the rear to die. The Confederacy has lost one of its most skillful and courageous officers.

### 1865 Thursday, May 11

#### **Trans-Mississippi**

General Jeff M. Thompson, renowned Confederate commander in Missouri and Arkansas, surrenders his brigade at Chalk Bluff, Arkansas.

#### **Naval Operations**

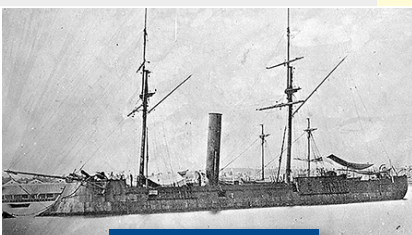
The CSS Stonewall puts in at Havana, Cuba. The Confederates finally have a warship in American waters powerful enough to mount a serious attack on the US blockading squadrons. But she is too late.

CSS Merrimac



Clement Vallandigham

J.E.B. Stuart



CSS Stonewall

# Lee-Sawyer Exchange

*When the Confederates planned to hang two Union officers, the Federals threatened to execute two Southerners in return. One was the son of Robert E. Lee.*

By George E. Lippincott,  
CWTI,  
June, 1962



**Major General, CSA  
William Henry Fitzhugh Lee  
("Rooney")**



**Captain, USA  
Henry Washington Sawyer**

**Fort Lafayette  
New York Harbor**



**Libby Prison  
Richmond**



ON June 9, 1863 General Pleasanton's Union cavalry corps fought Jeb Stuart's horsemen in the Battle of Brandy Station. Toward sunset, when the Union troopers retired across the river, they left a field thickly sprinkled with the dead and wounded of both sides. Among the latter were two men who, by the unaccountable fortunes of war, were suddenly to find their lives running parallel courses.

One of these men was Lee's second son, William Henry Fitzhugh ("Rooney") Lee, wounded in the leg by a pistol ball; the other was an obscure Union cavalry captain, Henry Washington Sawyer, struck by bullets in thigh and cheek as he charged under Col. Sir Percy Wyndham, British-born professional soldier commanding his brigade.

After the battle young Lee was taken to "Hickory Hill," a friend's home in Hanover County, to be nursed by his mother and sisters Mildred and Agnes. Here, on June 26, he was captured by a Federal raiding party who had read about him in the Richmond newspapers. He was taken to Fortress Monroe. Captain Sawyer suffered the usual fate of Union officers captured in Virginia: he was sent to Richmond's Libby Prison.

So far, except for Lee's rank, and relationship to Robert E. Lee, what happened to these two men would scarcely rate even the merest footnote in the story of the war. But several hundred miles to the west, in Kentucky, something occurred which forever altered the lives of the two. By this time the war—for both sides—had become tougher and more bitter. So when Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside captured two Confederates behind the Union lines soliciting enlistments for the Southern armies he wasted little time in executing them. They were Captains. T. G. McGraw and W. F. Corbin, and they had, un-fortunately for Captain Sawyer, many influential friends in the South. Announcement of the executions raised a storm of indignation in the Confederacy.

Pressure became so great that the Richmond government gave in to the demand and ordered the "eye-for-an-eye" execution of two Yankee prisoners of similar rank. The action was not unique; in fact, it was a practice endorsed by no less a person than the usually magnanimous Robert E. Lee, as witness a dispatch to his Secretary of War: "I have directed Colonel Mosby to hang an equal number of Custer's men in retaliation for those executed by him."

On July 6, 1863 the grim lottery of death was held in Libby Prison. All captains among the prisoners were assembled by Provost Marshal Gen. John H.

Winder. Maj. Thomas P. Turner had prepared slips of paper bearing each captain's name. He proposed that the prisoners select one of their number to make the fatal drawing of two names. Captain Sawyer countered with the request that a chaplain be asked to perform the act. A Rev. Mr. Brown, attached to the 6th Maryland, agreed to draw the slips of paper.

In an atmosphere of almost unbearable tension, he drew the first slip. It bore Sawyer's name. Quickly the next was drawn: Capt. John P. Flynn of the 51st Indiana. The two men were removed to Winder's office and there informed that the execution would take place in eight days. Sawyer requested permission to write a final letter to his wife. Flynn had no one to write to; he asked for a priest and then, overcome by the horror of his situation, he fainted.

Along with his old cavalry sword, a copy of Sawyer's letter is one of his descendants' treasured possessions:

Provost General's Office  
Richmond, Va. July 6, 1863



**Robert E. Lee was stationed at Fort Hamilton, NY when "Rooney" was young. While in prison at Fort Lafayette "Rooney" could see what was his family's home at Fort Hamilton across the water from his cell.**

*My Dear Wife: I am under the necessity of informing you that my prospect looks dark. This morning, all the captains now prisoners at the Libby military prison, drew lots for two to be executed. It fell to my lot. Myself and Captain Flynn of the 51st Indiana Infantry, will be executed for two captains executed by Burnside. The Provost-General J. H. Winder, assures me that the Secretary of War of the Southern Confederacy, will permit yourself and my dear children to visit me before I am executed. You will be permitted to bring an attendant, Captain Whilden or uncle W. W. Ware or Dan . . . My dear wife, the fortune of war has put me in this position. If I must die, a sacrifice to my country, with God's will I must submit, only let me see you once more and I will die becoming a man and an officer; but for God's sake do not disappoint me . . . I have done nothing to deserve this penalty . . . It will be no disgrace to myself, you, or the children; but you may point with pride and say, "I give my husband." My children will have the consolation to say, "I was made an orphan for my country." God will provide for you, never fear . . . My mind is somewhat influenced, for it has come so suddenly on me. Write to me as soon as you get this, leave your letter open and I will get it. Direct my name and rank by way of Fortress Monroe. Farewell! Farewell! and hope that it is all for the best. I remain yours until death.*

*H. W. Sawyer, Capt. 2nd. N. J. Cavalry*

On receiving her husband's letter, Mrs. Sawyer got in touch with Captain Whilden and Representative J. T. Nixon of Bridgeton, New Jersey. The three went at once to Washington and saw both Lincoln and Stanton; one account by Sawyer's descendants has them spending the night in a White House parlor as Lincoln, taking a personal interest in the case, directed that the Confederacy be informed that if Sawyer and Flynn were executed the United States would retaliate in kind on Gen. W. H. F. Lee and Capt. Winder, son of the Confederate provost marshal.

Mrs. Sawyer then attempted to see her husband, but was denied entrance into the Confederacy at City Point and returned home.

In the hospital at Fortress Monroe, Rooney Lee was informed of Lincoln's decision and was then put under strict guard. Captain Winder suffered the same close confinement.

It is at about this point in the story that some writers have allowed their sense of the dramatic to take over at the expense of fact. So we have accounts of midnight-to-dawn exchanges of urgent telegrams, and reprieves at the foot of the gallows. Actually, though the Southern papers continued to scream for reprisal, General Winder took no action except to place Sawyer and Flynn in an underground vault at Libby so damp that their clothes mildewed on their bodies. A diet of bread and water kept them alive. A challenge every half hour by a sentry so that the two could not sleep simultaneously was unnecessary, since one had to stay awake to chase the rats from the other's face.

Rooney Lee fared better—and worse. He was sent to Fort Lafayette on Nov. 13, 1863, and while there received the tragic news that his wife Charlotte had died on the day after Christmas.

The newspaper furor gradually died down during the winter. Although exchange of prisoners had been almost suspended at this time, the records show that the order for Rooney Lee's exchange for Capt. Sawyer was dated Feb. 25, 1864. The Winder-Flynn exchange occurred at the same time.

The sequel, as it concerns the four principals, is briefly told. Lee returned to Richmond in March, was promoted to major general, and served through the remainder of the war. Flynn returned to service; his subsequent doings are obscure. Winder became the officer who selected the site of Andersonville Prison for Union enlisted men. For his connection with the prison pen he was arrested after the war but was never brought to trial. Sawyer ended the war as a major, became interested in the hotel business, and at Cape May built the Chalfonte Hotel, originally named the Sawyer House. This hotel is now

**The inscription on his gravestone reads:  
Colonel Henry W. Sawyer  
born May 16, 1830  
Died October 16, 1893  
A soldier whose deeds  
of valor and suffering  
for his country have been  
exceeded by no one.  
An officer of whom his men  
were justly proud.**

largely patronized by Southerners, who know nothing of the history of Henry Sawyer. He lies buried in the graveyard of the old Presbyterian Church on the old Shore Road.

## "Those White Roses"

*Nurses were not part of the Armies, There was no Nursing Corps. These were women who went off to contribute their efforts to helping the wounded, dying and ill. They helped in Hospitals, Battlefields and Camps. There are very few records and photographs of these brave women so the accounts are few.*

**We would like you to meet some of these heroic women.**

*Editor's Note,*

*I would like to apologize for no photo of Mary Lee. This is one of those incredible women who gave years of her life caring and saving wounded soldiers on both sides. I searched all my resources. She had a photo taken but none must have survived. I would like to thank **The Society for Women in the Civil War (J. White and the research staff for sharing their time in an effort to locate a photo to share for our newsletter).***

**By Frank Moore,  
Women of the War,  
1866**

**Mrs. Mary W. Lee**

**Continued from the last month issue (April)**



**Camp Letterman USA Hospital Site Army of the Potomac Medical Department Orders on July 5, 1863 were issued to set up a General Hospital in Gettysburg to take care of the 20,000 plus wounded. The Wolf Farm site was selected.**

A year after, on the anniversary of his son's death, the father of Aaron Wills wrote an affecting letter to Mrs. Lee. "Today," he says, "I walked out to the cemetery, to look at the little mound that covers the remains of my beloved boy. As I looked, the words of his last letter, those blessed words, came into my mind: 'Father, do not worry at my being in a dangerous position. I believe, as you say, I can die in no nobler cause; and, to tell you the truth, I would as soon die on the battle-field as I would a natural death.' He need not have said, 'to tell you the truth,' for he never told a lie."

One of her most valued reminiscences of Gettysburg is a letter of thanks, drawn up and numerously signed by the boys in whose ward she had acted as nurse. They say, —

*Mrs. Lee.*

*Dear Madam: We now hasten to express to you our thanks for the numerous luxuries and kind services we have received from you, as from the hands of our own kind mothers, for which we*

*shall ever feel grateful to you.*

*"While endeavoring to meet the urgent calls of our wronged country, we had the misfortune to be wounded far from home, and, as we thought, from friends. Here we have found your kind hand to care for us, and alleviate our wants as much as possible. We shall ever feel grateful to you for such motherly care as can never be forgotten; and besides the thousand thanks bestowed on you, the God of our country will ever bless you with a special blessing—if not now, surely you will receive it hereafter.*

This testimonial was signed by a large number in Ward B, Sixth division, General Hospital, Gettysburg.

Sickness in the family of Mrs. Lee detained her at home during a part of the Winter of 1863-64; but she went down to Brandy Station, which was the hospital centre of Meade's army, in January, February, and March, 1864.

Here she was connected with the hospital of the Second division. Second



**Brandy Station  
2nd Corps Hospital**

corps, where were the wounded at the action of Morton's Ford.

Here she found Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Aiken, two physicians, who, for kindness and self-sacrificing devotion to the health, cheerfulness, and comfort of the soldier, had no superiors in the army of the Potomac. "With such efficient aid in the nursing department as was rendered by such ladies as Mrs. Husband and Mrs. Lee, this General Hospital soon became the model for all the army. For cleanliness, order, cheerfulness, and the home-like air which surrounded it, no corps hospital was equal to it.

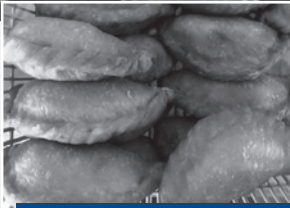
One of the boys, under Mrs. Lee's care, received a letter from his mother, saying that she was coming to see him, and asking what supplies and luxuries she had better bring with her." Bring nothing but yourself, mother," was his reply: "this is not a hospital; it is a home."

About the middle of April, just before Grant's advance, Mrs. Lee returned home for a few days. But no sooner had he moved in the first days of May, than he found obstinate resistance from the Rebel leader, and the great battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania were fought. The engagement commenced on the 5th, and was continued till the 12th of May, Grant being "determined to fight it out on that line, if it took all summer."

There was, of course, a vast number of wounded, and the demand for hospital workers was never more urgent than during the months of May and June, 1861. Mrs. Lee made her way to Fredericksburg, and found that war battered old town one vast hospital. The first and great clamor was for food. Transportation from Belle Plain was slow, on account of the fearful condition of the roads ; and though the enemy was crippled and falling slowly back to Richmond, and Fredericksburg is only a day's ride from Washington, thousands and thousands of our men suffered constantly from hunger. Upon Mrs. Lee's arrival. Dr. Bannister gave her the charge of the special diet of the Second corps. The kitchen furniture with which she was supplied consisted of one small tin cup, and there was no source from which the proper utensils could be obtained. Mrs. Lee remembered, however, that the year before, Mrs. Harris, at the Lacey House, on the other side of the Rappahannock, had left a cooking stove, which might be there yet. Obtaining an ambulance, and going over on the pontoon, she found the old stove, dilapidated, indeed, and rusty ; but she could make gruel and panada on it. She found some old kettles, too, which she took over, and scoured up, so that in a few hours a kitchen had been extemporized. The boys broke up clapboards and pickets for fuel, and soon the buckets of gruel, tea, and coffee, and bowls of chicken soup, began to circulate among the famishing heroes. As long as she remained in Fredericksburg, and, in fact, all that summer, from daylight till long after the nine o'clock drum-taps, she did little but cook, cook, cook. Sometimes, just as the hospital had become composed for the night, and the old campaign stove had grown cool for the first time in eighteen hours, an immense train of ambulances would come rolling in from the front, all loaded down with men, sick, wounded, dusty, and famishing. There was no other way but to rise, and work, perhaps, till long past midnight. It was fortunate that with such willingness of heart and such skill, nay, such genius, as she displayed for cooking under all the disadvantages of camp life, Mrs. Lee had also a robust constitution and excellent health ; otherwise she must have broken down under the long-continued labors and sleeplessness of that last grand campaign against Richmond.

From Fredericksburg she went, over land, to White House ; and there Miss Cornelia Hancock, of New Jersey, and Mrs. Lee assisted Dr. Aiken to dress the wounds and give nourishment to a long train of the wounded that were placed on transports and carried to northern hospitals. Remaining here some days, she proceeded next to City Point, which Grant had now made his base of supplies and his hospital centre.

For some time the accumulation of wounded here was far greater than could in any small degree be made comfortable. Many a night Mrs. Lee stood by the fly of her little kitchen tent, and looked upon long rows of helpless and bleeding men lying on the ground, sometimes with a little straw beneath and a blanket over them, all waiting, in mute and touching patience, for their turn to come to be taken up and cared for. At night such rows of silent sufferers, lying



**Gruel and Panada**



**Lacey House, Hospital  
Falmouth**



**Nurse, USA  
Elizabeth (Eliza) Harris**



there in the moonlight, looked so much like graves, and summoned up, in a heart as sympathetic as hers, such troops of melancholy thoughts, that she could not look at them without shedding tears.

At City Point, among the wounded from Petersburg, Mrs. Lee had some noble-minded and heroic men as her hospital patients. One was Major William F. Smith, of the First Delaware. Wounded severely in the leg, he suffered amputation, and death followed. He had been severely wounded at Fredericksburg, and again at Gettysburg. When urged by his friends to expose his life less freely, "No," he would reply, "I am no better than any other soldier." They urged him to remember how much it would grieve his mother. "I know it," said he; "but I am no better than any other mother's son." "When informed that he could not live, he thanked the doctors for the pains they had taken with his case: "You have done all that you could for me, but Providence has some wise end in view in overruling your efforts." His last words to his young brother were, "Kiss mother for me, Lee."

Another, who sealed his devotion with his blood, was Lieutenant-Colonel John A. Crosby, of the Sixty-first Pennsylvania volunteers. He had entered the service as orderly sergeant, was badly wounded in both hips at Fredricksburg, and afterwards lost an arm fighting before Washington, in Early's last invasion. When his friends remonstrated with him for keeping the field thus mutilated, he said, "My country has had my arm. She is welcome to my life." Before leaving home for the last time, he bade his wife and family good by, telling them he should never see them again on earth. Those who knew him best, say that no better man or braver soldier ever died for his country. He fell in the last great battle of the war before Petersburg, in April, 1865.

A poor German boy was killed at the same time, and his heart-broken mother went on from Baltimore to get his body. Mrs. Lee gave the poor woman all the assistance in her power, saw the dead soldier in his coffin, and sympathized with the mother.

Upon her return, and after the burial, Mrs. Lee received from the mother the following letter, which is all the more interesting for its honest simplicity as its broken English :—

Baltimore, April 10, 1865.

Honorable Mrs. M. Lee :

*After I left City Point for Baltimore wish my dear son, I arrifet safe home, only wish a broken hart, on the 11th in the morning. "We cept him till the 12th in the evening, and took him up to Pansilvaniae, to hes broter and sisters. The 15th, in the morning, he arrifet saf at hes stat of rest. Rev. D. Izeubury atent the funerl, and Bregt, hes text John 11th and 11th, and a great many tears has being shatt for hem. I arrifet at My home the 17th in the morning. I am so troubelt in my Mint and Week that I could not rite, and ask for barten me and excus me for not anseru zuner.*

*My humbel dank to your Virtues and faver which you showed to me. I would ask your Kindness, if you ples. I wase so trobelt to see to every ting, namely my Son hat a very good Watch, and I would lik to have that for Membery, ples, and ask Mr. Geo. W. Low, Company F. 190th Penn. Vols. Fifth Core Hospital City Point Va. My Love and best Respect to Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Polk and Mrs. Ashe.*

*My Love and best Respect to you  
from your obedien servant,  
Pauline Bush.*

*P. S. Ef et should be not mutch to your trobel and you  
can com tru here, gif me a call.*

Among many such letters received by Mrs. Lee during her three years of army life, the following, from a bereaved mother in New Hampshire, cannot be read by any mother who lost a boy in the army without unsealing the fountains of old grief.

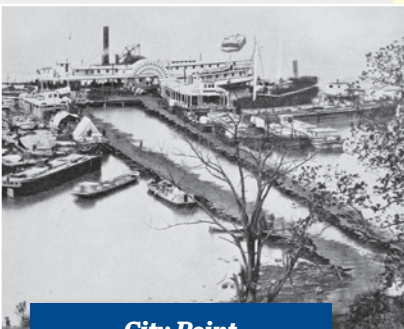
Forever precious are such letters—consecrated by the sacred baptism of tears that ooze like life-blood from broken hearts!



White House



Nurse, USA  
Cornelia Hancock



City Point  
Depot



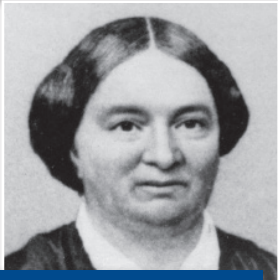
City Point  
Depot Hospital

Windham, May 8, 1864.

Some more of the nurses  
that Mary Lee worked  
with



Nurse, USA  
Arabella (Fanny) Barlow



Nurse, USA  
Mary Morris Husband



Nurse, USA  
Martha Maria Hall

My Dear Mrs. Lee :

I had not received the painful intelligence of my beloved son's death until Friday afternoon. My heart is filled with sorrow; my grief I cannot express. You have a beloved son in the army. Dear Thomas told me of you and of your son in one of his letters. He told me there was a woman in the hospital by the name of Mrs. Lee; he said you were as kind to the soldiers as a mother, and that they all loved you as a mother. He said you were an angel. I wrote to him that I was happy to hear him say that there was an angel in his tent; for I never ceased to pray to God, my heavenly Father, that he would send his holy angels into his tent, to guide him by day and guard him by night. He wrote me, the day he went into the hospital, that he had the rheumatism in his arms and legs, but thought he should be able to go back to his regiment. I did not feel much alarmed about him. He then wrote to me he had the measles very lightly, but the cough hung on, as it always does.

His last letter was written to me March 29. He said he thought he was about rid of the measles, but the lameness was no better. Dear Mrs. Lee, I beg you to write me, and give all the particulars about my darling son. Were you with him in his last sickness? I suppose he was a great sufferer. Will you write when he was first taken with the fever, and if he was conscious of the approach of death. Did he speak of his mother or sister, or father or brother? Lieutenant Milton wrote me that he died the 9th of April. You will please to tell me at what hour, and when he was buried. Tell me if he lost his flesh.

O, I shall never, never again see my darling boy in this world ! never again hear his joyous laugh ! O Mrs. Lee, can you sympathize with me? I am thinking of your own darling son. May be now the battle rages ! May our heavenly Father protect your dear son, and return him safe to you.

Will you please to ascertain the place where Thomas K. Eipley is buried. We shall bring his body home as soon as we can have permission. I have sent three letters to my son ; two the last week in March ; one had a five-dollar bill in it. Do you know if he received the money ?

I pray that you will write to me as soon as you can, and I will satisfy you for it. If there is a pocket-book or letters left behind, you will please save them for his poor, afflicted mother.

My dear friend, I hope you will write to me ; it will be a great consolation to my bereaved heart. I am much afflicted, and can hardly write. This is terrible!

Mks. Mary D. Ripley,  
(Wife of Katlianiel Ripley.)

Having thus sympathized in the sufferings and disasters of our soldiers, and in the agony that their death occasioned at so many firesides, it was fit that Mrs. Lee should be present at the happy consummation, and join in that grand paean of victory, that, commencing at Richmond, in the first days of April, went swelling, in a glorious chorus, from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores.

In the hospital where Mrs. Lee then was, the exultations of the poor, languishing soldiers were full of almost frantic joy.

"Such a time !" she writes ;" the people nearly went crazy. Hospital help, ladies, wounded and all, were beside themselves. Processions were formed, kettles improvised for drums ; all kinds of noises were made to manifest our joy. Bells were rung, cannon fired, steam whistles blown; men cheered and shouted themselves hoarse. President Lincoln visited the hospital while I was there. He went round to every man, and said he wanted to shake the hand of every man who had helped to gain so glorious a victory ; and he had a kind word for all."

In the hospitals of Petersburg and Richmond Mrs. Lee continued for a month after Lee's surrender ; for, though the war was ended, there remained a great multitude of the sick, and those wounded in the last engagements.

Then, when there were no more homeless and suffering patriots; no more wounds to be stanchd ; no more long trains of ambulances, with their groaning and bleeding freightage; no more caldrons of gruel and mutton soup to be cooked for great wards full of half-famished boys, Mrs. Lee went home, and slipped back into the happy routine of domestic usefulness.

See page 20 for the  
Women  
in the Civil War  
Conference  
July 28 -30

By Dr. Claiborne F. Walton,  
June, 1864

## “One Continued Scene of Carnage”

### A Union Surgeon's View of War

The following letter dated June 29, 1864 was written by Dr. Claiborne J. Walton, a Union surgeon in the 21st Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, to his wife Nannie. Walton served from the time of enlistment (September 24, 1861) at Huntsville, Alabama until being mustered out on July 7, 1865. He was captured near Atlanta on August 26, 1864, but was paroled on September 3, 1864 because of his non-combatant status and returned to his regiment where he served the rest of his term. Under the command of General William Rosecrans in the Army of the Cumberland, Walton saw the bloody theater of war through the unique eyes of a healer. In the little free time he had he faithfully wrote his wife recording the emotional stress of continuous bloodshed and frustrations of primitive medicine. Thanks Mr. Ben Rogers of Louisville, Kentucky, for bringing the letter to our attention.

Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia  
June 29-1864

My Dear Wife

*I am sick. Yes sick and tired of bloodshed. Weary and worn out with it. We have been on this campaign fifty-six days and it has been almost one continued scene of carnage from day to day. I am not out of much of the groans of the wounded from morning till night. My hands are constantly steeped in blood. I have had them in blood and water so much that the nails are soft and tender. I have amputated limbs until it almost makes my heart ache to see a poor fellow coming in the Ambulance to the Hospital. I have not time to give you an account of the suffering of the poor Soldiers of this hardest of all campaigns. To give you a faint idea of some of their sufferings I will tell you that our troops are sometimes ordered to charge the Rebel fortifications and of course many of them are killed and wounded. Occasionally our men have to fall back a short distance leaving the wounded on the ground between the lines of our troops and the enemy where they are bound to remain until we regain the ground which is sometimes a day or two. You may well suppose that their suffering is immense. They are left without water or anything else. In the broiling hot sun with Broken Bones and at the same time between the fire of both our guns and the enemies. Flies blow them and before they can possibly be removed they are often almost covered with maggots-I could tell you of many yes-of the mose [most] distressing cases of wounds. Such as arms shot off—legs shot off. Eyes shot out—brains shot out. Lungs shot through and in a word everything shot to pieces and totally maimed for all after life. The horror of this war can never be half told. Citizens at home can never know one fourth part of the misery brought about by this terrible rebellion. We have been near Kennesaw Mountain for about two weeks and still the Rebels are resisting us at every step. It is true that we have driven them back a few miles but they only fall back a few hundred yards at a time and fortify and fight us again. Sometimes they make a charge upon us we drive them back with dreadful slaughter. Day before yesterday we made a charge upon their lines. They were well fortified. We were compelled to fall back. You may well imagine that they Slaughtered our men with a vengeance. We lost in a few minutes In killed and wounded Two Thousand—It was really distressing to see the ambulances coming in loaded with the wounded. We have three Operating tables in our division and we*

A sketch of a field hospital  
at Kennesaw Mountain by  
Thomas Nast based  
on the discription by Dr. Walton



were all busy for Several hours-

*Here I am writing upon the end of a cracker box. Trying to write you a letter but I am so much interrupted that I cannot do it. I have my tent out in the woods a hundred yards from the operating tent and as we sent off our wounded yesterday and there is but little fighting today I felt like it would be a very delightful task to write you one more letter. You know I have written you nothing but very short notes lately and most of them in pencil but I am so situated that I cannot write to do any good. Every Captain [and] Lieutenant that gets sick comes back to my quarters and I am crowded and perplexed. In fact I am bored and somewhat imposed upon. Here comes our most excellent Maj J E Haskins to get a certificate for a leave of absence on account of sickness. I must attend to that. Here comes a man for medicine. Here comes a man to get me to visit a wounded Lt in my ward and so it goes—Well Well worse than all here comes Lt Dean to get my Pack Mule to work to an ambulance. You remember that after we came back our medicine wagons were taken from us. Our ambulances were sent back to an ambulance train and we were allowed one pack mule to carry a medicine Panier. Well I used that mule to carry my blankets which is the only chance I have of getting my personal affects along with. Lt Dean of the "Ambulance Train has just been here and demanded" the mule to put to an ambulance. I told him to take Bill also that I could do better without both than one of them. You know now why we wear "the collar marked "Shermans Dog" I have just six months yet to serve and then I will wear a collar marked "Nannies Property" I would be glad if my time for these years could expire today—I do not feel like remaining the balance of my term—I have been away so much that you will not object if I go to the Senate or to Congress if I can will you? You say I will be into something when I quit the Service. You can make any disposition you think proper of me—Do just as you like—I will come under Petticoat rule I shall be a happy man if we should all be spared. We were once so happy as we well could be upon Earth. We were not wealthy but what little we had was neat and tidy and done up in good style. I have a wife that always does up everything In the very best style. How I long to be permitted to see her as in the days past seated at the head of the table pouring out my coffie and doing the honors of the table generally I felt all the time when I was at home like my coffie would be better if she were to pour it out and fix it for me my Nannie is a model woman. . . .*

*I wish I could tell you all that I desire to communicate, I could talk and listen to you all night long if I could reach you without being broken down. You must not forget what you had to tell me—Do you remember how I told you I was touched sometimes? I am in much better condition in that respect, my health is good. I am indeed quite vigorous. Oh I forgot. Tomorrow I shall be 41 years old. How sad I feel to know that I am so advanced in life. I should feel as sprightly and as youthful if I could be with you as I did at 15—But time is telling upon me. My hair is going fast and age is leaving its traces upon my face. A few more years and the fltful-fretful fever of life will be over. My wife let us prepare for our final home—Give my love to all. Kiss our babies—One kiss one dear embrace and then goodby*

C J Walton

## **"Those Damned Dutchmen" from Ohio**

By Henry I. Kurtz,  
CWTI,  
November, 1962

**Dilger's Battery  
the Best Artillery  
Unit in the Federal  
Army**

The expression "Damned Dutchmen" was generally used in derisive reference to the predominantly German XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac. But it was a mark of affection and admiration when applied to "Leather-breeches" Dilger and Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery. In fact there were many who maintained that Dilger's battery was the best artillery unit, and Dilger the best artilleryman, in the entire Union Army. At Second Bull Run, and at Gettysburg on the first day, the Ohioans covered the retreat of the Union forces, holding in check vast numbers of Confederate infantry; and at Chancellorsville a single Napoleon gun from Battery I delayed Stonewall Jackson's whole corps.

Dilger's battery was originally organized as an independent battery by Lt. William von Dammert, under the auspices of the City Council of Cincinnati. First employed to guard the defenses of Cincinnati, the battery was mustered into Federal service on Dec. 3, 1861 at Camp Dennison, becoming Battery I of the German-dominated 1st Ohio Volunteer Light



**Hubert Anton Casimir Dilger**

Artillery. On Jan. 26, 1862, the regiment left for West Virginia. With it went its new commander, Capt. Hubert Dilger.

Hubert Dilger had been a professional soldier in Germany when the Civil War broke out. Anxious for more action than he was getting in the Baden Mounted Artillery, the 29-year-old officer had resigned his commission and hurried to the United States. In Cincinnati, where he had friends to recommend him, Dilger offered his services and received an appointment as captain in the 1st Artillery. Dilger was every inch the soldier—tall, robust, and athletic. Gen. O. O. Howard, the XI Corps commander, described him as “one of those handsome, hearty, active young men that everybody liked to have near.” Thoroughly schooled in the latest techniques in gunnery, Dilger had a quick, intuitive way of grasping the full picture when in battle, and always succeeded in posting his guns where they would be most effective

During February and March of 1862 the outfit saw minor action in West Virginia. On March 26 the battery joined Gen. John C. Fremont's force and participated in the Shenandoah Campaign. At the Battle of Cross Keys, June 8, 1862, the Ohioans had their first taste of hard fighting; Dilger, whom Fremont had temporarily appointed assistant chief of artillery, supervised the guns on the Union right, and succeeded in repulsing several determined Confederate assaults. Among these was a fierce attack by Gen. Richard Taylor's brigade. Fremont reported afterwards: “A Louisiana regiment of Taylor's brigade, undertaking a charge upon Dilger's battery, was received with a fire of canister and grape, delivered with such precision and rapidity as nearly destroyed it.” For the next two months the battery kept active in minor



**“Fidus et Audax”  
“Faithful and Bold”**

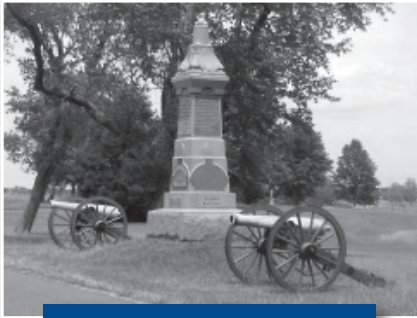
engagements. During lulls, the battery commander drilled his unit into a state of near perfection. Dilger already was becoming known throughout the Army, both for his skill as a gunner and his colorful personality. To add to the latter, Dilger modified the uniform regulations just a bit by adopting doeskin pants as a distinctive trademark. Actually there was a practical consideration: saddle-bound as he was, the captain found that the regulation issue breeches wore out too quickly. The result was a nickname—“Leatherbreeches.” It was said that when Dilger's battery was on the field “the infantry always went into battle with better spirits.” There was good reason for this feeling. While less competent battery

commanders often fired indiscriminately, Dilger, aware of the responsibility of the artillery as a support arm, carefully selected his targets according to the situation. On offense, he would concentrate on the enemy's artillery, to protect the infantry assault columns; on defense, he would concentrate on the enemy infantry, maneuvering his six Napoleons for maximum destructive fire.

A case in point is Second Bull Run. On the first day, Aug. 29, 1862, Battery I went into action in support of General Schenck's division. The Yankees were advancing against Stonewall Jackson's corps, north of the Warrenton Turnpike. Three Union batteries supporting the advance slugged it out with Jackson's artillery, which was posted along the bank of an unfinished railroad on a ridge. One Union battery was knocked out; the other two, having squandered their ammunition, had to retire. Now Dilger's battery bounced onto the field, going into position on high ground south of the pike. Ten Rebel guns opened up, and Leatherbreeches' boys replied in kind. For two hours the Ohioans duelled with the Rebel cannoneers, diverting them from firing on the advancing Union infantry. Finally they scored a direct hit on a shell-packed caisson, and after the explosion the Rebel guns quieted down. On the following day Dilger's battery occupied the ridge near Dogan's house when the Confederates began their major attack. When the Union troops were pushed back, Gen. Franz Sigel ordered the whole corps to retire south of the pike. Captain Dilger immediately volunteered to cover the retreat. With the Union columns streaming to the rear, Dilger raked the advancing Confederates with shell and case shot. One of his guns was knocked out, a second had a weakened gun carriage and couldn't be fired. Still he kept on, switching to double charges of canister as the enemy lines drew closer. When the Rebels were almost on top of him, the unperturbed Badener calmly pulled back 100 yards and resumed firing. This was too much for the



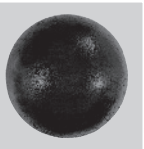
**Captain, USA  
Hubert Dilger  
(Leatherbreeches)**



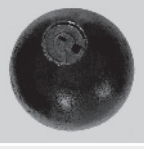
**Battery I  
First Ohio  
Position at Gettysburg**



**12-pounder Bronze Napoleon,  
Model 1857 (USA)  
A muzzle loading gun.  
The tube was made of Bronze  
(90% Copper and 10% Tin) and  
had a muzzle swell. The tube was a  
smooth bore of 4.62 inches.  
Fired a 12 pound shell with a range  
of about 1600 yards.  
Powder charge was 2.5 pounds.  
The guns could fire Solid Shot,  
Spherical Case,  
Grape and Canister.**



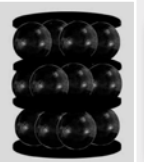
**12-pounder  
Solid Shot**



**12-pounder  
Spherical Case Shot -  
iron round balls inside  
with a matrix  
of sulphur.**



**12-pounder  
Canister Round - about  
28 iron round balls  
inside**



**12-pounder  
Grape Shot - larger  
iron round balls than in  
Canister**

Confederates; they withdrew out of range. His mission completed, Dilger limbered up and defiantly trotted off the field, as if on parade.

The battery had suffered heavily. Twelve men and 22 horses had been killed or wounded. One gun had been abandoned and another was out of commission. After drawing new equipment, Battery I went back into action, participating in the Fredericksburg Campaign. Then it went into winter quarters until March of 1863, when the Army of the Potomac prepared to move south again.

At Chancellorsville Dilger's battery performed one of the greatest rearguard actions in American military history. It was one of the most heroic acts of the war. Assigned to Carl Schurz's 3d Division of O. O. Howard's ill-starred XI Corps, the battery was posted on May 2 at the junction of the Orange Plank Road and the Old Orange Turnpike when Jackson's corps overran the out-flanked Union right wing. Earlier in the day Dilger, along with two of Schurz's brigadiers, had taken alarm at reports of Confederate movement to the west. Dilger and his orderly, a Private Ackley, riding out to reconnoiter ran into Jackson's advance guard. Cut off from the Union lines, Dilger raced north, barely avoiding capture, and finally skirted around to Hooker's headquarters. His breathless report was laughed off by a staff officer, so Dilger went next to XI Corps headquarters. The result was the same: He was told to tend to his guns.

General Schurz was more sympathetic, however. He told Dilger to pick a good artillery position facing west, as the troops, then fronting south, would in all probability have to execute a change of front. At 5 p.m. Jackson's 25,000 men came roaring down the turnpike. Schurz tried to swing his division around to meet the attack, while Battery I and two New York batteries attempted a covering fire. Dieckman's 13th New York Battery was quickly overrun, and lost two guns. The Ohioans and Wiedrich's battery of the 1st New York Light Artillery laid down a withering fire. But the Rebels rapidly enveloped Schurz's flanks, forcing him to retreat, and Wiedrich's battery, out of ammunition, went with the infantry.

Only Leatherbreches and his guns were left to hold the gray legions. And for 20 life-saving minutes they did just that. Finally, with Rebel infantrymen inching closer through the thickets, Dilger sent five guns back. Three of the horses belonging to the last gun had been killed, but the battery commander stayed behind and kept the piece firing until the last minute. As the Rebel infantrymen closed in, the redoubtable German sprang to horse, only to have his mount shot under him. Injured in the fall, Dilger was saved from a Southern prison by his orderly, who raced back and scooped him up.

Farther back, Bushbeck's brigade was making a last stand, and the Ohio men had pulled in alongside. For awhile the blue line held, but in the few minutes of fading daylight the Germans gave way again under the weight of Jackson's numbers. As Bushbeck's men withdrew in good order, Dilger again laid down a covering fire. Realizing that on the narrow pike five guns were too cumbersome, he ordered four to the rear. With only one smoothbore Napoleon, Dilger played cat-and-mouse with the finest corps in the Army of Northern Virginia. Each time the Rebels advanced down the pike they were met with double loads of canister, forcing them into the timber on either side. When they got too close, the German moved back a hundred yards and repeated the procedure with cool precision.

Infantrymen began rallying around the lone gun, and the Southern advance, having lost its impetus, ground slowly to a halt. A little before 7 p.m., when the Union line had become stabilized, Dilger fell back to the Fairview heights, where the reserve artillery had set up a sturdy line of defense. Col. Jennings C. Wise, who chronicled the exploits of Lee's artillery, admiringly cited Dilger's action as "an example of almost super-human courage and energy."

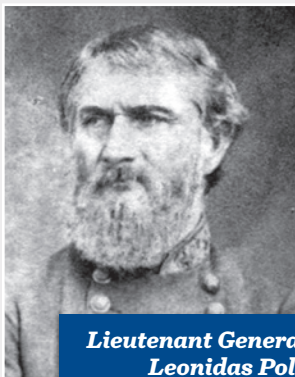
Two months later at Gettysburg, Dilger's battery once again distinguished itself. During the first day's fighting north of the town, Battery I, along with the 13th New York, now commanded by Capt. Charles Wheeler, filled the gap between the Mummasburg and Harrisburg roads. General Schurz, temporarily in command of the XI Corps, sent Dilger in to try to knock out



**Battery I  
First Ohio  
Monument at Gettysburg**

### Death of Polk

Battery I is credited with the death of Confederate Lt General Leonidas Polk on June 14, 1864 during the Atlanta campaign. The battery fired three rounds at a cluster of Confederate Generals on Pine Top including Joseph E. Johnston and William Hardee. Johnston and Hardee escaped but the 3rd shell struck Polk in the left side removing his arm and part of his torso killing the bishop/general immediately.



**Lieutenant General, CSA  
Leonidas Polk**



**Polk Monument Pine Hill,  
Near Kennesaw, GA**

General Ewell's artillery, posted on Oak Hill.

At 1,400 yards, maximum range for the brass Napoleons, the Yankee gunners blazed away. The Southerners, in turn, brought up another battery, pitting eight guns against Dilger's six. One cocky Rebel pushed his guns to within 1,000 yards only to have his battery cut to shreds by the well-directed fire of Battery I. Longer ranged weapons were now brought up to silence the Germans, and Dilger signaled for Wheeler's battery with its rifled cannon.

Under cover of the 13th New York, Leatherbreeches moved his smoothbores forward to shorten the range, pausing under fire to fill in a ditch with rails and timber. "Then the guns were across, the Ohioans went into action vigorously, knocking out five enemy fieldpieces and caissons. But Jubal Early's division was now attacking from the east, and once more the XI Corps was on the run. Using a leapfrog technique, the two batteries covered each other as they withdrew to the town. There once more Dilger served as rearguard, taking up a position in a street intersection near the town square until the chaotic mass of Federals had reached Cemetery Ridge. Then the Ohio men retired to the ridge where they took part in the rest of the battle. Four men were killed, 15 wounded, and almost all of the horses and one gun were lost at Gettysburg, and the next months had to be spent reorganizing and rearming, and impressing horses from local farms.

In October Battery I was transferred with the XI Corps to Grant's command at Chattanooga. There it took part in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and the relief of Knoxville. The following year the battery joined Sherman for the Atlanta Campaign, and was present in every major engagement. But there were no longer any opportunities for dramatic rearguard actions. Grant and Sherman were not in the habit of retreating.

Despite his many brilliant exploits, Hubert Dilger was mustered out with his battery on July 24, 1865, still only a captain. This was largely due to the prejudice against him as a foreign-born "soldier of fortune," and as a member of the stigmatized XI Corps. But in part it was also a result of his outspoken manner, and a tendency to do things his own way (on one occasion he was court-martialed for being absent without leave). Yet his skill as an artilleryist did bring forth many recommendations for promotion. After Chancellorsville, General Howard requested a brevet lieutenant colonelcy for him, and his superior at Atlanta, Brig. Gen. John M. Brannan, wanted him advanced in rank "for repeated instances of gallant and meritorious conduct on the field of battle." But no action was taken on these recommendations and Leatherbreeches continued to be slighted until June of 1865, a month before he left the service, when he was finally promoted, by brevet rank, to lieutenant colonel.

Almost 30 years after the war, friends and fellow officers, in an attempt to gain belated recognition for Dilger, petitioned the War Department to award him a Congressional Medal of Honor. They supported their claims with citations from official reports and letters from Dilger's superiors, including Carl Schurz. Their efforts were rewarded, and on Aug. 12, 1893, a memo from the War Department was sent to the old soldier, then living in Front Royal, Va., granting him the medal for his "distinguished gallantry at the Battle of Chancellorsville."

Then in his sixties, Dilger still harbored resentment for what he considered past injustice, and his acceptance letter exhibited the brassy defiance so often displayed during the war: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Medal of Honor," he wrote on August 19. "It is highly gratifying to me, as an old professional soldier, to have my services . . . even after a lapse of thirty years, at last officially appreciated and thus handsomely rewarded."

Thus, as ever, Captain Dilger left the field of battle triumphant—and, as usual, he fired a parting shot before retiring.

### Casualties

**The battery lost a total of 29 men during service;  
1 officer and 13 enlisted men killed or mortally  
wounded, 15 enlisted men died of disease.**

# Civil War Weekends at the Museum

May 20 and May 23



In collaboration with the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) and the Department of History at Oklahoma State University, we are pleased to announce two weekend events that will bring together eight of the finest Civil War historians and speakers in the field today. Proceeds from these events will be used to support both ACHS programming and student-driven Civil War initiatives at Oklahoma State University.

The talks will run both days at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm with a break for lunch (on your own). Participants will be granted complimentary admission to Beyond the Battle Museum. – Speakers on May 20, 2023, include Chris Gwinn, chief of interpretation at Gettysburg National Military Park and John Heiser, formerly a park historian at Gettysburg National Military Park. Sunday, May 21, 2023, will feature Dr. Jennifer Murray of Oklahoma State University and Dr. Peter Carmichael of Gettysburg College.

**Tickets are available for purchase for individual days or the whole weekend. Please purchase your tickets here:**

<https://113910.blackbaudhosting.com/113910/Civil-War-Weekends-at-the-Museum--May>

## “A Visit to Wally”

By Rich Jankowski, President, OBCWRT



Wallace L. Rueckel Award

Last summer our round table received the CWRT Congress Innovation award. The full name of the award is the Wally L. Rueckel Innovation Award. Wally is one of the founders of the CWRT Congress.

Flat Old Baldy first met Wally at the 2018 CWRT Congress Symposium in Harrisburg in August 2018. FOB wanted a picture with Wally and the award, so in early April, he ventured down to Southport, NC to visit Wally and his wife Nan. Wally is also the founder and past president of the Brunswick CWRT. While in town FOB attended their monthly meeting. The presenter that evening was another friend, Chris Mackowski who was happy to see FOB. After the meeting they chatted. FOB gave Chris a 150th anniversary can of Campbell’s Tomato Soup. Brunswick is the largest CWRT in the world and the meeting is an experience like no other. FOB is appreciative of all the fine folks who made him feel welcomed. He shared Old Baldy rack cards, flyers and Camden County History Alliance magazines with his new friends.

In a future newsletter, he will share his visit to Bald Head Island and the lighthouse there. FOB enjoyed nice weather on his trip to southeastern North Carolina.



Wallace L. Rueckel and FOB



Chris Mackowski and FOB

Campbell's Tomato Soup



Brunswick CWRT meeting





## *Old Baldy's April Meeting Review*

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

*by Brad Gottfried*

*By Kathy Clark,  
Vice President,  
OBCWRT*



The April meeting presentation by Dr. Brad Gottfried made a comparison between the battle of Antietam and the battle at Gettysburg. How did the war that was part of the Maryland campaign compare with the war that was at Gettysburg? Looking at Antietam there were already several Confederate columns moving north. At 2nd Bull Run Lee was victorious and foreign countries were beginning to recognize the Confederate soldier. If he needed help the foreign countries were there for the Confederacy. Lee was victorious at Chancellorsville. After the battle at Gettysburg the south had lost a considerable amount of territory. The possibility of foreign recognition had dimmed.

Why would the Confederate troops want to invade Gettysburg? The soldiers needed supplies and thought they would try to strike while their enemy was the weakest. The Confederate men wanted to remove armies from Virginia. On the Antietam side they gathered supplies by going to northern homes and farms and taking whatever they wanted from the farmers. Also, the Confederate officers felt by fighting in the north they could influence northern elections especially in the mid-terms. Abraham Lincoln would be up for election again and that may be a way to get him off the ballot. At the same time foreign recognition was still on the table and the Confederate troops hoped it would stay that way.

The officers in the Antietam campaign were Lee and McClellan and in Gettysburg it was Lee and Meade. Joe Hooker had been removed earlier. The size of the armies at Antietam was a lot less than the Confederate soldiers in Gettysburg. The Confederate troops in Lee's army had no time to rest and were totally exhausted. At least 69% had been in three consecutive battles with 20% of McClellan's army never firing a rifle. In the Gettysburg campaign 72,000 Confederate soldiers and 94,000 Union soldiers were in resting condition. Both armies had veteran soldiers. Just before the battle started in Antietam the 16th Connecticut learned how to load a rifle that morning. Union had 6 corps, Confederate corps are I, II, V, VI, IX, XII; number of divisions was 9 with 40 brigades and 187 regiments. The battle of Gettysburg had 7 corps for the Union, 3 with the Confederacy with 44 brigades and 197 regiments.

The artillery used in Antietam was Union 246 and Confederate 323 with the largest percentage obsolete. Union artillery had 21 Howitzers, Confederates had 27 Napoleons with the organization of Union and Confederate assigned to Divisions. Gettysburg guns on the Union side totaled 250 and the Confederate side had 331 and all guns were more modern. Union had 2 Howitzers and Confederate 100 Napoleons. The Gettysburg

organization was Union with a brigade structure (corps) and Confederate was Battalions to Divisions.

The cavalry count in Antietam for the Confederate went from 3 brigades (5300). Jeb Stuart was the most effective although he did get some misinformation. The Union was poorly organized with about 4300: Confederate 70% and Union 43%. At Gettysburg the Union cavalry was experienced at corps level but only 33% were in the Confederate army. The percentage of division commander experience was Confederate 100%, Union

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53%: brigade commander experience for Confederate was 70% and Union 49%. Almost all the commanders in the Confederate army were experienced. The command in Gettysburg, "Take the hill if practical".

Morale in Antietam was high in the Confederate soldiers but not so for the Union soldier. Supplies in Confederate and Union areas were depleted. Plus, for the soldiers on the battlefield in Antietam the starting point was from the D.C. area. Lee had time to plan his attack for Antietam. In the Gettysburg battle morale was high in both Confederate and Union armies. The starting point was Fredericksburg for the Gettysburg campaign. There was not a lot of time for planning the battle for Meade had just been appointed at Commanding Officer. It seems from Dr. Gottfried's perspective that Antietam was a more important battle for the impact it had on the Civil War. He felt the impact was minor for Gettysburg.

The armies present at the start of the battle in Antietam were Confederate 67% and Union 83%. Lee was on the defensive and on the offensive at Gettysburg. Comparing the final attack between Antietam and Gettysburg there were many dramatic attacks in Gettysburg. An example of a dramatic attack was Pickett's Charge in Gettysburg. Casualties in Antietam were 23,000 total and in Gettysburg 46,286 with 7803 killed. When the battle at Antietam was over McClellan remains for six weeks even though the distance to the Potomac River was only six miles away. In Gettysburg Meade continues toward the Potomac River 40 miles away on July 5th.

As the Emancipation Proclamation was introduced by Abraham Lincoln the war took on a different view and felt it was the turning point of the Civil War. The war now looked at slavery rather than keeping the Union together as its first objective. After Gettysburg as other invasions began and as the Union army participated in these battles the men's morale was strengthened.

The review and comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg campaign was never done before or published. Dr. Gottfried brought his review and comparison of the two campaigns to Old Baldy. This was a very important examination and informative presentation of the two battles. Thank you, Dr. Gottfried, for bringing your book to the members and explaining your research on many different aspects of the Antietam battle vs. the Gettysburg battle. All the members enjoyed your presentation.



## **"Gettysburg Behind the Scenes Excursion"**

The Meade Society of Philadelphia, in coordination with American Legion Post #405 of the Union League are offering an excursion to visit Gettysburg and other historical sites on Saturday, June 10th. The cost is \$95 pp. The Gettysburg National Park Superintendent, Steve Sims, will be guiding the group on a behind the scenes tour of Little Roundtop and the battlefield, focusing on plans and improvements to this area presently closed for renovations. The activities also include a group tour of the new World War II Museum in Gettysburg, a tour of Hanover, the battlefield map and buffet dinner at Yoder's Country Restaurant in New Holland. Time is allotted for you to have lunch (not included) in Gettysburg.

For your convenience, you can receive additional information and pay by credit/debit card at the Meade Society website: <https://generalmeadesociety.org/> or by check to the General Meade Society, c/o Jerry McCormick, Treasurer, 3692 Stanton St., Philadelphia, PA 19129.



Please contact Jerry McCormick at 215-848-7753 or [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com) for reservations and further information. **Reservations should be made by June 1st.**



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

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



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

US Army Heritage & Education Center:  
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Living History encounters along the Heritage Trail

**Lectures:**

Modern looks at Civil War nurses  
The overlooked role of African-American nurses  
Dorothea Dix and her legacy  
Women spies in Richmond, Virginia

**Presentation:**

Civil War dresses in the collection  
of the Shippensburg Fashion Archive

**Social Time and Networking:**

Evening Hospitality Suite  
Saturday Evening Banquet and Silent Auction

**More information here:**

Details for the 2023 Conference -  
Society for Women and the Civil War ([swcw.org](http://swcw.org))

**Register Now:**

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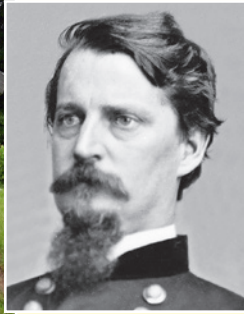
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**Reserve your room with the hotel by June 16th**

**Presented by  
the Society for Women and the Civil War  
in partnership with the Old Baldy CWRT  
P.O. Box 3117**



## **Old Baldy Annual Wreath Laying at the General Winfield Scott Hancock Grave**

**11 AM May 27**

**Montgomery County Cemetery**

## **Old Baldy Annual Picnic**



**OUR ANNUAL PICNIC**

**MAY 13, 2023**

**12:00**

**PLACE: JAN AND MARTY'S HOUSE**

**3 Birchwood Park Dr. So.**

**Cherry Hill**

**RSVP at [jawilensky@yahoo.com](mailto:jawilensky@yahoo.com)**

**By May 10th**

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

**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"**

**August 10, 2023 - Thursday**

**Derek Maxfield**

**"Man of Fire:**

**William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War"**

**September 14, 2023 - Thursday**

**Brett Gibbons**

**"The Influence of the Crimean War  
on the American Civil War"**

**Questions to**

**Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto:dgilson404@gmail.com)**

**WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>  
Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)**

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