

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

September 14, 2023

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

“The Influence of the Crimean War on the American Civil War”



Brett Gibbons

In 1853 a conflict began that, for the first time since the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, pitted most of the great powers of Europe against each other. What initially started as a conflict between the Russian and Ottoman empires quickly escalated to involve the western European maritime powers, Great Britain and France. The Crimean War signaled the arrival of modern warfare and offered keen observers an opportunity to learn important lessons. New technology altered the fighting and forced adjustments. While military planners quickly forgot most lessons of the Crimean War, turning the conflict into one of the century’s forgotten wars, the struggle had a profound impact on the American Civil War.

Brett Gibbons is an author and historical researcher, having written several books on 19th century arms, ammunition, logistics, and military history, including *The Destroying Angel*, *The English Cartridge*, and *Like Fire and Powder*. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 2010, and was later commissioned as an Ordnance Officer at Fort Benning Officer Candidate School. Today he serves as a Logistics staff officer, and had the privilege of commanding two Army Reserve sustainment companies on two overseas deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Spartan Shield. Brett is the owner of Paper Cartridges LLC located in Gettysburg, Pa, and has been researching and making historically correct Civil War era bullets and cartridges for the reenacting and historical shooting communities for the last 15 years.

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, September 14, 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.

Notes from the President

Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. The excitement for another Red October mounts as the MLB regular season concludes. Over Labor Day, Flat Old Baldy was up in the Northwest visiting ballparks as the season wound down. He met four more mascots for his Welcome Wednesday Facebook page. Last month we again welcomed two more news members: **Calvin Kensel** and **Mike O’Donnell**. Greet them when you see them at the meeting. Who will join us this month? Thank you to **Mike DiPaolo** for coordinating our book raffle for the last several months. It has been a successful part of the culture of our round table, has brought us new members and shared our books. Be sure to let us know how we can improve the membership experience for existing and new members.



Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

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OBCWRT Awards

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

Civil War Roundtable Congress The Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award presented to OBCWRT (2022)

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

Civil War Roundtable Congress Sustainability Challenge presented to OBCWRT (2023)

Kevin M. Hale Award for best Historical Newsletter in New Jersey (2017, 2022)

Last month **Derek Maxfield** popped in on Zoom to tell us more about the **“Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman,”** and what caused him to be the man he became during the War. Read more about the presentation in this newsletter. Over the years, in readings, presentations, and discussions we have heard that the Crimean War affected the Civil War. This month **Brett Gibbons** will visit to explain how the European Conflict, its technology, fighting, and lessons influenced the Civil War. Invite a friend to join us for this look at the **Crimean effect on the War**. Start to let folks know about **Carole Adrienne’s** visit in October to share **“Healing a Divided Nation.”**

Our round table was represented at the Emerging Civil War Symposium where our friend **Drew Gruber** received an award for the outstanding work Civil War Trails does in explaining the War to visitors at Civil War locations in six States. We were able to spend more quality time with Drew at the CWRT Congress conference later in the month. At that event OB CWRT was recognized as the first CWRT in the nation to complete the Sustainability Challenge. We have earned two awards for the second year. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. See photos of both events in this newsletter.

The **Camp William Penn event at LaMott** will be on September 23rd 10-4. We plan to have a presence there for part of the day to let the visitors know about the Old Baldy experience. See the details of the event in this newsletter. We are selling **Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends** coupons for the October 18th event. Turn in your collected funds to **Frank Barletta**. Let us know if you need more coupons to sell. We are registered to staff a table to sell the coupons on October 18th at three Boscov’s locations (Moorestown, Voorhees, Deptford). Contact Frank Barletta if you can assist at one of the locations. Frank will be sharing more information about the prize winners for the Williamsburg sign project as well as the trip to the dedication event next May at the meeting this month. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help us reach our goal.

We are still seeking a member to serve as our display director to coordinate our upcoming public events. We also need someone to edit and post our presentation recordings for those unable to attend our meetings. We will be refining our marketing program in the coming months. If you have any input on how we can reach more people, please share your comments with a Board member. With several events in the next two months, we need to print more copies of our revised flyer to distribute to the public. If you have access to a copier/printer and can assist in making copies, please let us know. Write a book review or article on your recent adventures and send it to **Don Wiles** to be shared with the membership in an upcoming newsletter.

Meet us at the Kettle & Grill (Crispin Square Shopping Center) Marlton at 5:30 for a pre-meeting meal.

Rich Jankowski, President



Gary and Mindy Salkind

by **Kim Weaver**
Member, OBCWRT

Member Profile - Gary Salkind

Gary Salkind was born in Wynnefield, Philadelphia on July 30th, 1953. He grew up in the area, living in Wynnewood, Havertown, Overbrook Park, and Drexel Hill. He went to Lower Merion High School in Ardmore and graduated in 1971. Gary continued his education at Saint Joseph’s University and then at Temple University School of Medicine. He was a practicing physician who taught at a residency program; worked at the Philadelphia Nursing Home; and performed house calls for patients until he retired in 2019.

Gary’s family consists of his wife, two children, four grandchildren, and a sister and her family. He and his wife Mindy have been married for 45 years. They met in 1975 at a Messianic Jewish congregation in Philadelphia.

In retirement, Gary has found more time to spend on his hobbies.

He enjoys reading about his historical interests and visiting historic sites. He and Mindy are members of the Tapestry Historic Dance Ensemble, a group that performs social dances of different periods of history.

Ever since he was a child, Gary has had a love for history. He and his childhood friends would act out World War II fighting. Some of his main interests include military technology and the experiences of common soldiers. He says it is convenient to love Civil War history because the battlefields are near enough to visit.

Gary became a part of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table in 2020 after he discovered an old OB pamphlet when he was cleaning out his files. He searched online for more information and found that he could join the meetings virtually. He says membership now has the ability to expand regardless of where the meetings take place.

Gary is a member of the Friends of Gettysburg, a group that helps raise funds to preserve and maintain the battlefield. He is also a member of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America.

Old Baldy lost Gary Salkind



Gary and Mindy Salkind

As we announced at the August meeting our round table recently lost Gary Salkind. He joined us during the pandemic and tuned in on Zoom. He and wife Mindy joined us for the 2021 picnic at the Old Baldy statue in Fairmount Park. He was a doctor and volunteered his time during the pandemic to help others. His profile is available in this newsletter for you to learn more about him. He was a family man who was local to the area. Unfortunately, few members had an opportunity to get to meet and know Gary. In our conversations in email, on the phone, and when I delivered a book from the raffle to him, he always said he enjoyed his time with our round table. He will be missed by all who knew him, and we are glad he was able to spend a brief time with our round table.

OBIT:

Gary David Salkind of Drexel Hill, PA, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on July 30, 2023 at the age of 70. Gary was a lifelong Philadelphian and a graduate of St. Joseph's University ('75), Temple University School of Medicine ('80), and Montgomery Family Practice Residency. Gary cared for the community as a family physician and geriatrician for 40 years until his retirement in 2020. He was a founding member of Congregation Beth Yeshua in Media, PA.

Gary loved reading to his granddaughters, volunteering at local historical sites, and, along with his wife, performing in a historic dance ensemble. He will be remembered as unfailingly kind and a great source of wisdom and advice to all who knew him.

Gary is survived by Mindy, his wife of 46 years, his children Beth (Virginia) and Jonathan (Caitlyn), and four grandchildren Tirzah, Kelilah, Zera, and Shoshana. He is also survived by his sister Leslie Schnall (Paul), four nephews and eleven great-nieces and nephews.



Old Baldy is Saddened

OB CWRT was sad to learn of the recent passing of historian and author Meg Groeling. You will recall she spoke to our round table in March 2022 about Elmer Ellsworth sharing her information on the "North's First Civil War Hero." Her interest was sparked by the name of the school at which she taught. You can view the presentation on our website or YouTube page and read about it in the April 2022 newsletter. Meg was a member of Emerging Civil War, writing over 500 Blog posts, including book reviews and commentary. Meg was also a strong advocate for women's voices in the discourse of the American Civil War. You can learn about her ECW



Meg Groeling

adventures at <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2023/07/28/in-memorial-meg-groeling> and <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2023/07/29/three-tigers-and-a-cheer-remembering-the-megster/>

She really enjoyed the box of Old Baldy items we sent her after her talk. A personal contact I had with her besides corresponding about her gifts was from the ECW raffle. Each year at the ECW Symposium to raise funds for their programs they hold a chance auction of donated prizes. Some of the prizes are assembled by members of the ECW. For two years in a row, I won the basket assembled/donated by Meg. When I let her know, she was happy. We also shared earning a Master Degree in Military History – Civil War from AMU/APUS. While I did not know her well, she seemed like a person looking to enjoy life to the fullest. We offered our condolences to her family and the ECW community. Her ECW friends presented a very nice tribute to her during the Symposium last month.



**By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT**



Williamsburg Update

As you know, our campaign to raise the required funding for the installation of a Civil War Trail Sign has been a great success. This could not have been accomplished without the support and generosity of our great membership. At the beginning of this fund-raising effort, three prizes were announced, the Limited Edition CSS Hunley Print and the CSS Hunley Model and finally a paid trip to the May 5, 2024 sign dedication in Williamsburg. At the September 14th meeting the names of the three winners will be drawn. The winner of the Trip will not be announced. We are currently in the planning stage for the trip. I can tell you we have some very special tours scheduled and other surprise events. Currently, we are planning to have a bus transport us as a group to Williamsburg. The trip will begin with departure on Saturday, May 4th and returning the next day. To help with our planning, it would be very helpful if I could get an indication of how many members might make the trip. Putting aside cost for the moment (trust me it will be very price conscious), if you would indicate your interest in going, please send me an e-mail at frank.barletta@comcast.net.

Old Baldy Salutes Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails



Drew Gruber

Flat Old Baldy was one of the first to congratulate Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails (CWT), after he accepted the 2023 Award for Service in Civil War Public History from Emerging Civil War at their recent Symposium. FOB told him it was a long overdue award and thanked Drew for all he and the CWT have done to educate visitors to Civil War sites. They



briefly discussed the sign that will be dedicated next May 5th to commemorate the New Jersey troops that fought at the Battle of Williamsburg. It is a fine way to fulfill the mission of preservation and education. The OB CWRT is also honored to be sponsoring the bi-lingual sign at the Ox Hill Battlefield in Fairfax, VA. FOB told Drew he would see him in Gettysburg for the Civil War Round Table Congress Sustainability Conference. Drew will visit the rest of the round table when he comes to speak in February.

Another National Award for Old Baldy



The Old Baldy CWRT was represented at the recent CWRT Congress conference in Gettysburg. We saw many friends including Pete Miele (Seminary Ridge Museum), Drew Gruber (CW Trails), Bill Jayne (Cape Fear CWRT), Bobbi Steele (Central Delaware CWRT), Chris Mackowski (ECW), Steve Smith (Harrisburg CWRT), Matt George (Capital Region CWRT), Carol VanOrnum (Twin Cities CWRT), John Bamberl (Scottsdale CWRT), Kurt DeSoto (DC CWRT) and Kim Brace (Bull Run CWRT). Flat Old Baldy finally was able to meet and welcome Robin Vaughn to membership. He is president of the Shippensburg CWRT and was happy to see FOB. They chatted on how to get more folks at the Shippensburg meetings.



The facilities for the event included the Seminary Ridge Museum, the Adams County History Visitor Center, and the Gettysburg Military Park Visitor Center. All were very impressive and worth a visit, next time in the area. The conference had several panel discussions on “Emerging from the Pandemic,” “Community Partnerships,” “The Sustainability Challenge,” and “Target Marketing Younger Members.” OB CWRT was mentioned by panelists at least five times during the day. Limited time was allowed for networking. Our round table highlighted some of our successful practices in helping other round tables grow. Before dinner, tours of the Cyclorama were available.

After dinner, Old Baldy CWRT was recognized as the first CWRT in the nation to complete the CWRT Congress Sustainability Challenge. In front of dozens of round tables from at least 18 States, OB CWRT received a certificate for this honor. The Bull run CWRT won the Congress 2023 Innovation Award. Long-term members will recall OB CWRT was set to host the CWRT Congress conference three years ago and the Covid-19 pandemic cancelled it. There may be an opportunity again in the future. The rumor was that the next Congress conference will be held in the Cleveland, OH area.

Today in Civil War History



USS Colorado

1861 Saturday, September 14

Naval Operations

USS Colorado, the Federal flagship, sinks the Confederate blockade runner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

1862 Sunday, September 14

Eastern Theater

The Confederates have withdrawn west over three narrow roads leading over the timber-clad slopes of South Mountain. Their rear guards are attacked early in the afternoon. By evening, Crampton’s Gap, the southernmost position, is in Union hands while Burnside’s corps batter through the others. Discouraged at the speed of the Union pursuit, Lee writes orders cancelling the offensive that evening. But then a messenger gallops in with news from Jackson: Harper’s Ferry is as good as taken.

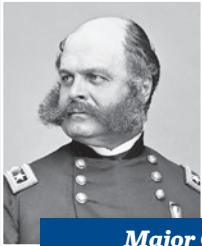
Western Theater

Price’s army enters Iuka, Missouri.

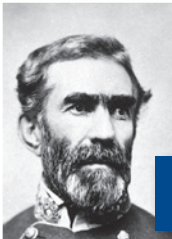
1863 Monday, September 14

Eastern Theater

Bragg rails at his subordinates, refuses to believe how scattered the Federals are, and continues to issue orders bearing no relation to what his corps



**Major General
Ambrose Everett Burnside
USA**



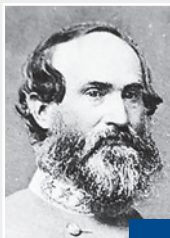
**General
Braxton Bragg
CSA**

commanders encounter on the ground. His habit of demanding a scapegoat for every failure has stifled initiative in his army and the antipathy between him and his subordinates severely hampers coordinated action.

1864 Wednesday, September 14

Eastern Theater

R.H. Anderson's Confederate Corps leaves the Shenandoah to join Lee's army at Petersburg. The continual attrition of the siege is bleeding the Army of Northern Virginia to death. But this withdrawal leaves Early badly outnumbered in the valley. He now has about 20,000 men of all arms facing 43,000 Union troops, plus 7000 in garrison at Harper's Ferry.



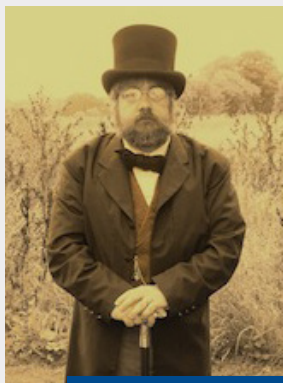
**Major General
Jubal Anderson Early
CSA**

Old Baldy's August Meeting Review

**"Man of War: William Tecumseh Sherman
In the Civil War"**

By Derek D. Maxfield

*By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT*



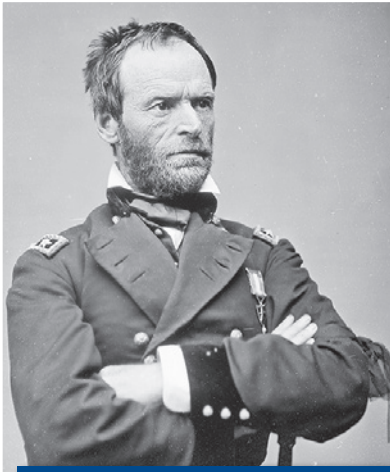
Derek Maxfield

William Tecumseh Sherman was born in the frontier of Ohio. His father, Charles Sherman, was a lawyer and then became an Ohio Supreme Court Judge, riding the circuit three months of the year. Sadly, one of those times he did not come home dying of thyroid fever leaving his wife the responsibility of caring for the family. Sherman's mother could not take care of all the children, so he was adopted by his neighbor and good friend the Ewing family of Lancaster, Ohio. The only stipulation was that he had to be baptized and raised in the Catholic faith. Sherman was not very happy with Mrs. Ewing's wishes but went along with what she asked him to do. Her husband, Thomas Ewing had a position in the Ohio State legislature and the US Senate which helped him understand national affairs. Mr. Ewing believed in paid tuition to private schools for quality education and Sherman had the best.

June 1836, Mr. Ewing arranged Sherman's appointment to West Point for his military training. He met many men who would become Confederate generals while attending his classes. Braxton Bragg, James Longstreet, PGT Beauregard, and George Thomas to name a few. He graduated in 1840 and was sent to help in the Seminole Wars at the tail end of the war. Sherman spent his time cleaning up, fishing, swimming in the warm waters of Florida. At the end of the war he went to Charleston, S.C. again there was not a lot of military action. Sherman found a love of art and started collecting because of meeting Captain Robert Anderson and seeing his art collection. During the Mexican War he thought he was getting into the action of war but was sent to Pittsburgh for recruiting purposes. While he was away from home there was a growing romance between Ellen his adopted sister. With still no battle experience he went to California. Sherman came home to marry Ellen, but it was not a happy marriage.

Ellen's family wanted him to get out of the service but did not want to move from Ohio. First, he opens a store and made a profit. Sherman then married Ellen on May 1, 1850, but by the end of the summer he was ordered to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. At that time, he was promoted to Captain. In Leavenworth, Kansas he studied for the bar and went to work with two foster brothers at their law office. By 1859 he became superintendent to a new Military Academy in Louisiana. Sherman said it was the happiest time of his life.

The political period after Lincoln was elected was the talk about "secession". Sherman felt he was loyal to the Union constitution. While he was superintendent of the academy his thoughts were focused on "Did he want to join the Union army?" No one understood what was going to happen with



**Brigadier General
William Tecumseh Sherman**



the war. There was a mess in Washington DC. Sherman got a telegram that he was made Colonel of the 13th U.S. Regular Infantry that he had to command immediately. After bringing his men back he was promoted to Brigadier General. Sherman became nervous and agitated with the way the battles were going especially when there is not enough arms and supplies. He came off as a mad man, as a result he was sent home on leave.

Sherman hated politicians and newspapermen. His brother was a US Senator and may have also hated politicians and newspapermen but used them when needed for political reasons. They did talk to reporters for they did not want bad press. Here are some of the ways Sherman communicated with reporters: 1. He tried to be a mediocre tactician with an operational flair: 2. A merciless opponent in war: 3. A man of liberal terms in peace: 4. Despised politics but had the strongest political connections in the army: 5. Sherman did not think before he wrote or spoke: 6. Worked hard to polish his own reputation in his postwar memories. Sherman a "Man of Fire" who had courage, intellect, passion, and conviction.

Even though he was not an optimist he found his reputation for courage under fire at the battle of Shiloh and Vicksburg. Union victories at Shiloh and then Vicksburg helped Sherman's reputation harden for he was determined to show the south that he was that man of fire. Grant and Sherman would work close together to get a positive outcome for both battles and a close friendship that would last an entire life. Even though Sherman disliked battles and with a lack of tactical skills he used logistics and operational maneuvers to win battles. One of many sad happenings during Sherman's victory at Vicksburg, and while his family was visiting, his son "Willie" caught a fever and died. Sherman was devastated and openly let his feelings be known. He would live with the grief all the rest of his life.

Sherman's Georgia Campaign was marked by maneuvers and skirmishing with Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Johnston failed to stop Sherman and was replaced by John Bell Hood who also failed. Sherman marched into Atlanta and nearly gutted the Army of Tennessee. Sherman achieved his objectives. By the end of the war and with Sherman's success he could have had anything he wanted from the US government. Losing his son was a heavy burden for him to bare and the post war years were still a time for Sherman to search for his identity.

After the war from 1867-1874 Sherman and others in the army declared war on the Native Americans by total elimination of their food supply, the buffalo. They killed roughly 5,000,000 animals. It was totally effective! November 1868 when President Grant came into office Sherman was negotiating a treaty with the Sioux and Arapaho tribes at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. This certainly was a tragedy for the Indian tribes and for the United States.

Throughout Sherman's life he was a soldier, an artilleryman, and administrator. As a civilian he worked as a banker, a lawyer, a

superintendent, and president of a streetcar company. As he moved from one position to another, he was always asking himself "Who am I?" Many times, he felt like a failure or adrift not knowing which way to continue. Throughout his life he was always trying to prove himself to Thomas Ewing, to his Union soldiers, to the public, and to himself. With his relationship with Grant and the battles of

Shiloh and Yorktown it seemed to make his life more meaningful and helped define where he was going in his life. Sherman's family was very important to him, especially his children. But religious beliefs got in the way of his relationship with his wife.

Another part of Sherman's life was his attitude on race. He never had African American soldiers in his armies and never tried to offer them voting rights. Native Americans were thought less of for there was no trust as a human being. Between his personality and military thoughts there were some very interesting ideas that someone who studies Sherman would recognize even today. Even though Sherman is thought of as both loved and hated he is also

Presenter's Book Winner - Phil Seasock

Raffle Book Winners - Alex Glisson, Kathy Clark, Barb Schultz, Joe Fafara, Stephen Mc Mahon, Ted Leventhal, David Wayne, Lou Gorman, Joe Wilson, Evan Glisson

thought of as a fascinating man. There is always something new to learn when it comes to William Sherman. Derek Maxfield brought that to our attention during his zoom presentation. Mr. Maxfield is an interesting person in his own right and know we could have spent many more hours talking about this complicated man. His book goes into a lot more of Sherman's life and is a good read to get to know Sherman better.

"A Union General Turned Hangman"

*By Joe Wilson,
Member, OBCWRT,*



**State Representative
Charles Albright**

Despite the Civil War being over for nearly ten years, the retired general rose early to put on his perfectly pressed dress uniform adorned with a flashy saber dangling by his side. Bedecked in his impressive military garb, the former soldier marched to meet the enemy at the courthouse in Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania.

Now a practicing lawyer, the impeccably attired General Charles Albright wouldn't be leading a charge on the battlefield, but sought to reclaim his lost glory in a different arena where he vehemently implored a jury to hang four Irish Catholic miners accused of murder. The masquerading general effectively put the rope around their necks and had more to do with the hangings than anyone.

In 1876, the general led the prosecution in the trial of the miners who dared to challenge the low pay and horrific working conditions in the mines. The immigrants didn't stand a chance in a skewed trial featuring more prejudice than justice. Tangible evidence proved to be scant in the trial according to modern day lawyers who reviewed the sensational trial.

In the same spirited way he led his troops in battle, the flamboyant general assumed control by parading around the courtroom in his flashy uniform assailing the jury members with fiery speeches that overshadowed the lack of evidence. Albright's commanding voice boomed like a cannon shot demanding they find the defendants guilty as charged.

General Albright left the army a hero after the war and returned to Mauch Chunk, later renamed Jim Thorpe, to resume his law practice. The record shows Albright to be a good soldier in battle when facing Robert E. Lee's celebrated Army of Northern Virginia. In the Mauch Chunk trial, victory was a sure thing against the brash Irish miners who only wanted a fair shot in pursuing the American dream.

Albright made sure that the so-called Molly Maguires went to the gallows. Whether the radical Ireland based Molly Maguires ever came to America and reorganized in the anthracite coal region in Pa. is debatable. The original Molly Maguires battled the English in Ireland in the 1800's over land ownership. Miners in Pa. only sought freedom from the appalling exploitation.

Nearly all the jurors were Germans whose understanding of English was very limited at best. Not a single Irish Catholic sat on the jury. Opponents of the hangings believe the Germans associated Albright's splendid blue uniform with supreme authority and sided with the animated general whose intimidating antics dominated the courtroom. With a show trial that lasted over 4 months, the convictions were never in doubt in a court so lopsided that many today still deplore the lack of justice suffered by the Irish miners.

Historians and law scholars agree such a biased trial could never happen today by pointing out that the miners were arrested by mine owner Franklin Gowen's "private" Coal and Iron Police. All the supposed evidence was supplied by Allen Pinkerton's "private" detective agency hired by Gowen to spy on the



Molly Maguires

miners. The trial itself was deemed a "private" community matter. Even the State of Pa. took a hands off approach allowing the one-sided trial to play out in the small town. Only the hangman came courtesy of the State. In an astonishing disregard for law and fairness, the court allowed mine owner Gowen to join the prosecution team.

General Albright enlisted in the 132nd Pennsylvania Volunteers as a major at the outset of the war. Being an aggressive leader, he rose through the ranks. At Antietam, he displayed enormous courage while charging the Bloody Lane after the colonel went down. When the 9 month regiment disbanded, he formed the 34th Emergency Regiment in the Gettysburg campaign. In September, the regiment dissolved leaving Albright a citizen once again.

After returning to Mauch Chunk in the fall of 1863, Albright appealed to Pa. Governor Andrew Curtin and President Lincoln to send troops to Pa. to quell the growing unrest in the coal region. Irish miners who felt abused began to fight back against the mine owners and railroad executives. Citizen Albright also had skin in the game as part owner of a mine and sole owner of a foundry in Mauch Chunk making shells for the army.

Lincoln immediately sent the 10th New Jersey Regiment to the coal region in 1863 to intimidate the rebelling miners. As a result, the miners now faced both the federal troops of the government and the Coal and Iron Police. All the wealthy executives in the coal industry welcomed the military in serving alongside of Gowen's private police in a show of force against the miners. All of the coal fields in Northeast Pa. now took on the appearance of a combat zone. Any complaints from miners over fair wages or conditions in the mines never gained any sympathy from Curtin or Lincoln.

Coal mine owners such as Gowen raked in huge profits as the miners could barely feed their families. What little wages the miners earned went straight back to mine owners as all clothing, food, and supplies had to be purchased from the company store at inflated prices. Rent for company provided housing also exceeded market value. Many miners had little or nothing left after settling their account. While the Emancipation Proclamation played out in the Civil War, slavery was alive and well in the anthracite coal mines. The owners created a ticking time bomb that exploded into a violent labor dispute.

The Civil War depended on coal from the region. Any disruption of the flow of coal had dire consequences for the war effort. The miners knew it and so did Lincoln. Coal fired the foundries that made the weapons and fueled the steam engines of the trains that grew in importance as the war progressed. More importantly for wealthy mine owners and railroad tycoons, profits began dwindling. Sabotage of the mines and railroads played out in what might be the first major labor dispute in America.

The miners certainly engaged in violence. Violence permeated Northeast Pennsylvania through the 1860's and the 1870's. But the chaos also came from coal mine owner Franklin Gowen, who hired Welsh and English thugs who hated the Irish to form his private Coal and Iron Police. The corrupt

police force participated in violence of their own against the miners. Pinkerton's planted spies also engaged and encouraged the violence from the miners just to snare their prey.

Supporters of the Irish miners believe the miners used the only means available against the mine owners for the mistreatment and atrocious working conditions that often killed miners. Detractors say the executed miners got what they deserves. Count General Albright among the latter.

It's believed that Albright's hatred for the miner's stemmed from their earlier opposition to the war. A rich man's war, and a poor man's fight echoed in the mines. Being a staunch supporter of the war, Albright had little sympathy for miners who opposed the war. Considered Mauch Chunk's recruiting officer, he often gave fiery patriotic speeches in town from the balcony of the American Hotel, which today is known as The Inn at Jim Thorpe. Being a friend and associate of mine owner Franklin Gowen, the general conveniently overlooked Gowen quietly paying \$300 for a substitute to take his place on the battlefield.



Allen Pinkerton



Franklin Gowen



American Hotel



Old City Jail

Old City Jail



Execution Area

Come fall of 1864, Albright signed on as Colonel of the 202nd Pa. Regiment. In March, Lincoln brevetted Albright a general for his fine leadership. When Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, most of the boys in the 202nd regiment had time left to serve. Once again, Albright took his regiment to the coal regions to put the miners under the bayonets of the federal army.

A total of 50 miners came under arrest as a result of Private Detective Allen Pinkerton's spies infiltrating the miners. Many went to prison for the supposed violence. A total of 20 miners went to the gallows in the coal region. Albright had a hand in many trials in Carbon County, but his shining moment of reclaimed stardom came on the stage in Mauch Chunk where all four miners went to the gallows. Elated mine owners and railroad executives hailed the victorious General Albright as a conquering hero. A decadent Albright basked in his recaptured celebrity not felt since the old war days.

In a master stroke seeking maxim publicity, all four miners were hung at Mauch Chunk at the same time in a carnival atmosphere that had newspaper men and curiosity seekers packed into the old city jail. With one pull of the rope the platform holding all four miners dropped sending all of them into eternity. Immigrant coal miners across the country took notice. A shot across the bow gave warning. If you disrupt the wealthy tycoons operation, you may find a noose around your neck.

The egotistical general besmirched his own good name by choosing his last battle to be against the poor Irish Catholic miners. It was an unfair battle that saw the powerful interest of the coal and railroad industries crush the rebellious Irish workers. All the Irish immigrants came to America only seeking work and a better life for their families.

For many, all they found was a hangman!

Joseph F. Wilson is a member of the Old Baldy CWRT and General Meade Society. Lectures include Andersonville Prison and The Pennsylvania Reserves. YouTube channel - "Joseph F. Wilson." Contact joef21@aol.com



By Don Wiles,
Member, OBCWRT,

"The Molly Maguires... The Movie and the Old Baldy Connection"



Harris and Connery

A movie was made in 1969 about the Molly Maguires. The title is "The Molly Maguires". The movie was filmed in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, (the Coal mining area was Lackawanna, Luzerne, Columbia, Schuylkill, Carbon, and Northumberland Counties) The movie stars Sean Connery, as Jacl Kehoe as the leader of the Mollies in that area. Richard Harris is the police spy, James McParlan, sent by Pinketon to infiltrate the Mollies and Samantha Egggar plays the woman, Mary Raines, who rents McParlan a room thus this becomes the love story.



Most of this movie was shot in Eckley (unchanged from its 1870s appearance), Pennsylvania. "Paramount Pictures" saved the town from being destroyed. It was slated to be demolished for strip mining, but after the movie was filmed, the town's land was donated to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The town is now a museum. Several structures built for the movie still survive.



Eckley Today



Several years ago I visited the coal region and visited several mines in Hazalton, Scranton and Eckley. The state has a very good Coal Mining Museum that you can spend hours in. There are several mines you can go down several hundred feet under ground and experience that mining feeling.

Centralia is another place to visit, it is a borough and near-ghost town in Columbia County, Pennsylvania, Its population has declined from 1,000 in 1980 to five residents in 2020 because a coal mine fire



Pennsylvania State Coal Museum



Centralia Mine Fire under Highway

has been burning beneath the borough since 1962 and they cannot put the fire out.

All real estate in the borough was claimed under eminent domain in 1992 and condemned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Centralia's ZIP Code was discontinued by the Postal Service in 2002. State and local officials reached an agreement with the five remaining residents on October 29, 2013, allowing them to remain in Centralia until their deaths, after which the rights to their houses will be taken through eminent domain. At its current rate, it could continue to burn for over 250 years. The Molly Maguires operated in this town also.

The movie is an excellent drama movie and was kind of a sleeper. If you get a chance to see it it is worth the 2 hours.

The real Jack Kehoe was not a miner, but the owner of a saloon, The Hibernia House. His descendants run it to this day.

Mike Cavanaugh, one of the Old Baldy founders, had a relative who was either in the Mollies or took part in one of the trials. Mike passed away several years ago so I could not get the details, but he would talk about him often.

"A Child of the Civil War"

*By Forest J. Bowman,
June 1971, CWTI*



**Senator
Waitman Thomas. Willey**

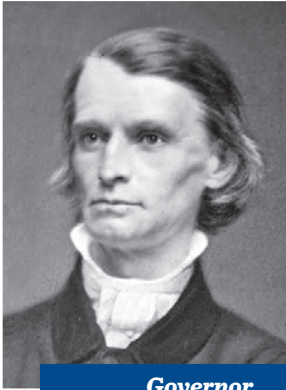
While no one would argue that the major product of the war was death and destruction, still it did give life as well, for even while the holocaust raged, the troubled country gave birth to a new state, West Virginia

The tall, dignified statesman gazed out over the flagwaving crowd gathered before Wheeling's Linsly Institute Building. He stood there quietly for a moment and then began to speak in the pleading, trembling voice that was so familiar to western Virginians: "What we have longed for and labored for and prayed for is a fixed fact," Senator Waitman T. Willey told the crowd. "West Virginia is a fixed fact. She is one of the Union of States.

It was June 20, 1863. The long-neglected counties of western Virginia had terminated their 256-year-old relationship with the Old Dominion. West Virginia, the nation's thirty-fifth state, was a "fixed fact."

West Virginia's statehood movement had its origin in decades of social and political controversy between the mountain people of western Virginia and the slave-owning planters of the eastern section of ante-bellum Virginia. The settlers of the northwest were, in fact, from a different ethnic, social, cultural, religious, and ideological background than their eastern brethren. But the real root of the difficulty was 'geographic. Old Virginia consisted of two planes sloping in opposite directions and divided by the Allegheny Mountains. The mountains provided such an effective barrier to the westward movement of eastern Virginians that the Trans-Allegheny was settled chiefly by immigrants who drifted down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York in search of cheap land.

These Scotch-Irish and German settlers owned few slaves and found the rocky hillsides and variable climate of the rugged western plateaus unsuited to slavery and the plantation system. They did not belong to the Church of England, the established church of Colonial Virginia, but were mostly Baptists, Methodists, and Lutherans. Uneducated as a rule, they were not people of wealth but were merely trying to improve their lot. They felt themselves discriminated against by the eastern Virginians who controlled the General Assembly. The two main sources of discord were representation



**Governor
Henry Alexander Wise**

in the Virginia legislature and the unequal tax burden the westerners felt they carried.

Representation in the legislature was based on population, counting both whites and slaves, although slaves could not vote. For purposes of taxation, however, no slave could be assessed at more than \$300 although he might sell for several times this amount. At the same time, every horse, cow, and mule in the Trans-Allegheny was assessed at full value.

What made the problem so acute was that in 1860 western Virginia had 18,371 slaves, while to the east, beyond the Allegheny Mountains, lived 472,494 slaves—more than the entire population of western Virginia. (Western Virginia with a population of nearly 377,000 people contained almost one-third of the state's white population, but only one-fourth of the total population.)

But, in spite of the isolation of the west and the longstanding differences between the two areas, there was little that the people of western Virginia could do, outweighed politically as they were by the easterners. The United States Constitution forbade, as it still does, the creation of a new state out of the territory of another state without the consent of the "mother" state. The Civil War gave the westerners their chance.

With the election of Lincoln and the secession of the states of the Deep South, Virginia faced a momentous decision. No other state had stronger ties with the Federal Union. Yet Virginia was very closely linked, socially and economically, to her sister states to the south. Unable to resolve the dilemma, Governor John Letcher called the Virginia Legislature into special session in January 1861.

The legislature, in turn, called a convention to deal with the crisis. The convention assembled in Richmond on February 13 and marked time for about two months, unable, as had been the governor and the legislature, to determine a proper course of action. Then, on April 12, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter.

Governor Francis Pickens of South Carolina wired Governor Letcher. "The war is commenced, and we will triumph or perish. . . . Please let me know what Virginia will do." The Virginia governor's reply was characteristic: "The convention now in session will determine what Virginia will do."

Richmond went wild. Places of business closed and the people flocked into streets filled with bonfires lit by howling mobs. Within the convention the moderate forces, which held the balance of power, began deserting the Unionists for the secessionists.

At an early session of the convention former Governor Henry A. Wise told the delegates: "It is perfectly immaterial, gentlemen, whether you carry the state out of the Union by ordinance or not. If you do, it is well; if you do not we will carry her out by fire and sword." Now, as President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion and pressure mounted daily for the convention to act, Wise met with a small group at Richmond's Exchange Hotel and plotted the seizure of the United States Arsenal at Harpers Ferry and the Norfolk Navy Yard.

On the morning of April 17, confident that his plans were progressing satisfactorily, Wise rose from his seat, placed a large horse pistol before him, and proceeded to harangue the convention. With fiery eyes and white hair flying, the tall, lean, wrinkled-faced former governor announced the military moves against Harpers Ferry and Norfolk and shouted that there must be either "a fight or a foot race" between Federal troops and the Virginia militia that day.

Wise's performance had a profound effect on the delegates. It was obvious he had gained control of the state militia. There was no need to hesitate longer. At 1:30 p.m., April 17, 1861, by a vote of 88 to 55, the Commonwealth of Virginia seceded from the Union. Of the 55 negative votes cast, 32 were cast by delegates from what is now West Virginia. (Among the delegates from the northwest who voted for the ordinance of secession was L. S. Hall of Wetzel

County. Feeling against Hall ran high after his vote for he had been elected on a Union platform. Marshall M. Dent, editor of the *Western Virginia Star*, expressed the prevailing sentiment regarding Hall: "Judas Iscariot got his name for betraying his Master and has never been forgiven since, and, in my opinion, if he and L. S. Hall were to run for the same office in Wetzel County tomorrow, Judas would beat Hall by more than two hundred votes.")

Having been defeated in the vote on the ordinance, Unionist delegates from the northwest decided to return home and urge the westerners to vote against ratification. Special meetings took place throughout the northwest. At the first of these meetings, an April 22 gathering at the courthouse in Clarksburg, a unanimously adopted declaration called for a new convention to determine what actions should be taken in the "present fearful emergency."

Copies of the Clarksburg document were rushed throughout northwestern Virginia. The *Wheeling Intelligencer*, strongest Union newspaper in the area, took up the cry and issued its call for the convention to meet at Wheeling, in the northern panhandle, on May 13.

The morning of the 13th dawned clear. A light breeze fluttered through the streets of the city of 14,000 as the convention opened with a total of 436 delegates present representing twenty-seven counties.

One of the delegates was John S. Carlile, a lawyer from Harrison County, the boyhood home of Stonewall Jackson. The short, compact Carlile had been a Union champion at the secession convention in Richmond. His rich, deep voice had boomed out openly on the floor that the National Government had the right to enforce its authority in the South. Now, early in the Wheeling convention, he introduced a resolution calling for immediate secession from eastern Virginia.

Sudden and drastic, Carlile's proposal met opposition from some of the northwest's leading politicians. In fact, the motion so irked General John J. Jackson of the Ohio Valley community of Parkersburg that he threatened to take his hat and leave the convention. Jackson, an arrogant and dogmatic West Point graduate, had served briefly in the Regular Army and held a commission as brigadier general in the Virginia militia. He was a controversial figure who reflected the confused loyalties of western Virginians at that time. In June 1861 the *Cincinnati Commercial* said of him: "He may be earnest in his professions of fidelity, but he neither acts nor speaks like a man sincerely devoted to the Union."

Joining in General Jackson's opposition to Carlile's motion was Waitman T. Willey, a tall, elegant, dignified lawyer from Morgantown on the Pennsylvania border. In ante-bellum times Willey had been one of the "wheel horses" of the Whig party in northwest Virginia, and ran unsuccessfully, for lieutenant governor in 1859. An ardent Unionist, Willey opposed Carlile's proposal as premature. He believed that the purpose of the May Convention was to work toward securing a heavy vote against secession in the coming referendum.

Francis H. Pierpont, a 47-year-old baby-faced Fairmont lawyer, shared Willey's view of Carlile's motion and, with Willey and Jackson, led the successful fight against it. Pierpont was one of the most popular Union speakers in the northwest and would soon be elected to head the most unusual state in America's history.

Carlile's motion was defeated and the delegates agreed that, in the event the voters of Virginia ratified the ordinance of secession, the people of northwest Virginia should choose delegates for another general convention to convene on June 11.

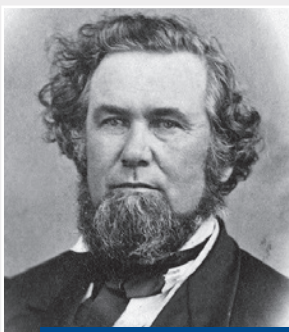
On May 23, seven days after the adjournment of the May Convention, the people of Virginia endorsed what the convention at Richmond, the state government, and the militia had already done. Governor Letcher announced that the vote was 125,950 for secession and 20,373 against. These totals, however, did not include the returns from northwest Virginia where the vote against secession has been variously estimated as from 3-to-1 to 11-to-1 against.



Convention at Wheeling



**Lawyer
John Snyder Carlile**



**Lawyer
Francis H. Pierpont**

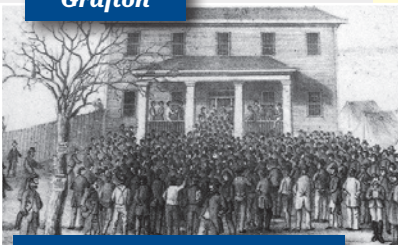


Grafton

When the vote was announced the Confederates were already moving to save the northwest for the South. Colonel George A. Porterfield was ordered to Grafton, railroad center of the Trans-Allegheny, to establish a training camp for western troops. By May 22 Porterfield had raised three companies, totaling about two hundredmen, and had occupied Grafton.

The Federals were also busy trying to secure the northwest. Major James Oaks of the Regular Army was sent to Wheeling where, in mid-May, he swore into Federal service the First (West) Virginia Volunteer Infantry, a three month regiment, commanded by Colonel Benjamin F. Kelley. On May 27 Major General George B. McClellan, commanding general of the Western Virginia Department of the Union Army, ordered the 14th Ohio Infantry to cross the Ohio River and advance to Grafton. That same day Kelley's regiment entrained for Grafton.

Porterfield withdrew to Philippi, fifteen miles south of Grafton. There in the early morning hours of June 3 occurred the first land battle of the Civil War. By later standards it wasn't much of a battle—the press tagged it the "Philippi Races." Union troops appeared on the hill overlooking Philippi from the north and hurled a few cannon shots into town. As the Federals swarmed down the hillside and across the covered bridge over the Tygart River the Confederates fled out the muddy, unguarded Beverly Road.



Grafton

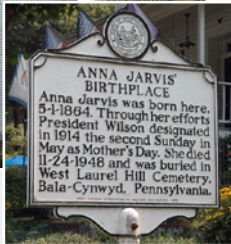
McClellan Headquarters

No one was killed and only five were wounded, among them Colonel Kelley. Porterfield was relieved of his command and replaced by Brigadier General Robert S. Garnett. On July 11, General McClellan attacked part of Garnett's army entrenched atop Rich Mountain and forced them to retreat. Garnett, who was at Laurel Mountain, north of Rich Mountain with the bulk of his army, found his escape route cut off. He attempted to retreat into eastern Virginia and was overtaken by the Federals at Carrick's Ford. Garnett was killed and his men scattered in unorganized retreat.

Union victory in northwestern Virginia was decisive and of long duration. From this time on the Confederates were never able to do more than stage sporadic raids into the northwest. The Union victories and the presence of Federal troops in the area strengthened the loyalty of the people of northwestern Virginia.



**Jarvis House
(McClellan Headquarters)**



On the crest of the Union victory in the Trans-Allegheny the Second Wheeling Convention convened in Wheeling's Washington Hall on June 11, 1861, with ninety-three delegates present representing thirty-two counties. Conspicuously absent were the two conservative spokesmen, Waitman T. Willey and General John J. Jackson.

The delegates faced a difficult choice—support the Union wholeheartedly or support Virginia and the South in their attempt to destroy the Union. They chose the Union and implemented their choice by an interesting, albeit constitutionally questionable, means—they "restored" the government of the State of Virginia to the Union. The convention further adopted "A Declaration of the People of Virginia" which declared, in effect, that all state offices were vacated when the government of Virginia united with the Confederacy. To implement the declaration the convention adopted "An Ordinance for the Reorganization of the State Government." They selected Francis H. Pierpont, the baby-faced Fairmont lawyer, as the loyal governor and elected a lieutenant governor, attorney general, and a governor's council.

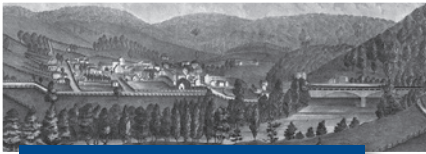


**Private, USA
Thornsbery Bailey
Brown, the first
soldier killed in the
Civil War.**

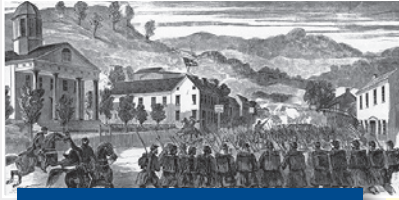
Within an hour after his election, Pierpont wired President Lincoln requesting aid in suppressing the rebellion. Lincoln replied through Secretary of War Cameron, addressing Pierpont as "Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia," and promised military support.

On June 25 the convention adjourned and Governor Pierpont called the loyal legislature into session. The legislature elected the remainder of the state officials, sending John S. Carlile and Waitman T. Willey to the United States Senate to fill seats vacated by R. M. T. Hunter and James M. Mason, Senator Andrew Johnson of Tennessee presented the credentials of the newcomers and, after a brisk debate, the new "Virginia" senators were seated. The Restored Government of Virginia had the public blessing of the executive and legislative branches of Abraham Lincoln's Administration.

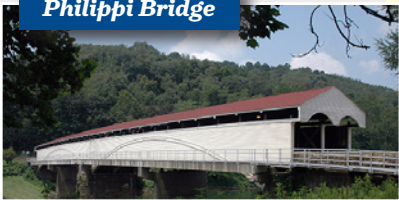
Grafton



Philippi



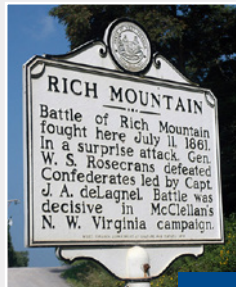
Philippi Races



Philippi Bridge



**First Land Battle
June 3, 1861**



Rich Mountain



But the new state government had little else. Governor Pierpont found his office without furniture or money. Fortunately some thoughtful person had supplied him with a pen, a bottle of ink, and a quire of foolscap paper. The governor moved immediately to obtain funds. He sent for Peter G. Van Winkle, a wealthy Parkersburg lawyer, and the two of them went to Wheeling's Merchants and Mechanics Bank. They spoke with the cashier and asked him to call the cashier of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia. With the four men together in a closed room Pierpont explained the new state's need for money. He asked the bankers to lend the state \$10,000 on his personal note endorsed by Van Winkle—\$5,000 from each bank. "If our government succeeds you will get your money in sixty or ninety days," he told the two bankers. "If it 'goes down, your money is not worth a cent." Pierpont and Van Winkle left with the money.

The governor also learned that the Commonwealth of Virginia had deposited \$30,000 in the Exchange Bank of Weston to pay for the construction of a hospital for the insane in that community. Captain John List of Wheeling was sent to claim the money for the Restored Government. Protected by a regiment of Ohio Volunteers, List left Clarksburg shortly after dark on the evening of June 29 and arrived in Weston at four o'clock the next morning. The cashier of the bank was aroused and forced to open the vault. Captain List left \$3,000 to pay for wages due workmen and for supplies already purchased. The remaining \$27,000 was taken to Wheeling and deposited in the Northwestern Bank.

On August 6, the Second Wheeling Convention reconvened. The delegates quickly adopted a motion requiring Convention President Arthur I. Boreman to name a committee to look into the matter of dividing the State of Virginia. On the 20th the convention adopted an ordinance providing for the creation of a new state, to be named "Kanawha." The ordinance was submitted to a vote of the people on the fourth Thursday in October 1861, and was overwhelmingly approved. In accordance with the ordinance, delegates to a constitutional convention assembled at 11:00 a.m., November 26, 1861, in the U.S. Custom House in Wheeling.

At the first day's session John Hall, a 56-year-old Mason County farmer, the only foreign-born member of the convention (he was Irish), was elected president. The next important matter to come before the convention was that of naming the new state. The original proposal was to call the state "Kanawha," an Indian name meaning "Place of the White Stone" (after the salt deposits in the Kanawha Valley). Senator Willey opposed the name on the grounds that no one knew how to pronounce or spell it.

Delegate James Henry Brown of Kanawha County led the fight to retain the name. The tall, black-whiskered circuit judge questioned the legality of changing a provision of the ordinance which had specifically provided for the name Kanawha. He further pointed out that such states as Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Mississippi were named for their leading rivers.

Delegate Harman Sinseli of Taylor County then made an eloquent speech in support of including the name "Virginia" in the new state's name. Sinsel said the name "Virginia" reminded him of the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth of England, and of the Virgin Mary. Brown replied that the virginity of Queen Elizabeth was not above question and added that the name "Virginia" did not conjure up visions of the Virgin Mary for him.

President Hall halted a debate which threatened to get out of hand and ordered the delegates to answer the roll, giving the name they proposed for the new state. Twenty delegates answered with the name "West Virginia," nine "Kanawha," two "Western Virginia," and one "Augusta."

There were thirty-nine counties originally proposed for inclusion in the State of West Virginia. Five more were added through the efforts of Delegate Brown: Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and McDowell. Brown was a Stephen Douglas Democrat and wanted to include as many Democratic counties in the new state as possible. He was able to get these five counties admitted by pointing out that their eastern boundaries—Allegheny Mountain,



A West Virginia Volunteer

East River Mountain, and Peters Mountain—constituted a natural barrier against invasion from Virginia and were worth, in Brown’s estimation, 50,000 troops. To delegates not thinking in military terms this was a convincing argument.

East of the Allegheny Mountains, in the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley were six counties: Hardy, Pendleton, Hampshire, Morgan, Jefferson, and Berkeley. The economically important Baltimore & Ohio Railroad ran through the last four of these. Despite their secessionist sentiment and the lack of geographical affinity with the rest of the new state, the convention considered these counties essential to protect the vital railroad. So these six, plus Frederick, were conditionally included in the new state, to be finally included if the voters of the respective counties should agree to admission.

(In May of 1863, weeks before they were overrun by Confederates on their way to Gettysburg, Jefferson and Berkeley Counties voted to come into the new state, by a vote of 647 to 6 and 248 to 2, respectively. [Armed Federal troops patrolled the polling places.] The fighting never ceased long enough in Frederick County to hold an election.)

Having settled the important question of naming the state and defining its boundaries, the convention droned on, hammering out details of the constitution. On February 8 Delegate Dudley S. Montague, a 61-year-old hotel keeper from Kanawha County, failed to answer a routine roll call. Delegate Benjamin F. Stewart apparently did something about it and announced to the chair: “Mr. President, the gentleman who was asleep is now awake and desires to vote.” On February 18, 1862, the convention adjourned and, presumably, Delegate Montague was able to get some sleep.

Six weeks later, on April 3, the people of the proposed new state approved the constitution drawn up by the convention. The next move was up to the loyal legislature of the State of Virginia, which accordingly on May 13, 1862 passed a measure consenting to the formation of West Virginia. Thus the legislature complied with the requirements of Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution: “No new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state . . . without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as Congress.”

On May 29 Senator Willey presented the application for statehood to the United States Senate, asserting: “The division of the State of Virginia asked for is a physical, a political, a social, an industrial and commercial necessity. . . .” With great care he pointed out that the number of slaves in the proposed state averaged about 4 percent of the total population of each county. In view of the relative insignificance of the slave population, he argued, the issue of slavery was not important.

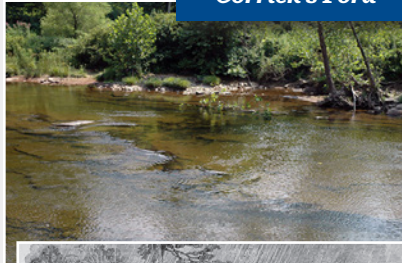
The new state petition was referred to the Committee on Territories which shortly reported out a statehood bill drafted by Virginia Senator John S. Carlile, the hero of the northwest. Carlile’s bill was a shocker. Among other things it added to the new state fifteen counties in or near the Valley of Virginia. Inclusion of these counties would bring into the State of West Virginia thousands of slaves and would weaken the effectiveness of Senator Willey’s argument that the new state would not have very many slaves. There were other objectionable provisions in the proposed bill, most of which had the effect of delaying the new state movement. ,

The people of the Trans-Allegheny were stunned. Carlile, the “Union ball of fire” who had tried to hurry the creation of a new state through both the First and Second Wheeling Conventions, was acting very much like a man who wanted to defeat the creation of the State of West Virginia. The Wheeling Intelligencer called on Carlile to “come forward and defend the Senate committee’s report by which we are to be carried to the Blue Ridge, among a people who do not want to be included with us. . . .” The Senator did not “come forward.” No one has ever satisfactorily explained Carlile’s actions.

The Senate rejected Carlile’s proposal and on July 14, 1862, passed the West Virginia statehood bill, amended to provide for gradual emancipation of slaves. There was but one Democrat voting for the bill. Six Republicans voted against it, among them Carlile. The bill was sent to the House where,



Corrick's Ford



Brigadier general, CSA Robert Selden Garnett, first general officer killed in the Civil War.

on motion of Representative Roscoe Conkling of New York, consideration of the matter was postponed until December.

When the House of Representatives again took up the matter of statehood the issue was set forth clearly by loyal Virginia Representative William G. Brown of Kingwood. Brown answered clearly and affirmatively the twin questions of the constitutionality and the expediency of the admission of the new state. On December 10 the statehood bill passed the House by a vote of 96-55. It was strictly a party-line vote—there were no Democrats voting for statehood.

The Trans-Allegheny went wild. Thirty five-gun salutes were fired at Wheeling (with a captured Rebel cannon) and Clarksburg. Torchlight parades and fireworks displays were held throughout the new state. In the meantime the bill was sent to the President.

Lincoln sought the advice of his Cabinet and found the members divided three to three: Attorney General Edward Bates, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles opposed admission; while Secretary of State William H. Seward, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton believed admission to be both constitutional and expedient. Lincoln reportedly said of the division in his Cabinet that it merely confirmed his earlier opinion that "a President is as well off without a Cabinet as with one."

As the days passed without the President's action on the bill the uneasiness of the new state makers increased. Lincoln was showered with letters and telegrams urging him to sign the bill and asserting that a denial of statehood would destroy the Union cause in western Virginia. Finally, on the evening of December 31, 1862, three members of the Virginia congressional delegation called on the President: Senator Willey, and Representatives Jacob B. Blair and William G. Brown. Before leaving the White House Blair received the promise that he would be informed of the President's action the following day.

Blair went to the White House early New Year's morning. It was quite cold and the front door was locked. Blair found an open window and crawled through. Inside he met a startled President Lincoln, still in his carpet slippers. The President smiled: "Mr. Blair, I have a New Year's gift for you." It was the signed bill creating the State of West Virginia. Blair thanked the President and rushed back to his hotel to wire the news to Wheeling, and again the Trans-Allegheny went into a frenzy of celebration. Public sentiment was expressed by the Wheeling Intelligencer which ran an editorial saying: "God bless Abraham Lincoln."

President Lincoln explained his signing of the statehood bill in an opinion that clearly sets forth the case for West Virginia:

We can scarcely dispense with the aid of West Virginia in this struggle; and much less can we afford to have her against us in Congress and in the field. Her brave and good men regard her admission into the Union as a matter of life and death. They have been true to the Union under very severe trials. We have acted to justify their hopes; and we can not fully retain their confidence and cooperation if we seem to break faith with them . . . the division of a State is dreaded as a precedent. But a measure made expedient by war is no precedent in times of peace. It is said that the admission of West Virginia is secession. Well, if we call it by that name, there is still difference enough between secession against the constitution and secession in favor of the constitution. I believe the admission of West Virginia into the Union is expedient.

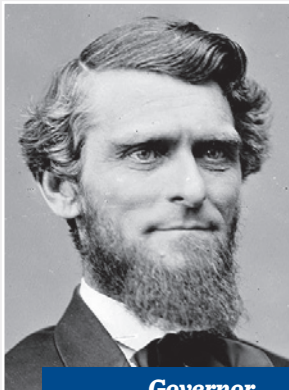
West Virginia's admission was conditioned upon certain changes being made in the State's constitution regarding slavery. So, once more, a people who must have been "poll weary" as well as "war weary" trooped to the polls and approved the amended constitution.

On April 20, 1863, President Lincoln signed a proclamation making West Virginia a state "from and after sixty days." So it was that on June 20, 1863, statehood, as Waitman T. Willey put it, was a "fixed fact."

In 1867 the Commonwealth of Virginia brought suit against the State of West



Independence Hall



Governor
Arthur Ingram Boreman



7th West Virginia Monument and Position Markers on East Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg

Virginia for the return of Jefferson and Berkeley Counties on the grounds that, since the majority of the voters of these two counties were in the Confederate Army and could not vote, these counties were illegally included in the new state.

In 1871 the Supreme Court of the United States held that what Congress did under the circumstances was legal. Thus ended any doubt about the legitimacy of West Virginia.

This, then, is the story of West Virginia, "Child of the Civil War." To the extent that any war can be said to belong to a people, the Civil War was West Virginia's war. There, in the midst of all the peculiar savagery that only a civil war can generate, these mountain people gained their opportunity for separation from Virginia.

With its tragic post-war history of absentee landlord exploitation and political self-abuse, it had become fashionable to characterize West Virginia as a political accident, unfortunately cast adrift from "Mother Virginia." But West Virginia represents something infinitely greater than a mere accident of politics and geography. The State of West Virginia is a monument to a hardy mountain people who stood for the Union when it was not easy to do so.

A footnote Legend from Gettysburg... The 7th West Virginia Infantry Regiment (only West Virginia Regiment at Gettysburg) was in position on Cemetery Hill on July 1. After they heard that West Virginia became a state some crafty men, during the night, slipped over to the next regiment beside them and cut out a star from their national flag and sewed it to their national flag making it a 35 star flag, most likely the only 35 star flag on the battlefield.

"Bordentown, New Jersey?"

*By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT*

Do you know the history of Bordentown City or a resident who lived there? How about any interesting events that happened in Bordentown City? Did you know that Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleons older brother lived in Bordentown from 1816 to 1839?

If not, I am about to tell you what I found out by attending the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey Meeting.

The meeting was hosted by the Bordentown Historical Society and Official State Visitors Center located at the Old City Hall, 11 Crosswicks Street. This is the second City Hall with a Queen Anne clock tower and Seth Thomas clock. The clock is dedicated to William F. Allen designer of standard time. During the meeting we are welcomed by Brian Armstrong, president, and Dr. Steven Lederman and Bonnie Goldman, ESQ, co-presidents. The league meeting is next. Then Dr. Michael Skelly and Bonnie Goldman talk about the history of Bordentown City and the important residents of this area.

Thomas Farnsworth English Quaker, started the city in 1682 with a log cabin on the riverbank, calling the area Farnsworth Landing. This town was a trading point. Joseph Borden (1687-1765) bought a large parcel of land and called the area Borden's Towne. In 1740 Borden's Towne became a travelers stop to then broad the Borden stage for Perth Amboy. There are ferry connections to New York helping Bordentown became a huge trade city. Joseph Borden had a line of stage wagons and boats between New York and Pennsylvania.

Clara Barton was a teacher from Massachusetts and in Clinton, New York. She wanted free, public education for all students. She established the first public school in Bordentown, New Jersey. The first day of school there were six students. After a year she had 600 students. When a position for principal came up in the Bordentown school district Clara wanted the job very much but a man with less experience got the job instead. She left soon after and as the war began Clara found clothing, medical supplies, in three buildings of supplies. Finally got someone to listen to her and was able to go to Antietam to nurse the wounded.



Old City Hall



Clara Barton School

After the Civil War Clara worked in the missing soldier's office in Washington, D.C. The one room schoolhouse was located at 142 Crosswicks Street in Bordentown.

Frances Hopkinson's house was used as a British Headquarters, artist, statesman, and signer of the Declaration of Independence lived at 101 Farnsworth Avenue. American founding father, lawyer, author, and composer. He designed continental paper money and two early versions of the flag for the US and the US Navy. Frances had his law practice in Bordentown. Joseph Dickerson was author of the first National Anthem "Hail Columbia". Lived in Bordentown.

Colonel Kirkbride lived in a mansion in Bordentown called Hilltop which later became a female college. Later built New Bellevue on Farnsworth Street. He was active in the War of Independence working with Colonel Hoagland.

Thomas Paine in 1783 he bought his only house in Bordentown at Farnsworth Avenue and Church Street and lived there until he died in 1809. Thomas supported revolutionary causes in America and Europe. Published 1776 "Common Sense" which was the first pamphlet to advocate American independence.

Susan Waters moved to Bordentown in 1866 and created best-known paintings of domesticated animals in pastoral settings, especially sheep. In 1876 Waters was invited to show some of her paintings at the Centennial Exhibition of Philadelphia. The works she produced in Bordentown brought recognition in her lifetime.

Richard Watson Gilder published the "St. Thomas Register" setting type. He studied law in Pennsylvania. During the Civil War he enlisted in the State's Emerging Volunteer Militia as a private. After defeat at Gettysburg was mustered out. Later was a reporter on the "Newark NJ Advertiser" and founded the "Newark Register" Editor and poet was active in all public affairs toward reform and good government.

Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother, He was King of Spain and Naples. Stephen Sayre bought land at Point Breeze after peace was declared in 1783. He sold the land to Joseph to build a house and lived there from 1816 to 1839.

Patience L. Wright was a Quaker, a vegetarian, and America's first professional woman sculptor. Married Joseph Wright who was a barrel maker. She molded tinted wax as an art form. She sculpted the hands and face of her sitter in wax, created a metal frame, attached the wax appendages, and dressed the wax in clothes. Many of the local population visited her wax works in Philadelphia and New Jersey. A fire claimed many of her figures and moved to London, England. She raised funds for American prisoner of war held in Britain. Uncovered information about British military strategy. She smuggled this sensitive information to the Continental Army by putting information into wax figures and sending them to the colonies.

Abbott Farm National Historical Landmark, in the late 19th century, Charles Conrad Abbott who was a writer, naturalist, and amateur archeologist started collecting artifacts and writing speculating on man in the new world. the marchland is on the ancestral home of the Lenape Indians. The land is located along a natural wooded bluff overlooking Grosswicks Creek and Abbott marchlands. It is a tidal freshwater wetland. This is the area which was once part of Joseph Bonaparte's 2,000-acre Point Breeze estate. Bonaparte, the exiled King of Spain, and Naples was the older brother of Napoleon.

Events In Bordentown's History

Battle of the Kegs was introduced by Colonel Joseph Borden. The kegs were filled with gunpowder and released into the Delaware River. It was hoped that they would contact British warships along the riverfront and explode as river mines. As they went down the river few of them contacted the ships of the British Navy. The British had hauled their ships into positions that protected them from floating river ice as a result avoided the exploding kegs.

"The Battle of the Kegs" is a ballad written by Frances Hopkinson. By creating a song, the Americans hoped to signal that they would not give up.

The John Bull was the first railroad system in Bordertown in 1831. The Stephens family were putting together different elements of the engine and on September 15th gave it a test run. First a cow catcher was added, then a chimney. Later a light was mounted on top. Sometimes sparks from the chimney caught a fire. The tracks were designed as they are today.

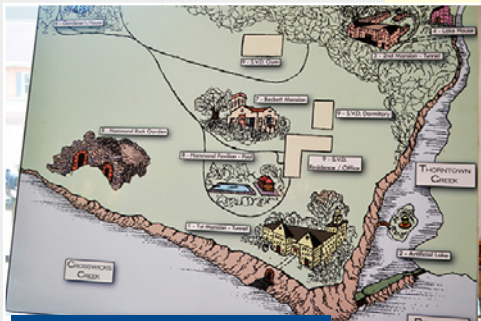
The Underground Railroad (1830-60) all came about in Bordertown.

Point Breeze And Joseph Bonaparte

Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother came to the Bordertown, New Jersey and built a mansion at Point Breeze. This home was built along the banks of the Delaware River. Point Breeze housed the largest library of books in the New World and collection of European art. The king was smuggled on a ship that travel from the Old World to New York and then Philadelphia. He wanted to buy land in New Jersey, but the United States did not allow foreign people to buy property. So, Joseph bought it under another name. He also had a country home in Philadelphia. Joseph built the house at Point Breeze, the largest manor home in America, and lived there until it burned down. He rebuilt his home still connecting it to the river. Supplies could be brought up the river from Philadelphia. He built tunnels, bridges, and a gardener's house to escape if British ever came looking for him and bring in building supplies from the river.

Famous people came to visit to Joseph's home for his counsel. Even John James Audubon came to draw sketches of birds during his visit. Lafayette, John Adams, and many French generals came to visit too. Joseph's wife, Marie-Julie, stayed in France and never came to New Jersey to join his husband. The mansion burnt down, and Joseph built a second mansion. The gardener house and had a Lake House for his daughter and husband. This gardener's house was a two-story building which was the kitchen, held supplies, and was the residence for the gardener and his family. There was a third mansion built by Henry Beckette. Joseph Bonaparte was living in Point Breeze from 1816-1839 and then left the United States to go back to France and his wife.

Friends Meeting House and from Joseph Bonaparte Exhibit had a wonderful display of Joseph Bonaparte artifacts. Such as paintings, furniture, original letters written by Joseph to his brother, one to Joseph Hopkinson and his daughter Charlotte and paintings by Charlotte. There was even a cardboard cutout of King Joseph Bonaparte which showed his height as 5'10". The whole exhibit was artifacts that the Friends Meeting House has collected. A visit to Point Breeze can be found at 101 E. Park Street where there is the entrance to the Gardener's House. The one room schoolhouse that was run by Claria Barton for African American students was open for visitation on this day too.



Bonaparte's Property



Save the Date
Join us in Honoring our Heritage
Saturday, September 23, 2023
160 years since the opening of Camp William Penn
Camp William Penn* and Historic La Mott Day
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Opening ceremony: 10:00 at Camp William Penn Gate
7322 Sycamore Ave., La Mott, 19027

- *Visit encampments hosted by USCT re-enactors
- *Visit Camp William Penn Museum
- *Living History Demonstrations including ammunition making
- *Civil War Medical and Surgical instrument 'show and tell'
- *Book signings, Lectures, Period Music, Films
- *La Mott History display
- *Visit Phila National Cemetery
- *Local history organizations with tabletop displays and information

*Camp William Penn, located in what is now modern day La Mott, was the first and largest Federal training site for colored soldiers during the Civil War.

Note: Volunteers needed for help in all aspects of this event; some starting now and some the day of the event. Ideas and suggestions are also welcome. If you are able to help or participate, please use contact information below.

Closing ceremony: 3:30 at Flagpole (corner Sycamore and Willow)

Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mot
Email: pt@usct.org
Telephone: (215) 885-2258
1618 Willow Avenue
La Mott, PA 19027



John is expecting his Civil War Book Club selection Today

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A Civil War Presentation



Following The Ghost of Corporal George Garman



The Civil War saga of Corporal George Garman and his service in "The Pennsylvania Reserves" are recounted by his great-great-grandson, Joe Wilson. Young George (at left) survived many brutal battles only to suffer captivity in Andersonville Prison.

Known as one of the finest fighting units in the Army of the Potomac, the famed Pennsylvania Reserves shed their blood in numerous violent encounters with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Never did they turn their backs to the foe.

PowerPoint by Joseph F. Wilson - joef21@aol.com

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES
Shock Troops of the Union

Legion Post 405, Monday, Sept. 18, 6 P.M. Free
The Union League, 140 S. Broad St. Phila. Pa.



New Members and Awards

New Members

*Michael O'Donnell
Langhorne, PA
Calvin B. Kinsel
Sewell, NJ*

Awards



*30 year Award
Jim Heenehan*

Members with Old Baldy



*FOB and
Robert Vaughn
Shippensburg, PA*

Help Wanted:

**Volunteer to edit Zoom mp4 recordings. Edit for duration, add Intro and Outro text. 1 hour per month. Must have access to video editing software (Adobe Premiere or similar). Please contact Dave Gilson if interested.
dgilson404@gmail.com**

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2023

**October 12, 2023 - Thursday
Carole Adrienne**

“Healing a Divided Nation: How the American Civil War Revolutionized Western Medicine”

**November 9, 2023 - Thursday
Chuck Veit**

**“Monitor’s Unknown Mission:
The Navy Raid on the Petersburg Bridges”**

**December 14, 2023 - Thursday
“General Business Meeting and Social Night”**

**Questions to
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - dgilson404@gmail.com**

**Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
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William G. Rohrer Center
1889 Marlton Pike East
Cherry Hill, NJ
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
Founded January 1977**

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Secretary: Mike Bassett
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