

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

January 11, 2024

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

“The 2nd Wisconsin at Gettysburg”



by Michael Kirschner

In the last minutes of his life on the morning of July 1, 1863, Major General John Reynolds ordered a single regiment, the Second Wisconsin, into Herbst Woods on McPherson Ridge to attack a Confederate brigade that was taking possession of the woods, a key feature of the developing battlefield. Archer's Brigade shot down 100 of the 300 Wisconsin men before they had a chance to fire a shot. Nonetheless, the remaining 200 continued their advance into the teeth of a superior enemy force, thereby setting the stage for a smashing victory over Archer's Brigade at Willoughby Run. Where had these men come from? What had the men endured during their two years of service before finding themselves alone at a critical time on a crucial spot of the Gettysburg battlefield? The dogged fighting qualities exhibited by the Second Wisconsin at Gettysburg illustrate why it ended the war suffering the highest percentage of battlefield deaths (killed and died of wounds) of any unit that fought for the Union.

This solo charge of the Second Wisconsin into Herbst Woods is little known and even less appreciated, but it likely prevented the battle of Gettysburg from being lost by the Union in the opening minutes of the infantry versus infantry portion of the battle.

Michael Kirschner is a retired patent attorney who has been researching the Second Wisconsin for over a decade after serendipitously learning that his wife's great-great grandfather, Philo Wright, was the first flag bearer of the Second Wisconsin at Gettysburg. His research was prompted by the realization that the regiment has not had a regimental history written in the modern era despite its illustrious fighting record.

Editor's Note: Photograph is that of Philo Wright's original bullet-riddled hat in the collection of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Notes from the President

Happy 2024 to all! Thank you to everyone who made 2023 great for our round table. We reached our goal of 100 members for the year with the push in the last two weeks of the year. Welcome to our new members. In addition to broadening our membership, we earned two more awards, finished the Williamsburg sign campaign, and planned a great trip to the dedication, served as organizational partner for the Society of Women and the Civil War annual conference in Carlyle, updated our rack cards and flyers, and hit a new high in Boscov Friend Helping Friends coupon sales. 2024 will be even better with new adventures and expansions. To be part of the journey, (if you have not already done so) send/give Frank your dues payment. Old Baldy CWRT is on the move, and we want you to be there with us.

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, January 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 at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access.

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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 the social event was a good time for all who attended in-person and on-line. After a brief business session including awarding membership pins and announcements, the fellowship and refreshments were enjoyed by those gathered at the Center in Cherry Hill. Thirteen members won a prize including three online participants. Our next social gathering will be the annual picnic in May. This month **Michael Kirschner** will visit on Zoom to enlighten us with his research on the 2nd Wisconsin at Gettysburg. Join us at the Rohrer Center on the 11th as we begin our 2024 campaign.



Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

Appreciate the members who represented our round table at *Wreaths Across America*, the *General Meade Birthday celebration* and *Boscov's gift wrapping*. As you have heard we received a grant to cover part of our administrative costs from the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Thank you to **Paul Prentiss** and the Board for their work in getting this done. Ask Frank about his new fundraising plan for next year that combines exercise, entertainment and generating funds.

We have a team of members who will be reading books, selecting a winner, and presenting the *Michael A. Cavanaugh Book Award* this year. Another team will coordinate the revision and reprint of our South Jersey Civil War maps. Our new advisory Council will start this month. The Civil War Trails Battle of Williamsburg sign will be dedicated on May 5th. Reserve your seat on the bus down by sending **Frank Barletta** your \$50 deposit by the end of January, before he opens the trip to folks outside the round table. The Williamsburg team has a superb adventure planned for the weekend. For those who know him, **Jim Mundy** retired from the Union League at the end of December. Thank you to Jim for his years of service at the Union League and in the Civil War Community. Special gratitude to Jim for his care and support of our round table over the years.

See the article from **Harry Jenkins** about a trip to **Thom Radice's** house to see his train layout. Because of the interest there may be two trips to Thom's house. Our 50th anniversary is just three years away, planning for the celebration will begin soon. Let us know how you think we should commemorate it and how you will be involved in the planning. We are co-sponsoring the *Meade Lecture Series* with the North Jersey CWRT on the last Thursday of the first three months of the year. Look for the topic and email address to request the link in this newsletter. Visit the New Jersey History Day website to register to be a judge at Rutgers Camden for the Regional Competition on February 24th. Purchase your blue reuseable Old Baldy bags and SJ Civil War maps at the meeting.

Meet us at 5:30 for the pre-meeting meal at Kettle & Grill in Marlton at 5:30 on the 11th.

Rich Jankowski, President



Paul Prentiss

by **Kim Weaver**
Member, OBCWRT

Member Profile - Paul Prentiss

"Since the fifth grade I wanted to join the Navy like my dad and granddad. By the seventh grade, I really liked mechanical things like ships and airplanes and wanted to go into engineering to design and build them." To make his goals a reality Salem, Massachusetts native Paul Prentiss would need opportunity, intelligence, hard work, and to love two things: an adventurous woman, and shiny things that go "bang."

At the end of a four-year Navy ROTC scholarship, Paul graduated from the University of Michigan Physics program, and the Naval War College in Rhode Island. After he was commissioned as an ensign he went west to California, and throughout his service was able to visit many worldwide sites where

extraordinary events unfolded including Manilla Bay, Pearl Harbor, Inchon, and his favorite, Yokosuka, Japan. Commodore Perry's "Black Fleet" arrived very close to the city in 1853. Afterward, to stop the incursion of foreigners, a series of fortifications were started and in use through 1945. "Exploring these historic structures was exhilarating, dangerous, and very rewarding. Sometimes we were able to talk with the locals and get their perspective of WWII and the subsequent occupation."

In March 2022 U.S. Navy Captain Paul Prentiss retired after spending 43 years supporting the active Navy, Naval Reserve, and working/supporting Lockheed Martin. He was a surface warfare officer specializing in combat systems and then as a civilian continued in the same career. He also recently retired as a chief scientist for a national science and technology company. The history of technology is one subject Paul finds very fascinating. "Most of my reading and study concentrate from the Industrial Revolution (1760s) to the present. I strive to understand why and how technology was created to solve problems."

As a nine-year member and trustee of the Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable, Paul has helped us find the best solutions for the toughest challenges. Because of his research and writing skills, the Roundtable was selected to receive the 2022 Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award by the Civil War Roundtable Congress. The award is given to recognize a Civil War Round Table for its creative, effective, and inventive programs that provide value to its members and community. "This is really a proud moment for Old Baldy. Our group has worked hard to improve membership experience, so we really value and respect this honor."

Paul found Old Baldy when member Marty Wilensky, pulling a secret recruiting trick, asked Paul to accompany him to a meeting. "I was very excited and did a lot of online work researching the Sultana Disaster of 1865, getting ready for an in-depth discussion. I really enjoyed the presentation (by Don Wiles) and the friendliness of the group. I joined the very next meeting."

Paul has written several articles for the newsletter, and presented to the Roundtable a very interesting story about a distant cousin and his last assignment on board the USS Monongahela. In "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!" – Admiral David Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay August 5, 1864 we learned of Lt. Roderick Prentiss who participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay as executive officer aboard the steam screw sloop, and who was struck by flying splinters caused by cannon fire from Fort Morgan. He subsequently died of his wounds the next day at the age of 24. Paul has learned that some Prentiss family papers were donated to Montana State University. "I was able to get copies of family letters, fellow officer letters of condolence and Navy documents to learn what happened."

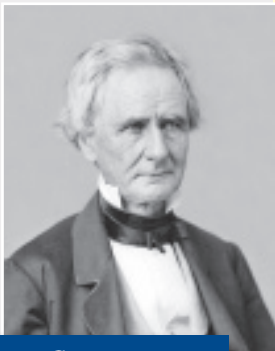
Today, family for Paul includes his wife, Susan, and their son, Sean, who is getting married in November. Paul and Susan have graciously hosted Old Baldy picnics at their home in Marlton, New Jersey. The couple have been married for 39 beautiful years, first by a Navy Chaplain in Alameda, California and then again in Paul's home parish. "Saying the vows twice really tied the knot tight!"

Paul is a Samaritan Hospice volunteer, STEM mentor, Ben Franklin American Legion Post 405 of Philadelphia finance office volunteer, and an active member of the Coastal Defense Study Group. If you happen to have an upright bass or a bass guitar laying around you might ask Paul to play a number – he was once a member of the Boston musician's union and played back-up for Bobby Hebb's second album. (Remember Hebb's '66 hit, "Sunny?")

Commission has awarded Old Baldy CWRT a total of \$4,000.00 in FY24

I am pleased to announce that the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Camden County College has awarded Old Baldy a \$4000 grant for our 2024 programs and activities. The New Jersey Historical Commission's

by Paul Prentiss
Member, OBCWRT



Simon Cameron
Secretary of War

Continued from page 3 - "Commission Award"

County History Partnership Program (CHPP) provides Local Arts Program grant dollars to support the advancement of public knowledge and preservation of New Jersey history. This is the third year in a row that our Round Table has been selected to receive this important grant as it directly supports our mission to promote education, preservation, and memory of the American Civil War Era. The grant award also reflects the dedication and great work our members provide to the community. This year we will utilize the funds to bring the community monthly presentations from nationally recognized speakers, sponsor a 6-week lecture series at Camden County College, conduct the Michael A. Cavanaugh Book Award, and promote various service-related projects, and historical gatherings.

Today in Civil War History

1862 Saturday, January 11

The North

Simon Cameron, under pressure because of irregularities in the running of his department, ranging from plain incompetence to swindling, resigns from the position of secretary of war. The president is likely to offer the post to former attorney-general Edwin Stanton.

Eastern Theater/Naval Operations

A large US Navy fleet of some 100 vessels transports 15,000 Federal troops down the Atlantic coast. These troops, under the command of General Ambrose E. Burnside, are to reinforce Port Royal, where Union forces already pose a severe threat to the Confederates in North Carolina.

Western Theater

McClermand mounts reconnaissances from his position on the Mississippi, particularly toward Columbus.

1863 Sunday, January 11

Western Theater

A Federal riverboat is sunk near Memphis.

Trans-Mississippi

McClermand's expedition attacks Fort Hindman on the Arkansas River. The fort, also known as Arkansas Post, is on the north bank of the river on the first high ground overlooking the river, moving up from the Mississippi. Well fortified, it is defended by 5000 men under General T. J. Churchill, who has been instructed to "hold on till help arrived, or until all are dead." The night before, Federal gunboats had landed troops three miles down-stream, and then moved on to bombard the fort. At midday the expedition is ready to attack and the gunboats again commence their bombardment. By mid-afternoon the Confederate guns have been silenced and several Federal brigades are pressing the enemy lines. When the last enemy gun falls silent, McClermand orders a general assault and the fort quickly surrenders. Union losses in the battle are 129 killed and 831 wounded, while Confederate casualties total 100 killed, 400 wounded, and the remainder of the 5000 strong garrison taken captive.

Naval Operations

The Confederate raider Alabama approaches Galveston, Texas at night with a view to attack the large Union transport fleet assembled there. Instead the Confederates discover a strong blockading force who send out one of their number, ex-ferry boat Hatteras, to examine the suspicious vessel. Semmes turns and lures the unsuspecting Union gunboat away from support before turning on the vessel. In a brief 17-minute action fought at point blank range the Hatteras sinks. Alabama pauses long enough to rescue the crew before speeding off into the night. As Semmes can not cater for the 114 prisoners from the crew of the Hatteras he makes for Jamaica to set them ashore on neutral land.



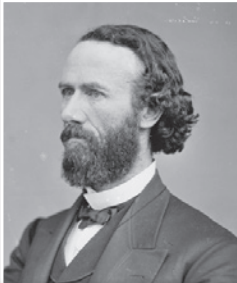
Fort Hindman
(Arkansas Post)

1864 Monday, January 11

The North

Senator John B. Henderson of Missouri proposes a joint resolution in the Senate abolishing slavery throughout the United States.

One reason for the appalling desertion rate in the Union armies is the bounty system. Since the number of men to be drafted in any state, city or county is inversely proportional to the number of men who volunteer, larger and larger cash bounties have been offered to attract volunteers. Towns and cities have escalated the bounties throughout the fall. This has succeeded in keeping down the number of men to be conscripted, but has filled the army with the worst sort of recruit. Men join up to get the bounty, then desert at the earliest opportunity, only to re-enlist in another town and repeat the process. Despite opposition in Congress, the system continues to thrive.



Senator, Missouri, USA
John B. Henderson

1865 Wednesday, January 11

The South

The Constitutional Convention of Missouri adopts an ordinance abolishing slavery.

Eastern Theater

Some 300 Confederate cavalry under Thomas L. Rosser brave heavy snowfalls to attack Federal forces in West Virginia. Achieving complete surprise, they capture twice their strength in prisoners at Beverly.

Europe

A party of Confederate officers and sailors arrives at Gravesend, England, ready to man the ex-Danish ironclad, soon to be named the CSS Stonewall.

Save the Date
Saturday
March 2, 2024

JOIN US

for a special visit to a Civil War Model Railroad

By Harry Jenkins,
Member, OBCWRT



In his book "Victory Rode the Rails", author George Edgar Turner introduces us to the new industrial technology of railroads in the 1860's. Sub-titled "The Strategic Place of the Railroads in the Civil War", he describes the logistical support that railroads provided, their importance to serving military objectives, and noting the decisive advantage gained by the side that controlled the railroads.

If you would like to get a clear 3-dimensional picture of railroad operations in the Civil War, join us as we visit an operating train, camp, and battle diorama in the home of Thom Radice, one of our newest Old Baldy members. Thom's model railroad layout has been featured in Model Railroad Magazines and has received kudos for its quality and authenticity. It's not merely a "toy-train" layout, but an accurate representation of terrain, camp, rail, and military activities, on his HO-Scale layout. Come out to see it with trains in full operating mode!

Mark Saturday, March 2, 2024, on your calendar, with March 9th as a fallback in the event of winter weather impact. (There may also be the possibility of a mid-week trip [Mar 6?] if there are enough folks who can't make it on Saturday.)

We will meet at Camden County College in Cherry Hill at 9:00 AM, and travel by car to Thom's home in Long Branch, NJ. It's about an hour-&-a-half trip via NJ Turnpike, I-195, and the Garden State Parkway. We will likely need several "volunteers" who can drive and offer rides to other members. After our visit, we'll get a bite to eat nearby, and make the return trip, arriving back at the College about 4:00.

I'll be serving as the point person for this event, and will need confirmation if you will attend, and if you can offer to drive. We'll get a show of hands at our

Continued from page 5 - "Civil War Railroad Trip"

next OBCWRT meeting. Further info and details will be forthcoming.

Questions?; Email hj3bama@gmail.com, or cell phone at 609-417-6995.

***Come join us for this interesting, informative, and FUN event.
Harry Jenkins.***



*By Calvin Kinsel,
Member, OBCWRT*



I attended the Illumination event at Gettysburg

(as well as others I am sure). The event was well attended as always and weather was almost perfect. I attached a few photographs that thought others might be of some interest including the illumination itself and the honor guard always placed in the area of the Gettysburg Address



Old Baldy's Wreaths Across America Project

December 16, 2023 Beverly National Cemetery



Williamsburg Update - 3



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Now that the excitement and activities of the holidays are over, we are turning our attention to the trip's final plans. As these plans get finalized, you should be making sure your deposit to reserve a seat on the bus has been sent. We all know that things happen and plans change, so you should know that all deposits are refundable. The important thing is that your seat is reserved.

For those individuals who have sent their deposit, I now suggest that you make your reservation for your hotel room. The hotel is the Best Western Williamsburg Historic District Hotel, 351 York Street, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 and phone number (757) 229-4100. When making your reservation remember to tell them you are part of the Old Baldy group. We have a block of rooms at a very special rate of \$90.00. Those that have made their reservation tell me the procedure is very smooth.

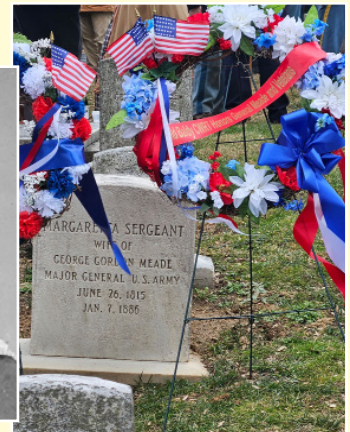
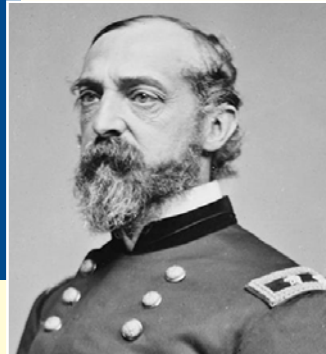


By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT

Over the next month we are working to put together the Saturday dinner menu. There will be several choices. Anyone having any special dietary issues that I need to know, please contact me directly (856-334-5856).



**General
George Meade's
Birthday
Celebration
at
Laurel Hill
Cemetery**



Winter Of General Meade Series II (2024)

**Co-Presented by
NORTH JERSEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OLD BALDY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY**

Lecture 1

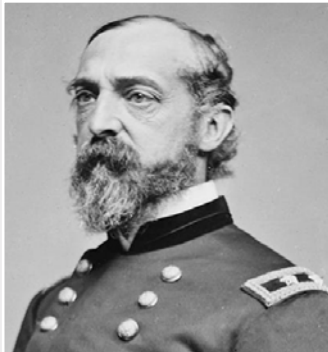
**"It Would Be Injurious to the Army to Have Two Heads":
Meade, Grant, and the Overland Campaign**

Presented by

**Dr. Jennifer Murray
Professor – Oklahoma State University**

**Thursday, January 25, 2024
Time: 6:50 PM EST**

Zoom: Please request link at: NJCivilWarRT@aol.com



Civil War history has consistently framed the final two years of the war as an epic contest between Grant and Lee and has too frequently overshadowed the role of Major General George Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac. Grant's arrival to the Eastern Theater in March 1865 signaled a new command dynamic for Meade and the Army of the Potomac. An examination of the relationship between Grant and Meade reveals nuance to the army's 1864 and 1865 campaigns in Virginia and highlights Meade's role in these operations. Rather than being relegated to a secondary, supporting role in the army's command structure, Meade exercised incredible influence on operations during the Overland Campaign. This program explores the relationship between Grant and Meade during the Overland Campaign, May 4, 1864 to June 15, 1864.

Dr. Jennifer M. Murray is a military historian, with a specialization in the American Civil War, in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. Prof. Murray is a prolific author and sought after speaker, she is currently working on a full-length biography of George Gordon Meade, tentatively titled Meade at War. She returns to the NJCWRT with a reprisal of her successful 2023 series that had over 140 participants for each of her lectures.

This program is presented as a public service by the North Jersey Civil War Round Table, Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and General Meade Society and will be part of a three-part series

Old Baldy's December Meeting Review "HOLIDAY SOCIAL"

By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT

*Tw'as a few weeks before the holidays, when all through the meeting room,
A few humans were stirring as the members filled the room,
Goodies for our annual holiday event were set by the table with care:
In hope that in a short amount of time the meeting would be there,
Frank, with his Williamsburg chances, would find a winner for a trip,
LOW AND BEHOLD, Jim Countryman was the one picked!
Finally, Paul said enjoy the refreshments with more surprises to come.
Gift baskets, pictures, books, gift cards members on Zoom or in the room won:
It could not have been better if St. Nick, sleigh, and reindeers, appeared himself.
What a festive time of party and cheer with all explaining as they depart,
"Holiday Wishes to All" and to All a "Good Night".*

My attempt at poetry could have been better but our holiday social was one of the best. This party was planned by Paul from start to finish with a job well done. We had all kinds of food items brought by our members from beverages to cookies, brownies, candy, cake and a wonderful chip and dip. Our members were meeting and greeting with each other and getting to know one another especially our many new members. Thank you for coming and enjoying the fun. See all of you in 2024 with many new presentations and stories to tell!

A special welcome to all our new members for our 2023 goal was met.

Huzzah! Huzzah! Old Baldy is looking forward to new goals and achievements in 2024!



from the Treasurer's Desk

By Frank Barletta,
Treasurer, OBCWRT

We often hear the phrase "Your tax dollars at work". Well this time it is your membership dollars at work. We just received notification that our Roundtable has been added to the roles of members of the American Battlefield Trust as a "Regimental Color Bearer". I would like to share a brief quote from David Duncan's, President ABT, notification letter.

"Because of your generous support, we have now preserved over 57,000 acres of battlefield land from the Civil War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Renewing your Color Bearer membership with your gift of \$1000.00 guarantees that the successes we have had together will continue. Thank you for allowing the American Battlefield Trust to continue to work on your behalf to save battlefield land across the country. The preservation of this land ensures that the memory of those who fought on these hallowed grounds will not be forgotten, and I cannot thank you enough for making this mission part of your legacy."

For myself, I could not be prouder of our membership. Each year, through your support, you make all we do as a Roundtable possible.

The Confederate Belle

Continued from the December 2023 Newsletter

Men and Women alike acclaimed Hetty Cary as "the invincible beauty of the day"

Hetty's vibrant personality, striking beauty, and renown as Richmond's foremost belle can be attested to by her activities, her acquaintances, and her admirers. Few prominent affairs—dinners, receptions, charades, and

By Jeffry D. Wert,
August 1976,
CWTI



Hetty Cary Pegram

starvation parties—did not have Hetty in attendance. Few, also, were the Cabinet officials, congressmen and senators, and military officers who enjoyed the social life without knowing her. Many such dignitaries visited the three Carys at their converted sitting room. Some, like former Senator James Chesnut, Jr., were “utterly charmed” by her. Chesnut, after escorting Hetty home from a party, told his wife that “if there was no such word as fascinating, you would have to invent it to” describe Hetty Cary.

“Confederate generals, however, were Hetty’s beau ideals, and she could often be seen in their company. Constance once told Mary Boykin Chesnut, “Hetty likes them that way; you know, gilt edged, and with stars!” While visiting the Executive Mansion on business, the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, for instance, stopped Hetty in a hallway, held her hand, and engaged her in conversation. On other occasions, Hetty could be seen dressed in a fashionable habit, riding the streets of Richmond with grayback horsemen by her side; Fitzhugh Lee and Heros Von Borcke, in particular, accompanied her on these equestrian outings. Jeb Stuart, that gallant and splendid cavalryman of plumed hat and flowing cape was “devoted” to Hetty, according to Mrs. Chesnut.

In January 1864 at a party at former Secretary of War George Randolph’s house in honor of John Bell Hood, John Morgan, and Simon Buckner, Stuart’s fondness for Hetty was amusingly illustrated. Mrs. Randolph had asked Constance to arrange an evening’s entertainment for her, so the Cary cousin developed about eight scenes of charades to be performed by various guests. Hetty, portraying a Scotch lassie, made her debut in the next to last scene. When she finished, Hetty began to walk toward the audience, only to be hailed by Stuart, who was behind the scenes holding a step ladder for the next act. The cavalryman, accompanied by Fitzhugh Lee, refused to remain there as a prop man unless Hetty joined him. Constance, meanwhile, had walked onto the improvised stage and sat on the stepladder to perform the next act. Suddenly the stepladder collapsed and Constance unceremoniously fell to the floor, much to the amusement of the startled audience. Constance recovered her composure and went behind the scenes to reprimand Stuart, who in importuning Hetty to remain by his side had neglected to hold onto the ladder.

In the end it was a Confederate general who won Hetty’s love. Probably during the summer of 1863 John Pegram met Hetty while attending a party at his mother’s home. “Suddenly,” Mary Chesnut later described the encounter, “armed at all points, in full panoply—that is, in a beautiful Baltimoreball dress—the unlooked for apparition of Hetty Cary dawned upon them, General Pegram absolutely fell back fainting with joyful emotion.” From this chance encounter, love blossomed between the Maryland beauty and the handsome brigadier. When military duties allowed Pegram to be in Richmond, the two were constantly together, and the courtship resulted in a betrothal.

Hetty’s fiancé was a Virginia-born West Pointer, graduating in 1854, tenth in a class of forty-six. Assigned to the Dragoons, Pegram served in California, Kansas, the Dakotas, Utah, and New Mexico. A brief assignment as assistant instructor of cavalry at the Academy and a leave of absence in Europe interrupted his tours on the frontier. On May 10, 1861 the cavalry lieutenant resigned his commission to serve Virginia. Appointed lieutenant colonel, he fought in the Rich Mountain campaign and was captured. Promotion to colonel and staff appointments—chief engineer to Generals Beauregard and Braxton Bragg and chief of staff to Kirby Smith—followed his exchange. When he met Hetty, he was a brigadier commanding a cavalry division under Bedford Forrest. In the spring of 1864 he was transferred to Early’s infantry division in Lee’s army and led his brigade with distinction at The Wilderness fighting, where he was wounded. In September he succeeded to command of Stephen Ramseur’s division, the latter having replaced the fallen Robert Rodes. His career had been solid, though not particularly outstanding. One of his greatest achievements had to be his winning of Hetty’s love and hand in marriage.

Hetty’s engagement, however, did not prevent her from enjoying the attentions of her admirers. When Pegram was with the army, other gentlemen frequently escorted her to the various soirees. Though this was apparently



**Brigadier General, CSA
John Pegram**



Mary Boykin Chesnut



**Major General, CSA
"JEB" Stuart**



**Saint Paul's
Episcopal Church**



**Reverend
Charles M. Minnegerode**



Jefferson and Varina Davis

quite innocent, people began to gossip and question her love for the frequently absent soldier. Mrs. Chesnut, no admirer of hers—"Hetty is the beauty, so-called, though she is clever enough too," the senator's wife recorded—asked Constance: "Why don't your cousin marry that Pegram man who is so daft about her? They say she is engaged to him."

"Oh! How can you think of such a thing!" Constance replied. "She is having such a good time. She is so much admired."

"She is not in love with him then," retorted Mrs. Chesnut, "just grateful or something, sympathetic and kind, or she could not refuse to marry because she was having a good time!"

"Hetty will be very angry with us if she hears that we doubt her devoted attachment to General Pegram."

Hetty's "devoted attachment to General Pegram" was genuine. When her mother visited Richmond for the Christmas season in 1864, Pegram urged that they be married. Hetty consented and set the evening of January 19 as the date. The marriage brightened the dreary social life of a dying city. The prominent and the curious were invited or simply planned to attend, and historic St. Paul's over-flowed that evening.

The imposing stone Episcopal church, its interior mellowed by hundreds of burning candles, welcomed the rapidly growing crowd that Thursday, January 19. The Reverend Charles M. Minnegerode, the church's renowned minister, waited to perform the ceremony as he watched the guests fill all available seats. The bride and groom, however, failed to appear. Their delay was caused by the horses of President Davis' carriage. The President's wife had insisted that Hetty use their personal carriage; but when the time came to leave, the spirited horses reared violently, refusing to go forward. The couple were obliged to send for an old hack, and in this they finally arrived at the church.

The bride and groom hurriedly entered the church to an expectant audience. As the young couple crossed the threshold, Hetty dropped her lace handkerchief, and stooping down to retrieve it, tore her tulle veil nearly its entire length. (Two days earlier, as she was modeling the veil, her mirror had fallen from the wall and shattered.) Composed, Hetty continued slowly down the aisle. "As she passed there was murmur of delight at her beauty, never more striking," her cousin recalled years later. "Her complexion of pearly white, the vivid roses on her cheeks and lips, the sheen of her radiant hair, and the happy gleam of her beautiful brown eyes seemed to defy all sorrow, change, or fear. John Pegram, handsome and erect, looked as he felt, triumphant." There were no attendants; Captain Wilson Miles Cary gave his sister away. Richmond's preeminent belle reigned no longer.

A small reception followed at the home of Thomas Peyton, husband of one of Hetty's many cousins. Early the next morning the newly-weds departed for Pegram's headquarters, a farm house located nine miles from Petersburg, near Hatcher's Run. The bride immediately began to rearrange the furnishings in a manner befitting a general and married man. Often she accompanied her husband as he inspected the lines where his soldiers thronged to see their general's beautiful wife. The horror of war seemed foreign during these most pleasant of times.

On February 2 Major General John Gordon, the corps commander, ordered a review of Pegram's division. Pegram's staff decided to make the review an occasion to honor the new Mrs. Pegram. Henry Douglas, Pegram's adjutant, invited Lee, Longstreet, A.P. Hill, Richard Anderson, Henry Heth, and several ladies to meet Hetty. All accepted and the affair came off splendidly. As the division passed, Gordon withdrew, leaving Hetty at the post of honor. Lee, who was 58 on the day Hetty married, was to her right, the others to the rear. "Her rich color emblazoned her face," as Douglas pictured Hetty, "a rare light illumined her eyes and her soul was on fire with the triumph of the moment. . . ." When the review ended, Hetty returned to headquarters. While passing among the returning soldiers, her horse struck an "excited 'Tar Heel,'" nearly knocking him to the ground. The general's wife began to apologize, but the soldier interrupted, removed his tattered hat, and said: "Never mind, Miss. You might have rid all over me, indeed you might!"



**Major General, CSA
John Gordon**

Three days later the Federals advanced across Hatcher's Run toward Dinwiddie Court House and shattered this quiet interlude enjoyed by Pegram and Hetty. His division skirmished with the Yankees the entire day. Next morning Pegram ordered two regiments forward to pressure the Federals, a force he believed consisted entirely of cavalry. The graybacks, however, encountered blue infantry and were quickly repulsed. The emboldened Federals then advanced, only to be repulsed by Confederate reinforcements sent by Gordon and Hill who, in turn, were checked by additional Federal forces. Finally, Pegram's division, along with General William Mahone's, charged. Shortly after the attack commenced, a Federal sharpshooter shot Pegram through the body, the minie ball knocking his sword from his hand before entering near the heart. Douglas jumped from his horse and caught his commander in his arms, where Pegram died as he touched the ground—eighteen days after his marriage.

Hetty had not seen her husband that day since breakfast. Periodically throughout the day, staff officers reported to her that the general was safe. With her mother, who was visiting Miles, Hetty carted lint in an ambulance at headquarters the entire time. Toward evening as the sounds of fighting had clearly receded, she inquired about Pegram's condition and the battle. Told that he would be unable to return until late that night, she retired to her room, unaware that she was a widow.

She had not been told because no one on the staff had the courage to do it. When Gordon learned of Pegram's death, he personally told Douglas to inform Mrs. Pegram of the grievous news. Douglas flatly refused, arguing that as a bachelor he didn't know women well enough. Douglas suggested that another officer who was married be sent, but for some unexplained reason this candidate failed to inform Hetty. Late that night Douglas returned to headquarters with Pegram's body and placed it in his own office, directly below the sleeping widow.

The next morning a civilian volunteered to bring Hetty down to see her dead husband. The shock was staggering. The young widow slowly knelt beside her husband's body and carefully retrieved a watch and a miniature of herself, both covered in blood, from his breast pocket. Later that day, accompanied by her mother and brother, Hetty returned to Richmond in a freight car, sitting the entire trip beside the coffin. Her grief was intense—"she was like a flower broken in the stalk," according to Constance.

On February 9, 1865, three weeks to the day after his marriage, John Pegram returned to St. Paul's; its pews were again filled with people. Reverend Minnegerode once more conducted the ceremony. Hetty, "swathed in crepe," knelt beside the coffin throughout the service. The funeral procession to Hollywood Cemetery was not large, for Richmonders had seen far too many of these in four years. Pegram's horse, with reversed boots in stirrups, followed the hearse, while a band played a dirge enroute. Hetty rode in a carriage with her mother and Miles, Constance and her mother, and Custis Lee, a close friend of the fallen hero. Burton Harrison, President Davis' personal secretary and Constance's future husband, drove the carriage for the grieving family. At the graveside Hetty leaned on her brother's arm, his strength sustaining her. Across from her stood her husband's family, who would bury an other son before the war ended. Hollywood Cemetery, snow-covered, its leafless trees blighted of life, silently received another of Virginia's valiant soldiers.

After the war Hetty and her mother returned to Baltimore. Upon arrival she was immediately arrested as a traitor. Her brother, however, personally secured her release from General Ulysses Grant, who ordered the arresting officer to apologize. Subsequently the lovely young widow, along with her mother, taught in and administered the Southern Home School in the city for the next several years. In 1878, while traveling in Europe, Hetty met Henry Newell Martin, a pioneer physiologist and professor at Johns Hopkins University and married him a year later. On September 27, 1892 Hetty died at their home in Baltimore and was privately buried two days later at St. Thomas' church-yard, Garrison Forest.

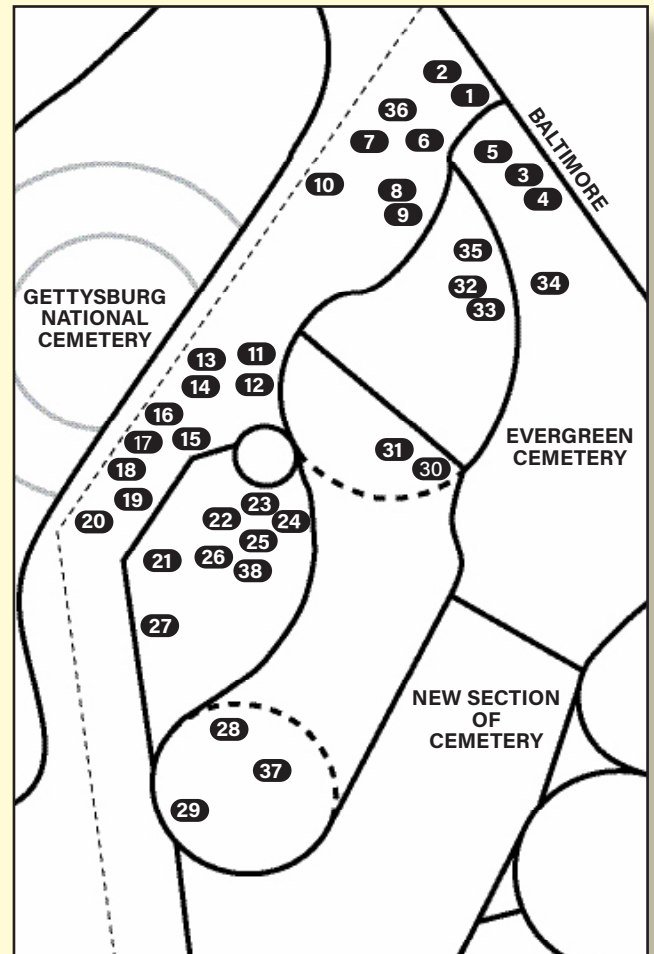
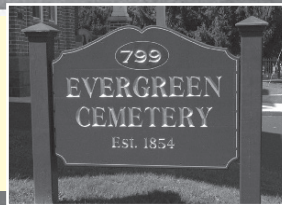
During the Civil War the New Orleans Crescent published a letter describing Hetty: "Look well at her, for you have never seen, and will probably never see again, so beautiful a woman! Observe her magnificent form, her rounded arms, her neck and shoulders perfect as if from the sculptor's chisel, her auburn hair, the poise of her well-shaped head. Saw you ever such color on woman's cheek? And she is not less intelligent than beautiful. . . . It is worth a king's ransom, a lifetime of trouble, to look at one such woman."

Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present

By Don Wiles,
Member, OBCWRT

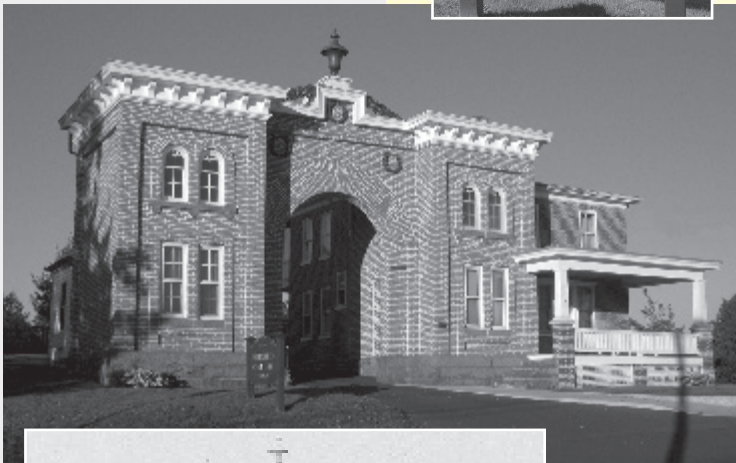


Charge of Ewell's Corps
on the cemetery gate and
capture of Ricketts Battery
Painting by Edwin Forbes



Evergreen Cemetery Gatehouse
Cornerstone laid September 1, 1855. Home for caretaker
and used as aid station.

1



Evergreen Cemetery
Gatehouse
Photo taken after battle in July
1863.
The Gatehouse was used as a
field hospital and aid
station for the 11th Corps
1st Division and 3rd Division.



Giant Boxwood Witness Tree
Legend has it that this boxwood was shown
in a photo taken right after the battle.

2

Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present

Captain
Elijah D. Taft



Second Volunteer Brigade
Artillery Reserve - USA
Captain Elijah D. Taft
1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, Battery B
1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, Battery M
Connecticut Light Artillery, 2nd Battery
New York Light Artillery, 5th Battery
Engaged: 241 Casualties: 8

3

Erected: 1912



New York Light Artillery
(5th Battery)
(10th New York Independent Artillery
Personnel (27) Attached)
"First Excelsior Light Artillery"
Artillery Reserve - USA
Second Volunteer Brigade
Captain Eligh D. Taft
(6 - 20-pdr Parrotts)
Engaged: 146 Casualties: 3

4

Erected: 1889



New York Light Artillery
(5th Battery) (10th New York
Independent Artillery
Personnel (27) Attached)
"First Excelsior Light Artillery"
Artillery Reserve - USA
Second Volunteer Brigade
Captain Eligh D. Taft
(6 - 20-pdr Parrotts)
Engaged: 146 Casualties: 3

7

Erected: 1889

Elizabeth Thorn



Women of Gettysburg

A memorial to the women of Gettysburg who helped with nursing, feeding and burying the dead. The model for the memorial was Elizabeth Thorn, wife of the caretaker of the cemetery and six months pregnant, who buried dead soldiers from both sides after the battle. Her husband was away fighting in another area for the Union Army.

5

Dedicated: November 2002



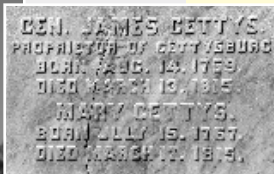
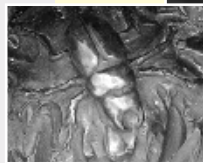
Association of Licensed
Battlefield Guides
Memorial Bench
Maurice Weaver,
Howard Koser,
James Musser.

6

Dedicated: June 2005

"The Details"

Sculptor Ron Tunison adds little details that make his Gettysburg sculptures unique. If you look closely, you will find leaves, flowers, stones, spent minie balls and beetles.



James Gettys Grave
Founder of Gettysburg
in 1786. The family of James Gettys was originally buried in Black's Cemetery on Belmont Road. His son, James Gettys Jr., had returned from Tennessee and had his family's remains moved to Evergreen Cemetery.

9

Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present



Robert Gettys Grave
A son of James Gettys.

8



Colonel Emmor Cope Grave
Surveyed and mapped the battlefield for the Army. He was appointed civil engineer of the GNMP Commission and became the first Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

10

Colonel Emmor Cope

Mary Virginia (Ginnie) Wade



Mary Virginia Wade Grave
"Ginnie Wade"

Citizen killed on July 3, 1863, while baking bread for Union Soldiers in her sister's house on Baltimore Street. Her boyfriend, Jack Skelly, died July 12, 1863, at Winchester, Virginia, from wounds and is buried about 75 yards from her grave. A flag was placed by her grave and by Federal law allowed to fly 24 hours a day. This photo was taken on Memorial day, hence the flag at half-staff.

11

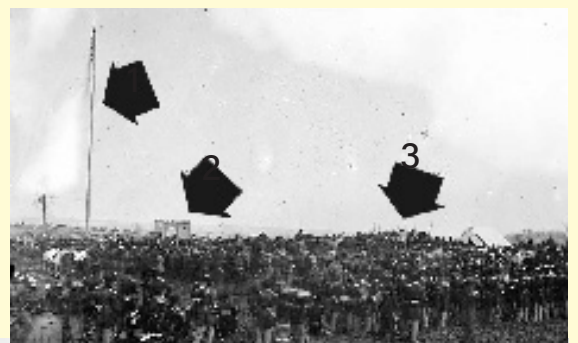
*The correct spelling of Mary Virginia Wade's nickname is "Ginnie" not Jennie. Her friends gave her the nickname Of "Gin or Ginnie" because of her middle name of Virginia. A mistake was made in a publication and has never been corrected.



Approximate Location of Speakers' Stand
The modern photo shows the approximate location selected by historians as the site of the speakers' stand where Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address to dedicate the new National Cemetery.

- 1 - Flagpole (location of the Soldiers Monument)
- 2 - Gatehouse
- 3 - Speakers' stand

14



Reverend. Doctor Samuel Schmucker



Reverend. Doctor Samuel S. Schmucker Grave

Dr. Schmucker helped establish the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. He also established the Gettysburg Gymnasium which became Pennsylvania College and finally Gettysburg College.

12

President Abraham Lincoln



Orator Edward Everett



Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present



Emanuel Trostle Grave
Emanuel was one of nine citizens of Gettysburg who were captured by the battle by Confederates and taken to Salisbury prison in North Carolina. They were released in March 1865.

13



James Culp Grave
James, a cousin of John Wesley Culp, was trying to disarm an artillery shell from the battlefield when it exploded and killed the young boy. He died in September 1863 at the age of seventeen. More accidents would happen years later from live ammunition that was found on the battlefield.

15



Private
John Wesley Culp



Esaias Jesse Culp Grave
Father of John Wesley Culp, who as a Confederate private in the 2nd Virginia Infantry, was killed in the Culp's Hill area and one legend has him buried secretly in this cemetery. Gravestone damaged during the battle.

16



The Ninth Stone
on the Trail of Stones at Lincoln City, NPS was taken from the area where Lincoln gave his Address.



Mary Thompson Grave
Lived in house which became Lee's Headquarters on July 1, 1863.

17



"Sallie" Myers

Elizabeth Salome "Sallie" Myers Grave
Sallie Myers, a schoolteacher, served as a nurse at the Saint Francis Xavier Church and Camp Letterman.

18

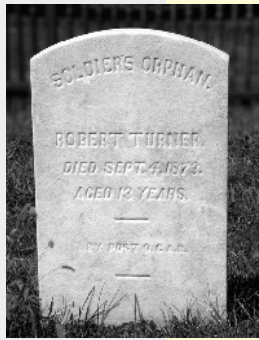


"Dulce et decorum est pro Patria mori"
"It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country"

Carrie Sheads and Brothers David, Robert, Elias and James Sheads
Carrie was principal of the Oak Ridge Seminary for girls. Her building (house) became a hospital and she and the students became nurses. Her four brothers enlisted in the Union Army and two were killed and two died soon after the war due to their war wounds. A Latin quote was placed on each of the brother's headstones:

19

Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present



Soldier's Orphan Grave
Robert Turner, an orphan who possibly lived at the National Soldier's Orphan's Homestead, died September 4, 1872, at the age of thirteen.

20

Samuel Weaver Grave
Gettysburg's first photographer and also supervisor of the re-internment of the Union Soldiers' bodies to the National Cemetery.

21



Sergeant Frederick Huber Grave
Company F, 87th Pennsylvania Infantry Gravestone damaged during battle.

22



Attorney David McConaughy

David McConaughy Grave
He organized the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association which later became the Gettysburg National Military Park, and also helped establish Evergreen Cemetery.

24



Corporal Johnston Hastings Skelly "Jack"

Corporal Johnston "Jack" Skelly
Company F, 87th Pennsylvania Infantry Wounded and captured June 16, 1863 at Carter Woods and died on July 12, 1863, at Winchester, Virginia. Boyfriend of "Ginnie" Wade.

26



Professor Michael Jacobs Grave
Jacobs was Professor of Mathematics and Science at Pennsylvania College and had recorded the weather details during the battle of Gettysburg.

23

Family Grave Location



Sarah J. and Sallie J. Maurey Grave
Tombstone damaged during battle.

25



Elizabeth and Peter Thorn Grave
The Caretaker and his wife of Evergreen Cemetery during the battle. (See Monument to the Women of Gettysburg)

27

Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present



David Wills



David Wills Grave

David Wills was involved in the establishment of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. He invited Abraham Lincoln to be a guest speaker at the dedication of the Cemetery, and also housed Lincoln at his home, where Lincoln put the final touches on his "Gettysburg Address".

29



Private

Leander W. Welsh Grave
Company E, 2nd
Pennsylvania Infantry
Died June 20, 1861; first
Union soldier buried in
Evergreen Cemetery.

30



Union Soldiers' Graves

Approximately 90+ Union soldiers were buried in this area who were killed as a result of the battle. Approximately 50 were reburied in the National Cemetery and 60+ remain in this area.

33

Doctor of Divinity
Henry Louis Baugher



Henry Louis Baugher Grave
President of Pennsylvania College and also gave the
Benediction at the Dedication of the National Cemetery on
November 19, 1863.

28



45th Illinois Infantry Marker
The marker to the 45th Illinois
Regiment is located in the
Shiloh, Tennessee Battlefield.
This is the area were
Lieutenant Nesbitt Baugher
was killed.



Lieutenant Nesbitt Baugher Grave
Company B, 45th Illinois Infantry
Died May 16, 1862. First soldier from
the town of Gettysburg to be killed in
the Civil War. His father, Henry Louis
Baugher, delivered the Benediction
at the dedication of the Gettysburg
National Cemetery November 19, 1863
not far from this grave.

28



John Burns

John Burns Grave

Gettysburg's only citizen who went onto the battlefield
July 1, 1863. He fought with the 150th Pennsylvania
Infantry Regiment. He was wounded three times and
carried from the field to his home, but survived. He was a
veteran of the War of 1812.

31



John Burns and Wife Barbara's
Original Grave Stones
The originals were replaced by
the single stone in 1904.



Evergreen Cemetery 1863/Present



Private
Hooper Patrick Caffey Grave
Company H, 3rd Alabama
Infantry, CSA

Sergeant
Mathew Goodson Grave
Company F (A), 52nd North
Carolina Infantry, CSA

Only two Confederate soldiers killed in the battle were buried in Evergreen Cemetery. After a few years townsfolk objected to the Confederates being buried near the Union soldiers (Their Stones are still located near the Union Soldier's area). Their bodies were reinterred to another location in the cemetery which is now unknown.



Private
Emanuel Wisotzkey Grave
Company F, 87th
Pennsylvania Infantry
Died of illness February 1862
in Lutherville, Maryland. He
is the Great Grand Uncle of
Dave Gilson an Old Baldy
Member

38

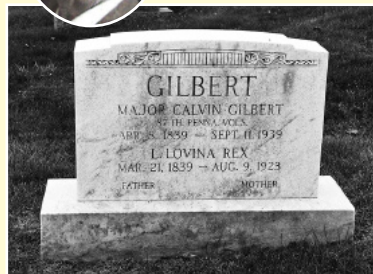


Lydia and James Leister Grave
The Widow Leister lived on the farm that
became the Headquarters for General
Meade on the night of July 1 and through
most of July 3rd. It also was used as a field
hospital.

35



Major
Calvin Gilbert



Major Calvin Gilbert
Calvin Gilbert, a veteran of the
civil war owned a foundry in
Gettysburg and he produced cast
iron gun carriages, replica gun
tubes and position marker
tablets for the Gettysburg National
Military Park and for several other
Historical military parks and forts.

37



Women and Children
Memorial
A memorial marker and tree
have been placed to honor the
women and children
of the town of Gettysburg in
July of 1863

36



When entering either Cemetery
please -
Silence and Respect.

Evergreen Cemetery is a private cemetery
and its rules should be followed.
The Evergreen Cemetery has a self walking
tour concerning the sites shown.
You may check with the Cemetery Office for
information and special tours.

Pennsylvania Soldiers Buried in Evergreen Cemetery from Gettysburg Battle

- Thomas C. Diver - Private, 69th Pennsylvania Infantry, Company I
Killed July 3, 1863 - Buried Evergreen Cemetery
- Leroy S. Greenlee - Corporal, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry, Company A
Killed July 2, 1863 - Buried Evergreen Cemetery
- Jacob Strous - Private, 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Company C
Killed July 1, 1863 - Buried Evergreen Cemetery
- George Stuart - Corporal, 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Company G
Killed July 3, 1863 - Buried Evergreen Cemetery
- James M. Young - Corporal, 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Company I
Wounded July 3, 1863, Died July 14, 1863 - Buried Evergreen Cemetery

Source: Bates, Samuel P. (Samuel Penniman), 1827-1902.: *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5*; prepared in compliance with acts of the legislature, by Samuel P. Bates.

from the Treasurer's Desk

The 2024 Membership Dues are now being collected. Dues remain the same, \$25.00 Individual Membership and \$35.00 Family Membership.

Remember they can now be paid online. Just visit our Web Page, click on, "**Membership**" on the top bar, which will take you to the next page. Choose a method of payment, visa, etc., and click on "**Buy Now**". This will take you to the submission page, complete form and click on, "**Pay Now**". Done

As always, if you prefer to pay by check, they can be given to me at any meeting or sent to my home at:

44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ, 08053.

Should you have any questions,
please contact me at

856-334-5856 or frank.barletta@comcast.net.

Save the Date!



The 24th Conference on Women and the Civil War will be held July 26 - 28, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia

(More Details to follow)

The Society for Women and the Civil War is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War and those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past. The society sponsors an annual conference and a quarterly e-journal.

Please contact us for information
Society for Women and the Civil War
PO Box 3117

Gettysburg PA 17325

For speediest response, send email to SWCW1865@gmail.com

Please include your email address
www.swcw.org

Williamsburg Trail Sign Dedication Trip



**Save the Date...
May 4 - 5, 2024**

Williamsburg Dedication Trip Schedule

Saturday, May 4, 2024

6:00 Bus Departs From Cherry Hill /
Box Lunch to be served on Bus
12:00 Arrive Williamsburg
12:30 - 5:00
Tours of Williamsburg Battlefield,
Fort Magruder & Redoubt Park
5:30 Check in
Best Western Williamsburg Hotel
6:30 - 9:00 Dinner with speaker

Sunday, May 5, 2024

6:30 - 8:30 Breakfast at Hotel Included
8:30 Check-out of Hotel
9:00 - 10:00 Dedication of Civil War Trail
Sign at Location
10:00 - 1:00 Tour of Lee Hall Mason
1:00 Board Bus for return trip
Box Lunch to be served on bus.
7:00 Arrive Cherry Hill

Jersey Boys



Major General
Philip Kearny Jr.

The cost for this exciting week end will be \$175.00 per person, exclusive of hotel rooms.

To secure your seat on the bus, please submit a deposit of \$50.00. Checks should be made out to Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and forward to

Frank Barletta,
44 Morning Glory Drive,
Marlton, NJ 08053

Send Questions to
frank.barletta@comcast.net



New Members

Emily Bueermann
Redlands, CA

Dorothy Wright
and **Stephen Goldberg**
Green Brook, NJ

Kim Weaver
Abbottstown, PA

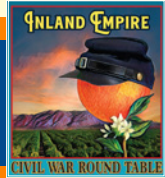
Dylan Scurria
Hammonton, NJ

Members/Awards with Old Baldy

Robert Hahn - 5 Year



Mary Leith



Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events

January 15, Zoom:
**"Removing the Confederate Dead
from Gettysburg."**
Presenter: Janet McCabe



Join Zoom Meeting - <https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F86202370514%3Fpwd%3DV292QzQ2WkFaWWpyaU9Pb1B2bmQx-Zz09&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AOvVaw1UFbM3Lv0ewNRvto7UUDI>

Information available on website: <https://www.inlandempirecwrt.org/>

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2024

February 8, 2024 - Thursday
Drew Gruber
"Decimus Et Ultimus Barziza"

March 14, 2024 - Thursday
John Reeves
**"Soldier of Destiny: Slavery, Secession, and the
Redemption of Ulysses S. Grant"**

April 11, 2024 - Thursday
James Jewell
**"Agents of Empire: The 1st Orgeon Cavalry and the
Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest during the
Civil War."**

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
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