

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

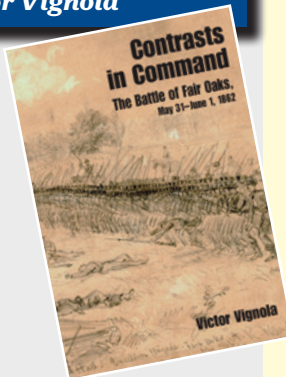
May 9, 2024

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

“Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks”



Victor Vignola



Surprisingly little has been written about the important Battle of Fair Oaks (and the simultaneous Seven Pines). The bloody two-day affair (May 31-June 1, 1862), fought on the doorstep of the Confederate capital, was the first major battle in the Eastern Theater since Bull Run/Manassas the previous summer. It left more than 11,000 casualties in its wake and the primary Southern army without its commander. The possession of Richmond hung in the balance. Victor Vignola's *Contrasts in Command*, which is centered around the Fair Oaks fighting rectifies this gap in the literature.

Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan marched his Army of the Potomac up the Virginia Peninsula during the spring weeks of 1862 before committing a near-fatal error by placing his inexperienced IV Corps at the tip of the spear south of the flood-prone Chickahominy River. Opposing McClellan at the head of the Virginia army was Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, who had fallen back without offering much in the way of opposition. When the opportunity to strike beckoned, Johnston crafted an overly complex attack plan to crush the exposed IV Corps. A series of bungled Confederate marches, piecemeal assaults, and a lack of assertive leadership doomed the Southern plan. One of the wounded late in the day on May 31 was Gen. Johnston, whose injury led to the appointment of Gen. Robert E. Lee to take his place—a decision that changed the course of the entire Civil War.

Victor Vignola is a lifelong student of the Civil War and has written articles for publication in *North and South Magazine* and other forums. Victor delivers historical programs, conducts tours, and regularly visits various Civil War sites. Vic's career included executive-level labor and interagency relations for the Office of Mental Health in New York State. He lives with his family in Orange County, New York, home of the 124th New York "Orange Blossoms" Regiment.

Notes from the President

Welcome to May. The first third of the year has been successful for our round table. Congratulations to the Membership Team and their recruiters/renewal staff. We have hit 100 members in four months, leaving eight months to hit the 2024 goal of 125 members. Keep inviting and telling people about our great organization. The Williamsburg event was an excellent achievement for OB. Thank you to all who planned, executed, and attended the event. Look for extensive coverage of the event in next month's newsletter. Our group will

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, May 9, "This will be a Zoom Only" Program due to a Graduation Conflict... also there will not be a dinner before hand.

"Members, and Friends of the Roundtable who receive our email communications, will automatically receive the Zoom link and do not need to request it"

Please email oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access.

- President's Notes Page 1
- Member Profile Page 3
- Dr Jankowski Page 4
- Today in Civil War History Page 4
- Finding Bucktails Page 5
- April Meeting Review Page 8
- Hospital Life Page 10
- New Jersey Civil War Map Page 10 NJ
- NJ Baseball Page 11
- Those White Roses Page 11
- Roundtable Contacts Page 15
- SWCW Page 15
- Island CWRT Page 15
- New Members Page 16
- Flat Old Baldy Member Photos Page 16
- OBCWRT Upcoming Events Page 16
- Meeting/Speaker Schedule Page 16

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)

Continued from page 1 - "President's Notes"

continue to flourish in the coming months with the awarding of the *Michael A. Cavanaugh Young Book Award*, the Fall lecture series on the Common Soldier, and the outstanding programs scheduled to educate all attendees.

Our Advisory Committee is designing a survey to collect feedback from the membership on various topics. When it is sent to you, please respond promptly. Your response is important to the operation of the organization and setting a direction for the coming years. **Dave Gilson** has been working with our new intern to edit and post the recordings of past presentations. Watch for them to appear on our YouTube channel and website. The website transition is in process, thank you to all working on it. The goal is to have it reset by the end of the summer. The newsletter will also undergo a revision this year to allow more members to produce it.



Dr. Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

Thank you to all who sent wishes on my recent earning of a **Doctor of Organizational Leadership at Stockton University**. Flat Old Baldy represented the round table at the Hooding Ceremony (see photo). These will be my last newsletter comments for a while as I will disconnect on May 19 for a sabbatical. After 185 newsletters a break is needed for health and sanity issues. I need to have another procedure on my eye this month and reduce stress levels this year. This disconnect will allow others to steer the helm for a while. **Vice President Kathy Clark** and **Mike Bassett** will oversee day-to-day operations. Please reach out to them or the Membership Team with your concerns. Their contact information for each is available on our membership roster or in the box in this newsletter.

Last month **Dr. James Jewell** joined us from Idaho to enlighten us on "*Agents of Empire: The 1st Oregon Cavalry and the Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest during the Civil War.*" It was a fresh topic that few in attendance were previously aware of and are now better informed on the activities in that region during the War. The week after the meeting **John Zinn** ventured down to the Rohrer Center to present early *New Jersey Baseball* history. The fourth installment of the joint Winter of Meade series with the **North Jersey CWRT** was last month. Thank you to all members who promoted and attended the lectures. Special thank you to **Rich Rosenthal** for his continued efforts and support of Civil War history and our round table.

This month **Victor Vignola** will visit from Orange County, NY to inform us on "*Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks*". Due to the unavailability of the Rohrer Center, this will be a **ZOOM ONLY** program on the 9th. The Battle of Fair Oaks [Seven Pines] occurred a few weeks after the Battle of Williamsburg on the Peninsula. The wounding of General Joseph E. Johnston on the first day led to the appointment of Robert E. Lee to oversee the Army of Northern Virginia. Tune in to hear of the challenges faced by the leaders of both sides during the two-day conflict. Next month local scholar **James M. Scythes** will return to tell us about letters to Lizzie Brick.

Our 50th anniversary celebration is less than three years away. A committee will be appointed soon to begin the planning of activities. Forward your suggestions and watch for announcements in the coming months. The next few years will be a great time to spread the Old Baldy message, promote and continue to grow our round table, and educate citizens on the importance of the Civil War Era as well as celebrate this milestone.

Please send updates for the South Jersey Civil War site map to Anita Schwartz this month. We need to print the next batch for the South Jersey History Fair next month. The round table is seeking two representatives to attend the CWRT Congress Workshop on July 27th in Winchester, VA. The round table will cover registration and partial travel costs. If interested, contact **Kathy Clark**. Sign up for a session to staff our display at the South Jersey History Fair on June 8th in Glendora. Review the box on the last page for other events later this year to promote our round table and spread our message. Check out the upcoming events at our Sister Round Table the

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2 - "President's Notes"

IE CWRT listed on the top of page 15 and tune into them to continue learning.

The strength of our round table is the members who support and promote our mission and activities. Next time you are at a meeting, pick some Old Baldy rack cards and flyers to leave around in your travels. The wreath laying at the grave of General Winfield Scott Hancock in Norristown will be at 11 AM on May 25th. Thank you to **Bill and Debbie Holdsworth** for making this event an Old Baldy tradition. Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend and an entertaining summer, be sure to do a short write-up on your adventures for the newsletter.

Enjoy a fine meal before tuning into our Zoom broadcast.

Dr. Rich Jankowski, President

Member Profile - Susan Prentiss

by Kim Weaver
Member, OBCWRT



Susan Prentiss

Susan Prentiss was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, though she and her family spent time early on in Reno after moving from Watsonville, California. After completing several semesters at the University of Nevada, she moved to Los Angeles for a few years and then moved back to Las Vegas. "Life was getting rather routine and boring, so I decided to join the Navy and see the world." Susan attended Navy aviation medical schools, where she trained and served six years as an aviation medical corpsman and was stationed in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay area. One day something heart-stirring happened—Susan met the future U.S. Navy Captain Paul Prentiss. She became the luckiest girl alive when in 1983 she and Paul were married by a Navy Chaplain in Alameda, an island community in the Bay region. The couple were married a second time in Paul's home parish in Salem, Massachusetts. Susan, out of the Navy, and Paul, still in, lived in San Diego and Port Hueneme, and later moved permanently to Marlton, New Jersey. After arriving on the East Coast, Susan wanted to continue using her medical skills. She was able to do that in the auto insurance industry handling catastrophic medical injury claims. "These people required extensive care and I handled their case files. I worked in that industry for over 31 years before retiring about six years ago."

Now, the wonderful thing about retirement is that you can design the life you want and include what you desire and exclude what you do not. What Susan has a zeal for is ballet; she studied and danced ballet as a child and then again as a young adult. But once settled in New Jersey, Susan wanted to indulge her passion for horses, or more specifically equestrian sports. She first trained and competed in the hunter/jumper category and later took up the unique discipline dressage, which is kind of like ballet on horseback. While Susan enjoys her time in the ring, she has moved horseback riding out of the "My Favorites" queue and replaced it with traveling.

No longer restricted by the so-called 9 to 5, Susan has been able to share her time and experience at Samaritan Services in Mt. Laurel, where for five years she has been an active hospice volunteer. Susan visits patients in their homes and care facilities, stands vigils for patients passing to the next world, and makes family bereavement calls on a weekly basis. The organization honored her in January 2023 with a service award at its annual wellness dinner.

An important part of Susan's life is of course Paul. Fabulous is how she describes their 40-year marriage and he seconds the sentiment. They have one son Sean, who was married in November 2022. Susan joined the Old Baldy CWRT in 2015 by default when Paul, wanting to join as an individual, accidentally paid for a family membership—and that was concerning to her. Susan has no interest in Civil War battles or generals, two topics she assumed were front and center at every Old Baldy meeting. "Paul said many meetings were not about battles and generals, but about interesting people and events

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3 - "Member Profile"

during that era. I enjoy learning about how women of the time lived and what they did, and I'm fascinated with Civil War era medicine and the animals. Old Baldy really peaked in interest, loving horses as I do. Paul told me about General Meade's horse so we took a visit to the GAR Museum and Library to see him." Now eight years in, Susan and Paul have become valuable members of the Round Table. The couple organized our 2021 picnic that was held at the Old Baldy statue in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and graciously hosted the 2022 picnic at their house in Marlton.

Congratulations to Susan on becoming the FIRST FEMALE COMMANDER of the Benjamin Franklin American Legion Post 405.



Today in Civil War History

1861 Thursday, May 9

Naval Operations The Federal gunboat Yankee, on blockade duty off Virginia, exchanges shots with Confederate guns on Gloucester Point. The Naval Academy is moved north from Annapolis, due to the uncertain nature of Maryland's allegiance.

1862 Friday, May 9

Eastern Theater

President Lincoln confers with McClellan. The advance of the Army of the Potomac forces the Confederates to abandon the important navy yards at Norfolk, leaving much of their stores and equipment intact to fall into Federal hands.

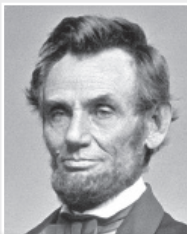
Western Theater

A company of the 37th Indiana Regiment is worsted at Elkton Station, near Athens, Alabama. Five troopers are killed and 43 are captured, against a Confederate loss of 13 dead.

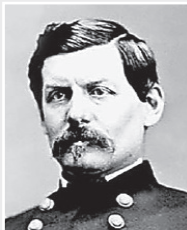
1863 Saturday, May 9

Eastern Theater

Lee reorganizes the Army of Northern Virginia into three corps instead of two.



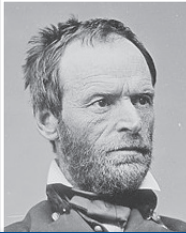
**President, USA
Abraham Lincoln**



**Major General, USA
George McClellan**



Major General, USA
John Sedgwick



Major General, USA
William Sherman



President, CSA
Jefferson Davis

Western Theater

Grant continues to threaten Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi. An anguished President Davis promises Pemberton every support.

1864 Saturday, May 9

Eastern Theater

The Army of the Potomac concentrates against Lee's defenses between the Ny and Po rivers. There are no major assaults today but sporadic firing continues along the line of Confederate entrenchments. The Union suffers a serious loss when the popular Major-General John Sedgwick, the Commander of VI Corps, goes forward to supervise the deployment of his infantry. Chiding his troops for going to ground under sniper fire, he says, "I'm ashamed of you dodging that way. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance." Seconds later he is shot in the face and killed instantly.

Western Theater

Sherman's troops probe Johnston's defenses at Buzzard Roost near Dalton, McPherson moves through Snake Creek Gap but does not attack the strong Confederate position he finds at Resaca. In fact, the Confederate defenses here are held by only a single 4000-strong brigade, but they make a bold front.

Trans-Mississippi

The dam across the Alexandria rapids is finished. Lexington leads the way through and the Federal warships are saved.

1865 Tuesday, May 9

Western Theater

President Davis parts company from the five weak infantry brigades which have been accompanying him. The men are told they can go home but they initially separate in formed bodies, marching on divergent roads to confuse the Federal cavalry as to the whereabouts of the Confederate leaders. Davis now travels with a handful of picked cavalry with the declared intention of slipping across the south to the Trans-Mississippi theater. But he does not quicken his pace, resigned perhaps to capture now that the sands have run out for the Confederate States of America.



by Joseph F. Wilson
Member, OBCWRT

Finding Bucktails in Wellsboro Cemetery

With the winter chill finally giving way to spring it was time to venture to the lumber country of Tioga County in upstate Pennsylvania for a visit to Wellsboro and the "Grand Canyon of Pa."

Our home base for the week was the quaint and charming town of Wellsboro. Gas lighted lamps line Main Street that also features the Arcadia Theater built in 1922. Not far from our hotel is the old 1930's Wellsboro Diner. Despite the free breakfast at the Penn Wells Hotel, having breakfast among the locals at the old diner was quite a delightful experience.

Across the street from the original 19th century courthouse is the town square which holds numerous monuments to town residents who made their mark on Wellsboro history. Standing tall among them is the Civil War Monument to all the Tioga County soldiers who gave their life in the war "that a nation might live."

After visiting the Canyon, Lumber Museum, Tioga Historical Society, and stargazing at Cherry Springs State Park, my thoughts turned to my ever



Wellsboro Civil War Monument

present interest in Civil War history. Speaking to folks at the Tioga Historical Society painted a pretty good picture of the proud history of the area's local soldiers.

Finding those patriotic volunteers who joined the Union army to put down the rebellion always requires looking up the old boneyard to find the graves of the citizen soldiers from Wellsboro. I was well aware that Tioga County, as well as the other counties bordering New York, was that part of Pa. that gave the Union Army the famous "Bucktails." The Bucktails formed the 13th regiment of the famed Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. Upon entering federal service they were designated the 42nd Pa. Volunteers. Led by Thomas Kane, the regiment also went by "Kane's Rifles."



Men from the high country sported the tail of a buck in their kepi signaling their expert marksmanship with a rifle. At an early age they learned to put food on the table by dropping a deer from long distance. These rugged outdoorsmen rafted down the Susquehanna River to Harrisburg to fight for the Union. They earned a reputation as one of the finest regiments in the Civil War.

Confederates admitted later they dreaded spotting the bushy tail in the cap of advancing Union troops.



Wellsboro Cemetery

I went to the cemetery hoping to find some of the riflemen most feared by the Confederates. The cemetery didn't disappoint. Without a map or any kind of guide, Judy and I scanned the cemetery grounds focusing on the graves with Gar holders sporting a flag flapping in the breeze. The first grave we found was one of the more celebrated officers of the Bucktail Regiment.

Colonel Alanson Niles enlisted early in the war after raising a company of men known as "The Tioga Rifles." Niles served as Captain of Company E and rose to Lt. Colonel of the regiment just before Gettysburg. In the Union's first victory at the Battle of Dranesville in 1861, Captain Niles suffered a gunshot wound through the lungs, but recovered. While covering the retreat from the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek in 1862, Company E was surrounded and cut off from the main body. Niles landed in the infamous Libby Prison. They buried their flag before facing the inevitable, but a lucky Confederate found the trophy. In another stroke of luck, the flag was recaptured by Union troops in the Confederate capitol after Richmond fell.



Colonel Alanson Niles

After surviving numerous battles in 1862 unscathed, including South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, Niles suffered a severe wound in the leg charging down Little Round Top at Gettysburg. Because of the wound, Alanson Niles was promoted to Colonel and took command of the Veteran Reserve Corps, formerly known as the Invalid Corps.



Lieutenant Lucius Truman

Being present at Ford's Theater for a performance of "Our American Cousin" on April 14, 1865, he heard the loud gunshot ring out that killed Lincoln. Rushing into the hallway he saw the President being carried out of the theater. Niles served in the regular army after the war being commissioned a Captain before retiring in 1869.

Not far from Niles rest the remains of Lt. Lucius Truman, also from company E, of the Bucktail Regiment. Lt. Truman spent time with Niles in Libby Prison after capture. In 1863, Truman served as Quartermaster of the regiment. When his enlistment ran out the patriotic soldier reenlisted in the 190th Pa. Regiment. All men of the PA. Reserve Corps who wanted to reenlist formed the small brigade of the 190th and the 191st regiment.

After the war Lucius Truman went into the logging business in Wellsboro and sent logs floating down the Pine Creek, which forms the gorge of the Grand Canyon of Pa.

Still searching for Bucktails, we located the graves of two Sergeants from Company E of the Bucktail regiment resting on a nearby hill. Sergeant Jonathan Morgan went along with the rest of the captured company to a prison in Richmond. Morgan also was wounded charging down into the Valley of Death at Gettysburg. Sergeant Chester Kimball suffered a gunshot wound at Fredericksburg in the valiant charge up Prospect Hill that dissolved after General George Meade's small division of Pa. Reserves received no support. Kimball reenlisted in 1864 in the 190th Regiment like many of the regiment because they "just wanted to see the damn thing thru."



Sergeant Jonathan Morgan

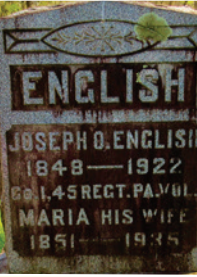


Sergeant Chester Kimball

One of Wellsboro's favorite sons was Captain Alfred Sofield of the 149th Pa. Volunteers who organized a company of men in August of 1862. This regiment was the second regiment of Bucktails to join the Union army. Sofield was the Justice of the Peace in Tioga County before turning from being a part time peace officer to a full time war officer. He raised a company of men in two days and marched for Harrisburg. In his first real action at Gettysburg, Captain Sofield took refuge in a ravine to escape the artillery bombardment on McPherson's Ridge. A shell landed in the ravine cutting the unfortunate Captains body in half. His remains are resting in the Soldiers Cemetery at Gettysburg in the Pennsylvania section.



Captain Alfred J. Sofield Buried at Gettysburg



149th PA Monument at Gettysburg



42nd PA Monument at Gettysburg

Many other Pa. regiments are represented in the Wellsboro Cemetery. Among them are a number of men from the 45th Pa. and the 187th Pa. regiment. I'm sure many more Bucktails rest in peace somewhere in the cemetery. To find more Bucktails or other regiments would have taken an army of searchers beside Judy and myself. All of the graves I found are men who survived the war. Most who died in battle remain buried in cemeteries near the battlefields. Only the wealthy families could pay to have their loved ones brought home for burial.

So with the warm weather coming fast it's time to get out to the battlefields to explore. But most of all, don't forget to visit the cemeteries to pay your respects to all the heroes of those battles who rest in peace and take their final sleep.

Joseph F. Wilson is a member of Old Baldy CWRT and The General Meade Society. The writer lectures on Civil War topics and is the writer and producer of the documentary "Civil War Prisons - An American Tragedy" available on Amazon. His YouTube channel is - "Joseph F. Wilson." Contact - Joef21@aol.com

Old Baldy's April Meeting Review

“Agents of Empire: The First Oregon Cavalry and the Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest During the Civil War”

By James Robbins Jewell



James Robbins Jewell

By Kathy Clark,
Vice President,
OBCWRT

The State of Oregon was established in 1859 as a free state. This is the story of the Civil War years in the Pacific Northwest. Yes, the Union really did recruit regiments in this area. But you may ask why did the Pacific Northwest need a regiment of Cavalry? In Oregon 620 troops were sent to the North with few troops left in the Northwest. As northern families were starting their journey to the west for homesteading or mining there were threats of Indian attacks which was part of the fear that many homesteaders had. Politicians and government officials thought that the government had spies so wanted a volunteer cavalry recruited and fast. Patriotism and loyalty were important to the recruiting process and both officers, and their men had to take an oath of allegiance to the Union for the enlistment process. The men who were enlisted had a commitment to protect southern Oregon and the homesteaders coming through the state. At this time Oregon was eleven times more populated than in Philadelphia.

The appeal for patriotism did not last, for how could they see or understand patriotism with the war so far to the east. They did not get into Gettysburg, Cold Harbor or even Crater Lake. The Federal government would offer boundaries with paper money or coins or land. By 1862 only six companies were formed and served for 2 1/2 years with their main purposes to get the Indian Tribes away from the homesteaders so there would be no threat to their lives and their homes. By 1863 2/3 of Oregon were southern sympathizers.

Weather was a major obstacle to fighting with blizzards still happening in June and starting again in September. There was a narrow area of good weather but always narrow pathways where it was like “Bonaparte crossing the Alps”. The trail the soldiers and animals had to take was constantly ascending and descending. It was nerve wracking in places. A few animals did loss their lives falling off cliffs. Oregon troops died in many ways too by disease, killed by

garrison duty, drown, or were shot. Serving in the Oregon Cavalry in 1862 meant establishing forts for military posts as the City of Walla-Walla became a military post. Portland established Fort Vancouver to protect the Columbia River. Back at Camp Walla-Walla the troops were waiting for their equipment and uniforms. Finally, they came without pants and as one soldier said, “I guess we will wear our jackets over our legs painted blue”. Company A, B, and D were there to protect wagon trains from the last leg of their travels. By mid-September the troops had to get back to their fort because of the weather.

The objective of having the military in the state of Oregon was to keep the area safe for white migration and exploring the district's frontier regions. The First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry companies were split up and stationed throughout various forts and camps from north central Oregon and southeastern Washington Territory to southern Idaho Territory. That is how they contributed to the Union cause during the Civil War. No other forces were stationed in the whole of the district of Oregon during the war.

Captains Currey and Drake were two men who stood out as commanders of the various companies of the First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry. They led their companies on one week or more of expeditions of many miles over underexplored lands from 1862-1864. By the end of 1864 these men were transferred to regimental officers of the new First Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Oregon cavalymen protected the white folks who were eager to open Eastern Oregon for development but worried about the Snake Indians.

There were various bands of Snake Indians of central and eastern Oregon into Nevada and California. It was the Oregon Cavalry who contributed to the development of the interior Pacific Northwest by exploring, mapping, and finding suitable land for farming and mining. There were letters from the field for three years with details of life in the frontier. The letters tried to tell the whites not to intimidate the Indians.

The Oregon Cavalry never left the Pacific Northwest and never encountered a southern enemy. It was a tool of the Federal Government to encourage white expansion into and the economic development of eastern Oregon and the new territory of Idaho. As whites expanded into the Oregon territory the Oregon Cavalry had many encounters with Indian tribes with reports of white settlers and Indian conformations. Some tribes were peaceful but the Northern Shoshone, Bannock, and Northern Paiute tribes could be violent. The soldiers may have been disappointed at not being able to go east to fight the

Confederacy but had preserved the government and kept our national rights and liberties together for the sake of the settlers as they expanded into the Oregon territories.

The First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry Regiment were busy with new strikes and still a steady flow of immigrants to the eastern part of the district. The Nez Perce tribe were reaching their limits of tolerance of white transgressions. Needed were new permanent fortifications at various points which could be temporary safe places for emigrants on their way to their permanent settlement. As a result of growing

white population in Southern and Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho operations were released on the various Indian tribes. Treaty negotiations were begun with the Nez Perce in the Idaho territory. It was not a successful treaty for the Nez Perce ceded 90% of the land they had been allotted in 1855.

By 1864 protection for the white parties continued to make their way to the gold mining fields or to stake a claim. Many men who had enlisted for three years were ready to go back to their family. They had enough of fighting, protecting people who were coming to Oregon territories and the Indian situation. Like all soldiers they had developed friendships that would last a lifetime. It was hard to find men to take their place. After their service was over the men were invited to organizations, federal and local, just like all the other soldiers from all other states in the Union. When the men passed their headstone was the same as all other regiments. The debate was easy to resolve: any regiment from any part of the country can be part of the Civil War and part of the Union cause.

The subject of the first Oregon cavalry opening the Pacific Northwest was a new topic for Old Baldy. We know many areas in the east and the west of fighting during the Civil War but not so much in the Pacific Northwest. James Robbins Jewell has brought the story alive and has made all our members open to new areas of conflict that we were not aware of in our studies. Thank you for a wonderful presentation. We enjoyed having you visit our roundtable.

Raffle Book Winners -

**Wow! I never win anything. Thank you very much! I look forward to reading this book. Best wishes to all!
Steve Wright, OBCWRT Member**

Present at Meeting: Corey Jackson

Zoom Meeting Participant: Jim Heenehan

Each person won a copy of the speaker/presenter James Jewell's book - Agents of Empire - the First Oregon Cavalry and the Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest during the Civil War.

"Hospital Life in the Army of the Potomac"

**Hospital Life in the Army
of the Potomac
William Howard Reed
1881**

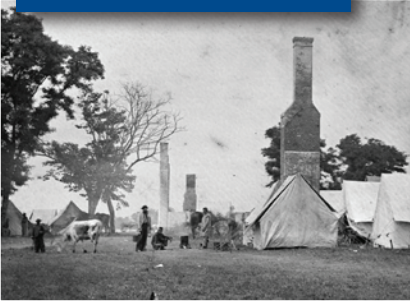
Continued from last Issue

The worst cases only have the privilege of transportation ; and what a privilege! A privilege of being violently tossed from side to side, of having one of the four who occupy the vehicle together thrown bodily, upon a

Continued on page 10



White House



**Nurse, USA
Helen Gilson**



**Nurse, USA
"Fanny" Barlow**

gaping wound; of being tortured, and racked, and jolted, when each jarring of the ambulance is enough to make the sympathetic brain burst with agony. How often have I stood on the step behind, and heard the cry, "O God, release me from this agony!" and then some poor stump would be jolted from its place, and be brought smartly up against the wooden frame work of the wagon, while tears would gather in the eyes and roll down over furrowed cheeks. And then some poor fellow would take a suspender and tie it to the wagon top, and hold to that, in order to break the effect of the jolting ambulance, as it careened from side to side, or went ploughing on through roads rendered almost impassable by the enormous transportation service of the army. And yet, as a class, these ambulance drivers were humane men. I have been with them at their camp fires, and have shared their rough evening meal; I have seen their carefulness and skill in driving, and have wondered sometimes at the tender considerateness with which they ministered to their suffering comrades, when their life of hardship and their rough associations would have such tendency to make them insensible. It was stated that never before in any campaign of the Army of the Potomac had army wagons been called into use for the transportation of wounded men; yet, day after day, the trains passed through Fredericksburg, as they were at that moment arriving at White House, with their living freights of suffering men.

The dead at Cold Harbor were left unburied, and the wounded were rapidly sent to White House, where eight thousand arrived before a hospital was established to receive them. The vast plateau was, however, soon covered with tents; kitchens and feeding stations were established, and the regular routine of hospital work went on. In looking back upon this hospital encampment at White House, and all the sufferings experienced there, its distinctive features are lost in the recollection of agonizing sights and sounds, and in the sense of accumulating duties, of sleepless nights, of days crowded with painful experiences, of heart and brain overwhelmed with the effort to relieve so much suffering. When the army crossed the James, on the 14th of June, and White House was evacuated, the whole equipage of the hospital was transported to City Point, which was to remain the base until the war should close. Through tropical heat and drenching showers this holy work went on, until many were stricken down with miasmatic fevers, — some, alas! to die, and others to approach so near to death as to hear the rustle of the angels' wings.

Of our own more immediate party, Mrs. General Barlow was the only one who died. Her exhausting work at Fredericksburg, where the largest powers of administration were displayed, left but a small measure of vitality with which to encounter the severe exposures of the poisoned swamps of the Pamunkey, and the malarious districts of City Point. Here, in the open field, she toiled with Mr. Marshall and Miss Gilson, under the scorching sun, with no shelter from the pouring rains, with no thought but for those who were suffering and dying all around her. On the battle-field of Petersburg, hardly out of range of the enemy, and at night witnessing the blazing lines of fire from right to left, among the Abounded, with her sympathies and powers of both mind and body strained to the last degree, neither conscious that she was working beyond her strength, nor realizing the extreme exhaustion of her system, she fainted at her work, and found, only when it was too late, that the raging fever was wasting her life away. It was strength of will which sustained her in this intense activity, when her poor, tired body was trying to assert its own right to repose. Yet to the last, her sparkling wit, her brilliant intellect, her unfailing good humor, lighted up our moments of rest and recreation. So many memories of her beautiful constancy and self-sacrifice, of her bright and genial companionship, of her rich and glowing sympathies, of her warm and loving nature, come back to me, that I feel how inadequate would be any tribute I could pay to her worth.

New Jersey Civil War Map

**We are in the process of reviewing/editing the NJ Civil War map.
Please send your suggestions for these edits to Anita Schwartz at
SchwartzAA@aol.com.**

The next time we have the map printed, edits will be included. Thank you. Anita

“A Cradle of the National Pastime 1855 to 1880 ”

By John Zinn



Fob and John Zinn

Last month, John Zinn, a friend of the Round Table, visited the Rohrer Center to present on New Jersey as “A Cradle of the National Pastime 1855 to 1880.” The event had an in-person and Zoom audience. Before the presentation visitors were able to view the exhibits of the South Jersey Baseball Hall of Fame and A League Apart the Legacy of Philadelphia and South Jersey Negro Baseball. All in attendance enjoyed the informative story of the growth of baseball in New Jersey. He linked the growth of baseball to train lines and organized clubs. Teams initially put more emphasis on practice than competition, as they were social clubs. John also told of his involvement in bringing 19th Century Baseball to the citizens of New Jersey playing in an association of teams. OB CWRT, the South Jersey Baseball Hall of Fame, A League Apart, and the Camden County Culture & Heritage Commission sponsored the event.

John is the Chairman of the Board of the New Jersey Historical Society and was the Chair of New Jersey’s Committee on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. He presented on Zoom on April 24th for the NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum New Jersey History series on his book *The Mutinous Regiment: the 33d New Jersey and the Civil War*. The Baseball event was recorded and will be posted on the Old Baldy YouTube channel once edited. Flat Old Baldy thanked John for coming to Cherry Hill to share his research with baseball fans and purists. He sent John home with some round table items to remember his visit.

“Those White Roses”

“What we did at Gettysburg”

Women of the War
Frank Moore
1867

The roar of another great battle has at last died away. For three long, hot days in July the ground has jarred with the fearful concussion of three hundred cannon, and trembled under the tread of immense hosts of fighting men.

The " long tormented air " is quiet at last. The fierce enemy having for three days dashed his long gray lines, like great ocean waves, against the firm battalions that awaited him so sternly on the crests of the hills around the town, has moved sullenly away, defeated, but dangerous still. He has hurried back to the Potomac, and abandoned all thought of planting his defiant banner on Battle Monument, or dictating terms of settlement to the loyal states from Independence Hall. The Union army, after its herculean struggle, succeeding as it did a series of forced marches, has gone into camp, and is reposing a little on its hard-earned and blood-sprinkled laurels. And now, from the great cities that were so recently threatened, come pouring to the relief of the vast multitude of sufferers, the noble army of charity, the Christian Commission, the Sanitary Commission, representatives of Ladies' Aid Societies' and Soldiers' Relief Societies; and they are welcome all, and all needed, for the amount of work to be done is stupendous.

The invader has left eight thousand wounded to the tenderness and mercy of those whose homes a few days ago they were threatening to bum, and whose government, and priceless liberty, and constitution they hoped to see toppled to the dust. More than thirteen thousand loyal soldiers are wounded ; so that here lie over twenty-two thousand suffering, bleeding, dying men.

Continued on page 12



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

Hospital Tents



These preliminary arrangements were completed by the 9th July, and then the labor could be systematic and effective. Day after day, and frequently for a great portion of the night, these labors continued for four months. At length the various smaller hospitals, in and near town, were broken up, and the wounded that could not be removed farther were collected at Camp Letterman, on the hills east of the Gettysburg ; and here these sanitary labors were continued till the 17th November, when the last car-load of mutilated men took its departure for Pittsburg, in the railway ambulance.



Ambulances

Nearly all who had ever labored for the soldiers in the east came here; and representatives of a hundred delightful homes, whose family names had been known and honored in the northern cities and colleges since the Mayflower landed, might be seen devoting themselves, in the heartiest cheerfulness and good will, to the noble work.

One there was— her name is not to be written on these pages, pages, but it is well known to the recording angel—the excellence of whose work is equaled only by the charming simplicity and grace of her narrative. One of her own sex, herself a noble worker, thus eulogizes the fair authoress of the story below, known perhaps already to some of our readers, under the title of "What we did at Gettysburg :"—

"She is now (1863) in a far distant hospital, and it is therefore not improper that this allusion to her should be made. Her sense, energy, lightness, and quickness of action, her thorough knowledge of the work, her amazing yet simple resources, her shy humility, which made her regard her own work with impatience, almost with contempt; all this, and much else, has made the memory of a source of strength and tenderness, which nothing can take away."



Cook House

"What we did at Gettysburg, for the three weeks" we were there, you will want to know. 'We' are Mrs. and myself, who, happening to be on hand at the right moment, gladly fell in with the proposition to do what we could at the the

Sanitary Commission Lodge after the battle. There were, of course, the agents of the Commission, already on the field, distributing supplies to the hospitals,

and working night and day among the wounded. I cannot pretend to tell you what was done by all the big wheels of the concern, but only how two of the smallest ones went round, and what turned up in the going.

"Twenty-four hours we were in making the journey between Baltimore and Gettysburg, places only four hours apart in ordinary running time ; and this -will give you some idea of the difficulty there was of bringing up supplies when the fighting was over, and the delays in transporting wounded. Coming towards the town at this crawling rate, we passed some fields where the fences were down, and the ground slightly tossed up. 'That's where Kilpatrick's cavalymen fought the rebels,' some one said; 'and close by that barn a rebel soldier was found, day before yesterday, sitting dead;' no one to help, poor soul, 'near the whole city full.' The railroad bridge, broken up by the enemy, government had not rebuilt as yet, and we stopped two miles from the town, to find that, as usual, just where the government had left off, the Commission had come in. There stood their temporary lodge and kitchen, and here, hobbling out of their tents, came the wounded men who had made their way down from the corps hospital, expecting to leave at once in the return cars.

"This is the way the thing was managed at first : The surgeons, left in care of the wounded three or four miles out from the town, went up and down among the men in the morning, and said, 'Any of you boys who can make your way to the cars, can go to Baltimore.' So off start all who think they feel well

enough, anything being better than the 'hospitals,' so called, for the first few days after a battle. Once the men have the surgeon's permission to go, they are off; and there may be an interval of a day, or two days, should any of them be too weak to reach, the train in time, during which these poor fellows belong- to no one, the hospital at one end, the railroad at the other, with far more than chance of falling through between the two. The Sanitary Commission knew this would be so of necessity, and, coming in, made a connecting link between these two ends.

"For the first few days the worst cases only came down in ambulances from the hospitals; hundreds of fellows hobbled along as best they could, in heat and dust, for hours, slowly toiling, and many hired farmers' wagons, as hard as the farmers' firsts themselves, and were jolted down to the railroad at three or four dollars the man. Think of the disappointment of a soldier, sick, body and heart, to find, at the end of this miserable journey, that his effort to get away, into which he had put all his remaining stock of strength, was useless; that 'the cars had gone,' or 'the cars were full;' that while he was coming others had stepped down before him, and that he must turn all the weary way back again, or sleep on the roadside till the next train 'to-morrow.' Think what this would have been, and you are ready to appreciate the relief and comfort that was. No men were turned back. You fed and you sheltered them just when no one else could have done so ; and out of the boxes and barrels of good and nourishing things, which you, people at home, had supplied, we took all that was needed. Some of you sent a stove (that is, the money to get it), some of you the beef-stock, some of you the milk and fresh bread; and all of you would have been thankful that you had done so, could you have seen the refreshment and comfort received through these things.

"As soon as the men hobbled up to the tents, good hot soup was given all round; and that over, their wounds were dressed, -for the gentlemen of the Commission are cooks or surgeons, as occasion demands, - and, finally, with their blankets spread over the straw, the men stretched themselves out, and were happy and contented till morning, and the next train.

"On the day that the railroad bridge was repaired we moved up to the depot, close by the town, and had things just in perfect order ; a first rate camping ground, in a large field directly by the track, with unlimited supply of delicious, cool water. Here we set up two stoves, with four large boilers, always kept full of soup and coffee, watched by four or five black men, who did the cooking under our direction, and sang (not under our direction) at the tops of their voices all day, -



**United States Sanitary Commission
First Relief Lodge Site
(Two Large Tents)**

Located near the hospital site and next to the railroad. This facility was used for the removal of wounded to other General Hospitals and the receiving of supplies. The Relief Lodge was later moved into Gettysburg on Baltimore Street
Location: York Pike

'O darkies, hab you seen my massa?'

'When this cruel war is over.'

Then we had three large hospital tents, holding about thirty-five each, a large camp-meeting supply tent, where barrels of goods were stored, and our own smaller tent fitted up with tables, where jelly-pots and bottles of all kinds of good sirups, blackberry and black currant, stood in rows. Barrels were ranged round the tent walls ; shirts, drawers, dressing-gowns, socks, and slippers (I wish we had more of the latter), rags and bandages, each in its own place on one side; on the other, boxes of tea, coffee, soft crackers, tumarinds, cherry brandy, &c. Over the kitchen, and over this small supply tent, we women rather reigned, and filled up our wants by requisitions on the Commission's depot. By this time there had arrived a 'delegation' of just the right kind from Canandaigua, New York, with surgeon dressers and attendants, bringing a first-rate supply of necessaries and comforts for the wounded, which they handed over to the . Commission.



Hospital Train

These specially designed railroad cars were used to transport wounded to larger permanent General Hospitals.



"Twice a day the trains left for Baltimore or Harrisburg. and twice a day we fed all the wounded who arrived for them. Things were systematized now, and the men came down in long ambulance trains to the cars : baggage cars they were, fitted with straw for the wounded to lie on, and broken open at either end to let in the air. A government surgeon was always present to attend to the careful lifting of the soldiers from ambulance to car. Many of the men could get along very nicely, holding one foot up, and taking great jumps on their crutches. The latter were a great comfort: we had a nice supply at the lodge, and they travelled up and down from the tents to the cars daily. Only occasionally did we dare let a pair go on with some very lame soldier, who begged for them: we needed them to help the new arrivals each day, and trusted to the men being supplied at the hospitals at the journey's end. Pads and crutches are a standing want; pads particularly. We manufactured them out of the rags we had, stuffed with sawdust from brandy boxes ; and with half a sheet, and some soft straw, Mrs. -- made a poor dying boy as easy as his sufferings would permit. Poor young fellow I he was so grateful to her for washing, and feeding, and comforting him. He was too ill to bear the journey, and went from our tent to the church hospital, and from the church to his grave, which would have been coffinless but for the care of --, for the quartermaster's department was overtaxed, and for many days our dead were simply wrapped in their blankets and put into the earth. It is a soldierly way, after all-lying in the old war-worn-blanket, the little dust returned to dust.

"When the surgeons had the wounded all placed, with as much comfort as seemed possible under the circumstances, on board the train, our detail of men would go from car to car, with soup made of beef-stock or fresh meat, full of potatoes, turnips, cabbage, and rice, with fresh bread and coffee, and, when stimulants were needed, with ale, milk punch, or brandy. Water pails were in great demand for use in the cars on the journey, and also empty bottles, to take the place of canteens. All our whiskey and brandy bottles were washed and filled up at the spring, and the boys went off, carefully hugging their extemporized canteens, from which they would wet their wounds, or refresh themselves, till the journey ended. I do not think that a man of the sixteen thousand, who were transported during our stay, went from Gettysburg without a good meal: Rebels and Unionists together, they all had it, and were pleased and satisfied. 'Have you friends in the army, madam?' a rebel soldier, lying on the floor of the car, said to me, as I gave him some milk. ' Yes ; my brother is on-'s staff.' 'I thought so, ma'am. You can always tell; when people are good to soldiers they are sure to have friends in the army.' 'We are rebels, you know, ma'am,' another said ;' do you treat rebels so ? 'It was strange to see the good brotherly feeling come over the soldiers—our own and the rebel— when side by side they lay in our tents. 'Hallo, boys! this is the pleasantest way to meet—isn't it? We are better friends when we are as close as this, than a little farther off.' And then they would go over the battles together— "'We were here,' and 'You were there,' in the friendliest way.

To be Continued in next Issue

Contact Information of the Acting Leaders

Kathy Clark 856-866-0924 Klynn522@comcast.net
Mike Bassett 856-334-5856 mikebassett609@gmail.com
Amy Hummel 609-346-9738 amymhummel@gmail.com

Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events



"The Civil War in Appalachia"

Monday, May 13, Zoom at 6:15 p.m.

*Brian D. McKnight, Ph.D, Professor of History
University of Virginia's College at Wise*

"Abraham Lincoln vs. Jefferson Davis as President"

Wednesday May 15, In-Person and Zoom at 6:15 p.m.

David Wilkerson, MA, Founding Member, Inland Empire

*For Zoom links, and regional Round Table program times
& locations, go to:
inlandempirecwr.org and socialcwr.org.*



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.***

**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**



New Members

***Ken Berlin
Cherry Hill, NJ***

New Member with Old Baldy

Ken Berlin



***Ken Funkhouser
Five Year Pin***



Upcoming Events that the Old Baldy CWRT is Participating In...

**Saturday, June-8 (Rain Date June 9):
South Jersey History Fair**
**Saturday, October 12 (Rain Date October 13):
Mullica Hill Fall Festival**
Late October: Glassboro Civil War Weekend
**Tuesday, December 31:
Meade's Birthday at Laurel Hill**

WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>

Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2024

**June 13, 2024 - Thursday
James Scythes**

**“Letters to Lizzie: The Story of 16 Men in the Civil War and
the One Woman Who Connected Them All”**

**July 11, 2024 - Thursday
Scott Mingus**

“Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga”

**August 8, 2024 - Thursday
Alexander Rossino**

**“Calamity at Frederic: Robert E. Lee, Special Orders No. 191,
and Confederate Misfortune on the Road to Antietam”**

**September 12, 2024 - Thursday
Tom Scurria**

“Gabriel’s Graduation Trip - Virginia Battlefield Tou”

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

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

**President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: Kathy Clark
Treasurer: Frank Barletta
Secretary: Mike Bassett
Programs: Dave Gilson
Membership: Amy and Dan Hummel**

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

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net