



# Old Baldy

Civil War Round Table  
of Philadelphia

[www.oldbaldycwrt.org](http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org)



## Mission

The Mission of the OBCWRT is to promote the education, preservation, and memory of the American Civil War era by sponsoring meetings, presentations, and other events that highlight the many historical aspects of the Civil War. OBCWRT supports local and national Civil War preservation initiatives. Participants are welcome to share historical information and perspectives in an atmosphere that is respectful of the diversity of opinion.

## Programs

OBCWRT presents programming on a wide range of Civil War era topics including economics; medicine; railroads; battles and leaders; roles of women; politics; the common soldier; and many more. Programs are offered in-person and are simulcast on Zoom. Recordings of past programs are available on our website and YouTube channel.

## Member Benefits

Membership includes informative programs; monthly newsletter; membership in the Camden County History Alliance and the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey; Memorial Day services at the tomb of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, we also participate in the Wreaths Across America, as well as New Jersey History Day and special events. An important benefit is the camaraderie of the group and opportunities to learn from and share knowledge with fellow Civil War enthusiasts. Plus the opportunity to win the program presenter's book in a member-only raffle.

## Meetings

OBCWRT usually meets at 7:15 pm on the second Thursday of each month at Camden County College-William G. Rohrer Center, 1889 Marlton Pike (Rt. 70) East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. Free parking is available. All meetings are free, open to the public, and simulcast on Zoom.

## Newsletter

OBCWRT publishes a monthly newsletter providing meeting information, timely articles, and news and events from other related historical organizations. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Our newsletter received the Kevin M. Hale Award for best NJ historical society newsletter from the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

## Application

We invite you to join us for stimulating and engaging discussions of Civil War history. Membership applications are available on our website (MEMBERSHIP tab) and can be mailed or brought to a meeting. You can also join online on the website under the MEMBERSHIP tab.

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Camden County College  
William G. Rohrer Center,  
1889 Marlton Pike  
(Route 70) East  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

WEB Site:  
[www.oldbaldycwrt.org](http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org)

Facebook:  
Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

E-Mail:  
[oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)

Founded January 1977

Annual Memberships  
Students: \$12.50  
Individuals: \$25.00  
Families: \$35.00

## Recent Awards

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

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

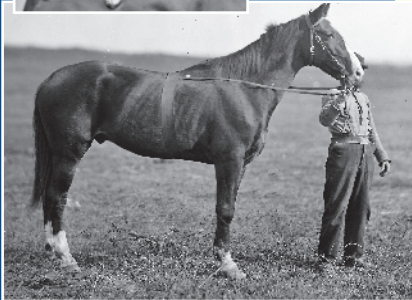
Civil War Roundtable Congress  
The Wallace L. Rueckel  
Innovation Award  
presented to OBCWRT (2022)

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

Kevin M. Hale Award  
for  
best Historical Newsletter  
in New Jersey (2017, 2023)



# Old Baldy *The Story of "Old Baldy," General Meade's War Horse*



The white face on the horse purchased from the government in 1861, by General George G. Meade, suggested the name "Baldy." Baldy was ridden by General David Hunter at the Battle of First Bull Run. Twice wounded in that battle, the horse was returned to the government herd, from whence he was eventually purchased by General Meade. At first Meade was disappointed by his new horse, and was concerned that the princely sum of \$150.00 which he paid for him had been ill spent. But Baldy soon proved his valor.

During the Civil War it was considered vital that army commanders lead their troops by example. On their horses, urging their men forward, they became prime targets for opposing riflemen. The bullets and shells intended for their masters often found their mark instead in the horses that they rode. As a brigade commander, General Meade first rode Baldy at the Battle of Second Bull Run, where Baldy was shot in the leg. After the horse's wound healed, General Meade again rode him, at the Battle of Antietam, where Baldy was seriously wounded in the neck by a Confederate minie ball. Having left the horse felled on the field, Meade sent an aide the next morning to retrieve his saddle. To everyone's amazement, Baldy was not only still alive, but was back on his feet and quietly grazing amidst the carnage of the battlefield.

Baldy saw action again during the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At the Battle of Gettysburg, a Confederate bullet passed within an inch of General Meade's thigh and slammed into Baldy. Meade sent the horse to the rear and thought he would never ride him again. But this indomitable war horse returned to service with General Meade and received the last of his fourteen wounds at the Battle of Weldon Railroad in August, 1864.

That winter the General retired Baldy to a stable in Jenkintown, PA, just a few miles from his home in Philadelphia. After the War, General Meade often rode the horse, especially through Fairmount Park, for which the General served as its first commissioner. When Meade died in November, 1872, of pneumonia exacerbated by an old wound to the lung he had incurred at the Battle of Glendale on June 30, 1862, his faithful steed, now affectionately known as "Old" Baldy, served as the "Riderless Horse" at the general's funeral.

Old Baldy survived the General by ten years, dying in 1882 at the age of thirty. On Christmas Day of that year, nine days after his death, Old Baldy was "resurrected" by two admirers of General Meade, Harry W. Hervey and Albert C. Johnston. They had Old Baldy's head preserved and then mounted on an ebony shield on which they inscribed his service record. Old Baldy was then presented to General George G. Meade Post #1, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), of Philadelphia.

The head of Old Baldy was cleaned and restored in 1991, and for some years reposed in a place of honor in the Meade Room of the Civil War Library and Museum (CWLM) in downtown Philadelphia. When the CWLM closed on Pine Street, Old Baldy was eventually returned to the GAR Museum and Library, which was located on Griscom Street in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. Old Baldy now presides over the artifacts in the front room at the GAR Museum and Library at its present location at 8110 Frankford Avenue in the Holmesburg section of Philadelphia. Old Baldy is in a custom made, humidity controlled mahogany and glass display case.

