

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

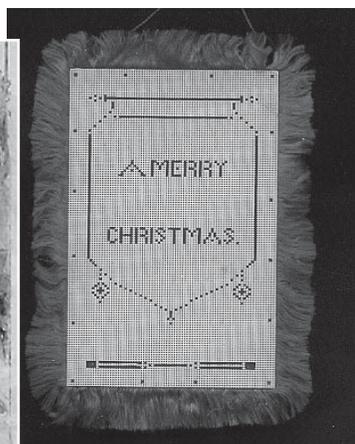


December 8, 2011, The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

Note: Meeting will be moved back to the Sando Room.

A Christmas Past

Jane Peters Estes presents *A Christmas Past* - The program explores the origins of many of our holiday traditions (i.e. tree, hanging stockings by the fire) and highlights Christmas customs observed during the Civil War (1861-65). It does not emphasize the religious aspect of Christmas, but instead, the secular trappings of the season. A display of typical 1860s Christmas gifts accompanies the program.



Silk Christmas Card

Jane has had articles published in *Civil War Lady Magazine*, *Citizen's Companion Magazine*, *Philadelphia Bride Magazine* and *People Magazine*

Jane's many programs and presentations include: *Civil War Nurses*, *Fashions of the 1860s*, *Grave Matters (Victorian Mourning Customs)*, *Wedding Customs and Traditions*, *Women's Lifestyles of the 1860's*, *Vivandieres*, *Pets of the Past* and *The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?*

Join us at our next Old Baldy Civil War Round Table meeting as **Jane Peters Estes** presents *A Christmas Past*. That's **Thursday, December 8th** starting at **7:30PM** in the **Sando Room** of the **Union League** at Broad & Sansom Streets. As always, you are welcome to join us at 6:00 at Applebee's for a bite to eat before the meeting. It's just a block south of the Union League on 15th Street.

Notes from the President...

Thanksgiving is behind us and the first year of the Sesquicentennial is rushing to an end. Take advantage of the activities happening for the 150th, after returning tell us about them in the newsletter. Thank you to **Mike Cavanaugh** and **Steve Wright** for preparing a write up on **Blake Magner** and **Don Wiles** for featuring it in the newsletter and website. We made a donation to the Civil War Trust in his name.

Last month, **Herb Kaufman** enlightened us on where Lincoln heard and read some of the statements he used in the Gettysburg Address. His presentations are always well researched and informative. This month the always entertaining **Jane Estes** will tell us about Victorian Christmas Customs. I recently attended her presentation on Victorian Mourning Customs and it was very informative. Be sure to join us on the December 8th to hear her. We are back to the Sando Room on the front lower level this month.

The Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on March 24, 2012 at Cannstatters. Save the date to be there to celebrate with them. They have some great prizes for the raffle. Check the newsletter for the Spring session of Civil War Institute classes at Manor. **Kerry** has written an article on her visit to the "Gone for the Soldier" exhibit at Macculloch Hall. It runs through July 1st. I will have a catalog of the items exhibited at our next meeting.

When you visit with friends and family over the upcoming Holidays, tell them about the wonderful programs we have had and invite them to join us next year as we continue our study of the Civil War and its impact on our nation. Kerry is doing a great job providing us with a mix of topics, if there is one you would like to see or perhaps share with us let her know. Remember eleven days after the New Year, our own **Don Wiles** will be telling us about some of the photos in his massive collection.

Hope to see everyone on the 8th, but if you cannot join us please have a safe, joyous and relaxing holiday season. Remember to treasure those around us. Thank you for all

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The Old Baldy CWRT will meet at the Union League of Philadelphia at 7:30 PM, the second Thursday of the month. Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 PM, Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust. You're Welcome to Join Us!

“Remembrance Day - November 19, 2011”

This year Remembrance Day fell on a Saturday November 19th and a large crowds attended all the activities including the Lincoln Forum, wreath laying at the Soldiers National Monument and wreath laying at various regimental monuments, the National Cemetery rededication ceremony and the parade this year. The weather was perfect. Actor Stephen Lang was the main speaker for the rededication ceremony along with Abraham Lincoln (James Getty). 16 applicants were also sworn in as new citizens.

Jerry Desko and Stephen Lang at the Lincoln Forum



A visit from Santa



Confederates still looking for shoes at Gettysburg

“American Civil War - Lecture Series”

In the October Newsletter I referred to a lecture series at Camden County College that I attended. It was entitled “**American Civil War: A History of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times,**” and was sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility with a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Various visiting lecturers presented non-battle topics of the war. As I mentioned previously, several of the lectures were accompanied by a pre-lecture exhibits.

In the first lecture, “**American Slavery: How Bad was it?**” Professor Wayne Glasker from Rutgers University Camden dispelled Southern beliefs that slavery was good for the Africans. He told of life on the plantations and challenges faced by slaves. He explained the need for historians to strike the delicate balance between acknowledging the genuine tragedy of slavery and honoring the resilience of people who resisted oppression and survived. The exhibit that week was from the Lest We Forget Museum of Slavery located in Northeast Philadelphia.

The second lecture, “**We are Two People: Southern Cultural Nationalism and the coming of the War,**”

Continued from page 1 - "Notes from the President"

you do to make our round Table great and I look forward seeing you next year.

Peace

Rich Jankowski, President

Notice: Attire for Men at the Union League Jacket and tie would be preferred; otherwise collared shirts, long pants and jacket are recommended. For men and women, the following attire is never acceptable on the first or second floors of the League: jeans, denim wear, tee shirts, athletic wear, tank, halter, or jogging tops, shorts, baseball caps, sneakers, extremely casual or beach footwear. Current or historical military uniforms are appropriate.

was given by Professor Douglas Ambrose from Hamilton College. He told of the clash of conflicting civilizations and how the South had to defend against the destructive forces of a modern free society developing in the North. He emphasized the role religion played in bringing on the conflict and that the south believed it was the protector of Christianity. The groundwork he laid explained some of the strong beliefs held by Confederate citizens and soldiers. The pre-lecture event was actors in costume as a slave owner’s son/Confederate officer, African American Union soldier and a field nurse. They expressed their views and observations through the war.

Jim Martin, Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide, spoke on “**The Common Soldier in the Gettysburg Campaign.**” He told of the make-up of Union and Confederate armies in the Battle and the soldiers’ experiences in combat and camp life. Jim reviewed data on weapons, unit size, logistical requirements and wounds. Afterwards he answered questions on the battle. In the lobby was a display of Jim Wilson’s Civil War artifacts of soldiers and camp life.

Professor Jonathan Zimmerman, of New York University, discussed “**History! Whose History? Written by Whom? The Struggle Over the Civil War in American School Textbooks.**” African Americans, white Northerners and white Southerners all told different stories about the war in their textbooks. The history of textbooks tells much about the distinctive role of American schools in fostering historical conflict, understanding and memory. He reviewed how the United Daughters of the Confederacy control textbooks in the South early in the century. He also covered the psychological argument of a feel good history vs a right to tell our story.

Between lectures was an encampment by the 12th New Jersey and a Confederate unit. Besides the items and weapons on display, civilian women explained their role during the war. Drill and maneuvers were demonstrated and questions were answered. It was a good opportunity for the public to interact with re-enactors in a low stress environment.

Michael Burlingame presented “**President Abraham Lincoln’s Relationship with the Troops.**” He explained how he started his research career working for David Donald Herbert at Princeton. He told how Lincoln’s character had an effect on the outcome of the war and the sources of deep affection and confidence Union soldiers had in their commander-in-chief. He explained Lincoln’s use of the pardoning power, his paternal quality and his eloquence in explaining the nature of the cause for which the soldiers fought. The display that week was by the

Homefront Heroes...

"Martha Coston" (1826-1904)



Portrait of Martha Coston
New York Public Library

Article, Photos
by Kerry Bryan

Born in Baltimore in 1826, Martha Jane Hunt was but a young child when her father died, after which her mother moved the family to Philadelphia because of its reputation for good schools. At age 14 Martha met a brilliant young scientist/inventor named Benjamin Franklin Coston, whom she soon married.

The newlyweds moved to Washington, D.C., where Benjamin had been appointed Master in the Naval Service to oversee the Navy's laboratory located in the nation's

capital. The young inventor was working on numerous projects, one of which led to the successful development of a novel cannon percussion primer. However, a disagreement arose between the Navy and Benjamin as to the compensation he should receive for the Navy's adoption of this new type of primer, so in August 1847 he resigned from the Navy and moved Martha and their growing family to Boston, Massachusetts.

Although still in his twenties, Benjamin became president of the Boston Gas Company, and he soon demonstrated his merit by refining the process for the manufacture of sylvic gaslights. However, this work with toxic chemicals exacerbated the health problems he had already incurred from working with similar substances in experiments conducted at the Navy laboratory. His condition proved fatal: Benjamin Franklin Coston died in November 1848.

Not yet 22 years old, Martha was now a widow with four young children to support, so she moved back to the Philadelphia area to be close to her family. Sadly, within two years after losing her husband, Martha's grief was compounded by the deaths of her mother and two of her children. Moreover, she found herself nearly destitute due to the duplicity of a relative who "misplaced" her money. Driven not only by financial necessity, but also the desire to further her late husband's work, the enterprising Martha began searching through his papers, where she discovered some preliminary notes for a new invention— signal flares that could be used by ships at sea.



Photo Coston-type flare
Wikipedia

Martha spent years searching for the pyrotechnical means and expertise by which this idea could be developed to a marketable, effective product with an accompanying signaling system. Martha later summarized these trying years in her 1886 autobiography, *A Signal Success*:

*"It would consume too much space, and weary my readers, for me to go into all the particulars of my efforts to perfect my husband's idea. The men I employed and dismissed, the experiments I made myself, the frauds that were practiced upon me, almost disheartened me; but despair I would not, and eagerly I treasured up each little step that was made in the right direction, the hints of naval officers, and the opinions of the different boards that gave the signals a trial."**

Finally, with the help of pyrotechnicians whom she recruited from New York City, Martha was ready to file for patent in 1859. However, given the gender prejudices of the time, the patent was filed under the name of her husband, although he had been deceased for more than a decade. Martha then proceeded to assertively market her product. Later that year, when negotiations with the U.S. government were unsuccessful, she went to Europe to sell the patent for her signal flares to Great Britain, France, Italy, Denmark, and the Netherlands. She remained abroad until the outbreak of the Civil War.

It was not until August 5, 1861, after First Bull Run, when it became evident that the Civil War would be a prolonged conflict, that the U.S. Congress finally authorized the purchase of the Martha's patent by the Navy. Even then, because she was a female, Martha was awarded only half the asking price. Furthermore, throughout the War the Coston company provided the flares to the Navy at cost, which increasingly meant producing at a loss because of the impact of wartime inflation upon the cost of materials. Nevertheless, Martha was not only a business woman, but



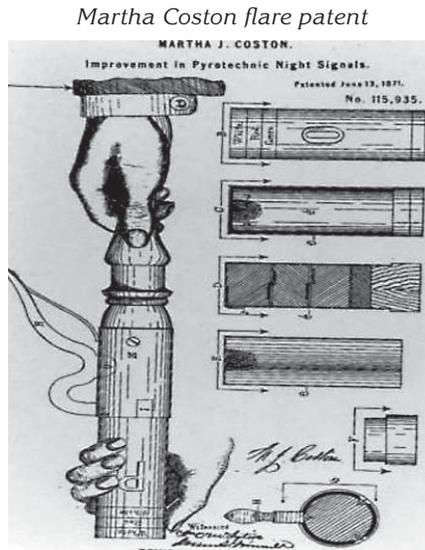
"Bombardment of Fort Fisher" - Library of Congress

also a patriot: the supply of flares to the U.S. Navy never faltered.

The Coston flares were so bright that they could be seen at night from a distance of 15-20 miles away at sea, and the system used but three colors (red, white, and green) in various patterns for its communication codes. The Coston flares were used successfully for ship-to-shore or ship-to-ship communications by Union ships and were a major factor in helping to enforce the blockade of Southern shipping. The Coston flares are especially credited as a decisive factor promoting Union victory in the two-day naval battle at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, in January, 1865.

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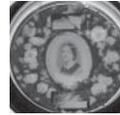
After the War Martha continued to work on improving the Coston flares, and in 1871, she obtained a patent under her own name (Patent No. 115,935, Improvement in Pyrotechnic Night Signals). She also filed to receive additional compensation from the U.S. government: she estimated that her company was owed \$120,000 for the millions of Coston flares supplied during the



War. After a decade of wrangling, she was finally awarded only \$15,000 in additional reimbursement.

But meanwhile, the demand for Coston signals remained high, as it was used widely by the U.S. Life Saving Service (precursor to the Coast Guard), by private boating clubs and commercial shipping lines, as well as by foreign navies. Coston-type flares and the signaling system Martha developed are still used today around the world by meteorologists, navies, and private ship owners to signal distress at sea or to communicate at night.

*Coston, M.J. (1886). *A Signal Success: The Work and Travels of Mrs. Martha J. Coston.* Philadelphia, PA: J.B. Lippincott Company. pp 43-44



This photo printed in last month's article re: Mary Ross was reproduced courtesy of the G.A.R. Museum and Library.

"Civil War Remembrances"

A soldier, writing from his camp near Fredericksburg, narrated the following, which occurred while he was on picket duty with his company:

It was Christmas day and after partaking of a Christmas dinner of salt pork and hard tack, our attention was attracted by a rebel picket who hailed us from the opposite side of the river.

"I say, Yank, if a fellow goes over there, will you let him come back again?"

Receiving an affirmative answer, he proceeded to test the truth of it by paddling himself across the river. He was decidedly the cleanest specimen of a rebel I had seen. In answer to a question, he said he belonged to the Georgia Legion. One of our boys remarked, *"I met quite a number of your boys at South Mountain."*

"Yes, I suppose so—if you were there," said the rebel, while his face grew very sad. *"We left many of our boys there. My brother, poor Will, was killed there. It was a hot place for a while, and we had to leave it in a hurry."*

"That's so, Georgia; your fellows fought well there, and had all the advantage, but the old Keystone boys were pressing you hard. By the way, I have a likeness here (taking it out of his pocket), that I picked up on the battle-field the next morning, and I have carried it ever since."

He handed it to the rebel, who, on looking at it pressed it to his lips exclaiming, *"My mother! My mother!"*

He exhibited considerable emotion at the recovery of the picture, but on the recovery of his composure he said that his brother had it in his possession, and must have lost it in the fight. He then asked the name of the one to whom he was indebted for the lost likeness of his mother, remarking, *"There may be better times soon, and we may know each other better."*

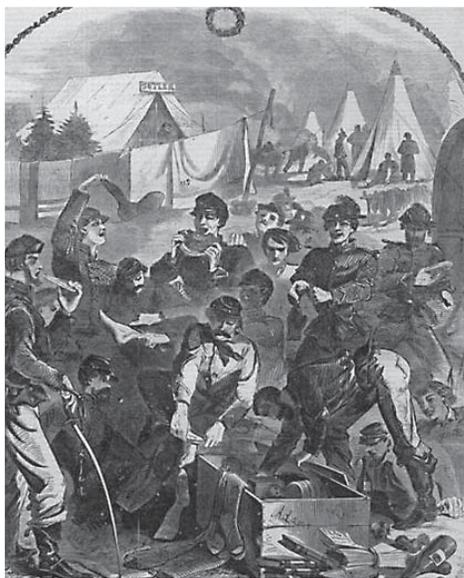
He had taken from his pocket a small pocket bible in which to write the address, when Alex, who had taken no

part in the conversation, fairly yelled, *"I know that book; I lost it at Bull Bun!"*

"That's whar I got it, Mr. Yank," said the rebel, and he handed it to Alex.

"I am much obliged to you, Georgia Legion; I would not part with it for all the Southern Confederacy."

I was a little curious to know something further of the book, so I asked Alex to let me see it. He passed it to me. I opened it, and on the flyleaf was written in a neat hand, *"My Christmas Gift, to Alex, Dec. 25th, 1860. Ella."*



"Well, Alex," said I, *"It is not often one has the same gift presented to him a second time."*

"True, Captain; and if I could but see the giver of that today, there's but one other gift I would want."

"What's that, Alex?"

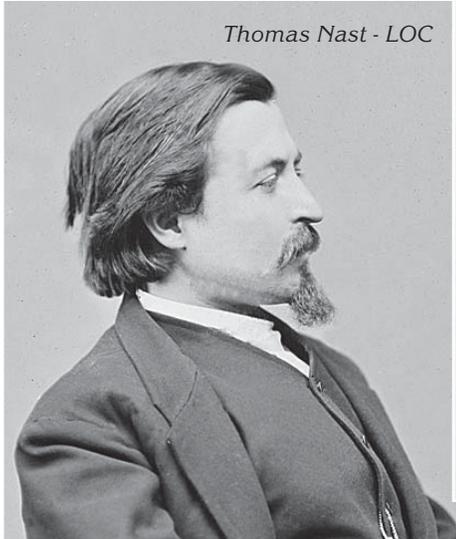
"This rebellion played out, and my discharge in my pocket."

The boys had all been busy talking to our rebel friend, who, seeing a horseman approaching in the direction of his post, bid us a hasty good-by, and made a quick trip across the Rappahannock.

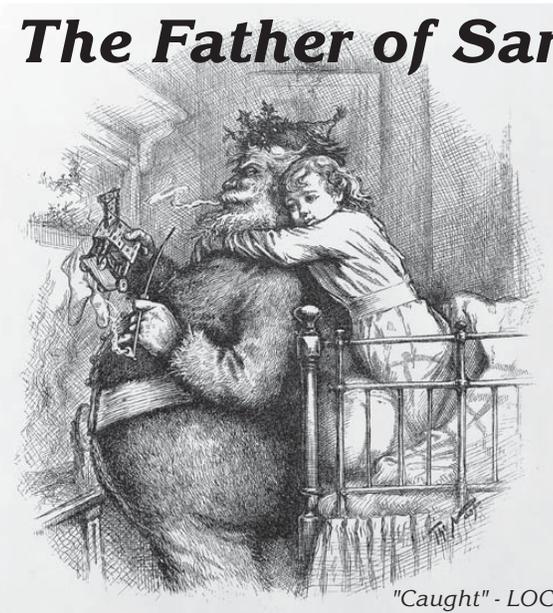
Night came on, and those not on duty lay down on the frozen ground to dream of other Christmas nights, when we knew not of war."

Passage is from *The Civil War in Song and Story: 1860-65* by Frank Moore, (New York: P. F. Collier, 1889), page 161

Thomas Nast: The Father of Santa Claus



Thomas Nast - LOC



"Caught" - LOC

By Herb Kaufman

***T'was the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, -not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;***

These famous words begin Clement Moore's wonderful poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." The poem first appeared in the Troy, New York Sentinel newspaper on December 23, 1823. Forty years later, during the height of the Civil War, Moore's description of Santa Claus would serve as the motivation for Thomas Nast's illustration of Santa Claus on the cover of Harper's Weekly.

Thomas Nast was born in Germany in 1840. Nast was born with an inquisitive mind and the natural ability to draw. At the age of six he came to the United States and at fifteen became a draftsman for Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. From 1859 to 1860 he worked for Harper's Weekly, leaving them for two years to work in Europe. He returned to the United States in 1862 and became one of America's most famous illustrators as he created numerous American icons as he worked for Harper's Weekly from 1862 through 1886.

Although Thomas Nast achieved great popularity through his Christmas illustrations, he could not read nor write. At first he had his wife read to him. Later, as he achieved financial independence he hired scholars to read to him from history and science including the daily newspapers. It is from these readings that he gained the inspiration for many of his engravings.

In an era when most illustrators were confined to depicting actual scenes and depictions of military and civilian life, the Harper brothers allowed Thomas Nast to create allegorical figures and symbols. An allegorical illustration is a visual expression that uses symbolic figures, objects, and actions to convey truths or generalizations about human conduct or experience. Symbolic allegories, in which characters may also have an identity apart from the message

they convey, have frequently been used to represent political and historical situations and have long been popular as vehicles for satire.

Thomas Nast was a fervent supporter of Abraham Lincoln and the cause of the Union. While not an abolitionist, he strongly believed that slavery was an evil condition that must be abolished. With this in mind, he began to search for some way of expressing his feelings and emotions at Christmas time, while still in the midst of a terrible war.

On one occasion, Nast's wife read him the wonderful poem by

Clement Moore. He decided to draw on the native German tradition of St. Nicholas, combining this tradition with the description of Santa Claus in Clement Moore's poem, to create an illustration of "Santa Claus in Camp" for the cover of the January 3, 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly. This illustration shows Santa as a plump "right jolly old elf" distributing gifts to the Union troops. Santa is dressed in the stars and stripes while large American flag waves over the scene. As he distributes his gifts, Santa holds a doll of Jefferson Davis hanging by his neck.

The center double page illustration in that same issue, "Christmas Eve" depicted a young woman praying for her husband who was off in the war, while her "children were nestled all snug in their beds." The opposite illustration showed her husband, in a cold, dreary military camp, wistfully looking at a photograph of his wife and children. Abraham Lincoln stated that he "was moved to tears" when he first saw the illustration.

Nast's illustrations of Santa Claus began to instantly grow in popularity. He continued to draw Santa for Harper's, with a new illustration every Christmas during the war. After the war, Nast continued to refine his depiction of Santa and he created 76 Christmas engravings that were signed and published. "Nast used Moore's poem to put it all together in visual form; a sleigh, reindeer, jolly old elf, filling the stockings hung by the chimney, and so forth. "

Over the ensuing years, Nast used his own imagination to expand upon his concept of Santa. He was the first to establish that Santa's home was in the North Pole. In this way, Santa didn't belong to any one country - he became a citizen of the world. He also created the idea that Santa had a workshop and elves to help him. It was also through his engravings that the idea of kissing under the mistletoe came to be established as a custom in the United States.

Christmas Day was declared a Federal holiday in 1870, and an extended school vacation became a custom. This may also be due, at least in part, to the popularity of Thomas Nast's images and engravings.

Thomas Nast brought Christmas to a large audience through his engravings. He continued to refine his vision of Santa, until he drew his final Santa in 1890. Nast's

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grandson stated in 1971 that "my grandfather was quite proud of the title Santa Claus' father." "It was a source of great pride to him he had become known as Santa Claus' Father because of his Civil War drawings."

After the Civil War, Thomas Nast continued his association with Harper's Weekly, using its pages to create a number of American political icons including the Tammany Hall Tiger, the Republican Party Elephant, and the Democratic Party Donkey. He created the image of "Columbia" in flowing gown and tiara, carrying a sword to defend the downtrodden.

Thomas Nast lived near Philadelphia, in Morristown, New Jersey. He passed away in 1902 from yellow fever contracted while serving as General Counsel in Ecuador. Thomas Nast is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York.



"Christmas Eve" - Harper's Weekly - LOC

Reprint from Old Baldy December 2007 Newsletter

Today in Civil War History

Sunday December 8, 1861 Believers Bring Bible Blitz

As this Sabbath was commendably unmarred by acts of mayhem and militarism, it offers an opportunity to note the actions of an unlikely group of war supporters: The American Bible Society. This group, supported entirely by private donations from individuals and churches, released a remarkable report today. Less than a year from the time the War began, they were already to the point where they were printing, shipping and distributing more than 7,000 copies per day of the New Testament to soldiers in the field. A soldier was likely to carry two items of about the same size: his Testament and a pack of playing cards. One, however, was often found dropped on the field when fighting started. There was a common belief that going to meet one's Maker with gambling paraphernalia on one's person did not enhance the chances of the gates of Heaven opening.

Monday December 8, 1862 Davis Detecting Defensive Deficiencies

There has never been a general in any army of any nation anywhere in recorded history who thought he had sufficient men in his army. This was certainly the case of every army in the Confederate States of America, and the man in the middle who had to do the juggling act was President Jefferson Davis. Robert E. Lee had sent another letter requesting more troops, and Davis wrote back to him today that he had none to send, and if he did have surplus soldiers, they would most likely be sent to the Western Theater where the need was becoming dire. "In Tennessee and Mississippi the disparity between our armies and those of the enemy is so great as to fill me with apprehension," he wrote today. He also mentioned that he was leaving immediately on a trip West to see what could be done about the situation.

Tuesday December 8, 1863 President Proudly Proclaims Progress

It was Abraham Lincoln's turn to offer a State of the Union address to his Congress today, as it had been Jefferson Davis' duty to his yesterday. Lincoln's message, needless

to say, was considerably more upbeat than his Confederate counterpart's had been. After the usual reports on foreign relations (good) and military matters besides the War (good aside from some difficulties with Indians), he got to the heart of his message: a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconciliation. The key provisions of this were that anyone who had participated "directly or by implication" in the Rebellion against the Union could return to lawful citizenship simply by taking an oath of allegiance. Exceptions were military officers who had renounced their oaths to serve the Confederacy, high-ranking members of the CSA government, and anyone who had treated Union prisoners of war, black or white, in an "other than lawful" manner.

Thursday December 8, 1864 Sherman Scorns Subterranean Shells

Being unable to muster anything near the manpower to directly give battle to Gen. William T. Sherman's army as they marched from Atlanta to the Sea, desperation forced a resort to weapons both sides really considered illegal: buried "land torpedoes" which exploded when stepped on. What would today be called land mines were considered lawful to use around forts, but not in open roadways. After Sherman came across a young soldier who had had his foot blown off by such a mine, he confirmed an order by Maj. Gen. Frank Blair Jr. that Confederate prisoners should march in the lead to dig up these bombs. These men protested that they had not buried the bombs and had no idea where they might be. Sherman, blunt as ever, told them that if someone had to be blown up, he would rather it be them than his own men.

www.civilwarinteractive

Christmas in the Confederacy

Excerpts below were written by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, describing Christmas of 1864 in the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.

"For as Christmas season was ushered in under the darkest clouds, everyone felt the cataclysm which impended but the rosy, expectant faces of our little children were a constant reminder that self-sacrifice must be the personal offering of each member of the family."

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"Gone for a Soldier:"

JERSEYMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR



Article, Photos
by Kerry Bryan

One of the highlights of my visit with family in North Jersey during Thanksgiving week was our excursion (at my request) to the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in Morristown, NJ.

Entitled "Gone for a Soldier: Jerseymen in the Civil War," the exhibit,

which just opened on November 6th, features over 200 items borrowed from over 30 museums and private collections from several states. These objects include uniforms, photographs, letters, mess kits, drums, muskets, swords, medals, lithographs, drawings, and more. To protect the artifacts, photography is prohibited; however, a catalog of the exhibit with full-color pictures is available in the museum gift shop. I not only enjoyed viewing the exhibit, but also my conversation with one of the museum's curators: Macculloch Hall staff and volunteers are enthusiastic and proud of their collection in general and the new Civil War exhibit in particular.

Macculloch Hall itself has a rich history. George Macculloch, best known as the "Father of the Morris Canal," acquired the property and original hall in 1810. Four succeeding generations built additions to the house and also continued to add to the family's extensive collection of paintings, artisan furniture, books, fine china, and much more. Established as a museum some 60 years ago, Macculloch Hall now features ten period rooms, which may be viewed on house tours led by knowledgeable docents.

This museum is also notable for its Thomas Nast collection. The famous cartoonist and illustrator had lived with his family across the street from Macculloch Hall from 1872 until his death in 1902. As a young man working for Harper's Weekly during the Civil, Nast was dispatched to the front, where he sketched and captured for posterity many memorable battlefield scenes. Thomas Nast is credited with creating the following renowned icons: the Democratic Donkey, the Republican Elephant, the Tammany (Hall) Tiger, and the modern image of Santa Claus.



A current exhibit of Nast's drawings includes many of his Civil War illustrations, including a number of sentimental Christmas scenes.

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum is located at 45 Macculloch Avenue in Morristown, NJ. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, and has a modest admission fee. The "Gone for a Soldier" exhibit will be there through June 30, 2012. For more information, see www.maccullochhall.org or call (973) 538-2404.

Due to the blockades around Confederate states, families could not find certain types of food and merchandise for their holiday celebrations, and available items were outrageously priced. The Southerners had to substitute many of the ingredients in the favorite Christmas recipes, and they had to make most of their gifts and tree decorations.

In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war's shortages.

"The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one turned over the store of her children's treasures for a contribution to the orphan's tree, my little ones rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children's toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes."

When the orphans received their gifts, "the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was 'worth two years of peaceful life' to see."

HALLOWED GROUND, WINTER 2001

Upcomming Events:

March 24, 2012 **Delaware Valley CWRT 20th Anniversary** at Cannstatters on Academy Road.

The **2012 Virginia Sesquicentennial Signature Conference** will be on March 22 at the Virginia Military Institute. The topic will be "*Leadership and Generalship in the Civil War.*" Cost is \$25 with lunch and \$15 without. Additional information is available at <http://www.virginia-civilwar.org/2012conference.php>.

Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags They Carried exhibiton from 4/12/2011 - 4/30/2012 at the Betsy Ross House Philadelphia, PA

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

Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Blog: <http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/>

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Strasburg Railroad Club and it represented the United States Military Railroads of the Civil War.

"What Difference did Slavery Make to the Ordinary Civil War Soldier," was presented by Chandra Manning, associate Professor of History at Georgetown University. She began by explaining the oral tradition of the time and that the Bible and Poor Richard's Almanac were common books. She told of her research to review the soldier's letter hoping to find comments on patriotism, news from home and the conditions of war life. She was surprised to discover much written about slavery in the correspondence. Confederate soldiers believed messing with slavery would mess up the family. They felt slavery was linked to honor, basic safety and survival; that it held society together. Union soldiers who fought in the south and saw slavery first hand changed their beliefs and realized the war could not be won without dealing with slavery. They were ahead of the generals and government in coming to this conclusion. Her study covered a broad cross section of soldiers from different regions, occupations and backgrounds.

The final lecture, **"The Role of New Jerseyans in the Civil War,"** was by Professor William Gillette of Rutgers University New Brunswick. He reviewed some of the actions of the soldiers of New Jersey and their efforts in winning the war. He discussed the often misunderstood political role of New Jersey during the war, including the state's Copperheads.

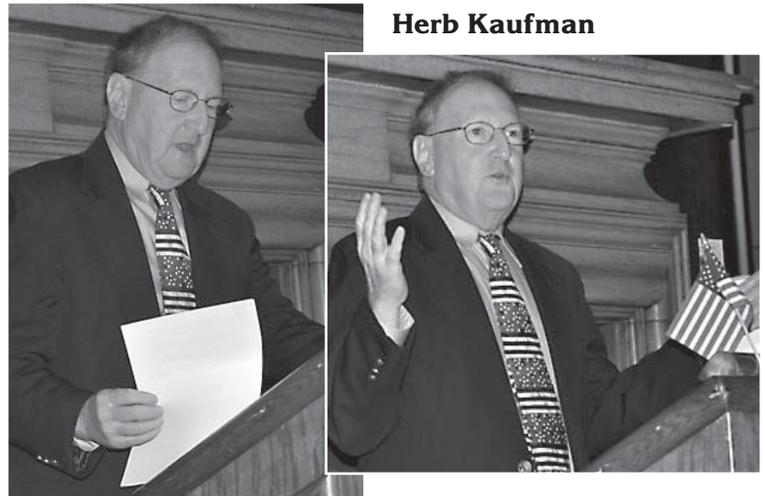
He talked of the two governors and believes most Jerseyans thought the Union must be preserved. He frequently referenced his book Jersey Blue.

The series was well attended by the public and generally had good questions and answer sessions. It provided a fine opportunity to learn of different sides of the war to gain a better understanding of what and why events happened the way they did during those four years that reshaped the nation.

November 10th meeting **"Lincoln's Address - Beyond Gettysburg"**

Herb Kaufman addressed the myth of Lincoln writing the Gettysburg Address on a small piece of paper on a train from Washington to Gettysburg. Herb pointed out the 272 words of Lincoln's Address that had their foundation in the Declaration of Independence. He explained looking into Lincoln's mind and examining his prior speeches and comments and determining how they impacted his thoughts for November 19, 1863. Herb further pointed out that Abraham Lincoln was one of our nation's most thoughtful and measured presidents. That he rarely made comments that didn't have a specific point, nor did he write a speech without giving it the most deliberate thought. The ideas and concepts that stand behind what has become his most famous and quoted speech could hardly have been attributed to a two hour ride on a train.

Once again Herb gave us a great and thought provoking discussion on a great man. Herb never fails us...



Herb Kaufman

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2011/2012

December 8 - Thursday
"Victorian Christmas Customs"
Historian: Jane Estes

January 12 - Thursday
**"The Hallowed Ground of Gettysburg
in Bronze and Stone"**
Civil War Buff: Don Wiles

February 9 - Thursday
"The Women in Lincoln's Life"
Historian: Hugh Boyle

**All meetings,
unless otherwise noted,
begin at 7:30 PM
in the Sando Room of the UNION LEAGUE,
Broad & Sansom Streets in Philadelphia.
Questions to Steve Wright at 267-258-5943 or
maqua824@aol.com**

**Members go out to a local restaurant
for dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust**

You're Welcome to Join Us!

The 150th Civil War History Consortium in the Philadelphia Area

**Keep up with the 150th Civil War activities
in the area contact: Laura Blanchard
Philadelphia Area Consortium
of Special Collections Libraries
Civil War History Consortium of Greater Philadelphia
215-985-1445 voice
<http://www.pacscl.org>
<http://www.civilwarphilly.net>**

**Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
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Founded January 1977**

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

**President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: William Brown
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