

## OLD BALDY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE (OBCWRT)

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table (OBCWRT) encourages and promotes greater interest in the American Civil War by sponsoring meetings, programs, and other events that highlight the history of the Civil War era. These include lecture series, Symposiums and a Book Award. OBCWRT also advocates and supports local and national Civil War preservation programs.

Participants in Round Table discussions are welcome to share historical information and their interpretations thereof, provided they express themselves in a dignified manner and demonstrate respect for the opinions of others.

### PROGRAMS

OBCWRT draws an array of speakers, sometimes tapping the expertise of its own members, to provide a range of topics and perspectives, e.g. Civil War economics, medicine, railroads, monuments, Gettysburg and other battles, Clara Barton, drummers, Lincoln, flags, famous generals and common soldiers, the Union Navy, homefront volunteers, spies, the U.S. Colored Troops, etc. The Round Table also periodically offers book discussions, members' "show and tell" sessions, and social hours.

### MEMBER BENEFITS

Informative programs, field trips, monthly newsletter, Memorial Day Services at the tomb of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock (which has been entrusted to the care of OBCWRT), and special events. Perhaps the most important benefits include the camaraderie of the group and our opportunities to learn from and share knowledge with fellow Civil War enthusiasts.

### MEETINGS

OBCWRT meets at 7:15 pm on the second Thursday of each month in Room 101, the Forum, in the Connector Building of Camden County College (CCC), Blackwood Campus. The CCC Blackwood address is 200 College Drive, Blackwood, NJ 08012. The campus has a spacious lot that provides free parking.

### NEWSLETTER

Members who have paid annual dues receive the Round Table's monthly newsletter, which provides meeting information, timely articles and images, as well as news from other round tables and Civil War



# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

venues. Members are welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

### TOURS

OBCWRT has conducted field trips to significant Civil War sites. Many of the tours were conducted by noted local or Park historians to provide in depth coverage which is not always available to the general public.

### APPLICATION

We invite you to become a member of OBCWRT and join us monthly for an informative evening of Civil War history, whether a lecture by a historians and/or author, or a round table conducive to group discussion and exchange. We invite you to attend your first meeting as our guest and encourage you to bring (or mail) the completed application.

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia  
Camden County College

Blackwood Campus - Connector Building  
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

856-427-4022 oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Founded January 1977

Annual Memberships

Students: \$12.50

Individuals: \$25.00

Families: \$35.00

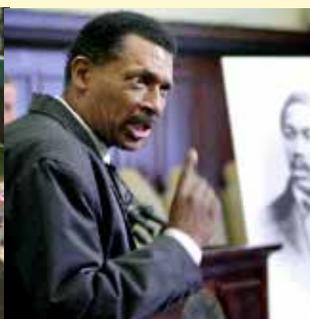
President: Richard Jankowski

Vice President: Kathy Clark

Treasurer: Frank Barletta

Secretary: Bill Hughes

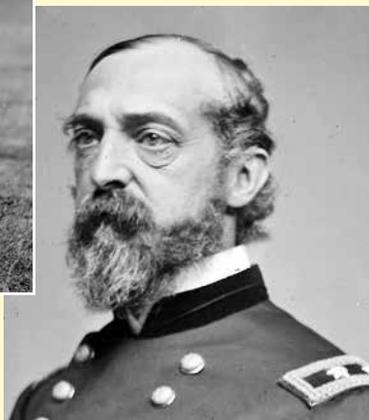
Programs: Dave Gilson





# 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 "Ridderless 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, located on Griscom Street in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. Old Baldy now presides over the Meade Room at the GAR Museum, where he occupies a custom-made, humidity-controlled, mahogany and glass display case.



**WEB Site:** <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>  
**Email:** [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
**Face Book:** Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

## Application

**Old Baldy CWRT of Philadelphia**  
**c/o Priscilla Gabosch, 735 Park Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108**

Membership  
Annual Dues  
Student \$12.50  
Individual \$25.00  
Family \$35.00

Enclosed find a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Old Baldy CWRT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ How did you learn of OBCWRT? \_\_\_\_\_