

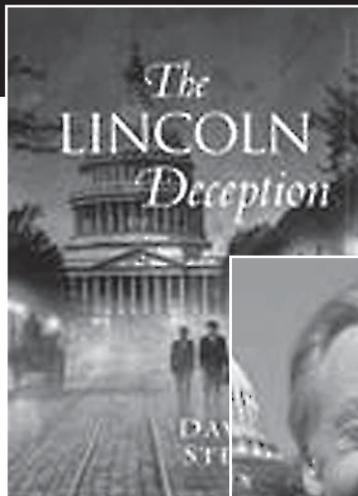
Old Baldy

Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



May 8, 2014, The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

“The Lincoln Deception”



David Stewart

Join us on **Thursday, May 8th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** when we shall have the privilege of a visit and discussion by **David Stewart** on the Conspiracy of John Wilkes Booth.

The Lincoln Deception, which explores the secrets of the John Wilkes Booth Conspiracy. Stewart invites readers to “sink into the crepuscular gaslight of Washington in 1900 as our mismatched heroes struggle to scrape away the myths, misunderstandings and lies surrounding the John Wilkes Booth Conspiracy, while dodging the powerful secret forces that need to keep the secrets . . . secret.”

He practiced law with Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin in Washington, D.C., for nine years, concentrating on white-collar criminal defense, constitutional litigation, and appellate work, and then joined the Washington office of Ropes & Gray, LLP, in 1989 to begin a litigation group there. He has handled jury trials and dozens of appeals, plus presented argument in two cases before the Supreme Court. In 1989, he was principal defense counsel for U.S. District Judge Walter L. Nixon, Jr. of Biloxi, Mississippi, in an impeachment trial before the United States Senate. In addition, for ten years, Stewart wrote the monthly "Supreme Court Report" for the American Bar Association Journal. His non-fiction works include The Summer of 1787, which examines the creation of the United States Constitution, Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy, and American Emperor: Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America,.

Notes from the President...

Has Spring finally sprung? April was wet enough bring out those May flowers. We had a good visit to Confederate Hall in New Orleans on our Spring trip. Old Baldy CWRT has supported this museum for several years and they appreciate it. After touring it, I was speaking to John Bangs, who serves there and was surprised to learn he knew of our Round Table, its namesake and his plight over the last 30 years. Look for more on this visit in a future newsletter.

It was a successful recruiting trip to the Camp Olden Round Table meeting on the 1st to tell them of our activity in Southern New Jersey. It is important to keep spreading our message, as you never know who will pass it on or be inspired by it. We will continue visiting other groups in the area to promote Old Baldy. If you go on a visit, be sure to take some flyers.

Betsy Carpenter dazzled us with information about Elias Wright last month in an entertaining presentation. This month **David Stewart** will tell us about his book "The Lincoln Deception." Bring a friend to hear an interesting turn on the assassination on May 8th. Our Round Table donated \$75 to assist the 5th grade class from Ohio that raised money to repair a monument at Chickamauga. The funds are to assist them in attending the rededication of the monument. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to **Joe Wilson** and the **Book Queen (Gerri)** for sharing their table with Harry and I at the Neshaminy event to allow us to promote our Round Table. Look for the pictures in this newsletter. We met some great folks there, including about 12 of our members. Next year we plan to have our own table staffed by members. The New Jersey History Fair will be May 10th at Washington Crossing State Park. **Bob Russo** would enjoy company in manning the table for part of the day. Joe will be there displaying his artifacts. Join members of the Round Table in Norristown for the wreath laying ceremony at General Hancock's grave at 11 am on May 24th.

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**Please join us at
7:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th,
at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus,
Connector Building - Room 101.**

Similar to the "New Jersey at Gettysburg" lecture held last June, **Dr. David Martin** will talk about 1864 as a turning point in the War at the College on June 18th. This event will be at 7:30 and it provides an opportunity for our Round Table to greet the attendees with information about our group. Plan on coming out early, to pass out our flyers.

There are several activities across the state in the discussion and planning stages including a lecture series, assisting in scheduling a re-enactment/encampment, and co-hosting a symposium. Hope to have more information from our luncheon committee at the meeting. Let us know which project interests you.

Upcoming dates are May 18th placement of flags on graves at Laurel Hill Cemetery, May 25th dedication of the Silent Sentinal at Laurel Hill Cemetery at noon, School of the Soldier at Allaire State Park on May 31st/June 1st, and the commemoration of Monocracy on July 9th.

*Thank you for helping our Round Table prosper.
See you on the 8th.*

Rich Jankowski, President

Memorial Wreath Laying at General Hancock's Grave May 24, 2014

Karen McCurdy Wolfe, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Montgomery County has extended an invitation to us to be included in their annual ceremony.

Here is a brief description of the event as it's now conducted by the Historical Society of Montgomery County: The gatehouse/Cemetery Headquarters, at the entrance to the cemetery, is opened at **9:00 AM** and the Historical Society will display items related to Norristown/Civil War/General's Hancock, Hartranft, Zook, etc.

At **11:00 AM** a small group of re-enactors along with a color guard from the Sheriff's Dept. begin a circuit through the cemetery where they stop at several prominent CW-era graves, where at each stop a local historian speaks briefly about the person interred there.

At **Noon** the group ends up at Hancock's Tomb. A representative from the Historical Society speaks briefly, the wreaths are laid, the re-enactors fire several salutes, and a bugler plays Taps. The entire ceremony lasts one hour 45 minutes.

There are usually a dozen or so people dressed in period attire, including most of the historians that speak at the graves. Period attire would be most welcome and appropriate. If the day is warm, you may wish to reconsider. There have been instances of re-enactors fainting from the combination of the heat and their wool uniforms. We could take Karen Wolfe up on her offer to give us a tour. It is a special place

If anyone needs directions, the address to google is: Montgomery Cemetery, One Hartranft Avenue West Norriton, PA.

Or, they may email me or call my cell 484-343-1671.

It will be an honor for me to provide a wreath for us to place on General W. S. Hancock's grave on behalf of our Round Table.

Bill Holdsworth



*Photos of the the Old Baldy Display at the Neshaminy Reenactment - Rich and Joe
Photos by Gerri*

Today in Civil War History

Wednesday May 8, 1861 Media Messages Mostly Misleading

The relations between the government(s) and the media in the days of the Civil War were just about as pleasant and peaceful as they are today. After printing an editorial a couple of days ago suggesting that the south needed "a dictator" to win its war for independence, the Richmond Examiner promised today not to publish any information on military movements or activities, lest it give help to the enemy. This promise lasted approximately as long as it took the ink to dry, and indeed the paper was as good a source of war news in Washington as it was in Richmond.

Thursday May 8, 1862 Schenck, Stonewall Spar Severely

It must have seemed like a good idea at the time as Robert Schenck took his 6000 men (detached from Gen. Fremont's command) into a battle today at McDowell, or Bull Pasture Mountain, in western Virginia. Unfortunately, he soon discovered that he was up against 10,000 Confederates under Stonewall Jackson, and retreating seemed

Longstreet

Lieutenant General James Longstreet

Nicknames: “Old Pete”, “My Old War Horse” (by Robert E. Lee), “Bull of the Woods” (by his soldiers after Chickamauga), “The Old Bulldog”

Occupation: Commander of the First Corps of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. After the war he was a businessman, militia leader and (novice) politician

Born: January 8, 1821, in Edgefield District, SC (near Augusta, GA)

Died: January 2, 1904, in Gainesville, GA

Physical Description: “Brig. Gen. James Longstreet was then a most striking figure, about forty years of age, a soldier every inch, and very handsome, tall and well proportioned, strong and active, a superb horseman and with an unsurpassed soldierly bearing, his features and expression fairly matched; eyes, glint steel blue, deep and piercing; a full brown beard, head well shaped and poised”.

Most Famous For: Commanding the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee.

Being involved in the post-war controversy surrounding “Pickett’s Charge” at Gettysburg

Becoming a Republican after the war. This left him wide-open for attacks by Gen. Jubal Early (Lee’s “Bad Old Man”), J. William Jones (Confederate chaplain), Gen. William Pendleton and other “Lost Cause” leaders.

Showing excellent leadership and military skills at Fredericksburg, Chickamauga and the Wilderness.

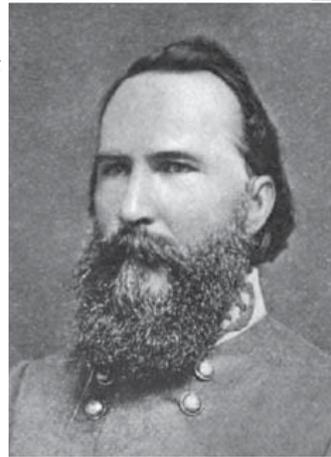
His memoirs, *From Manassas to Appomattox*.

Interesting Wartime Information: “Hero” was the name of Longstreet’s horse.

In January 1862 James and Louise (his first wife) had four children, and all four became ill with scarlet fever. Mary Ann, James Jr. and Gus died within a week. Because the Longstreets were too grief-stricken, George Pickett (and his fiancé LaSalle Corbett) made the burial arrangements.

May 6: Longstreet's attack and wounding:

As planned, Hancock’s II Corps attacked Hill at 5 a.m., overwhelming the Third Corps with the divisions of Wadsworth, Birney, and Mott; Getty and Gibbon were in support. Ewell’s men on the Turnpike had actually attacked first, at 4:45 a.m., but continued to be pinned down by attacks from Sedgwick’s and Warren’s corps and could not be relied upon for assistance. Lt. Col. William T. Poague’s 16 guns at the Widow Tapp farm fired canister tirelessly, but could not stem the tide and Confederate soldiers streamed toward the rear. Before a total collapse, however, reinforcements arrived at 6 a.m., Brig. Gen. John Gregg’s 800-man Texas Brigade, the vanguard of Longstreet’s column. General Lee, relieved and excited, waved his hat over his hand and shouted, “Texans always move them!” Caught up in the excitement, Lee began to move forward with the advancing brigade. As the Texans realized this, they halted and grabbed the reins of Lee’s horse, Traveller, telling the general that they were concerned for his safety and would only go forward if he



Maria Louisa Garland Longstreet

moved to a less exposed location. Longstreet was able to convince Lee that he had matters well in hand and the commanding general relented.

Like a fine lady at a party, Longstreet was often late in his arrival at the ball. But he always made a sensation and that of delight, when he got in, with the grand old First

Corps sweeping behind him as his train.

Longstreet counterattacked with the divisions of Maj. Gen. Charles W. Field on the left and Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw on the right. The



The Longstreet Children's Grave

Union troops, somewhat disorganized from their assault earlier that morning, could not resist and fell back a few hundred yards from the Widow Tapp farm. The Texans leading the charge north of the road fought gallantly at a heavy price—only 250 of the 800 men emerged unscathed. At 10 a.m., Longstreet’s chief engineer reported that he had explored an unfinished railroad bed south of the Plank Road and that it offered easy access to the Union left flank. Longstreet assigned his aide, Lt. Col. Moxley Sorrel, to the task of leading four fresh brigades along the railroad bed for a surprise attack. Sorrel and the senior brigade commander, Brig. Gen. William Mahone, struck at 11 a.m. Hancock wrote later that the flanking attack rolled up his line “like a wet blanket.” At the same time, Longstreet resumed his main attack, driving Hancock’s men back to the Brock Road, and mortally wounding Brig. Gen. James S. Wadsworth.

Longstreet rode forward on the Plank Road with several of his officers and encountered some of Mahone’s men returning from their successful attack. The Virginians believed the mounted party were Federals and opened fire, wounding Longstreet severely in his neck and killing a brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins.

The 12th Virginia was part of Longstreet’s flanking force advancing perpendicular to the Orange Plank Road. As

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Longstreet's Wounding



the troops approached the road, they ran into a small forest fire. Members of the right of the unit went around the right end of the fire, crossed the road and entered the woods. The left portion of the regiment went to the left of the fire and stopped before reaching the road. When the right portion realized they had left behind the rest of their command, they turned around and moved back toward the road. As they did so, the men of the left of the regiment saw soldiers approaching and opened fire, which drew a response.

Into this cross fire rode Generals Longstreet, Kershaw and Jenkins and their staffs. Micah Jenkins was mortally wounded. James Longstreet was struck in the lower part of the throat. A minié bullet passed through Longstreet's neck and shoulder, permanently paralyzing the general's right arm. Several staff officers were hit before Joseph Kershaw halted the shooting.



Helen Dortch Longstreet

General James Longstreet was Lee's second in command. The wound was in the lower part of the throat and threatened his life. Little is known about Longstreet between the time of the wounding and his return to duty on October 19, 1864. Longstreet's absence from the army came at the critical time of the war - the spring and summer of 1864. Despite this wound, Longstreet lived until 1904, the last of the major players of the Civil War to die.

Longstreet was able to turn over his command directly to Charles Field and told him to "Press the enemy." However, the Confederate line fell into confusion and before a vigorous new assault could be organized, Hancock's line had stabilized behind earthworks at the Brock Road. The following day, Lee appointed Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson to temporary command of the First Corps. Longstreet did not return to the Army of Northern Virginia until October 13. (By coincidence, he was accidentally shot by his own men only about 4 miles (6.4 km) away from the place where Stonewall Jackson suffered the same fate a year earlier.)

like an even better idea. Jackson's men pursued as far as Franklin, Va. They were already getting the name of "foot cavalry" for their speed of movement.

Friday May 8, 1863 Alien Amnesty Abruptly Amended

All during the Civil War the draft laws of the United States had applied only to citizens, thereby leaving alien residents exempt. (Aliens served, of course, and in large numbers, but they were all volunteers.) Today Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation announcing that henceforth the draft would be extended to include any non-citizen who had applied for citizenship. The impulse to serve was not universal, and many citizenship papers were hastily withdrawn.

Sunday May 8, 1864 Longstreet Loss Leaves Lee Lacking

Skirmishing and establishment of lines continued around Spotsylvania Court House today, with the Confederate forces getting into position first. They were therefore in position when G.K. Warren's corps arrived, thinking that they were moving around the Confederate right flank. A fight ensued. Two of Lee's three corps had inexperienced commanders today as Longstreet had been severely wounded on Friday and A.P. Hill called in sick today.

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Wilderness Diorama

Jim Heenehan has sent a couple of sets of photos from his Wilderness diorama, May 5, 1864. These feature Griffin's division (V Corps) attack across Saunders Field that started the two-day battle. Featured in a couple of photos are the 140th and 146th NY, Zouave regiments of Ayre's brigade (there is a monument to the 140th at Saunders Field). Also included is a photo of Meade and Grant conferring together behind the lines.



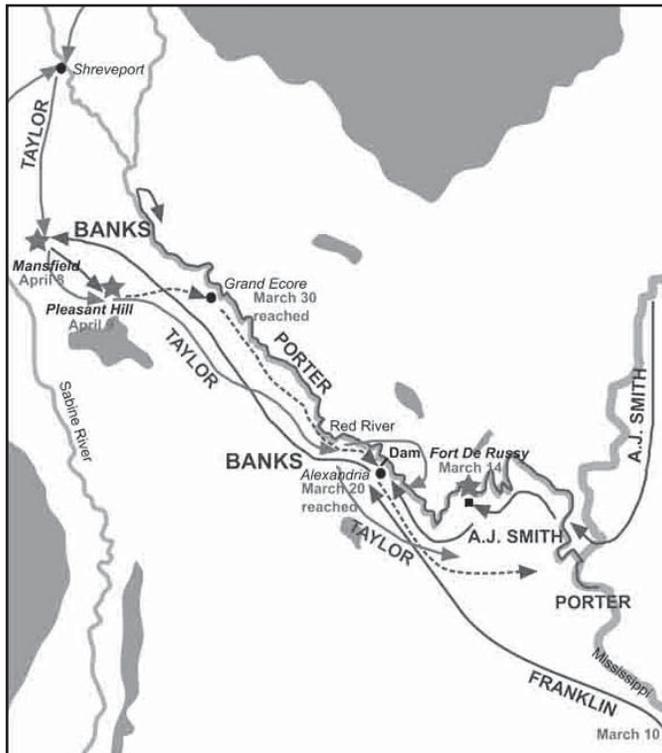
Red River Campaign

Continued from April issue...

Map of Red River Campaign

Battles

Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, commanding the advance divisions of Banks's Army of the Gulf, began his march from southern Louisiana on March 10. Meanwhile, A. J. Smith and his two corps traveled via boat from Vicksburg down to Simmesport. After an all-night march, Smith's men surprised and captured Fort de Russy on the Red River on March 14, capturing 317 Confederate prisoners and the only heavy guns available to the Confederates. This signaled the beginning of the campaign. Admiral Porter was then able to remove a giant raft blocking the river without much difficulty. Taylor was forced to retreat, abandoning Alexandria, Louisiana, and ceding south and central Louisiana to the Union forces.



A.J. Smith's force arrived at Alexandria on March 20, 1864, intending to rendezvous with Banks's forces, under the immediate command of Franklin. However, Franklin did not arrive at Alexandria until March 25, 1864, and Banks himself, travelling separately from his troops, did not arrive at Alexandria until March 26, 1864. Banks's failure to arrive in a timely manner for his rendezvous with Smith was the first of many logistical miscues that caused much acrimony between Banks and his subordinates during the campaign.

While he waited for Banks to arrive, Smith sent Brigadier General Joseph Mower on a successful mission to capture much of Taylor's cavalry and his outpost upriver from Alexandria at Henderson's Hill on March 21. Nearly 250 Confederates and a four gun artillery battery were captured without a shot being fired.

When he arrived at Alexandria, Banks found an important message waiting for him. Two weeks earlier, on March 12, 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant had been named General-in-Chief of the Union Army, replacing Halleck. In Grant's message, he told Banks it was "important that Shreveport be taken as soon as possible" because A.J. Smith's command must be returned to Sherman by the middle of April "even if it leads to the abandonment of the main object of your expedition."

Kirby Smith had nearly 80,000 men to call upon but was yet undecided where to move them to counter the three Union forces now known to be moving toward Shreveport. Taylor would never fight with more than 18,500 men throughout the entire campaign.

By March 31, Banks's men had reached Natchitoches, only 65 miles south of Shreveport. Franklin's men had been delayed most of a week by rain, but it had not mattered because Admiral Porter had a similar delay trying to get his heaviest gunboats over the falls at Alexandria, which was covered with mines because the river had failed to achieve

its seasonal rise in water level. Porter had also spent time gathering cotton in the interior, and Banks conducted an election in the interim. Taylor now stationed himself 25 miles northwest at Pleasant Hill, still with fewer than 20,000 men. Once Banks had assembled more supplies, he continued advancing a week later.

Constant cavalry and naval skirmishing had been going on since March 21. On April 2, Brig. Gen. Albert Lindley Lee's division of Union cavalry collided with 1,500 arriving Confederate Texas cavalrymen. These Confederates would continue to resist any Union advance. Union intelligence, meanwhile, had determined that there were additional forces besides Taylor and the cavalry up the road from them. All the senior Union officers expressed doubts that

there would be any serious Confederate opposition, except for the naval flotilla. Banks' army followed Taylor and the cavalry into a dense pine forest area away from the river, probably to keep them in their front. Approaching Pleasant Hill, the Union army was excessively long due both to the existence of only a few camping areas with water, and there was no monitoring of the position of the rear elements. Taylor kept moving back toward Shreveport.

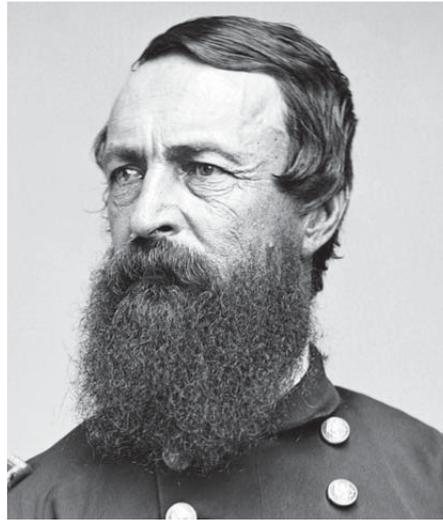
Battle of Mansfield

Heavy cavalry fighting, often dismounted, had continued on April 7, at Wilson's Farm and Tenmile Bayou. On April 8, Lee boldly charged a small force of Confederate cavalry at the Moss Plantation, three miles south of Mansfield, Louisiana, and pushed the Confederate horsemen off Honeycutt Hill. Taylor had stationed one infantry division (Mouton) in the woods along the edge of the clearing just north of Honeycutt Hill and east of the road. Seeing this increase in enemy strength, Lee requested infantry support. Landram's 2,400-man division of the 13th Corps was sent to Lee's aid and deployed to face Mouton. Banks went to the front to see for himself. Meanwhile, Taylor brought up a second infantry division (Walker) to the woods on the other side of the road in the middle of the day. The arrival of Walker's division gave Taylor a numeric edge - he had about 9,000 men; Banks had about 5,000 men. More significantly, the Union deployment was aligned to its right, facing Mouton, with only a cavalry brigade holding the left wing.

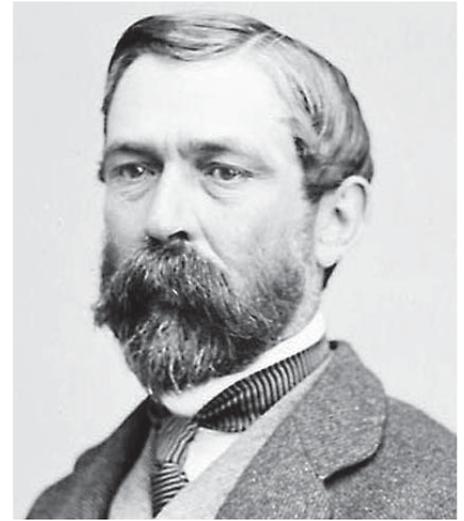
Taylor had hoped to provoke Banks into attacking him but following an artillery duel he became convinced that the



USA Major General
Nathaniel Banks



USA Rear Admiral
David D. Porter



CSA Lieutenant General
Richard Taylor

Union army was in disarray and would not attack. Around 4 p.m., Taylor ordered the attack to begin.

Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton led his infantry across an 800-yard wide field and attacked the Union right, formed behind a rail fence. While Mouton's assault was repulsed by Landram's infantry, Taylor advanced the rest of his entire line, including Walker's division, against the Union left. Walker's men brushed aside the lone cavalry brigade, sweeping in behind the rest of the Union forces. Banks had called for additional reinforcements, but they were too late. The Union line collapsed and a significant number of men from Landram's division were captured. A few hundred yards down the road, the reinforcements – Cameron's division – set up a second line, but this line also broke when faced with Taylor's superior numbers. The wagon train of the Union cavalry obstructed the road, resulting in the loss of artillery which could not be extracted in the retreat. However, Confederate soldiers halted to loot some of the Union wagons giving Banks' troops needed time to fall back.

As Confederate command and control was reestablished for the pursuit, the men ran into a third Union force under General William Emory of about 5,800 men sitting atop a ridge overlooking Chatman's Bayou. The Confederates pushed forward, but Emory's division repulsed the attempts to take this location. However, the Union forces did not have control of the precious water in the bayou. During the night, Banks decided to withdraw back to Pleasant Hill because of lack of water and the desire to unite with A. J. Smith's men.

The Battle of Mansfield was over. The Federals suffered approximately 2,400 casualties, almost half of which were from Landram's division – two of his eight regiments were captured in the battle, and both of his brigade commanders were wounded and captured. The Confederates suffered about 1,000 casualties, including Mouton, who was killed leading his men in the opening charge.

Battle of Pleasant Hill

Taylor didn't discover Bank's retreat until dawn the next day; he then ordered an immediate pursuit with Green's cavalry. When they came upon Banks' line of battle near

the town of Pleasant Hill, Taylor had the cavalry retreat a mile and wait for the infantry to arrive, which started arriving shortly after noon. Since the infantry had marched forty five miles in thirty six hours, Taylor let them rest for two hours before ordering an attack.

At 4 p.m. the next day Confederate Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Churchill's arriving infantry started the attack on the Union forces. Taylor thought he was sending them into the Union flank, but it was actually the center. Confederate cavalry also miscalculated positions and suffered heavily from flank fire. Churchill's men did succeed in collapsing this Union center position, but this also brought his men into the middle of a U-shaped position, with A. J. Smith's unused divisions forming the base of the "U". Though part of the advanced Union right had also collapsed, the forces of Smith and Mower next launched a counterattack, and joined by neighboring regiments they routed Taylor's men from the vicinity of Pleasant Hill. Some cannon were recaptured.

Short of water and feed for the horses, not knowing where his supply boats were, and receiving divided opinions from his senior officers, Banks ordered a rapid retreat downriver to Natchitoches and Grand Ecore. Both sides at the Battle of Pleasant Hill suffered roughly equal casualties of 1,600. It was a tactical victory for the Federals but a strategic Confederate victory because the Union army retreated following the battle.

Smith splits the Confederate forces

On the river, the Confederates had diverted water into a tributary causing the already low Red River level to fall further. When Admiral Porter, slowly heading upriver, learned that Banks was retreating, he followed suit. There was a brief engagement near Blair's Landing on April 12, in which Confederate cavalry general Thomas Green was decapitated by a naval shell.

At Grand Ecore near Natchitoches, Banks received confidential orders from Grant to move the army to New Orleans. The river also continued to fall, and all the supply boats had to return downriver. Sensing that they were involved in a perceived defeat, Banks's relations deteriorated with the cantankerous A. J. Smith and the navy and

with most of the other generals as well.

General Kirby Smith decided to take three infantry divisions from Taylor and lead them north into Arkansas to crush Steele's army, despite General Taylor's strong protests they should be used against Banks. General Steele would never make it to Shreveport, due to supply difficulties and fights with Confederates. The Camden Expedition ended with Steele retreating to Little Rock. Smith left Taylor with one infantry division and the cavalry with which to continue to harass Banks. Learning that some of Taylor's 5,000 men had gotten south of him and that the fleet had left for Alexandria, Banks ordered a retreat from Grand Ecore. At the Battle of Monett's Ferry on April 23, some of Banks's forces crossed the Cane River on the Confederate flank and forced a division of Confederate Cavalry under General Hamilton P. Bee to flee. The rest of the march to Alexandria was unremarkable, but Porter ran into a delaying ambush at the mouth of Cane River after he tarried to blow up the stuck USS Eastport.

Banks retreats

Contemporary news engraving of Porter's fleet riding through Bailey's Dam at Alexandria, relations between Banks and many of the others deteriorated further. Each side sent exaggerated accounts to friendly newspapers and supporters. General John McClernand arrived with reinforcements from Texas, and he had also previously had poor relations with A. J. Smith and Porter. Smith obeyed only those orders he wanted to obey.

Porter could not get many of his ironclads over the falls at Alexandria. Colonel Joseph Bailey designed Bailey's Dam, to which Banks soon gave night-and-day attention. Several



Colonel Joseph Bailey

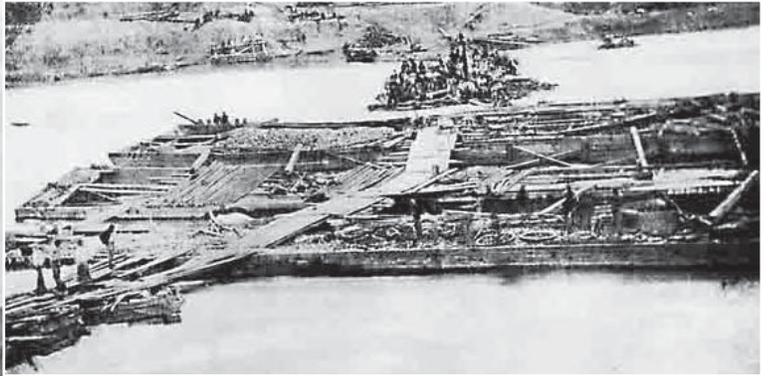


Photo of Bailey Dam Construction

Taylor attempted to fool the Union command into believing many more men were present, but Taylor did not try to stop the dam construction. He did shut down the lower river by attacking boats. Yet though General Taylor had promised to prevent the escape of the Federals, he could not do so. He blamed Kirby Smith for lack of support. En route to the Mississippi, an engagement at Mansura, May 16, was fought with almost no casualties. Yellow Bayou, the final conflict, took place on May 18 with significant casualties in a burning forest. Transport ships were lashed together to allow Union forces to cross the wide Atchafalaya River. General Banks, on arrival near the Mississippi, was met by General Edward Canby, who had been named Banks's superior in a newly created regional department.

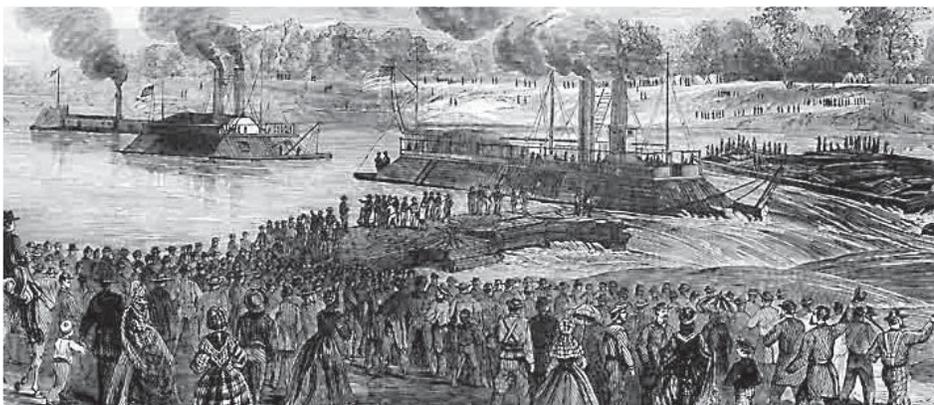
Conclusion

The Red River Campaign was a Union fiasco, the outcome of which did not have a major impact on the war. It may have extended the length of the war by several months as it diverted Union efforts from the far more important objective of capturing Mobile, Alabama. That event did not occur until 1865, and could probably have been accomplished by June 1864 if not for the Red River Campaign.

The failure of the campaign effectively ended the military career of Banks, and controversy surrounding his retreat, the presence of cotton speculators and the use of military boats to remove cotton dogged his early postbellum congressional campaigns. Admiral Porter realized a substantial sum of money during the campaign from the sale of cotton as prizes of war.

The Confederates lost two key commanders, Mouton and Green, and suffered casualties they could not afford. Perhaps more importantly, relations between the aggressive Taylor and cautious Smith were permanently damaged by their disagreement over Smith's decision to remove half of Taylor's troops following the battle of Pleasant Hill.

The lost opportunity to capture the entire Union fleet as it lay helpless above the falls at Alexandria haunted Taylor to his dying day, certain that Smith had robbed him a chance to cripple the Union forces. The arguments between the two generals resulted in Taylor's transfer to command of the Department of East Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama soon after the campaign ended.



Porter's fleet riding through Bailey's Dam

boats got through before a partial dam collapse. An extra upriver dam provided additional water depth, allowing the march to resume. When the Federals left Alexandria, the town went up in flames, the origins of which are disputed. Because the Confederates had already burned most of the cotton, many speculators at Alexandria were disappointed.

April 10th Meeting...

"Meet Brevet Brigadier General Elias Wright"

Betsy Carpenter presented an excellent program on Elias Wright successful soldier and New Jersey business man. Wright's military career as an officer in the 4th New Jersey Infantry from the Peninsula Campaign to an officer of the 10th US Colored Infantry at Fort Fisher. After the war he settled in and married Julia Ashley of Port Republic in New Jersey. He was hired by Joseph Wharton to survey and manage the several thousand acres of land he had just purchased. For 30 years Wright had managed the property for Wharton. The property and mansion are now the Wharton State Forest. A museum is now located at Batsto that has many Wright treasures.



Betsy Carpenter

General Meade Society

Sunday, May 25, 2014.

Annual Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA. Special Event: Dedication of the 'Silent Sentry' Soldiers' Home Monument Recreating Original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of 1868: The traditional Decoration Day service of the Grand Army Meade Post #1 will be recreated at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave. Philadelphia on Sunday, May 25, 2014 at 12 noon. All are welcome to attend and participate in the ceremony. For information, call: 215-228-8200

Sunday, June 1, 2014

1864: Bitter and Bloody War Continues -

Sesquicentennial Year 1864 - Exhibit Opening at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Tours and Reception - focusing on the principal participants in the actions of 1864 at the 150th Anniversary.

Starting at 1:00pm

After an historic walking tour and wreath-laying at Laurel Hill Cemetery, attendees will travel to sister cemetery, West Laurel Hill, for an informative lecture presentation, and a tour of more prominent Civil War gravesites. The day will conclude with a casual cocktail and dinner reception inside West Laurel Hill's historic Conservatory. Directions will be provided. Free parking is located in both cemeteries. The full program, including exhibit opening, tours, presentation and dinner, will run approximately 6 hours. *The cost is \$40/person Advance registration is required. Tickets can be purchased by calling (215) 228-8200 or online at www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org Advance registration is requested. RSVP by calling 215.228-8200 or emailing tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org*

New Jersey History Fair

Needed... a few volunteers

The New Jersey History Fair at Washington's Crossing, NJ is set for May 10 and we are registered. I will need a few volunteers for the day. That is Mother's Day weekend which may pose some problems with people's availability. However, if you love history...**this is a great day.** Thanks, Bob Russo

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2014

May 8 - Thursday

"The Lincoln Deception"

David Stewart
(Author)

June 12 - Thursday

"Salute to Old Glory"

Kerry Bryan
(Historian/Re-enactor)

July 10 - Thursday

"72nd PV at the Angle"

Dave Trout
(Historian)

August 14 - Thursday

"Favorite Book Night"

Everybody and Anybody

Questions to Kerry Bryan at 215-564-4654 or kerrylll@verizon.net

You're Welcome to Join Us!

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
Camden County College
Blackwood Campus - Connector Building
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

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Founded January 1977

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

President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: Bob Russo
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
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