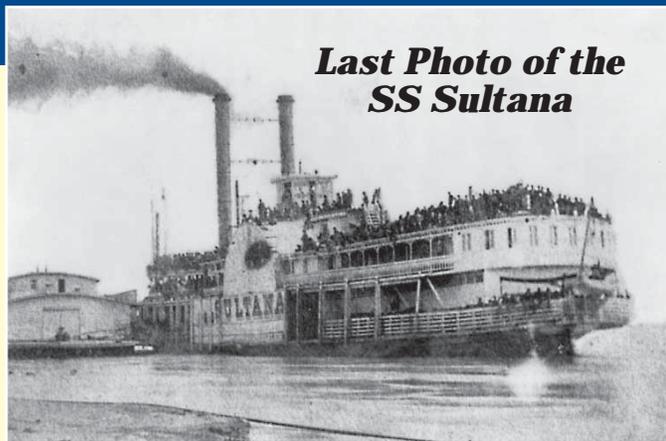


Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

April 9, 2015 The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

Transport to Hell... SS Sultana an American Tragedy

by Don Wiles



*Last Photo of the
SS Sultana*

Join us on **Thursday, April 9th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** for a presentation on *“Transport to Hell... SS Sultana an American Tragedy”* by **Don Wiles**.

The worst maritime disaster in America occurred April 27, 1865 North of Memphis on the Mississippi River. A steamship that was being used to transport returning Union prisoners of war from Confederate prisons to their homes in the Midwest area of the country exploded and sunk. There are a lot of mysteries and questions about the SS Sultana tragedy. The new technologies of Steamboat engines, the making of repairs, the greed and conspiracies of Army officers and the Sultana officer, the amount of prisoners put on the ship, the operation of the ship on the flooded Mississippi, the Government investigations, the trial to fix blame, the rescue and recovery efforts of the Navy and civilians, why was there no outcry from Americans, how could they ignore approximately 1700 dead from this disaster and now the question of sabotage.

A subject of the Civil War that had been forgotten from the time it happened up to the 1960s (One book was written in 1892). Several books and articles have now been researched and written starting in the 1960s. And now the Sultana's location has been found and the possible excavation of the remains may be in the future. After 150 years a lot of questions are still unanswered.

An ancestor of Don's was a prisoner in Andersonville and was on the Sultana and survived. Hear his unique story.

Don Wiles is a member of Old Baldy CWRT and is an amateur historian, who's main interest is Gettysburg. His interest in the Sultana was generated by his interest in his family's genealogy. Don is retired from 50 years as an Illustrator for industrial and commercial companies. He worked at the Kennedy Space Center doing illustrations for the Astronauts, NASA and companies during the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Soyuz, Shuttle, and various Satellite programs. He also did an illustration of the missile cruiser CG 64 Gettysburg for the commissioning in Philadelphia. Don lives in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

Notes from the President...

Welcome to April. Hope your holiday time with your families was pleasant. Spring is here and the event season is in full swing so get out, enjoy them and join us for some of ours. Share the experience with a friend. Spoke to **Kerry Bryan**, she is home recuperating, hopes to be out and about in two months or so and sends her greetings to everyone.

In this newsletter are articles on the 2015 Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium at Ford's Theater and some touring in Washington afterwards. Next month the newsletter will contain an article on the recent GAR luncheon. Later this month I will be attending the Virginia Signature Conference in Charlottesville, look for a write-up in a future newsletter. Thank you to **Kathy Clark** for agreeing to be our 'sorter' and go through the various messages with of upcoming events, activities and exhibits to determine which to share with the membership. Let her know if your interests. Thank you also to **Roger Schnaare** for the computer assistance he is providing the Membership Team as they compile our list.

Continued on page 2

2015 Dues Due

Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 9th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, Room 101.

It was good to see **Herb Kaufman** last month for his presentation on the medical care of the assassinated presidents. This month our outstanding newsletter editor **Don Wiles** will inform us about the Sultana Disaster. Unfortunately I will not be there to enjoy it as I will be traveling in the upper mid-west that week, so take good notes and do not give Bob too much grief! When **Steve Wright** returns from his adventure in the Pacific with **Bill Holdsworth** we will hear more about the Book Award project. Look for the full text of **Bob Russo's** article about our luncheon to be posted on our website. Planning continues on our 2016 Symposium, more information will be available soon. We now have over 300 "Likes" on our Facebook page, the word

is spreading about Old Baldy CWRT.

We hope to have the link for our clothing items setup this month. Assist us in promoting Old Baldy by signing up at the meeting to staff our table at Neshaminy on April 25-26. Do not be left out our tour of Woodland Cemetery on June 13th with **Jim Mundy**. Do plan on attending the Memorial Day ceremonies and wreath placement at General Hancock's grave on May 23rd, carpools will be available.

*Be sure to stop by the **Lamp Post Diner** if you can for some pre-meeting fellowship.*

Rich Jankowski, President

Today in Civil War History

Wednesday, April 9, 1862 Peculiar Philosophical Problem Posed

The Senate of the Confederate States of America today took up the subject of conscription, the involuntary induction of men into military service. On the one hand it was unquestionably needed in order to raise manpower for the army. On the other hand, though, the preservation of individual liberties had been one of the most important reasons given for many states to leave the Union. The draft would eventually be passed.

Thursday, April 9, 1863 Skirmishing Suppressed Severely

Nothing of any great noteworthiness occurred today. Aside from minor hostilities at Franklin, Tenn., Sedalia, Mo., Blount's Mills, N.C., and Berwick Bay, La., peace prevailed upon the land. This distressing trend would not continue long...

Saturday, April 9, 1864 Meade Mandate Made Mandatory

A wedding between Robert E. Lee and Gen. George Meade is a most unsettling prospect...but that was what Meade's orders today consisted of, at least by a Biblical allusion. Writing from Culpeper Court House, Va., Grant sent the following instruction to the head of the Army of the Potomac: "Wherever Lee goes, there will you go also."

Sunday, April 9, 1865 Surrender!

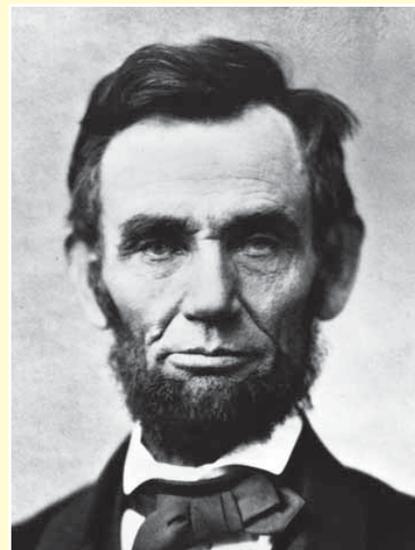
Robert E. Lee today met with Ulysses S. Grant this day, at Appomattox Station, Va. The historic encounter took place in the parlor of one Wilmer McLean. Mr. McLean's former residence in Manassas had been damaged in the battle of the same name. Resolving to get his family away from such danger, he had picked up and moved to the most harmless, out-of-the-way place he could find. The war came to him for its ending as it had for its beginning, and the surrender papers were signed on his table by the head of the Army of Northern Virginia. A Confederate soldier later wrote that men came "to their officers with tears streaming from their eyes, and asked what it all meant, and would, at that moment, I know, have rather died the night before than see the sun rise on such a day as this."

www.civilwarinteractive

18th Annual Lincoln Symposium

Rich Jankowski

The 18th Annual Symposium of the Abraham Lincoln Institute on March 21st was held this year at Ford's Theater. Bruce Sirak, President of Camp Olden CWRT and friend of OBCWRT, joined us again for the trip down to DC. We saw John Voris and Dottie in attendance. We missed Kerry Bryan as she heals from recent mishap. We were told parts of the day were broadcast on



C-Span. Look for the re-broadcast in the future. As at previous gatherings we heard more fresh scholarship this year on the assassination and end of the war.

The first presentation was by Jonathan W. White from Christopher Newport University on "Lincoln's Dreams of Death." He told how dreams reflected the conflict with its hopes, fears and desires. Lincoln did believe in the predictive capacity of dreams. White reviewed the dreams attributed to Lincoln over the years. He stated there is limited documented proof that Lincoln had a dream of his own death. It was sold years later to the press. There is evidence of the "ship on the water" dream. This one Lincoln had several times including the night before he was shot. Dreams were included in books because readers were fascinated by the stories and it confirmed the myths about Lincoln. White explained sleep and dreams were shared by the soldiers and their loved ones at home.

Richard Wightman Fox, University of Southern California, discussed what Lincoln was thinking on his final day. Since his mind was extinguished with no dying words, it left a void. Fox covered the comments of three of the last people to interact with Lincoln. These are Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax, Mary Lincoln and Gideon Welles. Fox told

of Lincoln relaying the "ship on the water" dream. Abe was relaxed and happy with Mary. The gap of final words was filled by eight from his second inaugural address "With malice toward none, with charity for all." As country moved forward, Lincoln plowed into American culture, losing and gaining favor in the last 150 years.

Dr. Steve Goldman psychiatrist from New York presented on "Mr. Lincoln's Thinking Bayonets." It has been researching the study for 17 years at the Library of Congress. Most of his material is from writings of soldiers who had lost a limb in the war. He claims the real rebels of the Civil War were the Union soldiers. They were very literate, one quarter were foreign born and two percent were professional. They had a religious belief in a republican form of government and eighty percent voted for Lincoln. When he died, they mourned him as a comrade; there was no reprisal against the Confederacy. They came home changed from the charge of combat. There was no system for treating veterans and only a limited pension system. Many were alienated by civilians and some soldiers were begging in the streets. Causes matter in war and peace, white Union veterans advocated for black vote and citizenship for their fellow veterans.



After the lunch break Martha Hodes from New York University history Department, discussed "Mourning Lincoln." She opened with who was "the nation" after the war? What kind of nation would be created? In her study she reviewed diaries and writings of citizens across the country. Many mourners flocked to church on Easter Sunday seeking guidance. Some Confederate diaries called it "God's will." Some groups were happy (South Carolina citizens, the Irish) whereas others upset (soldiers, blacks). Many mourners blamed the Confederacy Government while others blamed slavery. Diaries contained much daily trivia next to responses to Lincoln's death. The joy of victory was soured by the sorrow of death. Reactions were tied to the Nation's future. Radical Southern folks believed the South would rise again. Blacks wanted to uphold Lincoln's vision. In her book she traces several diaries from the end of the war up to the end of the century.

The final speaker was Dr. Terry Alford beloved professor at Northern Virginia Community College. He expanded on his

25 years with John Wilkes Booth. He covered the origins of the Booth family in the Bel Air, MD area and some little known traits of John. His father often gave the children the silent treatment and Booth played three major roles well in his career. Alford explained about a missing manuscript that disappeared in the 1940's from Mrs. Mahoney and Helen Covi. Mrs. Mahoney lived in Tutor Hall from the late 1870's until the 1940's. He had a mission to locate the research. He found Covi in rural Virginia and received a mother lode of information which he was able to use in his book, *Fortune's Fool*.

The day finished with a speakers panel with questions from the audience, clarifying and expanding on some of the points they made in their presentations. Once again the Abraham Lincoln Institute and Illinois State Society of Washington did a superb job in bringing new scholarship to the attendees in a fabulous setting. Plan on attending the Symposium next year on the third Saturday of March.

Tour after the Lincoln Symposium

Rich Jankowsk

After the Lincoln Institute Symposium wrapped up Bruce and I were able to go across the street to the Peterson House. In my many trip to Washington, I had never been there due to renovations, closure and timing. Upon entering the building you step into the parlor where Mary Lincoln and Tad sat through the night. In the back of the first floor I finally saw the "elastic room." The bed is small especially for someone of Lincoln's size. After departing

the bedroom, you go across to the adjacent building and take an elevator to the fourth floor. This is the Center for Education and Leadership. It has four floors of exhibits and information about Lincoln.

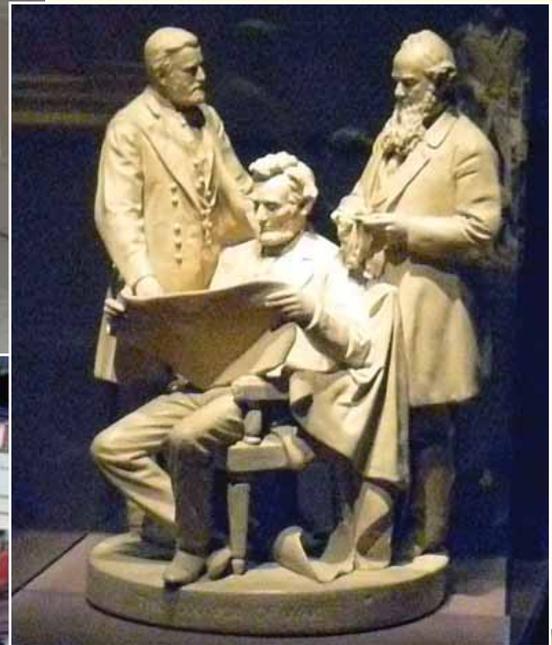
The fourth floor, the Aftermath Gallery covers what happened after April 14th including the funeral, the train ride back to Springfield, the hunt for Booth, and the fate of the

other conspirators. The third floor is the Legacy Gallery. It covers how the legacy of Lincoln developed and his memorialization around the world. Artifacts show Lincoln's growth in pop culture while displays remind us how Lincoln has inspired presidents in the last 150 years. A video explains how the Lincoln Memorial has been a gathering place for important national events since it was finished. The Leadership Gallery on the second floor hosts special exhibits for Ford's Theater. A new exhibit "Silent Witnesses: Artifacts of the Lincoln Assassination," was opening on March 23rd so this area was closed when we visited. The first floor contains a gift shop and rest facilities.

To descend the museum visitors use a winding stair case. In the center of the

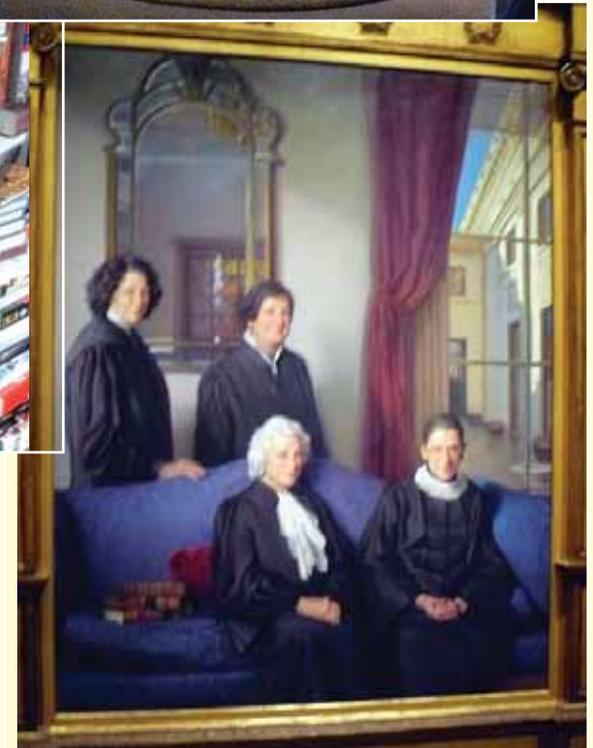
This is always a stop for end of the day touring in Washington because it is open until 7:00. During the 150th there have been changing exhibits on the war and displays of artifacts. The current exhibits are Grant and Lee, Mr. Lincoln's Washington, both until May 25th and Matthew Brady's Photographs of Union Generals until May 31st.

Bruce had not seen the Civil War display so he perused the three rooms in the northeast corner of the first floor. These exhibits are periodically changed as the museum rotates different parts of its collect. Near the "Mr. Lincoln's Washington" exhibit was a portrait of the four female Supreme Court Justices. It is seven feet by five and a half feet and will be on display until October 2016. After an informative day in DC we headed north, dining at the Noodle Company in White Haven, MD.



staircase is a 34 foot tower of books about Lincoln. As we went down Bruce and I comments on ones we owned and/or had read. Although there are around 15,000 books about Lincoln, the tower has 205 titles, most currently in print. The books are made from fireproof bent alumni with the cover art printed onto metal face. The tower totals 6800 books, with many titles repeated. It took about two weeks to construct as the books were glued in place.

We then walked to the Portrait Gallery housed with the Smithsonian American Art Gallery in the old Pension Building to see what Civil War exhibits were currently on display.



Surrender at Appomattox, 1865



With his army surrounded, his men weak and exhausted, Robert E. Lee realized there was little choice but to consider the surrender of his Army to General Grant. After a series of notes between the two leaders, they agreed to meet on April 9, 1865, at the house of Wilmer McLean in the village of Appomattox Courthouse. The meeting lasted approximately two and one-half hours and at its conclusion the bloodiest conflict in the nation's history neared its end.

Prelude to Surrender On April 3, Richmond fell to Union troops as Robert E. Lee led his Army of Northern Virginia in retreat to the West pursued by Grant and the Army of the Potomac. A running battle ensued as each Army moved farther to the West in an effort to out flank, or prevent being out flanked by the enemy. Finally, on April 7, General Grant initiated a series of dispatches leading to a meeting between the two commanders.

**Headquarters Armies
of the United States
April 7th, 1865 – 5 p. m.**

**General R. E. Lee,
Commanding C. S. Army:**

General: The results of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the C. S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General,
Commanding Armies of the United States**

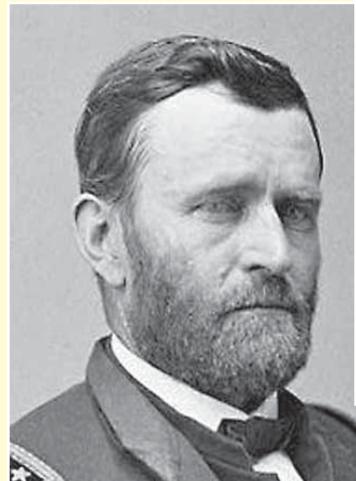
The note was carried through the Confederate lines and Lee promptly responded:

7th Apl 65

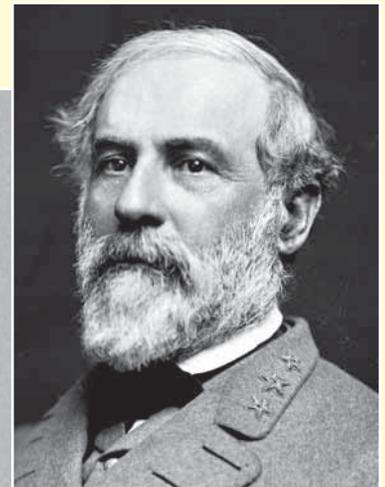
Genl:

I have received your note of this date. Though not entertaining the opinion you express of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of N. Va. – I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless effusion of blood, & therefore before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender

Very respy, your obt servt,



*Lieutenant General, USA
Ulysses S. Grant*



*General, CSA
Robert E. Lee*

**R. E. Lee,
Genl.**

**Lt. Genl. U. S. Grant
Commnd Armies of the U. States**

Grant received Lee's message after midnight and replied early in the morning giving his terms for surrender:

April 8th, 1865

**General R. E. Lee,
Commanding C. S. Army:**

General: Your note of last evening in reply to mine of the same date, asking the conditions on which I will accept the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, is just received. In reply I would say that, peace being my great desire, there is but one condition I would insist upon, – namely, that the men and officers surrendered shall be disqualified for taking up arms against the Government of the United States until properly exchanged. I will meet you, or will designate officers to meet any of officers you may name for the same purpose, at any point agreeable to you, for the purpose of arranging definitely the terms upon which the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia will be received.

**Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. Grant,
Commanding Armies of the United States**

The fighting continued and as Lee retreated further to the West he replied to Grant's message:

8th Apl 65

Genl.

I recd at a late hour your note of today. In mine of yesterday I did not intend to propose the surrender of the Army of N. Va. but to ask the terms of your proposition. To be frank, I do not think the emergency has arisen to call for the surrender of this army, but, as the restoration of peace should be the sole object of all, I desired to know whether your proposals would lead to that end. I cannot, therefore, meet you with a view to surrender the Army of N. Va. – but as far as your proposal may affect the C.

**S. forces under my command & tend to the restoration of peace, I should be pleased to meet you at 10 A. M. tomorrow on the old state road to Richmond, between the picket lines of the two armies.
Very respy your Obt Servt**

**R. E. Lee,
Genl.**

Exhausted from stress and suffering the pain from a severe headache, Grant replied to Lee around 5 o'clock in the morning of April 9.

**Headquarters Armies
of the United States
April 9th, 1865**

**General R. E. Lee,
Commanding C. S. Armies:**

General: Your note of yesterday is received. I have not authority to treat on the subject of peace. The meeting proposed for 10 A.M. to-day could lead to no good. I will state, however, that I am equally desirous for peace with yourself, and the whole North entertains the same feeling. The terms upon which peace can be had are well understood. By the South laying down their arms, they would hasten that most desirable event, save thousands of human lives, and hundreds of millions of property not yet destroyed. Seriously hoping that all our difficulties may be settled without the loss of another life, I subscribe myself, etc., U.S. Grant, Lieutenant-General"

**Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General U. S. Army.**

Still suffering his headache, General Grant approached the crossroads of Appomattox Court House where he was over taken by a messenger carrying Lee's reply.

April 9, 1865.

General,

I received your note of this morning on the picket-line, whither I had come to meet you and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposal of yesterday with reference to the surrender of this army. I now ask an interview, in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday, for that purpose.

**Very respectfully
your obt servt**

R. E. Lee,

**Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant
Comdg U. S. Armies**

9TH April 1865

General,

I ask a suspension of hostilities pending the adjustment of the terms of the surrender of this Army, in the interview requested in my former communication today.

**Very respectfully
your obt servt**

R. E. Lee,

**Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant
Comdg U. S. Armies**

HD QRs A N VA

9th April 1865

GENERAL, I sent a communication to you today from the picket line whither I had gone in hopes of meeting you in pursuance of the request contained in my letter of yesterday. Maj. Gen. Meade informs me that it would probably expedite matters to send a duplicate through some other part of your lines. I therefore request an interview at such time and place as you may designate, to discuss the terms of the surrender of this army in accord with your offer to have such an interview contained in your letter of yesterday.

**Very respectfully
Your obt servt**

R. E. Lee,

**Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant,
Comdr U. S. Armies**

Grant immediately dismounted, sat by the road and wrote the following reply to Lee.

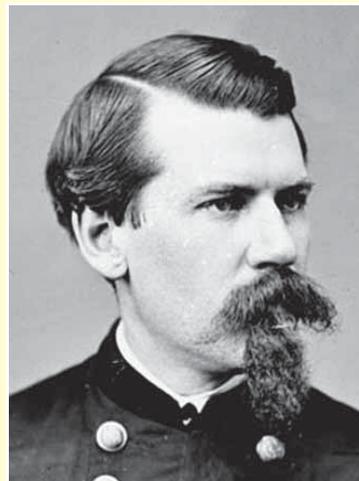
Headquarters Armies of the U. S.

April 9th, 1865

**General R. E. Lee,
Commanding C. S. Army:**

Your note of this date is but this moment (11:50 A.M.) received, in consequence of my having passed from the Richmond and Lynchburg road to the Farmville and Lynchburg road. I am at this writing about four miles west of Walker's Church, and will push forward to the front for the purpose of meeting you. Notice sent to me on this road where you wish the interview to take place will meet me.

**Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General**



**Brigadier General, USA
Horace Porter**

Meeting at Appomattox

The exchange of messages initiated the historic meeting in the home of Wilmer McLean. Arriving at the home first, General Lee sat in a large sitting room on the first floor. General Grant arrived shortly and entered the room alone while his staff respectfully waited on the front lawn. After a short period the staff was summoned to the room. General Horace Porter described the scene:

"We entered, and found General Grant sitting at a marble-topped table in the center of the room, and Lee sitting beside a small oval table near the front window, in the corner opposite to the door by which we entered, and facing General Grant. We walked in softly and ranged ourselves quietly about the sides of the room, very much as people enter a sick-chamber when they expect to find the patient dangerously ill.



"Very well,' replied General Grant, 'I will write them out.' And calling for his manifold order-book, he opened it on the table before him and proceeded to write the terms. The leaves had been so prepared that three impressions of the writing were made. He wrote very rapidly, and did not pause until he had finished the sentence ending with 'officers appointed by me to receive them.' Then he looked toward Lee, and his eyes

The contrast between the two commanders was striking, and could not fail to attract marked attention they sat ten feet apart facing each other. General Grant, then nearly forty-three years of age, was five feet eight inches in height, with shoulders slightly stooped. His hair and full beard were a nut-brown, without a trace of gray in them. He had on a single-breasted blouse, made of dark-blue flannel, unbuttoned in front, and showing a waistcoat underneath. He wore an ordinary pair of top-boots, with his trousers inside, and was without spurs. The boots and portions of his clothes were spattered with mud. He had no sword, and a pair of shoulder-straps was all there was about him to designate his rank. In fact, aside from these, his uniform was that of a private soldier.

Lee, on the other hand, was fully six feet in height, and quite erect for one of his age, for he was Grant's senior by sixteen years. His hair and full beard were silver-gray, and quite thick, except that the hair had become a little thin in the front. He wore a new uniform of Confederate gray, but-toned up to the throat, and at his side he carried a long sword of exceedingly fine workmanship, the hilt studded with jewels. His top-boots were comparatively new, and seemed to have on them some ornamental stitching of red silk. Like his uniform, they were singularly clean, and but little travel-stained. On the boots were handsome spurs, with large rowels. A felt hat, which in color matched pretty closely that of his uniform, and a pair of long buck-skin gauntlets lay beside him on the table.

General Grant began the conversation by saying 'I met you once before, General Lee, while we were serving in Mexico, when you came over from General Scott's headquarters to visit Garland's brigade, to which I then belonged. I have always remembered your appearance, and I think I should have recognized you anywhere.'

'Yes,' replied General Lee, 'I know I met you on that occasion, and I have often thought of it and tried to recollect how you looked, but I have never been able to recall a single feature.'

The two generals talked a bit more about Mexico and moved on to a discussion of the terms of the surrender when Lee asked Grant to commit the terms to paper:

seemed to be resting on the handsome sword that hung at that officer's side. He said afterward that this set him to thinking that it would be an unnecessary humiliation to require officers to surrender their swords, and a great hardship to deprive them of their personal baggage and horses, and after a short pause he wrote the sentence: 'This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage.'

Grant handed the document to Lee. After reviewing it, Lee informed Grant that the Cavalry men and Artillery men in the Confederate Army owned their horses and asked that they keep them. Grant agreed and Lee wrote a letter formally accepting the surrender. Lee then made his exit:

"At a little before 4 o'clock General Lee shook hands with General Grant, bowed to the other officers, and with Colonel Marshall left the room. One after another we followed, and passed out to the porch. Lee signaled to his orderly to bring up his horse, and while the animal was being bridled the general stood on the lowest step and gazed sadly in the direction of the valley beyond where his army lay - now an army of prisoners. He smote his hands together a number of times in an absent sort of way; seemed not to see the group of Union officers in the yard who rose respectfully at his approach, and appeared unconscious of everything about him. All appreciated the sadness that overwhelmed him, and he had the personal sympathy of every one who beheld him at this supreme moment of trial. The approach of his horse seemed to recall him from his reverie, and he at once mounted. General Grant now stepped down from the porch, and, moving toward him, saluted him by raising his hat. He was followed in this act of courtesy by all our officers present; Lee raised his hat respectfully, and rode off to break the sad news to the brave fellows whom he had so long commanded."

References: Buel, Clarence, and Robert U. Johnson, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. IV (1888, reprint ed. 1982); Grant, Ulysses S., *Memoirs and Selected Letters*, Vol. I (1885, reprint ed. 1990); McPherson, James M., *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (1988).
<http://www.eyewitnessstohistory.com>

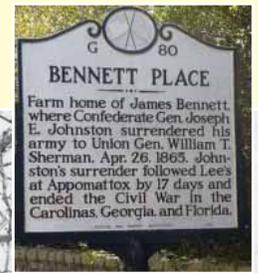
The Road to Bennett Place, NC - April 1865

After Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea, he turned north through the Carolinas for the Carolinas Campaign. Confederate President Jefferson Davis met General Joseph E. Johnston in Greensboro, North Carolina, while Sherman had stopped in Raleigh.

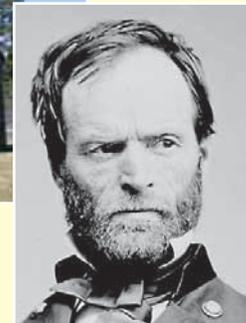
Though Davis wished to continue the war, Johnston sent a courier to the Union troops encamped at Morrisville, with a message to General Sherman, offering a meeting between the lines to discuss a truce. Johnston, whose army was still an active fighting force encamped in Greensboro, realized it could not continue the war now that Robert E. Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House on April 9. Johnston, escorted by a detachment of about 60 troopers of the 5th South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, traveled east along the Hillsborough Road toward Durham Station. Sherman was riding west to meet him, with an escort of 200 men from the 9th and 13th Pennsylvania, 8th Indiana and 2nd Kentucky Cavalry. The farm of James and Nancy Bennett was the closest and most convenient place for privacy. The first day's discussion (April 17) was intensified by the telegram Sherman handed to Johnston, informing of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. They met the following day, April 18, and signed terms of surrender. However, on April 24, Grant arrived and informed Sherman that the terms had been rejected by the presidential cabinet in Washington because they exceeded the terms that Grant had given Lee and included civil matters. The opposing generals met again on April 26, 1865, and with the assistance of Gen. John M. Schofield agreed to new terms omitting the controversial sections. The agreement disbanded all active Confederate forces in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, totaling 89,270 soldiers, the largest group to surrender during the war.

James and Nancy Bennett were like many families who suffered tremendously during the four years of war. They lost a son and son in law: Lorenzo, who served in the 27th North Carolina, buried in Winchester, Virginia; and their daughter Eliza's husband, Robert Duke, who died in a Confederate Army hospital and is buried in Lynchburg, Virginia. Their 3rd child, Alfonzo, was not in the war but died during the Civil War years (1864)

The Bennetts never fully recovered from the war, and in 1878, James Bennett died and the family moved to the new community of Durham to begin a life without him. The Bennett Farm was abandoned and fell into ruin, a fire finally destroying the farmhouse in 1921. In 1923 the Unity monument was dedicated on the site. In 1960 the Bennett Farm site was fully reclaimed and restored by local preservationists. It was then turned over to the State of North Carolina and made a state historic site.



Bennett House in 1904 Photo

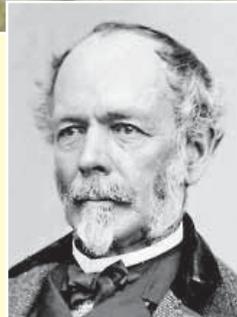


Major General, USA
William Sherman

Largest Surrender of the American Civil War

The difficulty in reaching a surrender agreement lay in part in Johnston's desire, influenced by President Davis, for more than the purely military

surrender that Major General Sherman offered. Sherman's original terms matched those offered by Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant to General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, but Johnston along with General



General, CSA
Joseph Johnston

John C. Breckinridge, also serving as Secretary of War for the Confederacy, insisted on resolutions of political issues, including the reestablishment of state governments, return of some weapons to state arsenals and civil rights after the war. Sherman, in accordance with Lincoln's stated wishes for a compassionate and forgiving end to the war, agreed on terms that included the political issues. He was unaware that on March 3, Lincoln had given Grant orders to only discuss military matters with Lee. United States Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton identified many problems and loopholes within Sherman and Johnston's original terms and persuaded the cabinet to unanimously reject them. In response, Jefferson Davis ordered Johnston to disband his infantry and escape with his mounted troops. However, Johnston disobeyed his orders and agreed to meet again with Major General Sherman at the Bennett Farm again on April 26, 1865. The rival generals agreed to new surrender terms identical to the ones Grant gave Lee, along with some supplemental terms written by Schofield pertaining to rations and return of the paroled soldiers to their homes. The surrender agreement ended the war for the 89,270 soldiers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Three more primary surrenders would follow in

Citronelle, Alabama; Galveston, Texas; and Doaksville, Oklahoma.

**Text of April 26 (Surrender) Agreement
(From Sherman's Memoirs)**

Terms of a Military Convention, entered into this 26th day of April, 1865, at Bennett's House, near Durham's Station, North Carolina, between General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding the Confederate Army, and Major-General W. T. Sherman, commanding the United States Army in North Carolina:

1. All acts of war on the part of the troops under General Johnston's command to cease from this date.
2. All arms and public property to be deposited at Greensboro', and delivered to an ordnance-officer of the United States Army.
3. Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate; one copy to be retained by the commander of

the troops, and the other to be given to an officer to be designated by General Sherman. Each officer and man to give his individual obligation in writing not to take up arms against the Government of the United States, until properly released from this obligation.

4. The side-arms of officers, and their private horses and baggage, to be retained by them.

5. This being done, all the officers and men will be permitted to return to their homes, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities, so long as they observe their obligation and the laws in force where they may reside.

W.T. Sherman, Major-General
Commanding United States Forces in North Carolina

J.E. Johnston, General
Commanding Confederate States Forces
in North Carolina

Approved: U.S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General

wikipedia

Those Last Veterans...

Albert Henry Woolson
USA

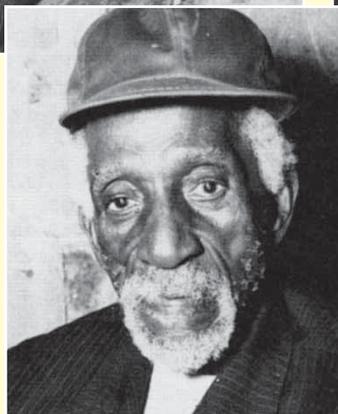


Walter Washington Williams
CSA



Albert Henry Woolson at 107-The Last Boy in Blue. Professor Hoar describes him thus: "Ever aware, ever awake, ever alert to what he believed the last Grand Army figure should be, he with vigor and valor stood the long, lone vigil reserved for him from among some 2,300,000 men." Pictured with Woolson is his granddaughter Frances Anne Kobus, 4.

Walter Washington Williams at 114-The Last Boy in Gray, as well as the Last Civil War Veteran Professor Hoar says of him: "Not many of us will be called upon to evince that species of courage which came to be the hallmark of Mr. William's life. During his nineties... he set for himself a goal that for nearly 4,000,000 others would be an impossible dream... of becoming the last survivor of the Civil War.

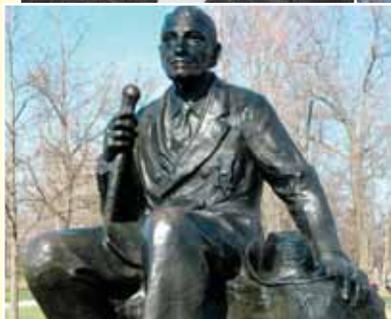


Sylvester Mack Magee
USA

Sylvester Mack Magee (1841-1971), bought at the J.J. Shanks slave market in Enterprise, Mississippi in 1858 by Hugh Magee and taken to work on a plantation in Covington County, Mississippi, ran away and served with the Union Army at Vicksburg. (Slave trading records and a family Bible-since destroyed-supported his age claim.) Sylvester was able in the 1960's to identify Hugh Magee's picture.

A.P. Andrews of the Jackson, Mississippi, Civil War Round Table, who interviewed Sylvester May 22, 1965, states that this aged man mentioned being with other young slaves who went with the Union army in May 1863; that he saw battles at Champion's Hill, and Big Black, where he crossed that river on pontoon bridges, the regular ones having been burned; that he was on burial details during the Vicksburg siege; and that he was given a gun, and twice wounded.

Magee always claimed that his father, Ethan, died at 104 in 1922 and his mother at 119 in 1939. In the spring of 1971 he flew with his daughter, Mrs. Vera Mae Conerly, to Philadelphia for a taped interview for the "Mike Douglas Show." As late as 1969 Magee was trying to secure his Civil War pension, but, lacking papers, failed.



Monuments to Woolson and Williams at Gettysburg





Herb Kaufman

March 12th Meeting... "The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents"

Herb Kaufman a avid historian and Old Baldy member, gave us another great presentation on "Medical Treatment of our Assassinated Presidents", one of Herb's favorite in-



terests. His knowledge is beyond reproach. He explained the medical methods and treatment the four assassinated presidents received. He discussed the subject of

how some of the treatments actually did more harm to the victims and how modern medical practices may have saved their lives. The treatments were all done with the medical knowledge that was known at the time and the determination and politics of the doctors who were doing the treatment. Herb always keeps us spellbound with his subjects and presentations.

Living History Day at Manor College

**FEATURING THE MEN OF COMPANY C, 28th
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
May 17, 2015 10 AM - 4 PM**

\$10/Person For Admittance to all Presentations

**For more information, contact Lori Cohen,
Continuing Education Coordinator at:
215-884-2218 or visit www.manor.edu/cont-ed**

National Park Service Civil War related events in April...

Independence and the American Civil War

Dates: April 18 & 19 Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Location: Independence Square,

Enjoy learning about the history of Independence Hall during the Civil War from costumed rangers. There will be demonstrations, photo galleries, special ranger talks, and plenty of activities for kids. Come and join Independence National Historical Park in its celebration and recognition of the 150th anniversary of the end American Civil War, and the continuing struggle for civil rights.

At **11:00am and 2:00pm** meet a park ranger at the John Barry Statues for a short walking tour and hear how Independence Square emerged as a powerful symbol during the American Civil War. You will learn about President-elect Abraham Lincoln's visit in 1861 and the emotional connection he made to the Declaration of Independence, discover how Independence Square was used to recruit men to fight for the Union, and hear about the thousands of mourners who came to Independence Square to pay their final respects to a slain president in 1865. (30 minutes)

Lincoln in Philadelphia: Funeral Train Commemoration

Dates and Times: April 22 at 1:00 p.m. and April 23 at 10:00 a.m. Location: Congress Hall

Join accomplished actor, Fritz Klein, for a special presentation on the 150th anniversary of the arrival of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train to Philadelphia. Hear about the events surrounding Lincoln's assassination, his funeral, his vision for America as he expressed it during his life, and his hopes of moving the nation from civil war to civil rights (1 hour).

Building Hours and Program Times Changes for April

Beginning March 1, tickets will be required for Independence Hall. Hall tours are every 20 minutes Congress Hall Tours are every 30 minutes, on the quarter hour. New Hall Military Museum will remain open on weekends from 10-5.

Bells Across the Land: A Nation Remembers Appomattox

On April 9, 1865, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant met Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to set the terms of surrender of Lees Army of Northern Virginia. While Lees surrender did not end the Civil War, the act is seen by most Americans as the symbolic end of four years of bloodshed.

In conjunction with a major event at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Independence National Historical Park invites the Philadelphia community to join in this commemoration with a symbolic event at the **Liberty Bell on April 9, 2015 from 2:45 3:30 pm**. The event is free and open to the public, though space is limited. Schools, parks, and communities from all over the country will be participating in this event. Share how you observed it with "**Bells Across the Land 2015**". Stories will be compiled in one place to see how each one helps build our national story. If you would like more information about this event, please visit our website:
<http://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/news/bells-across-the-land.htm>

Old Baldy is invited to help out. Gettysburg Brush Cutting

Save the Date
Saturday, April 25, 2015

Our Round Table has a long history of conservation work at Gettysburg dating back over 20 years. In fact, we were given official credit for being a part of the genesis for the Adopt a Position program. We cut brush, trimmed bushes and dragged trees in many places on that sacred field. We toiled from Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery on the Chambersburg Pike, to the 17th Maine Infantry position at the edge of the Wheatfield to Little Round Top and Culp's Hill.

So save Saturday, April 25, 2015 for our next adventure.
Email: Ed Root at sartilly@hotmail.com.

Ed Root - Eastern PA CWRT

Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours

The program coordinator of Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours based in Chambersburg, PA, would appreciate your help in spreading the word about our 2015 seminars to your Civil War Round Table!

We understand how important Civil War Round Tables are in preserving our Civil War history, and we offer a special Civil War Roundtable discount of 10% off when three or more Civil War Roundtable members register for our complete weekend package at one of our 2015 tours.

Please call with any questions or to receive the discount: (717) 264-7101 ext. 206.

Our 2015 seminars are listed below and more information about our seminars can be found at www.civilwarseminars.org. If you would like more information, or are interested in us mailing hard copies of our brochures to your Round Table, please contact me.

“On the Trail of Those Damn Black Hats: Weekend with Lance Herdegen and the Iron Brigade” May 15-17, 2015

Weekend will include a bus and walking tour of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg along with sessions by Lance Herdegen, Tom Clemens, Gordon Dammann, Joe Mieczkowski, Dan Welch and others. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

“The End of the War: Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox” July 22-26, 2015

Join Dr. Richard Sommers, Dr. James “Bud” Robertson, Ed Bearss, Robert E. L. Krick, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, Chris Calkins, Ted Alexander, and many others as we explore 1864 and 1865 battle sites. Based in Richmond, VA.

“Lincoln” Sept. 24-27, 2015

Join Ed Bearss, Bob Allen, Dr. Edward Steers, and others with bus tours of Gettysburg, the John Wilkes Booth Escape tour, and sessions by leading Lincoln historians. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

Old Baldy CWRT Trip to Woodlands Cemetery in West Philadelphia

Location: 4000 Woodland Ave,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015

Time: 10:00 AM to about Noon

Cost: \$10.00 Per Person (Cemetery Charge)
Cemetery Tour Guide: Jim Mundy



The Woodlands 54-acre undulating landscape is a one-of-a-kind 18th-century English pleasure garden and 19th-century rural cemetery that is designated a National Historic Landmark District in recognition of its unique history and rich resources.

Actively used today, the cemetery, mansion, landscape, and programs are an educational resource for local school children, university students and motivated scholars seeking further understanding of American architectural and botanical history. There are over 1,000 trees and over 32,000 people buried at the historic cemetery.

Just A Few Notable Burials at Woodlands Cemetery

- John Joseph Abercrombie** (1798–1877), Civil War general
- Hartman Bache** (1798–1872), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- David B. Birney** (1825–1864), Civil War Union major general
- Sylvester Bonaffon, Jr.** (1844–1922), Civil War Medal of Honor recipient
- Joseph A. Campbell** (1817–1900), businessman, founder of Campbell Soup Company
- Edward Coles** (1786–1868), 2nd governor of Illinois, private secretary to Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
- Thomas Cripps** (1840–1906), Civil War Medal of Honor
- Francis Anthony Drexel** (1824–1885), father of Saint Katharine Drexel
- Thomas Eakins** (1844–1916), artist
- John Ely** (1816–1869), Civil War Union brevet major general
- Clement Finley** (1797–1879), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- Alice Fisher** (1839–1888), nursing pioneer at the former Philadelphia General Hospital
- James Gwyn** (1828–1906), Civil War Union brevet major-general
- Charles Herring** (1829–1889), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- John Lane** (1831–1903), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general

Please fill out and send application on page 12 to:

**Old Baldy CWRT: C/O Bob Russo,
15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003**

Questions: rjrusso58@yahoo.com

Woodlands Cemetery Tour Application

Please Send Payment of \$10.00, Check or Cash to:
Old Baldy CWRT:
C/O Bob Russo, 15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Questions: rjrusso58@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Email Address: _____

April 9th meeting... Get ready for an interesting and informative presentation by our member Don Wiles on *The Transport to Hell... SS Sultana an American Tragedy.*

Major General George G. Meade (1815 – 1872) "Victor of the Battle of Gettysburg" Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of his Birth

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia in conjunction with a number of Philadelphia based Civil War history related organizations is planning a special tribute for George G. Meade during his 200th Anniversary year. There will be ceremonies, history symposiums, tours, and a formal dinner hosted at the Union League. The year will culminate on Meade's 200th Birthday at his final resting place in Philadelphia at Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31, 2015. A splendid tribute is planned. All fans of General Meade and Civil War history are invited to participate in the following:

Annual General Meade Spring Trip "Meade Sites in Philadelphia" – Saturday, May 2, 2015, itinerary: Meade family dwellings in Old City and Center City; Meade graves in Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, Meade's office on Girard Avenue; Union League Meade Collection; Meade monuments and memorials in Philadelphia; Buffet lunch at McGillin's Old Ale House; if time allows – Grand Army of the Republic Museum's Meade and Old Baldy Rooms; Meade family graves at Laurel Hill Cemetery. Departs 8:00 a.m. from Laurel Hill Cemetery and returns to Laurel Hill at 5:00 p.m. for refreshments. \$60.00 per person includes bus, driver tip, lunch and post tour reception. Contact Jerry McCormick at gedwinmc@msn.com or 215-848-7753.

Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration – Thursday, December 31, 2015, will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of General Meade and his and Margaretta's 176th anniversary wedding anniversary. The General Meade Society of Philadelphia will celebrate these events at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, where the victor of the Battle of Gettysburg is buried. A military parade and ceremony will commence at 12 noon. Military and civilian living historians are encouraged to participate. Visitors and participants are asked to gather at the Gatehouse at 11:30 a.m. A champagne toast and reception will follow the ceremony. A tour of the cemetery will be offered. For directions, call 215-228-8200.

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 2015

April 9 – Thursday
Transport to Hell - "Sultana" - An American Tragedy
Don Wiles
(Historian)

May 14 – Thursday
Civil War Women: Nurses, Leaders, Soldiers, & Spies
Bob Silverman & Diana Newman (Scheier Brothers)
(Historians)

June 11 – Thursday
Victorian Mourning Customs
Jane Peters Estes
(Historian)

Questions to
Harry Jenkins - 302-834-3289 - hj3bama@verizon.net
Herb Kaufman - 215-947-4096 - shkaufman2@yahoo.com
Dave Gilson - 856-547-8130 - ddsghh@comcast.net

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

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Vice President: Bob Russo
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
Secretary: Bill Hughes
Programs: Harry Jenkins
Herb Kaufman
Dave Gilson

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net