“Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland”

Slave catching and kidnapping, and the politically blurred distinction between them, contributed to growing hostility in the decades prior to the Civil War, a controversy that inflamed passions along the Mason-Dixon Line. The story of Thomas McCreary, a Maryland slave catcher and kidnapper, and his community presents a closeup view and insight into the controversies over slave catching.

The story begins with Prigg v. Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania’s efforts to protect the rights of its citizens and residents; the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850; trials in Philadelphia; the career of Philadelphia’s notorious slave catcher, George F. Alberti; and the Christiana Resistance and subsequent treason trial fold into this story. The Maryland government insisted McCreary was a heroic slave catcher, and proslavery advocates insisted on their constitutional right to recapture accused fugitive slaves without restrictions in northern states. Many Pennsylvanians, and some Marylanders and Delawareans, regarded McCreary a villainous kidnapper, and two Pennsylvania governors wanted him extradited from Maryland and tried for kidnapping. African Americans who experienced the brutality, communities outraged by McCreary’s actions.

Notes from the President...

Last month while attending the Baccalaureate at Albright College during the weekend of my son Joe’s graduation, I heard something that states the message I have been getting from the officers and members of our Round Table. It is “you have not seen anything yet, the best is yet to come.” We have had success, yet the plans and expectations of what we are about to embark on will take us to new heights and closer to being the premiere Civil War organization in the Delaware Valley.

It begins with the South Jersey History Fair on June 8th where our updated flyers and reduced size Civil War sites maps will debut. This newsletter has another member spotlight and book review. Dave Gilson has interviewed a summer intern to work with us on our social media and recording projects. We welcomed two new members for the second month in a row. Let’s keep it going) Our member benefits are available on our website to share with potential associates. We will be working with Boscov’s on their “Friends Helping Friends” project. Our variety of programs continue through the year. We are reaching out to local colleges to partner on future ventures.

Plans are in the works for our next Civil War Naval Symposium, as members have stepped up to organize it. We are working with the Camden County History Alliance on hosting the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey meeting next Spring. We will be attending the Emerging Civil War Symposium in August and the Civil War Round Table Congress in September to network and learn how to improve.

Flat Old Baldy has been a great ambassador for the Round Table, carrying our message to a variety of places and gathering fans. Let us know how you would like to be involved on our journey in the next year, based on your interest and skills. The excitement is growing as we expand our range of activities and projects.

Last month, Martha Moore shared the story of Washington Roebling and his contribution to the War in a well-re-
Continued from page 1 - “Milt Diggins”

Milt Diggins is a retired educator, an independent researcher, public historian, speaker, and the author of Stealing Freedom along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCrerey, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland. He has researched the Underground Railroad, slave catching, and kidnapping in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Baltimore Corridor, and he has given numerous presentations on those issues throughout the region. His book, Stealing Freedom along the Mason-Dixon Line, published by the Maryland Historical Society, uses the story of an Elkton slave catcher and kidnapper to frame a larger story of slave catching and kidnapping in the region around the time of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

Received presentation for thirty-seven members and guests. This month Milt Diggins will visit to tell us about slave catching along the Mason-Dixon line. Bring a friend to join us on the 13th. Our store will be open to purchase Old Baldy CWRT clothing items, look for the details in this newsletter. If you currently own some of our merchandise, please bring it to the June meeting so other members can see it.

The Round Table thanks Debbie Holdsworth for preparing another superb wreath for the General Hancock tomb. Read about this year’s event in the article accompanying pictures of her wreath. We extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to founding member Mike Cavanaugh and longtime member Steve Wright as they deal with health related issues. Our website is nine years old this month; check it often for updates and information. Flat Old Baldy finally got to meet one of his biggest fans. Kathy Clark shares some of events where our Round Table has been represented.

Happy Father’s Day to all fathers. Travel safe on your adventures and be sure to send Don Wiles some notes and photos on them for a future newsletter.

Join us at the Lamp Post Diner for pre-meeting meal and discussion at 5:30

Rich Jankowski, President

Editor’s Note: I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming amount of interesting articles submitted by members this month. It has contributed to an increase in pages this month... so keep them coming...

Don

Continued from page 1 - "Notes from the President"

The incursion of slave hunters, and abolitionists openly opposed to slavery struggled for justice. But stakeholders in the institution of slavery went to great lengths, including murder, to protect the institution without qualms about their methods.

1862 Friday, June 13

Eastern Theater

Skirmishing continues on James Island, South Carolina. This day’s action costs three Union and 19 Confederate lives.

1863 Saturday, June 13

Eastern Theater

Milroy is staggered when leading elements of Ewell’s corps attack the positions in what becomes known as the second battle of Winchester. The Federal lines are driven in but Milroy makes no attempt to withdraw.

1864 Monday, June 13

Eastern Theater

Robert E. Lee withdraws toward Richmond in the belief that Grant is trying to assault the Confederate capital via Malvern Hill and White Oak Swamp. But he is wrong. By late afternoon Hancock’s II Corps reaches the James at Wilcox Landing.

Memorial Day

Old Baldy’s Tribute to Winfield Scott Hancock

This Memorial Day weekend, Flat Old Baldy made his first visit to the tomb of General Winfield Scott Hancock at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA. It was a fine day with sunshine and pleasant temperatures. FOB was pleased to see follow members Harry Jenkins, Jim Heenehan and Dave Gilson in attendance to represent the Round Table. Bill and Debbie Holdsworth were also present. Debbie has donated her time and supplies to make the wreath

Today in Civil War History

1861 Thursday, June 13

Trans-Mississippi

Jackson and all available troops retreat south from Jefferson City, while Lyon advances from St Louis with 1500 men.

Continued on page 3
our Round Table has laid at the tomb for the last 27 years. President Jankowski and his son Joe place the Old Baldy wreath at the tomb. Walt Lafty was at the event with the Baker Fisher Camp 101 SUVCW.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County sponsors the event. The procession through the cemetery included stops at the grave of General Hancock, General John F. Hartranft, the Veterans Memorial Rose Garden and the G.A.R. Zook Post #11 Plot. Earlier in the day, wreaths or flowers were placed at the graves of Elizabeth Brower (CW Nurse), General Samuel K. Zook, General Matthew Robert McClellan and General Adam Jacoby Slemmer. Other organizations represented were the Norristown Royal Arch Chapter 190, the 11th Attack Wing, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Honor Guard and the Irish Thunderpipes and Drums.

OBCWRT has a long history with the Hancock tomb. In the mid-1970’s, members of the Sons of Union Veterans Camp #200 launched a national fundraising campaign when they learned that General Hancock’s tomb was being vandalized and in disarray. The funds collected allow the tomb to be cleaned up, landscaped and protected. At the re-dedication ceremony, a flagpole was erected. Members of the committee went on to form the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table in 1977. The Round Table has been represented at the annual Memorial Day services for decades. Earlier this decade our Round Table raised funds to replace the roof on the tomb. Plan to attend the event next May.

Old Baldy’s Trip To Vineland!

Our Vineland Guide: Bill Hughes   Trip Organizer: Dave Gilson

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

Charles K. Landis wanted to create a town where families could acquire land and earn a living by farming. Build a house, live in it a year, decide to stay and the house and land belong to you. It was Landis who started advertising his planned community in the United States and abroad with the idea to get a settlement of farmers and industrialists to come to his town. Vineland was born! As the Civil War ended, soldiers came back home after the war with no jobs and were not sure at the time how their life would evolve after the war. Then they saw Landis’ ad for this community and many settled on the land and stayed. By 1865 about 5500 people had settled in Vineland, by 1867 there were about 8000 residents. In 1862, the first house was built on East Landis Avenue. Train service was established from Vineland to Philadelphia and New York. We had a good turnout from the membership, with Bill as our guide, learned much about Vineland we did not know.

Bill’s knowledge of this area is overwhelming and his joy of relating the history to us outstanding. As a resident of Vineland for many years he knows things and events that more people would not begin to know. Bill is an asset to Vineland and to our round table.

Social change became an important topic to the women of Vineland even before women’s issues were brought up for discussion on a broader scale. By 1866, The Equal Rights Association was established in Vineland. The Vineland women established a Convention for Women Suffragettes bringing such notable people as Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Alice Paul, along with Portia Gage, Susan Fowler, Mary Tillotson and Abby Leavitt (Vineland residents).

These women spoke at this convention to encourage women to make the vote a reality. Some of these progressive women decided what they wanted to wear: long dress with petticoats, bloomers, corsets or pants. It was Vineland ladies who made their own ballet boxes and went to the polling areas to cast their vote too. Although it was not counted, they continued their effort of taking their ballet box every time there was an election. There were 172 women who voted including four black women.

Continued from page 2 - “Memorial Day”
We learned that Vineland was a “dry town” with laws prohibiting the purchase of alcohol of any kind. What would the church do without wine for communion? Dr. Thomas Bramwell Welch came up with the idea of preserving grape juice without fermenting it making the juice alcohol free. The business thrived in Vineland along with the poultry business, glass manufactures, shoes, fashion industry and faming. Italian families along with other nationalities came to Vineland and settled in different sections of the city bringing their own culture with them. Vineland became a very diverse town.

We finished our tour of the Vineland Historical Society Building and were now ready to carpool with other Old Baldy members to begin our riding tour of Vineland. First, we went past the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument, stopping at the Landis Park to see the Civil War cannons, and passing the Soldier’s Home. The Soldier’s Home is the states oldest continually operating Veteran’s home. The new facility opened in 2005, replacing the original building. The home strives to be there for the Veterans by “Serving Those Who Served”. Our next stop was the cemetery behind the Soldier’s Home. Bill showed us various graves during our visit.

The next cemetery was Oak Hill with a special section and monument established by the GAR. Riding around toward the back of Oak Hill, Bill was very active in finding the grave of Romeo Little. Romeo was a slave, born in July, 1844, growing up in Beaufort County, NC. He was the son of Roden and Sarah Little with four brothers and two sisters. He came to Vineland with his family and they decided to stay for a while. When his family decide to go back to NC, Romeo said he did not want to go back with his family. He decided to make his home in Vineland where he was well liked by residents. He was given odd jobs so he was able to stay and earn a living for his family. Romeo married Martha Robinson and they had six children, only two daughters survived. He died in March 8, 1932 and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. The problem was that the grave was never marked so no one knew where Romeo was buried, that is until Bill decide to do some research. He found the grave and has established a marker for the grave which was dedicated not long ago. This was a wonderful piece of history preserved by Bill Hughes as part of Vineland’s story.

Our last stop was the Siloam Cemetery. There are several prominent people of Vineland buried there including the grave site of Charles Landis himself. Another interesting person buried in the cemetery is Jared D. Gage, son of John and Portia Gage. When the Civil War began Jared wanted to enlist as a private in the 14th Illinois Infantry,
Regiment #14 Company E. He was captured by the Confederate forces on October 4, 1864 in Ackworth, GA and was a prisoner in Andersonville Prison Camp. It seems he survived the camp for he did not die until January 12, 1868. Joe Wilson was with the group and was elated to have seen this grave site so he can explore the life of Jared D. Gage. Jared’s parents, John and Portia, were active members of the community and before the war Jared and his brother helped in the family business. Jared’s mother was Portia Gage of the women’s suffrage movement. I am sure Joe will find out more information to share with us at a later date. There are other prominent residents of Vineland, such as Dr. Welch who are buried in this cemetery too.

Thanks to Dave for organizing this trip for our members. Thanks to all of the members who came out to participate in the trip. An extra huge “Thank You” to Bill Hughes for all his knowledge of Vineland and sharing it with us. Some of us continued our friendly conversation at lunch at Larry’s II Restaurant in Vineland. Riding home it felt like a great day for history! We learned a lot about Vineland, but the best experience of all is enjoying the day with Old Baldy members learning together.

Civil War Trails up North

By Joe Wilson, Member OBCWRT

What a beautiful time of the year up north in Vermont and in the Adirondacks in New York State. And best of all, the kids are still in school. Gerri and I spent a week wandering around the far north. The waterfalls and waters rushing through the gorge were at their peak with the spring melt. Then our focus turned to history. First up was a stop in St. Albans, Vermont, for some research and a photo shoot for a project I’m working on regarding the Confederate raid that sacked the small town. The local were more than willing to answer questions, and the St. Alban’s Historical Society opened their doors for a private viewing of their raid exhibit. Thank so much Alex.

The ferry crossing over Lake Champlain was nothing short of gorgeous. Apparently, they don’t believe in bridges up there. Before long we pulled up to the John Brown Historic Farmhouse. I recently purchased an authentic John Brown Pike and brought it along with me. It’s a cut down as many had the long shaft cut shorter to function as a knife. For those who haven’t been there, the first thing you see on the approach to the farm is a huge statue of John Brown and a slave child. At that moment I had a great idea. I originally brought my John Brown Pike with me for a photo of the pike at his grave. But I decided to go one better. I was determined to climb up the statue which is on a high pedestal and placed my John Brown Pike in John Brown’s hand. (See photo) I only did it because Gerri refused to do it. In fact, she quickly walked away in disbelief as I attempted to mount the statue. I think she muttered something about not having enough bail money. Again, it was the off season. No cops in sight, so no problem. Gerri certainly wasn’t in sight as she got as far away as possible. In the flick of my shutter, mission accomplished.

Actually, the staff loved me for bringing the pike. They apparently never held a real one and delighted in passing it around and taking photos. One member took a photo for their website. The staff probably would’ve given me a boost up the statue had anyone saw me struggling to get to Brown’s hand. God knows I needed a little help. They were thrilled to see the pike.

Coming slowly down New York we met our guide Ben for a private tour of Grant’s cottage. We had scheduled the tour in advance. It was quite moving as Ben brought to life Grant’s final moments as we gazed upon the still stained bed in which he died. He also remained there as hundreds passed through for the viewing. The death watch had been on for some time as news people camped in the woods waiting for the famous General and former President to give them their story.

One interesting anecdote for my file was learning that an Andersonville survivor, Oliver Clark, was the caretaker of Grant’s cottage for 29 years before passing on. And he was the first guide to welcome visitors. Many Andersonville prisoners hated Lincoln, Stanton, and Grant for not resuming the exchange and coming to their rescue. But Oliver Clark was not one of them. Oliver’s dedication to preserving Grant’s cottage speaks to his love of Grant.

So time to start planning for another trip. Kids will be out of school soon, so Gerri and I will be laying low. But come fall, we’ll be hitting the road to see more sites before we reach our final bivouac.
A Golden Bridge

Lee’s Williamsport defense lines and his escape across the Potomac

By Kent Masterson Brown North/South, August, 1999

Continue from May Issue

Although informed that his division was to serve as the rear guard of the army, Heth was unconcerned about any immediate confrontation with the enemy. The long lines of baggage wagons and stragglers moving down the road gave him every indication his men were not, in fact, the last Confederates to leave the Williamsport defense lines. Furthermore, his own skirmishers were in front of him, and, hopefully, on the move along the road toward his position after being replaced by cavalry. No sooner had Heth arrived along the ridge above Falling Waters than a large contingent of Fitzhugh Lee’s cavalry passed back up the road toward Downsville to screen the continued withdrawal. Thus, it was not without thought that Heth ordered his exhausted and hungry men to “lie down and take all the sleep possible.” Muskets were stacked behind the lines, and the weary men fell to the ground.

Pettigrew was somewhat disturbed by the position of the division and its lack of pickets. Heth seemed unconcerned about the placement of pickets, but Pettigrew took it upon himself to order pickets advanced along his own brigade’s and the Tennessean’s and Alabamian’s left and front.”

The rain having fallen all through the night, the early morning was foggy. Through the fog, those within Heth’s lines could see that they had an unobstructed field of fire extending over a mile to their front. About one mile back up the road toward Downsville was a heavy belt of woods. Dimly, it could be seen through the heavy mist.

Behind Heth’s Division, the last of Longstreet’s Corps, Hood’s Division, was crossing the Potomac on the pontoon bridge. The river was blanketed in fog. General Lee was observed on the Maryland side of the river near the bridge, mounted on “Traveller” and sipping a tin cup of coffee. He looked “gloomy, pale, haggard and old,” remembered one Texas soldier. His horse was a “veritable claybank.” As Hood’s old Texas brigade stepped onto the bridge a regimental band struck up the tune “Dixie.”

While Heth’s men were stacking arms up the road and Longstreet’s Corps continued the river crossing, Judson Kilpatrick’s Third Cavalry Division was galloping toward the Confederate river crossing. The division had been aroused at 3:00 a.m. at its campsite south of Hagerstown with orders to attack at 7:00 a.m. The enemy was reported falling back after Meade had ordered a reconnaissance-in-force toward the abandoned Williamsport defense line. Captain George A. Drew of Brigadier General George A. Custer’s staff had ridden over to Colonel Luther S. Trowbridge of the 5th Michigan Cavalry and exclaimed: “Make no noise about it, no bugle calls, but boots and saddles right away. The enemy has fallen back, and we are ordered to find out where he has gone.” In less than five minutes the 5th Michigan was in columns-of-fours. Captain Drew rode up to Colonel Trowbridge again. “Are you ready?” he asked. “Yes, sir,” replied Trowbridge. “Move out,” Drew said, “and take the road to Williamsport.”

Led by the 5th Michigan, Custer’s Michigan cavalry brigade galloped down the road toward Williamsport. As they passed the Confederate defense lines they saw that Lee had escaped. So many of the fences along the way had been completely removed for breastworks and firewood that the “whole country was an open common,” remembered one trooper.

Ahead went the Michiganders into Potomac Street of Williamsport. The streets of the town were largely empty. Across the river the blue troopers could see Ewell’s Confederate infantry and artillery drawn up in line of battle, while below, in the river, the last squadron of Confederate cavalry had nearly completed its crossing. “I cannot describe my feelings of disappointment and discouragement,” wrote Colonel Trowbridge. The men in the Michigan brigade were
While in Williamsport, word was received that at Falling Waters, three miles below Williamsport, Confederate troops were still crossing the river. Kilpatrick immediately ordered his command in columns-of-fours, down the Williamsport-Boonsboro Road, and then off onto the Falling Waters Road toward the river crossing. In advance were Companies B and F, 6th Michigan Cavalry, under the command of Major Peter A. Weber. The 5th Michigan would rejoin the advance after it had completed rounding up stragglers in and around Williamsport. J. H. Kidd of the 6th Michigan remembered the very early morning hours of July 14 as “a wild night.” “For the whole distance,” he recalled, “the horses were spurred at a gallop. Kilpatrick was afraid he would not get there in time to overtake the enemy, so he spared neither man nor beast. The road was soft and miry, and the horses sank to their knees in the sticky mud.” The column straggled badly; it was not possible to keep the troops closed up in columnsof-fours. At around 1:20 a.m. the two lead companies of the 6th Michigan emerged from the heavy woods nearly a mile from Heth’s defense line.

Heth’s men were lying on their wet blankets with their arms stacked. Through the heavy mist Heth observed the two companies of Michigan cavalry. He was perplexed. He remembered Fitzhugh Lee’s cavalry passing up the road just a short time ago. Were these Lee’s horsemen? He conferred with General Pettigrew. The two agreed that they must be Confederate cavalry.

Major Weber, in the lead, turned to Generals Kilpatrick and Custer for instructions. All of the Michiganders could see that Confederate infantry held the ridge a mile ahead. It appeared to them as though the Confederates had gone into bivouac. General Custer immediately ordered the two companies to dismount and advance on foot to ascertain the enemy’s strength. Kilpatrick countermanded the orders of the young brigadier and ordered Weber instead to charge the Confederates on horse-back. Weber, hearing the order, turned to his men and yelled, “Forward!” The two companies emerged from the woods at a gallop, their National colors unfurled.

Generals Heth and Pettigrew could dimly see the Union horsemen. Heth remarked that they must be Confederate; that the flag had been captured, and some officer was simply displaying some “culpable” bragadocio by unfurling it. The two Michigan companies continued to gallop closer to the Confederate lines. Major Weber turned to his troopers and called out: “Wheel into line and damn them, split their heads open!”

Heth reached for his field glasses. Why would so small a band of cavalry show such a bold front in the face of an infantry division if they were not friendly? Pettigrew and the staff officers gathered around Heth agreed. On the horsemen galloped until they were nearly 175 yards in front of the Confederate lines. Nervous infantry officers called for their men to open fire. Heth yelled down the lines countermanding the orders. Pettigrew mounted his horse and rode to his regimental commanders in both little brigades telling them to be ready but hold their fire until ordered to open up. Heth peered through his field glasses. Intermittent shots rang out. Heth became alarmed. These were Union cavalrymen! Through the mist, Weber’s Michigan companies, with sabers drawn, dashed toward the Confederates, yelling, “Surrender! Surrender!” Heth exploded. “It’s the enemy cavalry!” He turned to Pettigrew and ordered him to open fire, while he and his staff retired to a position below the Downey farm.

Pettigrew, mounted when the first shots rang out, had trouble steadying his horse. His right hand was still somewhat immobile from a wound incurred at Seven Pines, and his left arm was in a sling as a result of a wound suffered on July 3. Startled by the loud reports of the first volley, Pettigrew’s horse reared back and fell to the ground, the general momentarily pinned beneath the saddle. Pettigrew stood up and ran to a position behind the 1st Tennessee at the fence corner of the garden near the roadside. From there he directed the fire of his men.

The Michigan cavalrymen galloped ahead, some guiding their snorting mounts around the gun emplacements to the left of the Tennesseans and Alabamians, but most pressed ahead, down the road between the right of the 1st Tennessee and the left of Brockenbrough’s brigade. In a moment the two Michigan companies were firing at Pettigrew’s men from the rear. Many Confederates, just aroused and with empty muskets, fled. Some left their muskets still stacked. As the Michigan cavalrymen galloped ahead to chase them down, a few were seen falling to the ground, only to get up after the cavalrymen had passed them and run in the opposite direction. Seeing an old barn in farmer Downey’s field about one hundred yards away, a dozen or so Confederates ran inside. Six Michiganders rode up through the gunfire swearing they would cut the heads off the Confederates if they didn’t surrender!

Pettigrew quickly ordered his men to “about face” and open fire. A terrific volley resounded across the hills and fields of Falling Waters, dismounting dozens of blue cavalrymen. Un-daunted, Major Weber led his men directly in and among the Confederates, slashing and cutting with their...
sabers. With no time to reload, the Tennesseans and Alabamians used bayonets and clubbed muskets. Confusion reigned.

Pettigrew observed a Michigan corporal firing from behind Downey’s barn. Pettigrew directed some of the nearby Tennesseans to fire in that direction. Muskets were loaded and fired. Bullets chipped and splintered the barn, but did not hit the blue corporal. Pettigrew reached for his own pistol, a small police revolver, and quickly walked through the garden toward the barn to get a shot at the corporal. The corporal opened fire and a bullet hit Pettigrew in the lower abdomen. The general crumpled to the ground. Seeing Pettigrew fall, several of his staff officers seized him and brought him back to the main line. The surgeons in attendance believed that his only hope lay in leaving him where he was, perfectly still. They proposed to take him into farmer Downey’s barn. General Pettigrew “obstinately declined.” “I would die before I would again be taken a prisoner,” he remarked.

Private N.B. Staton of the 26th North Carolina, witnessing the incident, tried to shoot the blue corporal but his musket misfired. He grabbed a big stone and crushed the corporal’s breast, killing him.

Brockenbrough’s and Davis’ brigades let loose a number of volleys, while Pettigrew’s men used clubbed muskets and fence rails to brain Union horsemen. Major Weber was shot through the head and killed. In the melee the Michiganders lost 40 killed and 85 wounded. In minutes the remnants of the Michigan units withdrew.

The Confederate retreat continued. Pettigrew was carried across the pontoon bridge and then taken to Bunker Hill, Virginia, where he would die on July 17. With little further harassment, the balance of A.P. Hill’s Corps moved across the Falling Waters bridge. Confederate artillery, in position along the Virginia bluffs, kept the enemy from following too closely. It was said that the last man across the bridge was Captain Thomas I. Cureton of the 26th North Carolina. The bridge was cut loose, and it broke apart in the swift-running river.

Lee, in the words of General Abner Doubleday, had crossed the river, “on a bridge of gold”.

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**Member Profile**

by Steve Peters, Member OBCWRT

One of the unique aspects of gathering information from members of Old Baldy CWRT and writing about them is the wide diversity of interests the members have. When you walk into a meeting and see the many individuals one could assume the simple fact that they are "Civil War Buffs." However, how the members became part of OBCWRT is in itself a factor that separates this group from other fraternal organizations. Karl Pusch, in this writer’s opinion, is a person who exhibits a common interest that the membership shares about the Civil War, but as a different perspective on the how and why membership is important.

Karl was born and raised in Phillipsburg, NJ and although he moved to South Jersey in 1973, he will always consider Phillipsburg his home town. After graduating from Phillipsburg High School in 1963, he earned his BA in History from Lafayette College in 1967. Returning home from a three-year enlistment in the Army in 1970 Karl enrolled at Lehigh University working on an MA in history. After finishing his MA in 1973, he took a job at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and worked in the Training Division, EEO Office, and the Employee Relations Division. When the yard closed in 1995 Karl worked as a salesman for Macy’s and J.C. Penny and retired for good in 2008.

Through marriage to quote Karl he inherited two wonderful daughters who have blessed him with three granddaugh-

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Welcome to the new recruits

**John Hohing · Blackwood, NJ**

**Maureen Phillips · Runnemede, NJ**

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Continued on page 9
ters. Unfortunately, daughter Katherine lives in Arizona and daughter Jennifer lives in Oregon. He is a big fan of Lafayette football a Friend of Lafayette Football and holds memberships in the Maroon Club, the Marquis Society and the Fleck Society. Presently, Karl resides in Washington Township with his dog Buddy, who is a registered service dog, who has an official ID badge from Lafayette College and has been officially photographed with the college president. Karl enjoys riding his bike, skiing, and playing softball and enjoys doing home fix-up projects.

Karl's became interested in the Civil War after seeing "Gone With the Wind" when it was re-released in 1954. About the same time, he read a mini-biography of Robert E. Lee, viewed a classic TV show "You Are There" that dramatized the surrender at Appomattox, and finally read a comic book dealing with Jackson's role at Chancellorsville. In spite of that interest, Karl's first love of history was always about Ancient Greece and Rome: his favorite comic book will always be the Classic "Caesar's Conquest," the condensed version of Caesar's "Commentari de Bello Gallico." He said he read it at least 20 times, to the point where he could recite portions of it. He can recall reading about the Second Punic War in James A. Breasted's "Ancient Times..." and being the only person in his third and four grade classes who could spell or pronounce Epaminondas.

One of Karl's stated advantages of working at the Shipyard was the generous vacation time granted which has allowed him to visit almost every Civil War Battlefield east of the Mississippi River. A ROTC Summer Camp in 1966 allowed him to check off a trip to Gettysburg, an extended summer trip in 1974 allowed him to visit numerous sites in Kentucky and Tennessee with stops at Ft. Donelson, Perryville, Mill Springs, Shiloh, Nashville, Franklin, and Murfreesboro. Future summer trips allowed him to visit major battlefields and other historical sites in Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Karl has also visited more than 25 countries in North America, South America, Europe, the Mideast, and Asia and several at least twice. He has visited an incredible number of historic sites along with major battlefields far too numerous to mention in this snapshot, but it is sufficient to say Karl has check offed major "bucket list" sites.

During his numerous visits to various battlefields he was concerned how American sites were being subjected to urban land development encroachment especially after visiting some battlefields in France and England. Except for modern paved roads, the battlefields at Crecy (where on August 26, 1346 Karl was serving as a Welch archer under the command of the Black Prince, on the right flank, on the downward slope near the windmill), Agincourt, Waterloo, Hastings, Naseby, Bosworth, Field, Flodden and Bannockburn look much the same as they did when these battles were fought. The French and English Governments are aggressively committed to preserving their historic sites. Karl had a hard time understanding why we weren’t doing the same here in the U.S. So, when the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites was formed in 1987, he immediately joined. As with many organizations, it had its growing pains and trials, but it is now known as the American Battlefield Trust, an organization committed to preserving sites from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. It is because of the ABT that Karl is a member of the OBCWRT; Karl met member Ed Komczyk at a Trust conference four years ago, Ed told Karl about Old Baldy; Karl attended a meeting, liked what he experienced, and has been with us since then.

Karl's favorite Civil War movies are-- Birth of a Nation, Gone with the Wind, Gettysburg, and The Horse Soldiers. His other favorite movies are Lawrence of Arabia (he feels this is the greatest movie ever made), Bridge on the River Kwai, The Sea Hawk, The Third Man, Quo Vadis, The Robe, 300 Spartans, Helen of Troy, and the Desert Fox. His favorite Civil War books are Douglas Southall Freeman's "Lee's Lieutenants" and Ed Coddington's (one of Karl's instructors at Lafayette) "Gettysburg: A Study in Command". Karl still has several "bucket list" things he would like to do; traveling the Trans-Canada Highway from Vancouver to Montreal, visit the Custer Battlefield, Mt. Rushmore, the Devils Tower, and the Mesa Verde. But most important to him is to see a Toledo Mud Hens game at Fifth/Third Bank Field.

As you can see Karl has a unique perspective on our common interest.

**Book Review**

*by Karl Pusch, Member OBCWRT*

"Presidents of War"
by Michael Beschloss
Crown Publishing Group, 2018; 740 pages

**Editor’s Note:** Do to confusion on the version used in publishing of the Book Review of "Presidents of War" we are repeating a much more detailed review of the book.

In this monumental work, ten years in the making, presidential historian Michael Beschloss describes how the war-making power has evolved (or mutated) from the intent of the Founders.

The Constitution vests the power to declare war in the hands of the Congress, thereby taking away from one person, or small group of men – king, emperor, president, or cabinet – the power to involve the nation in war. It was specifically designed to avoid taking the nation to war on a whim, to slow down the process before the nation was committed to the “final argument of kings.”

Yet, as Beschloss writes, from the beginning, presidents...

Continued on page 10
have slowly chipped away at the intentions of the Founders, almost always with the acquiescence of Congress. He examines the actions of presidents confronted with crises, starting with Jefferson and the Chesapeake affair of 1807; a decision by Jefferson not to go to war, even in the face of more than sufficient provocation.

Then, one by one, Beschloss chronicles how each of the war presidents managed to involve the nation in war starting with Madison, then to Polk, Lincoln, McKinley, Wilson, Roosevelt, Truman, and Johnson. He devotes only a passing note to Bush 43, as this being so recent that the full implications of his actions in Afghanistan and Iraq are yet to be analyzed. “It is a sobering tale of strong executive leadership often accompanied by hubris, deception, outright lying, error, political misjudgment, and unconstitutional actions.”

In Madison’s case, the president took a woefully unprepared nation to war against the British Empire in 1812. Luckily, Britain was preoccupied with Napoleon, and treated this American war as a mere sideshow. Yet they still managed to blockade American ports, and invade the country at two points simultaneously. Despite some minor successes, the invasion of Canada was a failure; and the most important battle of the war was fought at New Orleans after the peace treaty had been signed. To generations of schoolboys, the most important event was Dolley Madison’s saving of Gilbert Stuart’s life size portrait of Washington just hours before the British arrived and burned the White House.

It was Polk who became the first president to fabricate a pretext for war by sending American troops into disputed territory to provoke Mexico. It was the Tonkin Gulf incident of 1846. It was well known that Polk had his eye on the vast territories of the west, that these lands were to be American, i.e., “manifest destiny”. Polk would invoke “executive privilege” to deny Congress documents relating to the border incident that led to war; and pay Mexico $15 million of “conscience money” for what is today Texas, California, and the American Southwest.

Lincoln, who strongly opposed the Mexican war, became the first president to wage, what became the most costly war in American history, by pure executive fiat. Perhaps it was the only way to fight the Civil War, but Beschloss gives Lincoln a pass on the following: raising an army, suspending habeas corpus, blockading Southern ports, censorship of the press, arresting political opponents, and substituting military tribunals for functioning federal courts. No declaration of war was ever even contemplated, for this would have implied that the Confederacy was a nation, not merely states in insurrection. Lincoln, in effect, trampled on the Constitution to wage his war.

In 1898, McKinley resisted the rush to war, even after the Maine incident. A “yellow journalism” press, plus a Navy cover up of the truth of the Maine’s explosion, and some deft over-reaching by Asst. Sec. of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt finally led McKinley to ask for a declaration of war; then he would expand the war aims to annex the Hawaiian Islands, and “liberate” the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

In Wilson’s case, Beschloss is unsparing in his examination of Wilson’s actions...his attempts to keep the US out of World War I, and his subsequent actions once war was declared. Soon came loyalty tests, press censorship, espionage and sedition laws, and attacks on unions which opposed the war. Then came Wilson’s stroke, yet he would brook no opposition; and his failure to compromise on the League of Nations kept the US out of that organization. The “war to end wars” would produce a Second World War within twenty years.

Beschloss rightfully praises the wartime leadership of FDR. But even he used extra-constitutional means to wage his war: illegal wiretaps, violation of the Neutrality Act to assist Britain, use of the IRS to punish political opponents, the Japanese internment camps, and the cover up of the seriousness of the illness that would eventually kill him. He did not even inform his successor, Harry Truman, of the atomic bomb project. And who knows how much his illness led to some of the decisions made at Yalta.

Presidents Truman and Johnson would both launch costly and controversial wars without a declaration of war...in both cases the wars in Korea and Vietnam would result in their political demise. In Truman’s case, the necessity of responding to a full-scale surprise attack gave Truman the ability to respond to the attack as an agent of the United Nations, in what he termed a “police action”. Then came a series of events that were unforeseen, despite warnings: the Red Chinese intervention, the insubordination and relief of MacArthur, and the stalemate along the 38th parallel.

Vietnam was a whole different ball game. Beschloss gives an excellent rendering of how, step by step, Johnson was sucked into the quagmire of Vietnam. What has always been puzzling is the fact that Johnson was at the meeting in 1954 when the French asked for an air strike to relieve Dien Bien Phu. Being told that such action would involve the US in the Indochina War, Johnson and other Congressional leaders urged caution; eventually, Eisenhower would decide against intervention. Yet, ten years later, Johnson would use a false pretext, the Gulf of Tonkin Incident, to involve the US in what was essentially a domestic civil war. Later, during the Fulbright hearings, Nicholas Katzenbach would assert that the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave the president the equivalence of a declaration of war, and his authority to wage that war was unlimited; effectively setting a precedent that would be asserted by Johnson’s successors. Indeed, in more than one interview, then Vice-President Cheney would insist that the Iraq War Resolution did not restrict the US to operations only in Iraq, but could be used to initiate a war with Iran, or any other country in the Middle East.

In each of these post-WWII wars – Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War of 1991, Afghan War, and Iraq War – a spineless Congress could always be counted on to compliantly follow the lead of the president. Listen to the words of Hermann Goering, spoken in testimony at Nuremberg, “Naturally, the common
people don’t want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country.”

Perhaps in an age of nuclear weapons, ICBM’s, and cyber-war the intentions of the Founders concerning war have become obsolete. War, Beschloss laments, now often rests on the whim of the president alone.

P.S.- Beschloss devotes a few paragraphs to Nixon’s interference in Johnson’s peace negotiations during the summer and fall of the 1968 presidential campaign. By his actions using Anna Chennault as a go-between, Nixon persuaded South Vietnamese President Thieu to leave the Paris peace talks, indicating that Thieu would get a better deal from a Nixon administration than from either a Johnson or Humphrey administration. By these actions, effectively sabotaging the Paris peace talks, Nixon committed treason. The war would go on for four more years under Nixon, costing over 26,000 American lives; and the peace accords signed in October, 1972 were, except for some minor details, the same terms as would have been had in 1968.

The League of Historical Societies Winter Meeting

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT
Ocean County Library
101 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ
Saturday, April 6, 2019

Today was the day to embark on a history adventure in Toms River, New Jersey. We attended the Winter meeting of the League of Historical Societies, hosted by the Ocean County Historical Society, at the Ocean County Library. Debbie (Rich’s wife), Flat Old Baldy, and myself met new members of various New Jersey roundtables and old friends from past meetings. There was a welcome address from Brian Bovasso, President, Ocean County Historical Society and Timothy G. Hart, President, LHSNJ. The league had their regular business meeting and then a break. Flat Old Baldy had enough of being in a tote bag so Debbie got him to pose for a photo with Timothy Hart, the new president of LHSNJ. Flat Old Baldy was satisfied for the time being and calmed down so we could continue on with the topics of the day.

The first presentation was “World War I Overview and New Jersey’s Involvement” by Dr. Jeffrey Schenker. World War I was the war that changed history although there was NO Adolf Hitler, NO Russian Revolution, NO Cold War, and NO Empires Collapsing for a reason to start fighting. When the United States entered World War I, New Jersey was one of the states with valuable resources and manpower to send abroad. New Jersey citizens served in the armed forces, gave economic contributions and built 38 military training camps. At the same time New Jersey business was booming, providing munitions, ships, chemicals, auto parts and petroleum products to the Allies. As the war continued there were many New Jersey men who lost their lives in this war, including Alfred Joyce Kilmer of New Brunswick, NJ. New Jersey’s location as a seaport was vital with many factories who supplied allies with arms, food, and other necessary items. The sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 with over 100 New Jersey citizens losing their lives was one reason the United States got involved. Another reason was the explosion and attack on a port that housed munitions on Black Tom Island. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg was a prime reason why European nations went to war.

Military Bases at Camp Dix and Camp Merritt and the port of Hoboken saw American troops coming and going from these places on a regular basis. General Pershing made the promise to every man who was fighting that they would be home “Heaven, hell or Hoboken” by Christmas, 1917. The war ended with the Signing of the Treaty of Versailles, which included Wilson’s proposal for a League of Nations (later became the United Nations) to help reduce future wars. The United States Congress and Wilson could not get a 2/3’s majority so the United States never signed the treaty.

The second presentation was “Camp Dix During World War I” by Timothy Hart. Once Camp Dix was completed by mid-December, 1918 it became the most important military installation in the United States. The boys who entered Camp Dix became strong soldiers with some joining the Doughboys. During this time William G. Schauffler, Jr. (a local aviator) was the first American who accidentally flew over Germany. In 1891, Nathan Strauss built his own hotel called, Lakewood Hotel, as a Jewish resort, for prejudice toward Jews before and during World War I was very active. When the war came the Lakewood Hotel became a hospital and rehabilitation center housing many wounded soldiers. Over the course of a year and a half the hospital treated over 5500 men. A Red Man Group (originally the Sons of Liberty) honored the brave men who fought in World War I from Camden and Tuckerton, New Jersey. These men worked underground to help establish freedom and liberty in the early colonies. After the American Revolution the name changed to “The Order of Red Men” which focused on temperance, patriotism and American history. The
bases for their fraternity were Native American’s customs. The members placed monuments in the Camden area to remember the boys that fought during World War I.

Jackson, New Jersey became the home of many Russian American families who were not really involved in fighting during World War I. Many New Jersey residents were reading the Price Sister’s diary about their experiences during World War I from 1915-1935. Ocean County started the “Hello Girls” known as the Signal Corps Female Telegraph Operators Unit. It was formed in 1917 to improve the state of communication on the Western Front. Over 450 women were accepted but had to be bilingual in both English and French. In Ocean County alone, 30% of the people living in the county participated in the war as occupational troops. The third presentation was “The Spanish Influenza During World War I” by Dr. Barbara Godhold. “When we think of history we do not think of disease!” In the United States the flu was first identified in military personal in Spring, 1918. People between 18-40 years old were part of “Black Death” in Europe which affected half of the population in England. Because there were no vaccines or antibiotics available using isolation, quarantine, use of disinfectants, good personal hygiene and limitation of public gatherings helped to stop the spread of the flu when used correctly. The flu symptoms begin with a buildup of fluid in the lungs where the patient cannot get enough air. Patients tended to have bluish skin because of the lack of air to their lungs. Schools and business were closed, no church services or funerals, quarantined ships and residents required to have a certificate to enter town. Alas, it was the American soldier who brought the flu to Europe.

The first phase was very severe. The second phase, the fall of 1918, the soldiers thought the Germans were spreading the flu through germ warfare. By the third phase, in early 1919, the flu turned into more of a seasonal event. The impact on the United States was 57 thousand soldiers died. Drafts were canceled, nurses were needed and Philadelphia was the hardest hit. Mass graves were common, at Camp Merritt, and at Washington’s Monumental Cemetery in South River where historians found rows upon rows of unmarked graves. There were at least 400 victims of the 1918 flu epidemic in the Southwest corner of the cemetery. Labor was needed in the ship building area and personal were hard to find. Finally, the NJ Board of Health in Newark took over. Eventually a vaccine was found and we discovered antibiotics. There are still to this day unmarked burial sites containing victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic in various New Jersey cemeteries that have not been discovered.

After lunch we choose to visit the historical site of The Cedar Bridge Tavern, in Barnegat, NJ. It was a long drive through the Pinelands to see and hear 200-years of tavern history. Locals stopped by for a drink and travelers on their way to other destinations welcomed the chance to rest and catch up with the news of the day. The tavern has been restored, saving the historic features of the building. Ocean County purchased the tavern from the owner Rudolf Koenig who bought the property in 1959. It was believed that the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution took place near the site of this tavern. The tavern today had the original floor plan and flooring, original doors, windows, and fireplaces. Flat Old Baldy loved being on the mantel of the fireplace in the bar area and the mantel in the exhibit area. Pictures were taken in both rooms for you know how Flat Old Baldy likes his picture taken.

Our tour guide was Lucas and he was very good in telling us much about the history of the tavern. There was even an old still on top of the bar from the day when Rudolf owned the building. It was used too. Flat Old Baldy got a photo with Lucas behind the bar and you may even see the still at the top of the photo. The bar is part of the original section of the tavern, the only surviving bar in any other New Jersey tavern. Later Flat Old Baldy hopped on the table to try to eat the plastic oysters that were sitting on a plate. He was just a hungry horse! Flat Old Baldy became popular as the day went on with Randall Gebrielan, commissioner of the Monmouth County Historical Commission, asking to have his picture taken with him. Randall was happy and so were we with Flat Old Baldy expressing his “Thank You”
to Randall and all the other members who attended this historical meeting. He was the star of the meeting! Debbie and I had the opportunity to introduce Flat Old Baldy to the members while we were eating lunch.

By the time we got back to the library the other sites we could have seen were almost closing. Traveling to the tavern was well worth the ride. We learned about the Battle of Cedar Bridge and the Ocean County Park Service who continues to explore the area for history preservation. We were part of a long day of World War I New Jersey history. Learning new facts is always the goal of any meeting we attend and feel that the goal was met. We were tired, even Flat Old Baldy, but came home knowing that the meeting was a great success. Now, we can look forward to the next meeting later in the year. History is alive and well in the state of New Jersey! Huzzah, Huzzah!

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**May 9th Meeting presentation by Martha Moore**

**“Washington Roebling, Civil War Engineer”**

by Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

John A. Roebling started Roebling and Company and became the world’s greatest suspension bridge engineer. His idea of taking the hemp rope that was used for towing along the canal, adding twisted steel to the rope to use on suspension bridges was a totally new concept in bridge building. This added support to the rope gave an extra safety aspect to the bridge. In 1844 Roebling built a suspension bridge in Pittsburgh but one of his greatest accomplishment was the railroad suspension bridge built over the Niagara Gorge in 1855. This bridge was a double decker bridge for horse travel and rail. It was said that Harriet Tubman used this bridge as part of the route taken in the underground railroad as a path for slaves to find freedom in Canada.

When the Brooklyn Bridge was purposed the thinking was that the bridge would be “the greatest engineering work of the continent and of the ages”. Sadly, John died before the bridge was completed. His son, Washington, along with his wife Emily Warren Roebling, finished the project in 1883. Washington Roebling studied engineering at Rensse-laer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, graduating in 1857. He joined his father’s company as a civil engineer and worked on the Pittsburgh Bridge till its completion. As the Civil War was beginning, Washington enlisted in 1861 as a private in the 6th New York Independent Battery but resigned after two months to reenlist in the New York Artillery Battery as a Second Lieutenant. He was part of Company K, 83nd New York volunteer’s preforming construction of suspension bridges.

Washington was building bridges without a lot of engineering knowledge from the solders in his company. Harper’s Ferry bridges were destroyed and Washington and crew rebuilt three bridges over the Rappahannock. Which in turn were destroyed again by Jubal Early at Harper’s Ferry after Company K, 83rd NY Volunteers abandoned Harper’s Ferry and moved on. Washington built two bridges in Port Royal (work force mostly slaves) and wrote a book on how to build a bridge. He also did some mapmaking for Antietam in 1862, used the Balloon Corps for aerial surveillance building the bridges and at Gettysburg.

Washington participated in the following battles during his time in the Civil War: Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Petersburg and Gettysburg.

In Gettysburg, Washington Roebling was one of the initial officers on Little Round Top. As the confederate troops approached, he hurried down the hill to report to Brigadier General Gouverneur Warren. Washington was Warren’s aide-de-camp. July 2, 1863, Washington said, “I was the first man on Little Round Top. There is no special credit attached to running up the little hill, but there was some in staying there without being killed.” Eventually Warren and Roebling left the hill and sent the 140th NY Volunteers up the hill providing needed reinforcements. He stayed on Warren’s staff until the end of the war.

After the Civil War, Roebling worked with his father on the Cincinnati-Covington Bridge. When the bridge opened, December 1, 1866 it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. Washington was assistant engineer on the Brooklyn Bridge and became chief engineer after his father died. During his work on the Brooklyn Bridge, Washington was inspecting the caissons under the river and got "the
"bends" ruining his health and no longer able to supervise the construction. His wife, Emily Warren Roebling, took it upon herself to oversee the chief engineering duties for the bridge construction. It was February, 1864 when Washington met Emily, the sister of General Warren, and married. A lot of credit must go to Emily who helped to complete the building of the bridge without Washington’s assistance. After the building of the Brooklyn Bridge, Roebling and Sons concentrated on twisted wire steel rope manufacturing rather than bridge building.

Some of the places you can find wire rope are in the “Spirit of St. Louis”, US Capitol in the window sash and in Otis Elevators to name a few. Roebling became a company town in 1947 but by 1953 the family sold the business to Colorado Steele and Iron, a Rockefeller owned company. The Mill closed in 1974. Washington’s health never recovered after the bridge accident. It was Emily who inspected the Brooklyn Bridge for ten years and worked with Washington all her married life. He died in 1926 at the age of 89 after being bedridden for two months.

A lot of credit must go to Emily who helped to complete the building of the bridge without Washington’s assistance. After the building of the Brooklyn Bridge, Roebling and Sons concentrated on twisted wire steel rope manufacturing rather than bridge building.

Flat Old Baldy finally got to meet and thank one of his and the Round Table’s biggest fans on our Facebook page.

Gwen Wyttanbach lives in Northern Virginia and cheerfully follows FOB’s adventures in promoting the OBCWRT message.

They met at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA. You can read more about their visit in posts on our Facebook page in the coming weeks.
Old Baldy Clothing Store Sale

What are the fashionable Old Baldy Members wearing this summer and fall? Why of course it is high quality Old Baldy apparel offered by Tuttle Marking Services. The store opens on June 10th. Check out the website Old Baldy Store so see our special branded Tees, Polos, Jackets and Hats. Show your support but be ready to explain our unique organization to people intrigued by Old Baldy on your clothing. It is simple to order, just go to the website, choose the item, size and color. Be sure to add to your cart and then hit PLACE YOUR ORDER. It is that simple. Your orders will be delivered at the August and September meetings.

You need to act right away because the store is only opened for a limited time, June 10th through July 18th, and don’t forget to checkout this link https://tuttlemarketing.com/store/products/old-baldy-civil-war-round-table-651 The Link will also be provided on the Web Site and the Facebook Page.

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<td>Adult: S-3XL Adult Sizes: S(34-36); M(38-40); L(42-44); XL(46-48); XXL(50-52); 3XL(54-55)</td>
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Deadline for orders to be placed is Thursday, July 18th. Orders will be distributed at the August 8th meeting. Items are non-returnable due to customization, please contact Jeanne Reith if you have questions on sizing.

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