

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Kevin M. Hale Award  
for  
Best Historical Newsletter  
in New Jersey

November 12, 2020 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

## “Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey’s Central Role in the Fight for Woman Suffrage”



Suffragette

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, November 12, for an online web conference (no physical meeting). Members will receive **ZOOM** dial-in instructions via email. This month’s topic is **Carol Simon Levin** on “Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey’s Central Role in the Fight for Woman Suffrage”

This is the story of the role of New Jersey women in the long struggle for women’s suffrage.

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, women had the right to vote in only one state, New Jersey, a right they would lose in 1807, and not win back for more than five generations. New Jersey’s role in the struggle to regain that right is largely overlooked.

It is well-known that Elizabeth Cady Stanton proclaimed “all men and women are created equal” at the Women’s Rights Convention of 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. Few know that she lived in Tenafly in 1869, when she and Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and wrote the first three volumes of their History of Woman Suffrage.

Hear the stories of these and many other women with Jersey ties – including the Grimke sisters (who spoke out against slavery and for women’s rights from their home in Shrewsbury), Dr. Florence Spearing Randolph (chair of the NJ Association of Colored Women’s Clubs and executive board member on the NJ Woman Suffrage Association), Alice Low Turnbull Hopkins (who threw her considerable support behind Alice Paul’s Washington pickets), and Alice Paul, the dynamo who re-energized the movement for a federal amendment.

**Carol Simon Levin** is a retired librarian, author, storyteller and program presenter based in Bedminster. In 2016, she wrote a book, “Remembering The Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates,” about amazing American women, which was illustrated by 36 artists. It is an interactive book about lost stories of fascinating and forgotten women in American history. In addition to a coloring page, each entry includes a short biography, a fascinating fact and a quote by the woman. It includes recommendations for further reading for kids, teens, and adults, and suggestions for activities and activism and places to visit.

### Notes from the President...

Earlier sunsets, cooler temperatures and colorful leaves are with us as we look out our windows. Even though we cannot gather, we have much for which to be grateful this year. This includes our members, partners, attitudes and that we are managing our current situation well. Thank you for your continued support of our round table and for spreading our message in the South Jersey area. We appreciate all you do to keep our organization moving forward. Thank you to the members and followers who have joined us in our **Zoom** room. Also thank you to those who are waiting to meet us in person next year (at least at the Old Baldy birthday party in May).

Last month at our meeting, **Mark R. Brewer** enlightened us on the Union army at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff. The members and guests in attendance departed with a better understanding of the Battle from the Union side. On the 22nd, **Ron Coddington’s** presentation on his book “Faces of Civil War Nurses” drew some guests from the Society of Women of the Civil War. All ended the evening more knowledgeable on some of the ladies who made a difference to the soldiers. Remember many of our past presentations are available to be viewed on our YouTube page if you cannot join us for the event.

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This month at our meeting to honor the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment, **Carol Simon Levin** will tell us about "Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey's Central Role in the fight for Woman Suffrage." From Bedminster, Carol will share stories about the women from New Jersey who made a difference in the fight for the vote. Invite friends and family to join us for this special topic. Next month after our election, our own **Bob Russo** will present his research on the Wounded Knee Massacre with us.

Thank you to all who spent money at Boscov's on October 14-15 to help us with our fundraising. We are waiting to hear about our portion of the donations. The CWRT Congress is planning their conference at Camden County College for next September. This will be an opportunity to highlight our round table. Let us know if you need some of our South Jersey Civil War site maps. We have a large and medium size as they make great gifts. We want to welcome **Jean White** from the Society of Women in the Civil War as our newest member.

Be strong for each other and keep in touch with the members we do not see regularly on our broadcasts. We lost member **Andy Levering** as he passed last month. The round table offers condolences to the members who lost family last month. Our Board will be meeting in the coming weeks to make plans for the Spring. If you have any matters you would like them to discuss, please share it with a Board member.

Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend however you end up celebrating it.

Support local businesses and order out for your meal before our meeting on the 12th.

*See you in the Zoom room.*

**Rich Jankowski, President**

## Today in Civil War History

### 1861 Tuesday, November 12

#### The North

General McClellan initiates a major reform of the Union command structure. The huge Department of the West is split into three parts: the Department of New Mexico is to be commanded by Colonel Canby; the Kansas Department, a vast area which covers much of the great plains, including Kansas, the Indian Territory, Nebraska, Colorado, and Dakota, is given to General Hunter, who had replaced Fremont earlier in the month; the Department of Missouri, comprising Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Arkansas, and Kentucky west of the Cumberland River, is to be commanded by General Henry W. Halleck from California. A former lecturer at West Point, and something of a military intellectual, Halleck has written well-regarded works on military science, and is an able administrator. Elsewhere, General Don Carlos Buell's Department of the Ohio includes the rest of Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Tennessee. The Department of Western Virginia, under Rosecrans, and the Department of the Potomac remain unchanged.

### 1862 Wednesday, November 12

#### Western Theater

Although Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky has been a failure, Rosecrans, the new commander of the Department of the Cumberland faces a number of problems. Provisions are short, for two armies have campaigned over the region for most of the summer. He must therefore establish long lines of communication, and as he cannot use the Cumberland River because it is too low, he must use the railroad. Railroads use bridges, and bridges are vulnerable to lightning raids by gifted Confederate cavalry commanders such as Forrest and Morgan. The Confederates could use Rosecrans' difficulties to their advantage, but fortunately for the Union they lack the commander to carry out operations. Bragg is superb at planning a campaign but lacks executive ability.

### 1863 Thursday, November 12

#### Western Theater

Longstreet completes his preparations and departs Loudon. Burnside learns that the Confederates have bridged the river at Huffs Ferry near Loudon.

### 1864 Saturday, November 12

#### Western Theater

Sherman's men tear down every building in Atlanta, except the churches and some houses.

#### Eastern Theater

Early's men skirmish at Middletown and Cedar Creek.

## Finding History Atop a Mountain

*By Joe Wilson, Member OBCWRT*

The cool autumn air blowing through the region prompted Gerri and I to head for the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Shenandoah National Park of Virginia for a mountain getaway in the great outdoors. We left the same day the Autumnal Equinox ushered in the new season.

Skyline Drive is a familiar destination where we frequently enjoy the hiking trails in pursuit of the many beautiful waterfalls that flow down the mountain. The drive winds along the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Front Royal to Swift Run Gap.

Breakfast fueled us for our first hike into the morning chill in search of Dark Hollow Falls. Gerri unpacked her hiking poles and I grabbed my Irish Blackthorn walking stick for the rejuvenating hike after being homebound for so long. The Civil War couldn't have been further from our minds. Only visions of glorious cascading waterfalls and spectacular vistas of the valley below swirled in our heads.

We enjoyed the great weather and scenery as we proceeded down the mountain side with an eye for bears loading up for the winter. Thankfully, they never showed. Halfway to the waterfalls we noticed a small path off the main trail

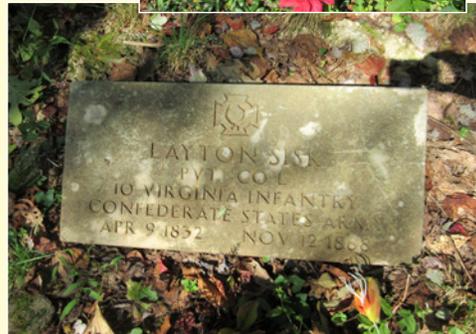
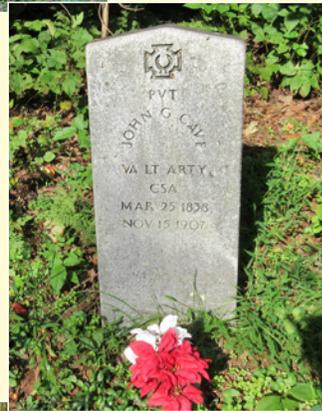
with an old obscure sign that read "Cave Cemetery." But no cemetery appeared anywhere. Only woods as far as we could see. The path disappeared into a thick wooded area. Being curious, we lit out on the trail less traveled.

With a sense of adventure taking hold, Gerri and I veered up the foot path and into the woods. Eventually we emerged into a clearing that revealed a small cemetery. The "Cave Cemetery" indeed did exist. It should be noted again that we were high up in the Blue Ridge Mountains trekking on the side of a mountain far from anything or anyone. A cemetery tucked away



in the forest on the side of the mountain seemed way out of place. But we reasoned that mountain folks who populated the Blue Ridge long ago wouldn't have it any other way. They were born on the mountain and they wanted to rest in peace for all eternity on the mountain they loved. When the National Park Service created the Shenandoah National Park in 1935, it was written in the agreement that the old mountain dwellers retain the privilege of being buried on the mountain if they wished.

Gazing at some of the stones I was astonished at finding the graves of three Confederate soldiers. One was John G. Cave who served with the Virginia Rockbridge Light Artillery. Many of his family were buried in the graveyard named for them. Two other soldiers buried in the cemetery served in the 10th Virginia Infantry. Privates John Weakley and Private Layton Sisk grew up on the mountain with John Cave. And they took their rightful place after the war back on the mountain with their families. These boys came down from the peaks of the Blue Ridge to enlist in the Confederate Army. And all three returned to the highlands as patriots who volunteered to fight for their country. Or so I thought!



The soldiers whose graves we found in such an unusual cemetery so far from the maddening crowd piqued my interest. So when I got home I searched their names on the Civil War Soldiers database to see what I might find. What I found at first startled me. All three went AWOL. They all deserted. My first thought deemed them cowards. A firing squad should have been formed for the scoundrels. But after thinking about it, I may have been too harsh.

A few thoughts crossed my mind. First, if you look at their headstones, two are marked with the Southern Cross of Valor. And why would they want their service mentioned on the stone if they deserted? Seems they were proud of their Civil War service.

Approximately 103,000 thousand Confederates gave up on the war and went home. Historians would like you to believe that most took an unauthorized "French Leave" and later returned to the army. That may be a way of restoring nobility to the good name of the fighting men in the south, but it's not the reality. Many went home and never returned. And

often for good reason. The Union had many more desertions than the south. Although desertions soared on both sides, only a few hundred cases on either side received the prescribed penalty of death by firing squad. Lincoln is known to loath signing an execution order.

Many reasons for quitting the war prompted southern boys to go home. All three of these Virginia boys went AWOL and left for home around the same time in mid-1863. Did they decide together to give up the fight? Some soldiers returned home as folks back home bordering on starvation begged them in letters to return. Folks up in the mountains, where these boys came from, didn't have large farms and therefore had no slaves. So the young men were essential in supporting their families in the harsh lifestyle of mountain folks.

Another scenario may have seen the boys being forced into General Stonewall Jackson's Brigade. Resistance formed after being ordered to report for enlistment into Stonewall's Army in the Shenandoah Valley. Most opposition to the directive came from the German Baptists, commonly called Dunkards, that populated the Shenandoah area. Some place the number of those refusing to enlist from the Blue Ridge area at around 1000.

Gerri and I then stopped at Swift Run Gap on the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains where we learned that many of those resisting found a secure hiding place at the gap. Jackson then sent a force of Infantry and artillery from the Shenandoah Valley to the mountains and shelled Swift Run. The attack had Virginians firing on Virginians. A Civil War played out within a Civil War. With the mountain

men having only shotguns and squirrel rifles, the resistance crumbled.

So maybe the three men buried in the Cave Cemetery belonged to the Dunkard Sect with a strong religious opposition to the war. Maybe they enlisted under threat of punishment. These hardy mountain men may not have had a yellow streak at all but simply put family and religion above a perceived Lost Cause. If forced to enlist against their religion, or leaving the war to care for family, they may be innocent of my charge. I hereby withdraw my accusation of cowardice.

Lastly, I followed Gerri, my trusty trail blazing pathfinder, thru Fisher's Gap. An interpretive sign facing the valley from high atop Skyline Drive detailed Stonewall's Shenandoah Valley Campaign down below. As it turned out, we were walking along the same route taken by Jackson and his army in 1862. Stonewall led his army across the mountain at Fisher's Gap in the Blue Ridge as they left the Shenandoah Valley and headed east on their way to the

crucial Battle of Fredericksburg. We hiked along a creek that may have supplied water for the many canteens of the Stonewall Brigade. But we had the luxury of knowing our march ended in a cooling mist under a peaceful waterfall. Stonewall's musket toting marchers knew their hike might have a bloody ending with a burial pit far from home. The plan for this trip was to clear our heads in the fresh frosty mountain air while relaxing beside magnificent waterfalls or gazing at the panoramic views from the Blue Ridge Mountains. As so often happens, history intruded unexpectedly. But we certainly welcomed all the wayward war stories that added another element to the trip. Maybe the universe aligns things to those who enjoy learning more about the past. I'll never know the complete story of those three Confederate soldiers buried in a concealed cemetery 4100 feet up on the side of a mountain.

But I do ask their forgiveness!

*The writer is a member of Old Baldy CWRT and The General Meade Society. Joef21@aol.com*

## "Those White Roses"

### **Alice Farmer Risley**

Alice Farmer was born in Wilmington, Ohio on November 1, 1847. In fall 1859, the family relocated to New Iberia in the Bayou Teche region of Louisiana, where her father was a basket maker. As Unionists, the Farmers were not well accepted after the Civil War broke out. In the fall of 1861, Alice's father was forced to flee the Confederate-controlled Teche region for Union-occupied New Orleans, leaving his family in New Iberia. In the summer of 1862, Alice's mother was accused of being a spy, and Phoebe and Alice left for New Orleans, where they were reunited with Mr. Farmer.

### **Union Nurse Volunteer**

The public buildings and hospitals in New Orleans were overcrowded with sick and wounded soldiers. Alice and her mother Phoebe volunteered as nurses and began a daily routine of visiting the local hospitals between 1862 and September 1865. When there was no room left in the hospitals, the Farmers took patients into their home, sometimes for weeks at a time. Their service to the sick and wounded continued through September 1865. Alice also worked as a teacher in a school for blacks in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

Samuel Risley served as an officer of the United States Army Signal Corp in the 117th Illinois Infantry Regiment of General Ulysses S. Grant's army. He was hospitalized in New Orleans in 1863, and Alice cared for him at the hospital and later at the Farmer home. After the war, the Farmer family left New Orleans and moved back to Massachusetts, then later to Illinois. Samuel Risley corresponded with Alice during this time.

### **Marriage and Family**

In 1872, Alice Farmer married Samuel Risley in St. Louis. Alice and Samuel had four children - Guy Weston (1875-1965), Florence (1877-1926), Nellie (1879-1905), and

Frank (1883-1898). Samuel became one of West Plains, Missouri's first newspapermen when he established the South Missouri Journal there. Later, the couple was appointed postmaster and postmistress of West Plains, and Samuel served as the city's mayor. The Risleys were among the most prominent citizens in social and civic circles.

After Samuel's death in 1894, Alice actively participated in the Women's Relief Corps of Missouri, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War, which met annually at the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Alice faithfully attended those reunions for 40 years, and served as national president of the National Association of Army Nurses for 16 years, and was often featured in stories in the national press.

Alice Farmer Risley died at her son's home in Alexandria, Louisiana, on May 10, 1939, and was buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in West Plains, Missouri. She was the last surviving member of the National Association of Army Nurses. In 1940, state officials of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic dedicated a granite marker at her gravesite.



**Alice gets a kiss from a veteran**

### **Jane Currie Blaikie Hoge**

Jane Currie was born on July 31, 1811, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Mary (Monroe) and George Dundas Blaikie. She was an honor graduate from the Philadelphia Young Ladies College.

On June 2, 1831, Jane became the bride of Abraham Homes Hoge. The couple moved to Pittsburg. They had thirteen children, and eight lived to adulthood. Jane supplemented the family's income by doing bookkeeping for the Pittsburg Orphan Asylum. In the fall of 1848, the family moved to Chicago where Mr. Hoge operated an iron works factory.

When the Civil War began, two of Jane's sons enlisted. George Blaikie Hoge became a brigadier general. Jane joined George's unit at Camp Douglas where she served as a nurse. She was assisted by Mary Livermore on several occasions.



**Jane Currie Blaikie Hoge**

In September 1861, the two ladies organized the Northwestern Sanitary Commission with Eliza Chappell Porter as director. At the beginning of 1862, Dorothea Dix appointed Jane to a position as recruiting agent to hire women to staff the military hospitals. Jane held this position throughout the war.

While at Cairo, Illinois in March 1862, the military hospital filled with wounded from the Battle of Fort Donelson. Jane was sent to investigate the misappropriation of medical supplies. She met

many skirmishes along the way and was fired on by enemy snipers. Once at the hospital the skirmishing continued, but Jane persevered and the hospital was soon operating smoothly, receiving four times the medical materials prior to her visit.

In January 1863, while traveling to Young's Point, Virginia, Jane's riverboat was commandeered by a Union officer in order to scout Rebel strongholds along Arkansas' White River. For twenty days, Jane treated measles and pneumonia as well as wounds on the riverboat.

She returned to Chicago a month later for a week's rest. She then volunteered to serve at General Grant's Young Point Camp. When she arrived in the camp, as many men were suffering from scurvy as from wounds. Jane began a "vegetable drive," traveling to the surrounding countryside soliciting or confiscating vegetables as they were located. Jane was credited with saving the army.

In the summer of 1863, Jane made a journey of mercy to Vicksburg to nurse her seriously injured son, Colonel Hoge. She worked with the wounded in the front-line hospital tent. When it was possible, Jane brought her wounded son out of the combat zone in a dispatch boat while under fire from Confederate snipers.

In October 1863, Hoge and Livermore organized the Great Chicago Sanitary Fair to raise money and supplies for the wounded. Seventy thousand dollars in profit was cleared, all for the care of wounded, widows, and orphans. The Fair was such a success, soon every major Northeastern city held one. The two ladies received commendations from Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, "For their great service in alleviating suffering."

In 1867, Jane penned *The Boys In Blm': Or, Hvos Of The "Rank Ami File,"* a tribute to the common foot soldier and the woman he left behind. After the war, Jane worked in various areas of social service with the city of Chicago.

She was forced to retire in 1885, due to deafness. Many believe her loss of hearing was due to the many months she spent at the front lines. Jane died on August 26, 1890, a few months after her husband, at the age of 79. Jane's death was brought on by a fractured hip and old age. She was buried next to her husband in Chicago's C-raceland Cemetery. Jane was eulogized as a humorless, efficient, impersonal being with a keen understanding of logistics who failed to see the wounded as people.

### **Annie Turner Wittenmyer**

Annie was born in Sandy Springs, Ohio to John G. and Mary (Smith) Turner on August 26, 1827. She was educated in the local schools of Kentucky. She received her secondary education at an Ohio seminary.

At age twenty, Annie married William Wittenmyer, a wealthy Jacksonville, Ohio merchant who was older than Annie by nearly a decade.

In 1850, the Wittenmyers moved to Keohuk, Iowa where Annie established a free elementary school for the impoverished. Ten years later Wittenmyer died, leaving Annie with a substantial estate.

In April 1861, Annie sent their only surviving child of five to live with her sister while she traveled to the battlefields. She sent back messages urging the collection and shipment of medical supplies to the front lines. She was supported

by the Keohuk Soldiers' Aid Society. On one occasion, while caring for soldiers on the front lines, Annie narrowly escaped death. A minie ball was fired through the ambulance train where Annie was caring for a critical patient.

She was also under fire on two other occasions while on a transport ship. The vessel was fired upon by the enemy, and an enemy cannonball exploded just inches behind her ambulance carriage.

Fourteen months after Annie began visiting the front lines, she was appointed to the post of sanitary agent, a paying position. Conflicts between Annie and the male surgeons led to a convention and legislative bills in October 1863, which successfully maintained the women's position in the Sanitary Commission.

Annie resigned in May 1864, having decided there must be a better way to care for the wounded. She organized diet kitchens to operate in tandem with the hospitals. In January 1864, she won financial support from the United States Sanitary Commission, and her first kitchen was established in Nashville. Annie hired one hundred women to staff the

kitchens. She refused to hire people who had previously been cooks or maids, for she wanted her staff to learn proper diet from the onset and not to be influenced by a previous occupation. Largely responsible for the establishment of army diet kitchens, Annie wrote the manual for feeding the sick and wounded.

Annie took her kitchens to the Iowa war orphanages, demanding that children should have proper care.

In October 1865, Annie

persuaded the United States government to appropriate the Iowa barracks and hospital supplies to Iowa's Children's Home Association. Annie was characterized as an articulate, pious person who was sentimental with strong leadership abilities and a soft spot in her heart for children and wounded.

Three years after the Civil War ended, Annie established the Ladies' and Pastors' Christian Union. The purpose of the organization was to care for the ill and impoverished who had not recovered from the perils of war. Dissatisfied with the Union, Annie moved to Philadelphia in 1871, and began to publish the *Christian Woman* as well as the *Woman's Work For Jesus* and *Women For Reformation*. Annie also wrote a number of spiritual songs intended to provoke a humanitarian movement.

From October 1873 until the summer of 1874, Annie also worked with the temperance leagues. She believed those encumbered with the evils of alcohol did so because of the rejection and squalor they faced daily as the result of the Civil War. In 1878, Annie went to the United States Congress asking for an investigation of "liquor traffic" dominated by a low class of foreigners. Her request was denied. From 1889 until 1890, Annie served as president of the Women's Relief Corps. She used the position to establish



**Annie Turner Wittenmyer**

a national home for retired nurses, veterans' widows and mothers. And in 1892 Annie was again before Congress, lobbying for a pension for former Civil War nurses. That petition was successful.

In 1895 Annie published her memoirs of wartime nursing in *Under The Guns*. Three years later, she received a nurs-

ing pension. Annie died on February 2, 1900, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania of cardiac asthma. She had just finished delivering a speech on humanitarianism. Annie was buried in Edgewood Cemetery in Sanatago, Pennsylvania.

Combination of  
"White Roses" and "History of American Women"

## "The Brooks - Sumner Affair Prelude to Civil War"

By Sylvia D. Hoffert, CWTI, October, 1972

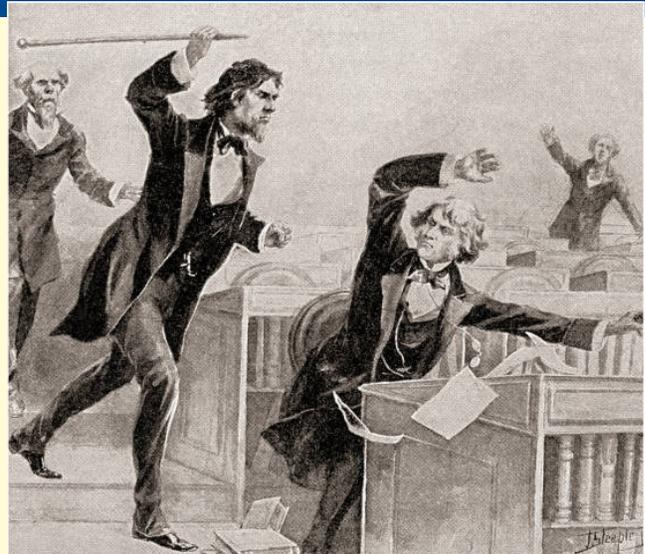
**Some claim that the war began in 1856 in the Senate Chamber at Washington, and they have a good argument.**

At 1 p.m. on May 19, 1856, the Senate chamber was crowded despite the ninety degree temperature. A great speech was to be delivered that afternoon by Charles Sumner, the uncompromising abolitionist Senator from Massachusetts. Sumner was 45, a tall, rather handsome and cultured Bostonian trained as a lawyer at Harvard. He was sensitive and proud, a bachelor who prided himself on his superior intellect and high moral standards. When Sumner rose to deliver his "Crime Against Kansas" speech that afternoon, he intended that it should be "the most thorough philippic ever uttered in a legislative body." It was fierce in its denunciation of the South in general and South Carolina and her senior Senator Andrew P. Butler in particular. Butler was an elderly Southern gentleman, noted for his courtesy and respected as a man of learning and as a jurist. But during the Kansas-Nebraska debates of 1854 Butler had referred to Sumner saying, . . . whilst I award to him the merit of having spoken with the taste and fervor and eloquence of an accomplished orator, he has not in my deliberate judgement, spoken with the wisdom, the judgement, and the responsibility of a statesman. . . Butler at one point also called Sumner a "plunging agitator" and a man who "flagrantly misrepresented history."

Sumner, a man noted for his egotism, never forgave this criticism; and so during the months that he spent carefully preparing his speech, he included remarks attacking both Butler and his state. As those who crowded the Senate listened, they heard Sumner say of Butler, who was in South Carolina at the time,

*The senator from South Carolina has read many books of chivalry, and believes himself a chivalrous knight with sentiments of honor and courage. Of course he has chosen a mistress to whom he has made his vows, and who, though ugly to others, is always lovely to 'him; though polluted in the sight of the world, is chaste in his sight—I mean the harlot Slavery . . . The phrensy of Don Quixote [Butler] in behalf of his wench Dulcinea del Toboso is all surpassed. . . .*

The next day on May 20 Sumner continued his speech and again attacked Butler and South Carolina saying,



*There was no extravagance of the ancient Parliamentary debate which he [Butler] did not repeat; nor was there any possible deviation from truth which he did not make, . . . But the senator touches nothing which he does not disfigure—with error, sometimes of principle, some- times of fact. He shows an incapacity of accuracy whether in stating the Constitution or in stating the law, whether in the details of statistics or the diversions of scholarship. He cannot open his mouth, but out there flies a blunder. . .*

*. . . Has he read the history of "the State" which he represents? He cannot surely have forgotten . . . its most shameful assumptions for slavery . . . its wretched persistence in the slave trade . . . its constitution, which is republican only in name, . . . Were the whole history of South Carolina blotted out of existence, . . . civilization might lose—I do not say how little, . . . Ah, sir, I tell the senator that Kansas will be a "ministering angel" to the republic, when South Carolina, in the cloak of darkness which she hugs, "lies howling."*

Although Stephen Douglas of Illinois remarked during the speech to those around him that Sumner was a damned fool who would get himself killed by some other damned fool at no time during the speech was Sumner called to order for what he was saying. However, there was one man who sat in the gallery the first day who would have objected had he been able to. That man was Preston S. Brooks, kinsman of Butler and member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina. In his political career Brooks had shown only moderate ability as a legislator, but had been an orderly member of the House, occasionally showing himself

to be more tolerant and less sectional than other Southern members. He was attractive with dark brown hair and the proud bearing of a Southern gentleman and military man who had served in the Mexican War. His friendliness and agreeable manner had gained for him many friends even among Republicans.

Nevertheless, Brooks was still a product of a Southern culture which did not allow insults such as the ones Sumner had just given to go unavenged. Feeling that he would not be representing South

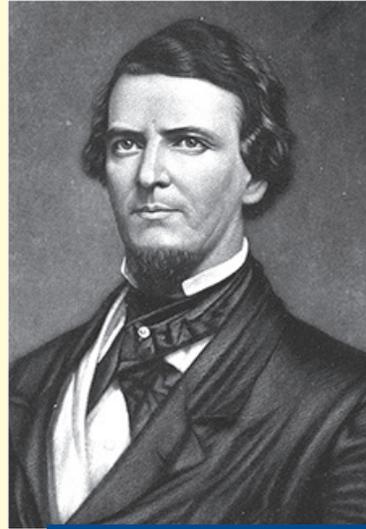
Carolina properly if he permitted such coarse abuse to be used by abolitionists against Southern people and states, he told Henry A. Edmundson, Senator from Virginia on May 21 (Wednesday) that he intended to punish Sumner unless the Massachusetts senator made ample apology. Rigid code required that a duel be fought only with another gentleman; an insulting inferior could be punished not with a pistol or sword but with a horsewhip or cane.

The mood on Capitol Hill on the afternoon of Thursday, May 22, 1856, was quiet, even sober. Both houses of Congress had adjourned early in the afternoon following the announcement of the death of John Miller of Missouri, a member of the House. Only a few members remained in the Senate chamber including Sumner who, having pushed his seat far under his desk on the aisle and ignoring the activity around him, was busily attending to some paper work.

As the chamber was clearing after adjournment, Brooks entered carrying a cane and took a seat across the aisle and three seats away from Sumner. Since the presence of a lady made action impossible (another part of the code forbade violence in the presence of a lady), he rose again and walked into the vestibule, spoke to Edmundson about his intentions, and returned a few minutes later. Finding the woman had gone, he approached the seated Sumner and said in a low voice, "Mr. Sumner, I read your speech twice over carefully. It is a libel on South Carolina, and Mr. Butler who is a relative of mine—" With that his cane, a gutta percha walking stick noted for its strength, came crashing down upon Sumner's head, blinding him temporarily with the first blow. Stunned, Sumner attempted to protect himself with his hands as Brooks continued to beat him about the head. Finding himself caught under his desk which was bolted to the floor and unable to push his seat back on its rollers to free himself, Sumner ripped the desk from the floor as he rose to protect himself. As Sumner rose, Brooks began to beat him with such force that the cane snapped. But he continued his assault with the broken cane as Sumner reeled against the seats and began to fall. Brooks caught him by the lapel and continued to strike until what was left of the cane splintered into pieces. The whole incident took less than a minute.



**Charles Sumner**



**Preston Smith Brooks**

The sounds of the assault attracted the attention of all of those who had remained in the chamber. Representatives Ambrose S. Murray and Edwin B. Morgan of New York, who had been talking at the back of the Senate, were the first to arrive at the scene. As Murray seized Brooks, Morgan caught the collapsing Sumner. Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky then approached, deploring such violence in the Senate, and, putting out his hand, took the stub of the cane from Brooks, just as Lawrence M. Keitt of South Carolina ran up

the center aisle, lifting his cane and shouting at Crittenden, "Let him alone. God damn you!" By then Robert Toombs of Georgia had come up and warned Keitt not to strike Crittenden but did not try to restrain Brooks who was trying to escape from Murray.

Those who assisted Sumner helped him from the floor and led him stumbling and bleeding into the lobby, insisting that he could walk. Sumner asked that someone collect his hat and papers. Dr. Cornelius Boyle was summoned and he dressed two gashes on Sumner's head. As he finished, Henry Wilson arrived and helped Sumner into a carriage to drive him home where he went to bed. Sumner's shirt, trousers, waistcoat, and broadcloth coat were soaked with blood. Later in the day, Boyle examined Sumner more thoroughly and ordered that he be kept quiet until the extent of his injuries could be determined.

As Sumner was being led from the Senate chamber, Brooks's friends took him to a small side room to wash out a small cut on his head, an injury resulting from the cane as it had bounced back during the attack. Brooks then left the Capitol building in the company of Lawrence Keitt.

Brooks's attack on Sumner had far-reaching political consequences. Northern reaction, as one might expect, was that of shock and indignation, particularly in Massachusetts. It was reflected by the hundreds of sympathetic letters written to Sumner and in the diaries of unimportant citizens whose honest reactions probably represented that section's feelings more accurately than its politicians. A girl from Massachusetts wrote Sumner, "the instant Papa told me it seemed

*Continued on page 8*

## **The Conference on Women and the Civil War Register Now!**

**Our 21st Conference, The Women of the Shenandoah Valley, will be held July 23 - 25, 2021, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.**

**For conference details,  
<http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html>  
To register for the conference:  
<http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html>**

exactly as if a great, black cloud was spread over the sky. . . . I keep always thinking about it, and no matter what I am doing I have a sort of consciousness of something black wicked." And a schoolgirl in Connecticut wrote, "I don't think it is of very much use to stay any longer in the High School, as the boys would better be learning to hold muskets, and the girls to make bullets."

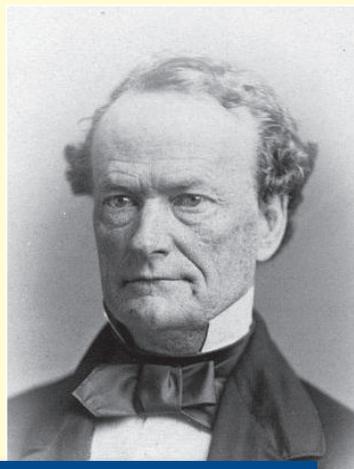
Citizens of many Northern cities, indignant about the assault, held protest meetings. According to most Northern newspaper stories, "Bully Brooks," the tool of the Southern slaveholding interests, had attacked the defenseless and unarmed Senator Sumner without provocation and then was led triumphantly out of the Senate while Sumner lay unconscious, "his head a mass of beaten flesh, a martyr to the cause of Liberty and Free Speech." Thus in the North, Brooks represented slave power, and the cane became the symbol of the South's intention to bully the North into submission when they found that argument and debate could not shake the North's determination to stand for freedom.

Such reactions in the North carried with them political implications that the Republican party was able to capitalize on. At the time of Brooks's attack, word reached the East that the day before on May 21 there had been a Southern raid on the Free-Soil town of Lawrence, Kansas, during which the town had been sacked, the Free-Soil press destroyed, and the inhabitants terrorized. The Lawrence raid and the Sumner assault gave the Republicans the slogans "Bleeding Kansas" and "Bleeding Sumner." The blows of Brooks's cane helped them poll 1,341,264 votes in the fall election. Northern abolitionists also took full advantage of public indignation and channeled it against slavery, identifying it as the cause of national problems and creating a moral political issue which supported abolition "in the name of democracy and Christianity." People who opposed slavery but had previously been divided on other issues began to unite under the banner of the Republican party. Even Northern Democrats found it politically necessary to denounce Brooks whether they supported Sumner and his speech or not.

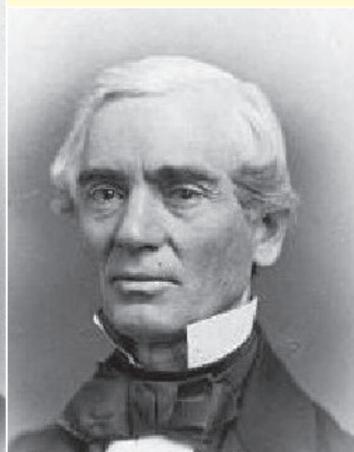
Southerners did not unanimously support Brooks, although every South Carolina newspaper praised the assault. In South Carolina Brooks became a hero, hailed by his constituents.

The merchants of Charleston bought him a new cane inscribed with "Hit him again." Newspapers that supported Brooks usually ran a story describing the attack as the caning of Sumner with an ordinary gentleman's walking stick in an attempt to redress what Brooks considered to be insults against Senator Butler, a member of his family, and South Carolina. They usually insisted that the attack was not politically instigated or an attempt to ignore Constitutional guarantees of free speech.

While Northern indignation rose and Southern pride



**Ambrose Spencer Murray**



**Edwin Barber Morgan**

swelled, Sumner began what was to become an extended convalescence. Some controversy still surrounds the real extent of Sumner's injuries. When Republicans found that they were able to exploit Sumner's illness for political purposes, the Southerners and Sumner's Northern political opponents began to charge that Sumner was shamming for the sake of political expediency. Their primary source of evidence was Dr. Cornelius Boyle's first testimony before a committee of the House of Representatives which was appointed to investigate the affair. According to Boyle's statement, Sumner had three flesh wounds about the head, two of which he had treated in the Capitol building before Sumner had gone home. Although his wounds did not appear serious enough to confine him, Boyle advised Sumner not to attend the Senate on Friday because of the excitement and until the real extent of his injuries could be determined. Sumner's opponents also made much of the fact that after Boyle had given his testimony to the committee, George Sumner, Charles's brother who had come from Boston to nurse him, dismissed Boyle from the case.

Sumner's opponents ignored all subsequent medical testimony which indicated that perhaps Sumner's wounds were more serious than Boyle had originally thought. One of Sumner's wounds did not heal properly and his temperature and pulse began to rise. He also began to show signs of nervous excitement, complaining of pain in the back of his neck caused by swollen glands. All in all, four other doctors testified subsequently that Sumner had a very difficult recuperation due to complications.

Sumner's activities following the attack also indicate that he was more seriously injured than his critics were willing to admit. After a restful convalescence during which he was re-elected to the Senate without having to campaign, he returned to Washington and entered the Senate in February

1857, to vote against a tariff bill. By then he had become so greatly concerned about his illness and its effect on his mind that he was unable to sleep. Such concern was not surprising. During his only other illness in 1844, he had expressed in a letter his terror not of death but that "some lingering illness would leave him 'but half a man.'" The fear that his intellect had been affected by his illness following Brooks's attack would haunt him for almost three and one half years.

Unable to withstand the pressure and excitement of Washington life, Sumner left for Europe three days after being sworn in on March 4. Since he kept up a rigorous schedule on his tour, his injuries must not have continued to trouble him seriously although he still complained that his spine bothered him. At the end of his tour, he received a psychological jolt when Sir James Clarke, the Queen's physician, upon receiving a letter describing Sumner's symptoms, announced that if Sumner returned to intellectual labor in less than a year, he would at least become a permanent invalid and might even die. Sumner returned to Boston on November 19, 1857, his

Continued from page 8 - "Brooks-Sumner"

worst fears reaffirmed by a doctor who had never examined him.

When Sumner finally attempted to attend the Senate after its session began on December 7, his symptoms began to re-appear. Again unable to sleep, he complained of pressure on his head and pains in his thighs and back. Feeling that he could not stand the strain of his duties, he again sailed for Europe in May 1858. By June he was desperate to find a cure for his illness and visited Dr. Charles Edward Brown-Sequard in Paris whose diagnosis was that Brooks's blows had affected Sumner's spinal cord. His treatment was extremely painful; he burned moxa (often a roll of cotton) on Sumner's back without the benefit of anesthetic. Although this treatment did nothing to improve Sumner's physical condition, it proved that he had courage and freed him from guilt about being away from his Senate duties. The doctor also relieved his fears by finding that his brain had not been affected by his illness.

Sumner's American doctors were never able to agree on a diagnosis for his persistent symptoms. One of them eventually concluded that his condition was due to nerves; two others felt that Brooks's blows had affected Sumner's brain and spinal cord. However, Sumner never had a complete neurological examination; and his friends refused to allow an autopsy after his death in 1874. Historian David Donald has concluded that from a modern medical standpoint derived from Sumner's own elaborate descriptions of his symptoms and his physicians' opinions and prescriptions, Sumner developed blood poisoning in the wound on the right side of his head and then probably anemia, which explains his lack of energy. He undoubtedly did suffer but from a psychological rather than neurological ailment. His symptoms indicate that he probably suffered from a "post-traumatic syndrome" marked by symptoms that follow a traumatic experience in which a patient is not seriously hurt but has difficulty in resuming his social and vocational obligations. Thus says Donald, Brooks's assault produced psychic wounds that plagued Sumner long after his physical injuries had healed.

The action that Congress took in connection with the Brooks-Sumner affair reflected the same sectional divisions that had been noticeable in public and private opinion. On the day after the incident the Senate elected a committee composed of Democrats to inquire into the attack. Five days later the committee reported that Brooks had violated Senate privileges but that it had no jurisdiction over him since he was a member of the House. Therefore, it declared that the House must punish him.

The House had also created an investigation committee on May 23, to which it had appointed three Republicans and two Democrats. After hearing testimony for three days, the majority of the committee recommended that Brooks be expelled for his actions and that Edmundson of Virginia and Keitt of South Carolina, both of whom had been aware of Brooks's

intentions, be censured.

Brooks and Butler both used the forum of the Senate to defend their actions. On May 29 the Senate received a letter from Brooks in which he explained politely how much he regretted that the Senate committee had construed what he had intended as a redress of a personal grievance as a breach of their privileges. He said that he had taken exception to Sumner's remarks about Butler and South Carolina especially since Butler had not been present and maintained that the only reason he had attacked Sumner in the Senate was because he had not been able to find him outside. And on June 12 Butler rose in the Senate to defend his own reputation, accuse Sumner of being unfit for debate, and support Brooks's assault on Sumner.

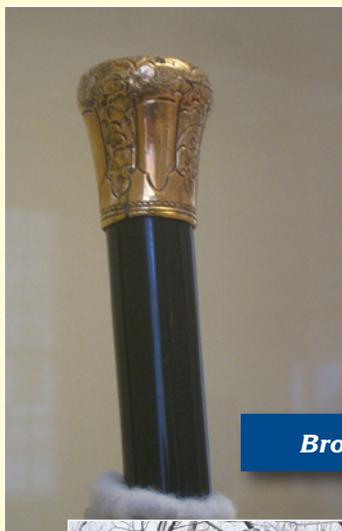
The House began debate on its committee's report on July 9, 1856. After days of heated discussion, it voted to expel Brooks by a vote of 121 to 94; but since such a resolution needed a two-thirds majority, Brooks retained his seat. The House acquitted Edmundson and censured Keitt. Both Keitt and Brooks resigned their seats, returned to South Carolina and were triumphantly re-elected.

Brooks, however, did not have time to enjoy his political victory. He was arrested for assault and eventually fined \$300. He died on January 27, 1857, from strangulation resulting from the complications of a cold. At the time of his death, he is said to have been afraid that his attack on Sumner had hurt the section he had tried to defend. Senator Andrew P. Butler died a few months later on May 25, 1857.

Every major historic crisis has a prelude, that series of events which eventually bring it about. Such is the role of the Brooks-Sumner affair. Viewed in isolation, it involves only a Southerner's defense of the honor of his family and his state. But from the standpoint of history, it becomes one of the many events which ultimately led to the bloodiest and most devastating war in American history.

Sumner finally returned to Washington and his Senate responsibilities in December 1859, after having been away for three and one half years. He was slow in becoming actively involved in sectional politics. Finally, on June 4, 1860, he appeared in the Senate in full evening dress and white gloves to deliver a four-hour oration on "The Barbarism of Slavery."

Thus, Charles Sumner of Massachusetts returned to the Senate to carry on his battle against slavery. But despite all of his subsequent abolitionist activities, it is doubtful that he ever struck a blow so effective against slavery as that which through him it received from Brooks.



**Brook's Cane**



**Sumner Statue**

# “Swim, Surrender or Die: The Union Army at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff”

Presentation by Mark R. Brewer

October 8 Meeting

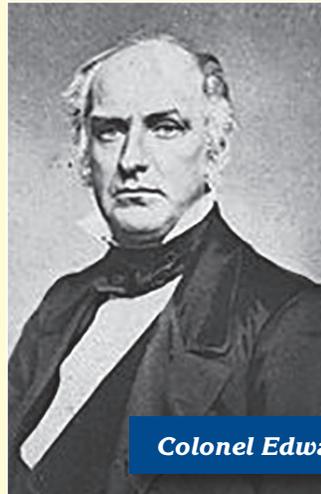
By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

On April 12, 1861, the shots heard from Fort Sumter began the Civil War. By May 3rd, Lincoln called for men to join the army to fight for the Union. With his second call for troops he wanted 300,000 to enlist for six years. On May 6th, the 15th Volunteer Massachusetts Infantry, Company A was formed along with six regiments from Massachusetts for a three-year deployment. Another one of the regiments was the 20th Massachusetts Infantry called the Harvard Regulars. The members of this regiment were all Harvard students with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Henry Levermore Abbott, Pen Hallowell three of the men of the 20th Massachusetts.

Senator E. D. Baker, a close friend of Abraham Lincoln, wanted to be apart of this war and received a commission right after the Fort Sumter invasion. He wanted to give up his seat in the Senate and go to war. Lincoln would not hear of this and gave him the title of Colonel so if Senator Baker wanted to go back to his seat in the Senate, he would be able to do so. Lincoln needed his support as a Senator and wanted his dear friend to be with him as the war continued. Colonel Edward Baker had settled his affairs and took an afternoon to visit with the Lincoln’s at the White House. He kissed Willie as he said “goodbye” to his friends, shook Lincoln’s hand and Mary Lincoln gave him a bouquet of Autumn flowers. Colonel Baker explained to Mary, “These flowers and my memory will wither together” and as he left, he had a premonition that will stay with him for the rest of his life. Charles Pomeroy Stone, Inspector General of Washington City as well as security for Lincoln’s Inaugural was given military orders from McClellan. There was a single Confederate brigade at Leesburg, VA observing McClellan’s control below the Potomac. Stone sent out a corps to survey the roads toward Leesburg and where the Confederate forces were located. After dark, Stone sent his group from the 15th Massachusetts Infantry went to Harrison Island up the bluff to observe Leesburg to see if the town was guarded. The corps was looking toward the woods and it looked like a group of rebel tents. Orders were issued to capture and take the camp down.

To get the troops to the bluff they had to cross the Potomac. After scouting around the area there were not many flatboats to be had anywhere. Colonel Baker oversaw this operation and started down the riverbank looking for boats. He could have given inspection to a lower ranked soldier to look for flatboats but seemed to think that he had to do everything himself. As a result, Colonel Baker does not know what is happening at the top of the bluff and by the time he gets to the situation it is beginning to deteriorate.

At the top it was crowded with troops with Baker deploying men in positions where they could only see their own ranks. That shows the inexperience of Colonel Baker and his troops. As the day continued the Confederate Infantry opened fire from the woods, taking down Union troops and their horses. The tragedy of all this fighting killed Colonel Baker in the head with eight bullets. Orders were issued to withdraw.

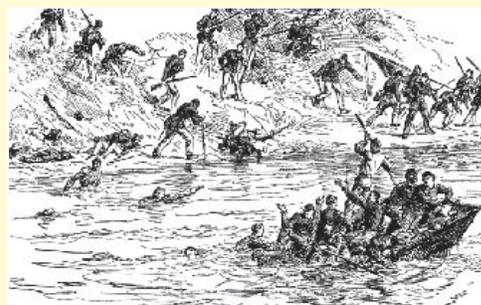


Colonel Edward Baker

Frantic Union troops got down the bluff anyway they could to the three flatboats but easily became overloaded and drown many of the men. Over half of the Union soldiers were captured, killed, or drown. It became a slaughter pen with the naivete’ and inexperience of these troops. The Union soldiers had never been in battle before unlike the Confederate troops that had fought at Bull Run. These young soldiers fought courageously and believed in the cause but also saw what happens when the battle begins and how it could end. The troops sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Mark Brewer’s interest in the Union side of the Battle of

Ball’s Bluff began when he found ancestors that fought in this battle. The following men are part of his family: Luther M. Hapgood, Luther S. Hapgood, Joseph H. Hapgood and John Williams “Willie” Grout. Mark had a highly informative presentation with excellent visual aids giving Old Baldy an inside look at this disastrous battle. This was not a major battle but did show the inexperience of the men and the



confusion that existed under the leadership of Colonel Baker. Mark Brewer’s book, “Swim, Surrender or Die” is an informative narrative through Union soldiers’ communications and letters to family and friends. Thank you, Mark Brewer, for a wonderful ZOOM presentation.

# “Faces Of Civil War Nurses”

Presentation by Ronald S. Coddington

October 22 Meeting

*By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT*

Ron put Marie Tepe Leonard on the cover of his new book about Civil War nurses. Marie was known as “French Mary”, French-born Vivandiere a Freelance voice for the wounded and dying soldiers. She enlisted and joined the 114th Pennsylvania Collis Zouaves. Carrying whiskey in a small oval keg strapped to her shoulder, Marie sold tobacco, cigars, hams as well as the whiskey to the troops. She cooked, washed, and mended for the soldiers when not on the battlefield. Marie was skillful in her work on the battlefield helping the wounded and dying and would follow the soldiers as they went from one battle to another. At the Battle of Fredericksburg, she established a field hospital but while working to help the troops on the battlefield she received a bullet in her left ankle. Not being able to get the bullet out of her ankle Marie had pain in that area for the rest of her life. After the Battle of Chancellorsville Marie received the “Kearney Cross” for helping and organizing field hospitals in all battlefields. She stayed with the 114th until the end of the war. Marie is buried at St. Paul’s Cemetery on Lafferty Hill in Carrick, Pennsylvania. Marie is a remarkable woman who helped so many soldiers on the battlefield saving many lives.

The role of the Civil War Nurse was either a paid or a volunteer position. They were not organized as the military were in the Union or Confederate armies. Some nurses worked in their city or state charities and if on the Union side may have worked for the US Sanitary Commission, Western Sanitary Commission or US Christian Commission. Supplies were desperately needed so went to their own hometown and state and local charities to ask for supplies. Local groups of women were making bandages, socks, blankets, or other essentials as well as raising money for the troops.

One of the women activists who made many changes to nursing was Dorothea Dix. She worked with both the mentally ill and minority populations and recruited nurses for the Union Army. She was Superintendent for Army Nurses, imposing remarkably high standards when she was looking for nurses. Treating both Confederate and Union Soldiers she pushed for formal training and more opportunities for women nurses. Dorothea continued fighting for social reform, better care for the mentally ill and reconstructing hospitals in both the US and Europe. She worked tirelessly for women nursing standards and acceptance in the hospital by the male doctors.

Florence Nightingale “The Lady of the Lamp” was another important woman who used her nursing skills before and during the Civil War. Known for making hospitals a cleaner and safer place for everyone, Florence, during the Crimean War, managed a group of nurses to go to treat the wounded soldiers. This group of nurses brought supplies, food, cleanliness, and sanitation to the military hospitals in England. Throughout the Civil War she was consulted

on how to best manage field hospitals. Florence’s philosophy of women and nursing is as follows: “Every woman, or at least almost every woman in England has at one time or another of her life was in charge of the personal health of somebody, whether a child, or invalid, every woman is a nurse.” She felt that women’s work in the hospital is equal to fighting on the battlefield.

Rob explained that photography began around this time and now people can see the faces and stories of their loved ones. The power of photography was just beginning in 1839 with tintype photos developed in Paris in May 1859 and London in August 1860. By January-March 1861 ads for photography introduced the “Cardomania”. This was a photo that would fit in your hand giving the “personal power” to have the photo with the person all the time. It was affordable and sharable because they were made of paper. There was even the blank back that could be written on with a personal greeting. Soldiers could carry these photos of their family with them onto the battlefield. Over 40 million soldiers had images with them during the war. These were everyday people, athletes, milliners, and others showing personal lives of individual Americans.

Rob went on to talk about some of the nurses he has researched along with photos. Some of these nurses may be new names and others well known all from his new book. This book looks at the faces of over 77 women of all ages who, in some respects, were a one-woman campaign for establishing better conditions for wounded and dying soldiers. The following ten women are important examples of these very courageous women who became a necessary part of the Civil War.

**ALMIRA L. FALES:** Collected and prepared supplies for hospital use such as making bandages by collecting lint. She took care of the sick and wounded soldiers at the Battle of Shiloh, in Tennessee and other Civil War battlefields. The government placed an ambulance at her command and assisted in hospitals in Washington, Fredericksburg and on the Peninsula.

**SARAH ELIZABETH “SALLIE” DYSART:** While visiting Harrisburg heard Abraham Lincoln speak to the crowd about the need for nurses. Sallie decided to volunteer her services to the US Government and was assigned to the 12th US Army Corps, Heavy Artillery. She worked in Harper’s Ferry at the Army Corps Hospital and hospitals in Chattanooga and Gettysburg. She was nurse at the General Hospital in Nashville and assigned to the new hospital at Camp Letterman.

**CATHERINE S. “KITT” LAURENCE:** She was an opponent of slavery and intemperance activist and reformer. She worked in the Seventh Street Hospital and tended to small-pox patients for over a year and a half. They called Seventh Street Hospital as Camp Misery. This hospital was not as clean and well-managed as Catherine would have liked. She

continued to work in other hospitals such as Kalorama General Hospital which was quite a well-managed and sanitary building. Cleanliness and sanitary conditions were part of Kitt's work as a nurse in some of these hospitals.

**MARY JANE SAFFORD:** Worked with Mary Ann Bickerdyke treating the sick and wounded in the Union Army near Fort Donelson. She was a very frail, petite, and not use to hardship called "The Cairo Angel" for her service in Cairo, Illinois. During the Battle of Belmont, she gave her all to the soldiers organizing a hospital and going on the battlefield looking for wounded. This was a white flag truce at the Battle of Belmont. Mary possessed a degree of grit and determination.

**ANNA MARIE ROSS:** She was a nurse and principal at Cooper Shop Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. She worked tiredly to build a bigger hospital to care for the demand of the weak and sick. She sponsored a Soldier's Home Fair to raise money for this new hospital. On December 22, 1863 was a day dedicated to the New Soldier's Home and Hospital. Anna died on the day of this dedication.

**HELEN LOUISE GILSON:** Nurse at the Union base at City Point. She took on the African American soldier who was separated from white soldiers and became the nurse of these troops. Worked with the Sanitation Commission as an independent relief agency as they traveled to many battlefields for the service of the sick and wounded. This hospital did not come up to the standards as the white soldiers. Helen introduced new policies to improve conditions. She introduced new kitchen and daily routines which brought down the mortality rate and became the best hospital at City Point. Her last years were spent ministering to the US Colored Troops.

**FELICIA ANN GRUNDY:** Resident of Nashville, Tennessee, and president of the Protectant Orphan Asylum. When Nashville was occupied, she organized the Women's Relief Society to aid Confederate soldiers. After the war founded the Benevolent Society to aid Confederate amputees. To provide a beautiful setting for Confederate grave sites for each soldier at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville Felicia formed the Ladies Memorial Society.

**SISTER IGNATIUS FARLEY:** "Angels of the Wards" Joined the Sisters of St. Joseph and worked in the Wheeling Hospital in West Virginia preparing food and administered medicine. The Wheeling Hospital was reorganized as a military hospital located near Harper's Ferry and Virginia battlefields. Sister remained in the St. Joseph Convent for the rest of her life. Received a bronze medal from the Grand Army of the Republic and a pension. Nuns of the

battlefield monument was dedicated in Washington, D.C. in 1924. The inscription reads: "They comforted the dying, nursed the wounded, carried hope to the imprisoned, gave in His name a drink of water to the thirsty."

**SYBIL JONES:** She is a Quaker missionary who nursed Union soldiers and Confederate prisoners in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. She was in the capitol when she heard that Lincoln was assassinated. She made a visit to Mary Lincoln and Secretary Stanton at the White House after the assassination.

**GEORGEANNA MUIRSON WOOLSEY BACON:** On May 1861, she was one of 100 women to become a volunteer nurse with no prior medical training and joined the Women's Central Relief Association. She worked in Washington, D.C. and set up a hospital in this area. Worked as a nurse and later at the patent office. She wrote "Letters of a Family During the War 1861-65" which was a two-volume work about her family and how they were coping during the Civil War.

Ronald Coddington wrote a wonderful book of Civil War nurses. Some of the names may be familiar and some that may have not been known. Old Baldy was so glad to be the first ZOOM meeting to hear about Ron's book. This is a good addition to anyone's Civil War library. Thanks, Ron, for an excellent presentation.



Nurse  
Sarah Dysart  
USAMHI



Nurse  
Harriet A. Dada  
USAMHI



Nurse  
Annie Bell Stubs  
USAMHI

Nurse  
Mary Morris Husband  
USAMHI

Nurse  
Harriet Patience Dame  
USAMHI



Nurse  
Sarah Sampson  
SKETCH



Nurse  
Amanda Colburn Farnham  
Sixth Corps Nurse  
Vermont  
OAN



Nurse  
Helen Louise Gilson  
OAN



Nurse  
Annie Etheridge  
Kearny Cross of Valor  
USAMHI



Vivandiere  
Marie "French Mary" Tepe  
Kearny Cross of Valor  
OPC



**"Faces Of Civil War Nurses"**

# Confederate Commerce Raiders

Impressed By The Success of American commerce raiders during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, on 17 April 1861, within days of the outbreak of the Civil War, Confederate President Jefferson Davis authorized the issuance of “letters of marque and reprisal,” licenses for private vessels to raid American shipping. Historically, privateering had been considered a legitimate part of naval warfare. However, in 1854 the two principal naval powers, Great Britain and France, had convened what would today be termed a “disarmament” conference in London to enact a ban on privateering, a proposal which received the nearly unanimous support of all the participating powers. The U.S. had taken part in the conference, but had dawdled over ratification of the London Convention. About a week after Davis’ proclamation, the U.S. hastily notified the other contracting parties as to its willingness to accede to the convention. The British and the other parties to the agreement rejected this belated effort to ratify the convention, on the grounds that it could not be applicable to an existing state of belligerency.

Almost as soon as Davis issued his proclamation, privateers began going out to sea, and within weeks perhaps a score of U.S. merchant ships had been taken. Despite this, privateering never materialized as a significant factor in the war against Northern maritime commerce.



**CSS Alabama**

**1. C.S.S. Alabama**, under Capt. Rafael Semmes accounted for 70 ships, including the U.S.S. Hatteras, a blockading vessels that she greatly outgunned, between August of 1862 and June 1864, when she was sunk off Cherbourg in a duel with the U.S.S. Kearsarge, by which she was considerably out gunned.

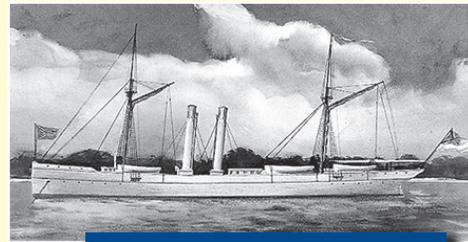
**2. C.S.S. Talahassee** made two voyages. Her first was of 20 days in August of 1864, during which she accounted for a remarkable total of 33 prizes. After being renamed Olustee, she made a short second voyage, during which she took six vessels, and then returned to blockade running.

**3. C.S.S. Shenandoah** commenced her career in October of 1864 under Capt. James Waddell, who took her into the Pacific by way of the Indian Ocean.

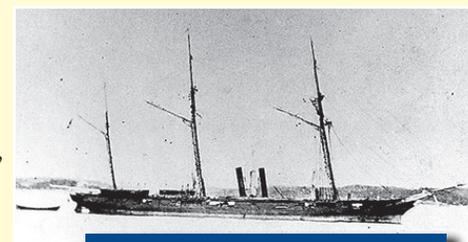
She accounted for 38 ships, most after the collapse of the Confederacy. Not learning news of the end of the war until August of 1865, Waddell then took her to Britain, where he surrendered her to the British authorities. Shenandoah holds several distinctions: her crew, which included the last men to join the Confederacy, several seamen from prizes having signed on in June of 1865, were the last Confederates to lay down their arms, and she was also the only Confederate vessel to circumnavigate the world.

**4. C.S.S. Florida**, Capt. John N. Mafitt, took 37 prizes in two long voyages, broken by a four month stay in Mobile, to accomplish which she had to run the Union blockade twice. In October of 1864 she was illegally taken by the U.S.S. Wachusett in Brazilian territorial waters. After some international acrimony, the U.S. agreed to return the ship to the Confederacy, but she sank in Hampton Roads after an “accidental” collision.

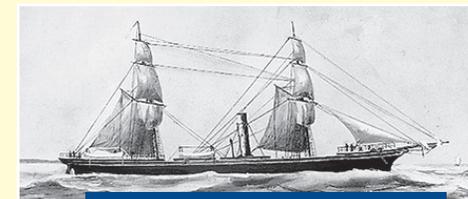
**5. C.S.S. Tacony**, a sailing ship, was one of the prizes taken by Florida’s prize Clarence. Commissioned in the Confederate Navy, she took or sank 19 ships. When she captured an even better vessel, the steamer Archer,



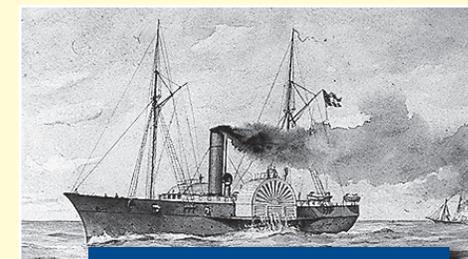
**CSS Chickamauga**



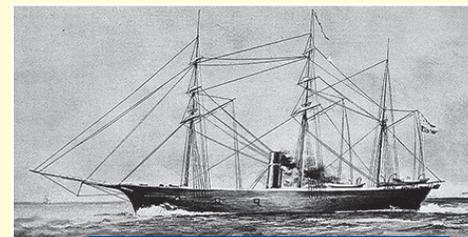
**CSS Florida**



**CSS Georgia**



**CSS Nashville**



**CSS Sumter**

her crew and armament were transferred to the new ship and she was burned; Archer had a singularly unsuccessful career, taking only one ship, and that a small blockader, before being taken in turn.



**CSS Chickamauga**

**6. C.S.S. Sumter**, under Capt.

Rafael Semmes took or sank 18 ships from 30 June 61 until January of 1862 when engine troubles caused here to put in at Gibraltar, where she was sold out of service.

**7. C.S.S. Georgia** made one voyage in mid-1863, accounting for nine prizes, before being relegated to other duties.

**8. C.S.S. Chickamauga** made one cruise from mid-October to mid-November of 1864, accounting for three or four prizes. She was scuttled when Wilmington fell to the Union.

**9. C.S.S. Clarence**, another sailing ship, and also one of Florida's prizes, accounted for five ships before being burned when her skipper decided to transfer to the much better Tacony, which he had just captured.

**10. C.S.S. Nashville** the first Confederate warship to visit Europe, in November of 1861, took two prizes on her single voyage; upon her return to the Confederacy she was relegated to other duties.

**During the Civil War** Confederate commerce raiders captured or destroyed only 263 American flag mer-



**CSS Alabama Naval Ensign**

chant vessels, for a total of 105,000 gross tons. Although this was no more than about 5% of the prewar merchant fleet, the second largest in the world, it was enough to encourage nervous ship owners to transfer their vessels to foreign flags. As a result, nearly 1000 vessels totaling some 800,000 gross tons, almost 40% of the prewar fleet switched their flags, a blow from which the U.S. merchant marine was long in recovering.

### Welcome to the new recruits

**Jean White, Vice President  
SWCW**

**Honorary  
Mark Brewer  
Richard Coddington**



## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2020/2021

**December 10, 2020 – Thursday  
Bob Russo**

**"The Wounded Knee Massacre"**

**January 14, 2021 – Thursday  
Dr. Alice L. Baumgartner**

**"South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves  
to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War"**

**January 28, 2021 – Thursday  
"Member Sharing Night"**

**February 11, 2021 – Thursday  
Dr. Lorien Foote**

**"The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners  
and the Collapse of the Confederacy"**

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