

# Old Baldy

## Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

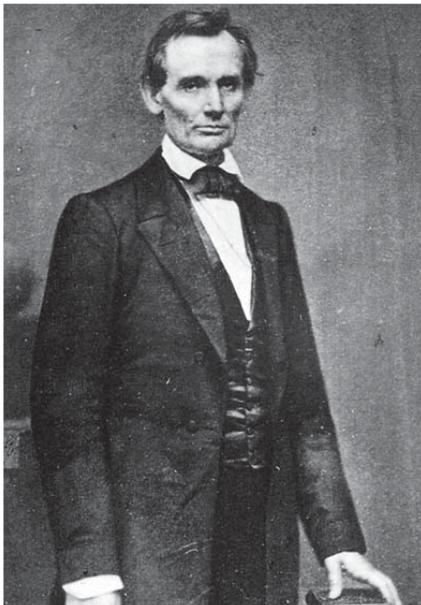


April 8, 2010, The One Hundred and Forty-Ninth Year of the Civil War

## *“The Reports of the Lincolns’ Political Partnership Have Been Greatly Exaggerated”*

“The Reports of the Lincolns’ Political Partnership Have Been Greatly Exaggerated”

by *Michael Burkhimer*



Since the 1990s it has become axiomatic in Lincoln literature to assert one of the most important aspects of the Lincolns’ relationship was the political partnership between the spouses. This has appeared time and time again in both popular and scholarly works. But what exactly does the term “political partnership” mean? Did they share an ambition for his advancement? Did Lincoln’s marriage further his political career? Did the Lincolns agree on politics? Most importantly, did Lincoln follow Mary’s political advice? This essay will attempt to clarify this important political aspect of the Mary Lincoln enigma. The conclusion is that there was a political partnership between them, but perhaps not to the extent as popularly believed.

**Michael Burkhimer** is an American History teacher in the Haverford Township School District in Pennsylvania. He is the author of two books on Abraham Lincoln.

*Continued on page 2*

### President's Message

**Spring has sprung!** The sun and warmth have arrived and Health Care reform has passed. Hope everyone had a good Passover and Easter, enjoying some quality family time. Be sure to come to the Union League on the 8th if you are around the area. **Dick Simpson** gave us a very great presentation last month on 2nd Vermont Brigade. Thank you to Dick for holding a book raffle to support our Round Table. Based on the reaction afterward, he will be invited back for another of his thorough programs. This month we bring back the previously delayed **Mike Burkhimer** to discuss Mary Lincoln.

I attended the 13th Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium last month in College Park and learned more interesting items about our 16th President. You can read about them in a separate article.

**Herb Kaufman's** "Medicine in the Civil War" class starts on May 3rd at the Manor College Civil War Institute. Be sure to attend the Civil War Living History weekend at Neshaminy State Park on May 1st and

2nd and invite interested folks to our May meeting.

I will not be at the meeting on the 8th because I will be on the way back from a trip to the Kansas City region, with a stop to **Lone Jack Battlefield**, visits to see Harry and Bess and Ike and Mamie, a couple of State Capitals, squeezing in three ball games on the way back. Look for the adventures in future travels columns. Thank you for your comments on our **Texas Civil War Museum** article. There will be a Board Meeting later this month with a report in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs. Be sure to let us know of your comments and suggestions.

*Rich Jankowski, President*

The Old Baldy CWRT will meet at the Union League of Philadelphia at 7:30 PM, the second Thursday of the month. Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 PM, Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust. You're Welcome to Join Us!

*Notice: Attire for Men at the Union League Jacket and tie would be preferred; otherwise collared shirts, long pants and jacket are recommended. For men and women, the following attire is never acceptable on the first or second floors of the League: jeans, denim wear, tee shirts, athletic wear, tank, halter, or jogging tops, shorts, baseball caps, sneakers, extremely casual or beach footwear. Current or historical military uniforms are appropriate.*

**Parking... A \$2 coupon (off of parking) is available at the Union League front desk (through the side door on Sansom Street)**

*Continued from page 1 - Lincoln's Partnership*

100 Essential Lincoln Books which was published by Cumberland House Publishing in 2003 and Lincoln's Christianity which was published by Westholme Publishing in 2007. He is co-editor with Frank Williams on an upcoming collection of essays on Mary Lincoln to be published by

## Membership Report

We welcome a new member Frank Carey of Upper Darby, PA and a past member Mark Seymour to the ranks. Hope to see you both at the next meeting. As we go into April, thirty-eight members have renewed their memberships. That is out of a total of fifty 2009 members. We have extended the deadline for renewals to the end of April due to the canceled meetings in February and March. We hope to have the remaining twelve on board this month giving the round table a 100% renewal rate. We encourage all our members to receive their newsletters by email. This saves us money that can be used to obtain quality speakers and make generous donations to battlefield and historic preservation. Remember donations to the round table are always welcome and will be put to good use.

We also have several members that we have no email address listed. Even if you want to receive your newsletter by USPS, having your email address in our system is good for notifications of last minute meeting changes and situations that need to be acted on right away. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email or to add your email address to our list, contact Mike Cavanaugh at chief96pbi@rcn.com or call 484.225.3150. Thanks, as always, you for your support.

## From The Treasurer's Desk

Dear Members, Thank you to all the members of Old Baldy that have paid their annual memberships. Also, a very special Thank You to the following members for their most generous donations: **Ed Komczyk, Bill Sia, Don Wiles, and Steve Wright.**

We have some really great programs and discussions planned and we hope that you will remain a member of our renowned round table. Dues are still only \$25.00 (\$35.00 for the entire family).

Please add a \$10.00 donation if you wish the newsletter sent by mail. Please bring your dues to the next meeting, or mail your dues your dues payable to **"OLD BALDY CWRT"** to: Herb Kaufman, Treasurer, 2601 Bonnie Lane, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

Southern Illinois University Press in 2011. Since 2007 he has been the review editor for the Lincoln Herald, a scholarly journal devoted to Lincoln and the Civil War published quarterly by LMI. His articles and reviews have appeared in such publications as Civil War Times Illustrated, Surratt Courier, Lincoln Herald, and the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association. He has also spoken at a number of Civil War and Lincoln Symposiums including the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg.

Join us at our next Old Baldy Civil War Round Table meeting as Michael Burkheimer takes us on an adventure with his PowerPoint presentation on the trials and tribulations of "Abe and Mary Todd". That's **Thursday, April 8th** starting at **7:30pm** in the 2nd Floor Library of the **Union League** at Broad & Sansom Streets. As always, you are welcome to join us at 6:00 at Applebee's for a bite to eat before the meeting. It's just a block south of the Union League on 15th Street.

*Steve Wright, Program Chairman*

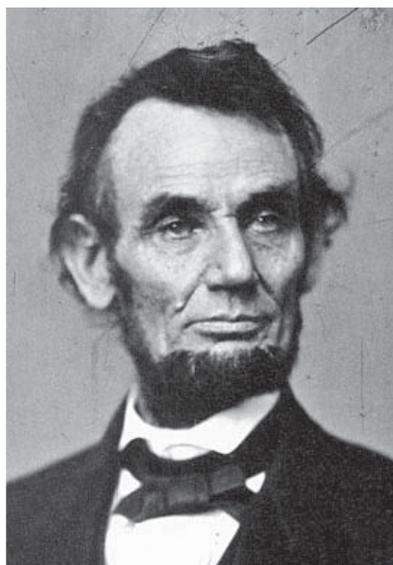
On Tuesday, March 30, **Old Baldy**, General Meade's Warhorse, returned to the GAR Museum. He remains in storage at the museum until the new exhibition case is ready. The museum will announce and hold a special welcome back party in the future. We will make this date available as soon as it is decided.

A reminder that the Neshaminy reenactment is being held a week later this year. The reenactment will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, 2010.

We hope that everyone will come out to a meeting and join in the discussions. It's a great night out with friends who share your interests and enthusiasm for this era.

*All the best, and hope to see you in April,*

*Herb Kaufman*



## Abraham Lincoln Institute

*Rich Jankowski*

Last month, I attended the 13th Annual Symposium of the Abraham Lincoln Institute at the National Archives II Auditorium in College Park, MD. The title was "The Latest in Lincoln Scholarship". It presented talks from

five authors, a Speakers Panel discussion as well as award presentations. There was a crowd of several hundred in attendance and a books for sale in the lobby.

*Continued on page 3*

After introductory remarks, the first speaker was Terry Alford. He is a Professor of History at Northern Virginia Community College, and a nationally recognized authority on John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln assassination. He is the author of *Prince among Slaves and John Wilkes Booth: A Sister's Memoir*. He is finishing up a biography of Booth scheduled to be out next year. His presentation covered when Lincoln saw Booth perform in the Theater. He focused on the November 1863 performance of "The Marble Heart" at Ford's Theater where the Lincolns saw Booth play the romantic lead. He mentioned other times when their paths crossed at the theater.

The second speaker was Robert C. Bray, a Professor of American Literature at Illinois Wesleyan University and the author of the forthcoming book, *Reading with Lincoln*. He spoke on his book which examines the books that Lincoln read and their influence on him. Bray told how Lincoln read Shakespeare. He enjoyed Hamlet and Macbeth and thought *The Merchant of Venice* was a tragedy. Lincoln preferred Claudius' Speech over that of Hamlet. Lincoln felt Claudius rived in agony and the Hamlet had no ambition. He also read Bacon's Essays and as well as Euclid's books on mathematics. Bray gave examples of when Lincoln recited portions of Shakespeare to his guests.

Jonathan W. White won the Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize for his work, "To Aid Their Rebel Friends: Treason, Loyalty and Nationalism in the Civil War North." It examines Northerners' conceptions of loyalty, disloyalty and treason as they waged a war for national existence.

After the lunch break the program resumed with Jason Emerson, an independent historian and the author of *The Madness of Mary Lincoln and Lincoln the Inventor*. He was a National Park Ranger in Springfield, Gettysburg and at the Saint Louis Arch. On this day he spoke on "Robert Todd Lincoln: First Son, Presidential Confidant and Civil War Soldier." Robert was the only family member to accompany the President-elect from Springfield to Washington. The 17 year old took a term off from Harvard College. He visited the White House on his breaks from school. He did not record his conversations with his father, but rather wrote about them in letters to others. This made the researching a bit more challenging. He graduated from Harvard in 1864 and finally got to join the War effort on Grant's staff in February 1865. He escorted his father during his visits to City Point. On the morning of April 14th he returned to Washington and gave his father a report on the events at Appomattox. He went to bed early that night because he was tired, when his father went to Ford's Theater.

I had wanted to hear William W. Freehling because he wrote one of the text books [*Road to Disunion*] that was used in the Antebellum class I completed in the Fall. He has held professorships at Michigan State, SUNY, John Hopkins, and the University of Kentucky. He is a Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Senior Fellow and has written three other books on the Civil War. At the symposium he spoke on "Lincoln's Growth and America's." Lincoln was not born a genius; he grew into a great statesman on slavery over the course of his career. In 1837, Lincoln said slavery is wrong and Federal Abolishment is not right. He changes his views in his Kansas-Nebraska act comments, in the Peoria address and in the House Divided speech. On the eve of his presidency the Senate passes a potential 13th amendment to keep Federal hands off slavery and claims it is unamend-

able. Freehling asks if Lincoln proposed the wording for this amendment to hold on to Southern States. The War soon tables this issue. Lincoln sees the Republic as fragile and is utterly devoted to saving the Union. Thus he makes the concessions he believes are needed to win the war. [Black troops, Emancipation, etc] To Lincoln Liberty is the Great American Story.

The final speaker of the conference was Craig L. Symonds, whose presentation was on "Lincoln as a Naval War Leader." He is Professor Emeritus at the United States Naval Academy and the author of twelve books. He focused on the War in the West on the rivers in the Spring of 1862. Lincoln did not know much about Naval operations but was a quick learner and seldom made the same mistake twice. Lincoln's analysis showed the Union had greater numbers and the Confederates had better interior lines. He knew it was important to menace the enemy in more than one place at a time. Because of disputes over funding for boats, crews and powder between the Army and Navy, Lincoln took over the project to build mortar boats to be used on the rivers to "rain the rebels with sulfur and brimstone." He managed from the White House through daily telegrams and overcame the barriers between the Services to get the boats where they were needed. His vision of simultaneous movement of forces was realized when the Confederates were forced to choice in April of '62. New Orleans and Memphis both fell when the Confederates concentrated on Shiloh. Lincoln wanted to continue joint efforts in multiple locations as the war progress. Found a soul-mate in Dr. Symonds as he is one who finds it very painful to say something positive about General George B. McClellan.

After the Speaker's Panel discussion, the Annual Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award went to both Michael Burlingame for his "green monster," the two volume set on Lincoln and to Craig L. Symonds for Lincoln's Admirals. The day included lunch and wrapped up by 5. Consider attending if you are able next year.

## Today in Civil War History

### Tuesday April 8, 1862 Island Incident Increases Insecurity

The big news in the newspapers of both countries today was the results of two battles: the tragic losses at Pittsburg Landing and New Madrid Bend if you were reading in Richmond. Of course, if you were reading the news in Philadelphia, New York or Washington, you were overjoyed to hear of great victories at Shiloh Church and Island No. 10. The latter was a small island in the Mississippi River which was one of the few defenses left above Vicksburg.

### Wednesday April 8, 1863 Canoe Concealment Carries Curious Cargo

An extremely unusual craft made rendezvous with the USS Richmond below Port Hudson today. Edward C. Gabaudan, secretary to Admiral Farragut, needed to get a message to the captain of the Richmond, but no communications were available. So a canoe was decorated with sticks, branches and other rubbish until it resembled a floating log. The messenger, armed with a paddle and a pistol, lay down any time he felt he might be observed.

### Friday April 8, 1864 Banks' Boys Badly Battered

Gen. Nathaniel Banks, USA, was moving a large force across Louisiana towards Shreveport, with little in the way of opposition. Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, CSA, decided that this was something up with which he would not put, and put together a force large enough to oppose it. Banks aided this by letting his lines get intermingled with supply wagons, and when Taylor attacked, all was chaos. The attack was finally driven off, but many Union men were captured.

### Saturday April 8, 1865 Incapacity Inches Inevitably Inward

Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was endeavoring to get to its next goal, Lynchburg Va. This required them to pass the area of Appomattox. Close behind them were the Army of the Potomac, under Meade, with commanding Gen. Grant in accompaniment. In front of them was a large force of Union cavalry under Phil Sheridan, who were already in possession of the railroad to Lynchburg and was capturing every supply train. Lee responded to Grant's letter today, declining to surrender but offering a truce.

[www.civilwarinteractive.com](http://www.civilwarinteractive.com)

### March 11th meeting "Gettysburg Heroes...the 2nd Vermont Brigade"

**Dick Simpson** gave an excellent presentation of the organization and battle experiences of the 15th Vermont Infantry Regiment and the Second Vermont Brigade - His Great Grandfather's regiment. His collection of family photographs added to a fine slide presentation on the story of this fine brigade. It was the story of these young men leaving Vermont and ending up at Gettysburg, where they became a part of the "Heroes of Gettysburg". Dick finished his program with his famous "Book Raffle" that raises money for Civil War preservation. I am sure Dick will make a return visit in the future.



**Dick Simpson**

### The Lincoln Children

This is a series of the Lincoln Children that will continue for several issues. Starting with their oldest son Robert. The articles and photos are from [www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org](http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org). Mr Lincoln's White House - A project of The Lincoln Institute under a grant from The Lehrman Institute. © 1999 - 2010 The Lincoln Institute. All rights reserved.

### Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926)

Robert Todd Lincoln, or "Bob" and "Prince of Rails" (a nickname developed on the President-elect's trip to Washington and one which Robert detested), was named after Mary Todd's father and was the oldest of the Lincoln children. Cross-eyed as child, he developed into a reserved but determined teenager. He left home at 16 to attend Phillips



Exeter and Harvard University. Robert disliked public life although he sometimes liked the public attention he received. Sometime priggish and self-involved, he was emotionally distant from his father, with whom he spent less time as a child than did his brothers. He quickly developed a sense for fashion and clothes that his father lacked. He also had a sense of decorum, which both his mother and father

were capable of violating - as when they invited General and Mrs. Tom Thumb for a honeymoon visit to the White House in 1863.

Robert was shy, reserved and fundamentally kind, but he labored under the shadow of his famous and more gregarious father. William O. Stoddard wrote that "Robert Lincoln, the hearty, whole souled and popular 'Prince of Rails,' was liked by every one; and by his sincerity of manner, unassuming deportment and general good sense, won a degree of good will and respect that has

Continued on page 5

followed him into private life...His presence, at long intervals, in the White House, was always a pleasant and welcome visitation." 1

"During the years 1861 to 1865, Robert Lincoln was not only a student, he was a public figure as well," wrote biographer John S. Goff. "The young man was subjected to almost constant attention from the press and the population in general. This was a difficult position for him, especially as he came more and more to dislike the publicity, Even at this early date a familiar popular notion of this presidential son was beginning to form. If he held himself aloof from the prying gaze of the public, he was haughty and snobbish; if he gave any appearance of capitalizing on his position as the son of the Chief Executive, he was damned for that."2 Robert's brief exposure to Washington before the inauguration was altogether pleasant,

according to the New York Herald. It reported on March 5, the day after his father's inauguration: "Bob, the Prince of Rails, starts for Cambridge to-morrow. He is sick of Washington and glad to get back to his college." The Herald interest in Robert continued to his father's presidency, later reporting that "He does everything very well, but avoids doing anything extraordinary. He doesn't talk much; he doesn't dance different from the other people; he isn't odd, outré nor strange in any way."3

Unlike the warm bond enjoyed by his younger brothers, Robert's relationship with his father was more formal. He later wrote a would-be biographer that "During my childhood and early youth he was almost constantly away from home, attending courts or making political speeches. In 1859 when I was sixteen and when he was beginning to devote himself more to practice in his own neighborhood, and when I would have both the inclination and the means of gratifying my desire to become better acquainted with the history of his struggles, I went to New Hampshire to school and afterward to Harvard College, and he became President. Henceforth any great intimacy between us became impossible. I scarcely even had ten minutes quiet talk with him during his Presidency, on account of his constant devotion to business."4

Much criticized for not earlier entering the Union Army, Robert interrupted Harvard law school to serve briefly on General Ulysses S. Grant's staff in 1865. He and his parents battled over his desire to serve in the Army. Robert's failure to serve led to criticism from even the President's political

allies. When Senator Ira Harris pressed Mary Lincoln on the question, in 1863, she replied: "Robert is making his preparations now to enter the Army; he is not a shirker - if fault there be it is mine, I have insisted that he should stay in college a little longer as I think an educated man can serve his country with more intelligent purpose than an ignorant."5 Seamstress Elizabeth Keckley wrote: "Robert would come home every few months, bringing new joy to the family circle. He was very anxious to quit school and enter the army, but the move was sternly opposed by his mother."

"We have lost one son, and his loss is as much as I can bear, without being called to make another sacrifice," she would say, when the subject was under discussion.

"But many a poor mother has given up all her sons," mildly suggested Mr. Lincoln, "and our son is not more dear to us than the sons of other people are to their mothers."

"That may be; but I cannot bear to have Robert exposed to danger. His services are not required in the field, and the sacrifice would be a needless one."

"The services of every man who loves his country are required in this war. You should take a liberal instead of a selfish view of the question, mother."6

Mary's half-sister, Emilie Todd Helm, recalled a conversation in which Mary told her husband: "I

know that Robert's plea to go into the Army is manly and noble and I want him to go, but oh! I am so frightened he may never come back to us!" President Lincoln replied: "Many a poor mother, May, has had to make this sacrifice and has given up every son she had - and lost them all."7

Robert had suffered one loss already - in the summer of 1863 when the daughter of the Prussian minister to Washington got married. John Hay wrote John Nicolay that "Bob was so shattered by the wedding of the idol of all of us, the bright particular Teuton, that he rushed madly off to sympathize with nature [the White Mountains of New Hampshire] in her sternest aspects."8

On the day President Lincoln was assassinated, Captain Robert Lincoln breakfasted with the family. After Robert showed the President a picture of General Robert E. Lee, Mr. Lincoln told Robert: "It is a good face; it is the face of a noble, noble, brave man. I am glad the war is over at last." Looking up at Robert, he continued: "Well, my son, you have returned safely from the front. The war is now closed, and we soon will live in peace with the brave man that have been fighting against us. I trust that the era of good feeling has returned with the war, and henceforth we shall live in peace. Now listen to me, Robert: you must lay aside your uniform, and return to



college. I wish you to read law for three years, and at the end of that time I hope that we will be able to tell whether you will make a lawyer or not." His face was more cheerful than I had seen it for a long while, and he seemed to be in a generous, forgiving mood, wrote Elizabeth Keckley.<sup>9</sup> Robert had to assume the lead role for the family in his father's funeral - since his mother was completely prostrated by the assassination. Presidential aide Edward Duffield Neil later wrote that "his manly bearing on that trying occasion made me feel that he was a worthy son of a worthy father."<sup>10</sup>

Robert disclaimed any influence on his father. "I was a boy occupied by my studies at Harvard College, very seldom in Washington, and having no exceptional opportunity of knowing what was going on," he later wrote Pennsylvania journalist Alexander K. McClure. Biographer John S. Goff maintained, however, that there were several instances "in which the President eldest son was privy to affairs of state or, at least, had what might be called inside information."<sup>11</sup>

After his father's death, Robert resigned from the Army and moved with his mother to Chicago where he practiced law. Robert married Mary Harlan in 1868; they had three children, but their only son died as a teenager. His mother's spending habits led him to have her confined to an insane asylum in 1875. More public-spirited than a public person, he served under Presidents James Garfield and Chester Arthur as Secretary of War (1881-85) and later as Minister to Great Britain (1889-92). His presence at the assassinations of both Garfield and President William McKinley made him self-conscious about "a certain fatality about the presidential function when I am present." He served as president of the Pullman Company and led a very quiet life prior to his death in 1926, always attempting to preserve and protect the memory of his father.

#### Footnotes

1. Michael Burlingame Editor, *Inside the White House in War Times: Memoirs and Report of Lincoln's Secretary: William O. Stoddard*, p. 150. (Sketch 2)
2. John S. Goff, *Robert Todd Lincoln: A Man in His Own Right*, p. 39
3. Goff, *Robert Todd Lincoln: A Man in His Own Right*, pp.45-46 (New York Herald, March 5, 1861)
4. Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington*, p. 292 (New York Herald, undated).
5. Rufus Rockwell Wilson, editor, *Intimate Memories of Lincoln*, p. 499.
6. Jean H. Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln*, p. 225.
7. Elizabeth Keckley, *Behind the Scenes*, pp. 121-22.
8. Michael Burlingame, editor, *At Lincoln's Side: John Hay's Civil War Correspondence and Selected Writings*, p. 48.
9. Keckley, *Behind the Scenes*, pp. 137-138.
10. Wilson, editor, *Intimate Memories of Lincoln*, p. 613.
11. Goff, *Robert Todd Lincoln: A Man in His Own Right*, pp. 53-54.

## William Wallace Lincoln (1850-1862)

"Willie" was named after Mary Todd's brother-in-law, Dr. William Wallace. He was a handsome, smart, serious and thoughtful child who was the favorite of Mary Todd Lincoln and her husband. Her cousin, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley, described Willie as a "noble, beautiful boy of nine years, of great mental activity, unusual intelligence, wonderful memory, methodical, frank and loving, a counterpart



of his father, save that he was handsome."<sup>1</sup> Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin wrote: "He was an avid reader, a budding writer, and generally sweet-tempered, all reminiscent of his father."<sup>2</sup> Julia Taft, who sometimes oversaw his play with her brothers, described Willie as "the most lovable boy I ever knew, bright, sensible, sweet-tempered and gentle-manner." But Willie did not relish public attention, complaining: "I wish they wouldn't stare at us so. Wasn't there ever a President who had children?"<sup>3</sup>

Born in 1850, Willie died on February 20, 1862 of a typhoid-like disease. His death was traumatic for the entire family. Willie was studious, personable, intelligent and creative—the child who most closely reflected his father's personality. His death was probably caused by the contaminated water that flowed through a nearby canal that provided water for the White House and a place for White House children to play. He was attended to by Dr. Robert K. Stone, the family physician. His parents were in nearly constant attendance during his illness and constant grief after his death. Mrs. Lincoln "did all a mother ought or could during Willie's sickness—she never left his side at all after he became dangerous, & almost wore herself out with watching, and she mourns as no one but a mother can at her son's death," reported Benjamin B. French.<sup>4</sup> All the folk medicines in Washington—and many were given to Willie from Peruvian bark to beef tea—could not save him.

Continued in the May issue

### Civil War Philly Photo Site

Laura Blanchard set up a Civil War Philly photo group on Flickr a few months back.

There are some great photos. You can join and post your Philly Civil War Photos and perhaps you could encourage your friends to add photos to the pool.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/moocat/516947503/in/pool-civilwarphilly/>

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/civilwarphilly/>

### "Discovering the Civil War."

There will be a new exhibit open on April 30th at the National Archives in Washington entitled "Discovering the Civil War." It will peel back 150 years of accumulated myths, popular culture and punditry to reveal a Civil War that is little-known and even more rarely displayed. The exhibit combines great original treasures and engaging touch-screen interactive in a physical environment inspired by 21st century research rooms. Letters, diaries, photos, maps, petitions, receipts, patents, amendments and proclamations all become powerful tools to let visitors take a fresh look at a conflict that still touches our lives. The Archives is a stop on the Green and Yellow Metro lines.

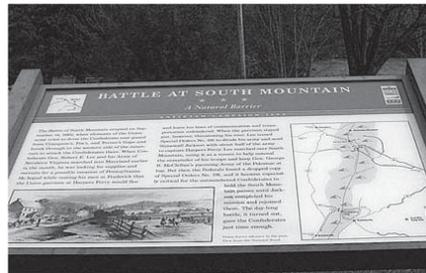
# On the Road with Rich...

## The Battle at South Mountain

Rich Jankowski

The day after Christmas as a family we rode out to Gettysburg to visit the Eisenhower Farm and the renovated Cyclorama. The next day, we ventured down to the Antietam area and toured the battlefield. On that Monday we went over to Boonsboro to begin the South Mountain State Battlefield driving tour.

The Battle of South Mountain, fought on September 14, 1862, was the first major battle of the war fought in Maryland. The driving tour is 22.6 miles, takes about 90 minutes to complete with 14 stops. There are two museums on the tour, one at the Washington Monument stop and the other at the Crampton's Gap parking area. The tour begins at



Battle at South Mountain Wayside Marker

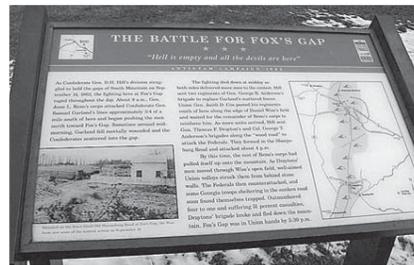
Washington Monument in Boonsboro, a 1/4 mile climb from the parking lot. [The only challenge was a stiff cold wind] The Monument was constructed by the citizens on July 4th 1827 and had fallen into disrepair. During the Battle of South Mountain, Confederate troops used the site to signal information to troops down below in Boonsboro. During the Battle of Antietam two days later, Federal troops use this location to relay information from the battlefield to Frederick where it would be telegraphed to Washington.

The tour includes stops at the Confederate left flank, the Union center [where Mead's Pennsylvania troops were deployed], the South Mountain Tavern [which served as General D. H. Hill's headquarters during the battle], Fox's Gap, and a good view of Crampton's Gap. It goes through the town of Burkittsville, where 80% of its current buildings were present during the battle. Major General William B. Franklin's VI Corps approached the town from the east. The Confederate's had artillery deployed at Crampton's Gap and Brownsville Pass. The Shafer house, used by Franklin as headquarters during the fighting, is a stop on the tour.

Another stop is St Paul's Lutheran Church (1859) and the German Reform Church (1829) in town. Both were used as hospitals after the battle. From the cem-

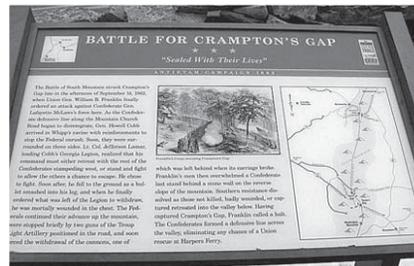


The Shafer House used by Major General William Buel Franklin as his headquarters.



Fox's Gap Wayside Marker

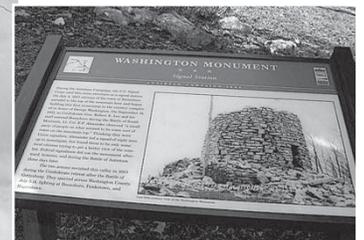
Georgia Legion of Brigadier General Howell Cobb were cut to pieces by the New Jersey Brigade and forced to retreat. The last stop is Franklin's final position on September 14th.



Crampton's Gap Wayside Marker

From here you can turn right return to the Washington Monument, or travel to Antietam. Or turn left to venture to Harper's Ferry or Frederick. You can get a copy of the Driving Tour at <http://www.friendsofsouthmountain.org/southmountain-tour.html>. The South Mountain tour is a good prelude to Antietam and how/why units got to where they did on the 17th. It would probably be more fun in another season than winter!

The Washington Monument at Crampton's Gap



Washington's Monument Wayside Marker



Monument to the First New Jersey Brigade

## Gettysburg College names director of Civil War Institute

GETTYSBURG, Pa. - Gettysburg College has named Peter Carmichael its new director of the Civil War Institute and Robert Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies.

Carmichael is currently the Eberly Family Professor of Civil War Studies at West Virginia University. Michael Birkner, who is the Benjamin Franklin Professor of the Liberal Arts and a professor of history, served as interim director for the Civil War Institute this year. Gabor Boritt, who was the founding director, retired in 2009.

"The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College occupies an important place in thought about and study of the American Civil War," said Gettysburg College's Interim Provost James White. "As the CWI's new director, Dr. Peter Carmichael, a noted historian of this epic conflict, will nurture and advance the Institute and work to make its programs ever better."

"I am very excited about the Civil War Institute and building on this incredible legacy of Gabor Boritt," said Carmichael. "There's no other place like Gettysburg College to be a public intellectual and where you can bring together students, scholars and the public to study the Civil War. I have visited here numerous times, but to think about this place to live in and to teach is extraordinary. I am honored." Carmichael has published a number of books, most recently a study of Southern college students during the Civil War era, "The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion (2005)." He is currently researching the experience and wartime representation of Confederate slaves, and how the mythical idea of loyal African Americans defending the South animates current cultural wars over "Southern heritage." Carmichael earned a doctorate and a master's from the Pennsylvania State University, and a bachelor's degree from Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis.

For over 28 years, The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted visiting educators and students, sponsored conferences, lectures, concerts, and movie premieres, as well as other educational programs on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Each summer, the CWI hosts hundreds of Civil War enthusiasts, scholars and prominent historians for an annual conference in Gettysburg. The Institute also co-sponsors the annual Dedication Day, Nov. 19, which is the anniversary of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," with the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania and the Gettysburg National Military Park. CWI also co-sponsors and publishes the annual Robert Fortenbaugh Lecture. In addition, the institute coordinates the annual Michael Shaara \$5,000 Book Prize for Civil War fiction.

### **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure...**

Team Bradley University will be walking in the Philadelphia Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on May 9th. We would like to invite you to join us on that day or support our efforts to bring a cure to this dreaded disease, by making a tax-deductible contribution to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Today everyone knows someone [friend/relative/co-worker/etc] who has been touched by breast cancer. This

community event honors those people and plays a vital role in raising funds to assist the effort. We would love to have you join us for the walk or you can visit our team page at...

[http://rfcphl.convio.net/site/TR/Race/General/833531588?pg=team&fr\\_id=1040&team\\_id=36630&JServSessionldr004=p53kvuj121.app7b](http://rfcphl.convio.net/site/TR/Race/General/833531588?pg=team&fr_id=1040&team_id=36630&JServSessionldr004=p53kvuj121.app7b)

to assist one of our team members or make a donation to the general Team.

You can learn more about the fight to end breast cancer at [www.race.KomenPhiladelphia.org](http://www.race.KomenPhiladelphia.org)

**oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net**  
**<http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/>**

**April 10, 2010 – Saturday – 12:00 Noon**

### **Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library Preservation Luncheon.**

Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Rd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Cost: \$40/person, \$75/couple. 2:00 PM

Special Presentation by **Edwin C. Bearss**  
**"Pursuit of the Lincoln Conspirators"**

Fundraiser for the Museum. To reserve: [garmuslib@verizon.net](mailto:garmuslib@verizon.net); or call: 215-289-6484

### **Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2010**

April 8, 2010 – Thursday

**The Reports of the Lincolns' Political Partnership  
Have Been Greatly Exaggerated**  
By Mike Burkheimer

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM  
in the 2nd Floor Library of the UNION LEAGUE,  
Broad & Sansom Streets in Philadelphia.**  
Questions to Harry Jenkins at 856-428-8773 or  
[hj3bama@comcast.net](mailto:hj3bama@comcast.net)

**Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 P.M.  
Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust  
You're Welcome to Join Us!**

**Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia  
Union League  
140 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**

**484.225.3150    [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
Founded January 1977**

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

**President: Richard Jankowski**  
**Vice President: William Brown**  
**Treasurer: Herb Kaufman**  
**Secretary: Bill Hughes**  
**Programs: Steve Wright**