

# Old Baldy

## Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



April 12, 2012, The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

## Major General John F. Reynolds; Courage... Honor... Sacrifice



Major General  
John F. Reynolds  
(USAMHI)

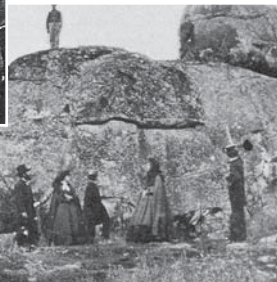
### Courage... Honor... Sacrifice

**Arlene D. Harris** speaks in the first person as Catherine F. Reynolds; the sister that John F. Reynolds was closest to through-out his life. Starting with his early life and education, this presentation will show

how what Reynolds learned and accomplished shaped the Code of Honor he would live and die by. This will show how truly dedicated and valuable to his country he was.



On November 11,  
1863 Peter Weaver  
took several photo of  
the Devil's Den area.



Included in two of those photos are the brother and some sisters of Major General John Reynolds. Parts of the photos have been copied from William Frassanitos' book "Gettysburg Then and Now" and Timothy Smith's Book "Devil's Den a History and Guide".

**Arlene D. Harris:** Born in New Jersey of Pennsylvania parents, in 1953.

I am a lifelong student of American History. After years of studying early and late Native American wars and then the

*Continued on page 2*

### Notes from the President...

As the second year of the Sesquicentennial begins there are programs and events to experience. I just returned from the Virginia 2012 Signature Conference at VMI [which you will hear more about in a future newsletter], Other recent local Civil War-related events include the following: **James McPherson** spoke to the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association on negotiations during the war, **Frank P. Williams** spoke to the Del Val Luncheon and Drew University hosted a conference on "The Future of Civil War History." Be sure to get out to upcoming gatherings and then write a short piece for Don to include in the newsletter.

Those who joined us at the March meeting know we had a spirited discussion and decided to proceed for the rest of the year trying some different approaches to growing our Round Table. Details about the meeting can be found in a separate article in this newsletter. One of the attempts for growth will be to hold the May 10th meeting at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ to recruit folks from Southern New Jersey. We are open to additional suggestions; please let us know if you have any.

I was proud to be one of the Old Baldy representatives at the Del Val 20th anniversary luncheon on March 24th. See the article to learn more about the event. At the April meeting **Arlene Harris** will share her knowledge about John Reynolds. I will not be at the meeting as I will be in Appleton, Wisconsin that evening, but those in attendance will enjoy Arlene's program.

Reminder on current and upcoming events the "Gone for the Soldier" exhibit at Maculloch Hall runs through July 1st, the GAR Luncheon at Cannstatters is April 14th, the Neshaminy encampment will be April 27-29, the School of the Soldier will be at Allaire State Park on June 2-3, New Jersey Day at Antietam will be August 18th, Civil War Living History Weekend August 4-5 and the Battle of Belmont Plateau at West Fairmont Park on August 17-19.

Thank you for your continued support of our Round Table.

*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.*

Continued from page 1 - *Courage, Honor, Sacrifice*

American Revolution I decided to get into the American Civil War in the mid 1980's.

After finding I had more than a passing interest in John F. Reynolds, and why, I decided to center my studies and research on him. My found connection goes back to 1987.

My husband Steve and I have been involved in Civil War living history as Henry and Kate Reynolds Landis since 2000. We belong to: Friends of Lancaster Cemetery, the General Meade Society of Philadelphia, the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteer History Organization, the Confederation of Union Generals based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and the GAR Museum and Library of Philadelphia. We constantly do events in connection with these organizations.

I gave three lectures on Major General Reynolds in 2010, two in 2011, and this will be the third year participating in Victorian Day for the Lancaster Cemetery, speaking at John Reynolds' grave-site as Kate Reynolds as one of the stops on the cemetery tours all that day. To me I feel the most important thing we do is that we have complete adoption of the grave of John F. Reynolds and the entire Reynolds family plot which we landscape and care for year round.

Being an art major, my John F. Reynolds connection has brought me back to my artwork and an oil portrait of him is in the works.

Join us at our next Old Baldy Civil War Round Table meeting as **Arlene Harris** presents **"Major General John F. Reynolds; Courage... Honor... Sacrifice"**. That's **Thursday, April 12th** starting at **7:30PM** in the **Sando Room** 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.

## **Homefront Heroes... The Port Royal Relief Committee of Philadelphia**

*Article, Photos  
by Kerry Bryan*

The North celebrated one of its few early victories of the Civil War when on November 7, 1861, Commodore Samuel DuPont's naval fleet, abetted by a U.S. Army expeditionary force under the command of General Thomas W. Sherman, overpowered two Confederate forts on Port Royal Sound, near Beaufort, South Carolina. Port Royal had great strategic importance because of its coastline location between Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA.

This military victory, however, precipitated a social crisis, for when the owners and overseers of the nearby cotton-



*Battle of Port Royal  
(Duke.libraries.edu)*

growing Sea Island plantations fled in the face of Union occupation, they abandoned not only the land, but also some 10,000 slaves, many of them juveniles or aged and infirm, and almost all of them destitute and illiterate.

The landowners and managers had also left in their wake vast fields of "unginned" cotton, raw cotton that needed to be reaped, separated, packaged, and distributed for sale. The United States Treasury decided to employ the Port Royal "contraband," the former slaves there who were not



*Contraband during the Civil War  
(digitalhistory.uh.edu)*

yet freedmen (the Emancipation Proclamation was a year in the future) to harvest the crop. Subsequently, more than a million pounds of Carolina cotton was shipped to New York, which turned a huge profit for the Federal Government.

In theory the contraband workers were to be paid "reasonable wages"; in reality they were usually mercilessly exploited by the many unscrupulous cotton agents and sutlers who had swarmed to the South Carolina Sea Islands when it became apparent that the Union would retain control there.

Appeals for assistance by Comm. DuPont and Gen. Sherman received coverage in the Northern press, sparking the organization of special relief societies by abolitionists in Boston, New York, and here in Philadelphia. A March 5th, 1862 rally at Independence Hall heralded the formation of the Port Royal Relief Committee of Philadelphia. By April 1862 the local Relief Committee had raised more than \$5000 in cash, which was used to purchase emergency food staples such as dried fish, molasses, and bacon, as

*Continued on page 3*



well as many donations of various clothing items, all of which were shipped to Port Royal for distribution— distribution scrupulously supervised by Committee representatives.

The leaders of the Port Relief Committee of Philadelphia recognized that the former slaves needed more than immediate provisions of food and clothing: they also needed extensive, practical guidance to learn how to become independent farmers and other workers in a currency-based, “free” economy, and they needed school teachers to help them become literate and numerate. Therefore, the Philadelphia Relief Committee, which closely coordinated all its efforts with its sister agencies in Boston and New York, proceeded to recruit volunteers to serve as either supervisory field



*Education Among the Freedmen  
(Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Commission Broadside)*

agents or school teachers to go to the Union-occupied areas of South Carolina.

The entire endeavor became known as the “Port Royal Experiment.” It was considered “experimental” because most white Americans of that era believed that blacks were inherently inferior in intelligence, industry, and the all-important Victorian attributes of “moral sensibilities”; thus African-Americans were deemed neither to have been “created equal” nor to deserve the rights of citizenship. The abolitionists defied prevailing beliefs and intense bigotry when they devoted themselves not only to providing emergency aid, but also to effecting long-term measures to promote the eventual self-sufficiency and entitlement of the former slaves.

Most of the Port Royal volunteers were also driven by missionary impulses, i.e. their desire to bring their concept of Christianity to the Sea Islanders— which meant Christianity as viewed through the lenses of middle-class, white Victorians. A certain give-and-take of culture ensued, as many of the customs of the so-called “Gullah” culture of the African-American Sea Islanders were already rooted in generations



*Plowing in South Carolina  
A sketch by Jas. E. Taylor  
(LOC)*

of history. In the end, the former slaves transitioned during Reconstruction to freedmen and freedwomen, adopting some of the trappings and skills of the outside world— but without ever surrendering their core cultural identity.

All in all, the “experiment” was considered a success: many of the former slaves eventually became independent farmers, the children and many of their parents acquired at least basic literacy, the church pews were filled on Sundays, and the fields kept producing cotton.

As for the Philadelphians who volunteered to go to the Sea Islands, many of them were quickly overwhelmed by the challenges of the Southern summer climate or the rigors of their duties. But others stayed and persevered, including two young women named Charlotte Forten and Laura Towne, who will each be the subject of a future column.

By the end of 1862, Port Royal Relief Committee of Philadelphia had officially changed its name to the Pennsylvania Freedmen’s Relief Association, to reflect its expanding membership and purposes. The need to provide assistance to the contraband population continued to grow exponentially as Federal forces gained control over increasingly large portions of the South. By the end of the War in 1865, locally-based, citizen-funded and staffed relief organizations would be superseded by a Congressionally-sanctioned Federal agency, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, usually referred to simply as “Freedmen’s Bureau,” which played a salient role during Reconstruction. The volunteer work of some of our local citizens contributed significantly to this period of historic transition.

## **March 9th meeting “Renovations Needed for the Old Baldy CWRT”**

As you all know our March meeting was to discuss the future of the Old Baldy Round Table. Fifteen folks showed up for the discussion. We had received 4 emails and 1 phone message from those unable to be there in person. Bill Hughes gave a brief account of the events in the last

several months including the Board Meeting. The email and phone comments were shared with the audience. Herb Kaufman gave an account of our financial situation [which is good without dues collection]. Several members made their comments about their time with the Round Table and the Pine Street Museum. Discussion included Center City, the Union League, the aging of the membership, the need to publicize and possible alternatives.

In the past it had been proposed to find another location as a possible solution to draw more folks. Since more than

half of our regular attendees at the meetings are coming from New Jersey, Bill Hughes pursued some locations to possibly hold a meeting there. He made contact with Jack Pesda at the Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility at Camden County College. Pesda agreed to host a meeting if we continued the Round Table, to see if there was interest on the New Jersey side. Other members from New Jersey pledged to assist Bill in getting the word out about the meeting. Just like folks reluctant on coming to Center City there is a fear of crossing the bridge, although it is very convenient. At this meeting after explaining the history of the Old Baldy Round Table, current members could testify to the ease of taking the Speed Line into the City and getting to the Union League. This effort would be to reach people not currently in a Philadelphia group [Meade, GAR, Laurel Hill, Union League, etc]. Other members are invited to seek alternate locations that could draw new members. Additional suggestions were to not meet over the summer, try more round table discussions and contacting local residents.

After everyone had the opportunity to comment, it was decided to hold the April meeting at the Union League, try the May 10th meeting at the College in New Jersey and collect dues for this year [please submit them to Herb]. It is hoped that these actions will generate interest in our group because something different, outside the normal actions, needs to be done to grow our Round Table. Thank you to all who provided their input on this very important issue because it is your Round Table.

## Today in Civil War History

### Friday April 12, 1861 Sinister Shells Strike Sumter

In the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, lay the United States installation of Fort Sumter, Maj. Robert Anderson commanding. His position was difficult, as South Carolina was no longer a member of the United States. The Carolinians had refused to allow supplies to go to the fort, and Anderson was prepared to evacuate by April 15. Evacuation was not what was wanted, though, and at 4:30 a.m. a shot was fired from a signal gun, and the Charleston artillery opened fire on an enemy fort. Who fired the signal, or the first shot, is not known to this day, as several claimed the title. Civil war was underway.

### Saturday April 12, 1862 Coal Conspicuousness Critically Cited

Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles was high in the confidence of President Lincoln, and it was good ideas like one he came up with today that kept it that way. Welles announced today an absolute embargo on the export of anthracite coal. Confederate and other blockade-runners were buying exported American anthracite in Caribbean ports. The alternative, bituminous coal, burned with heavy black smoke which could be seen at great distance at sea. Anthracite coal, on the other hand, not only contained much more heat per given volume, but burned very cleanly with just a little white smoke.

### Sunday April 12, 1863 Hardheaded Hooker Holds To History

Over and over for three years Abraham Lincoln had implored his generals to attack the enemy. Their notion of the way to do that, based on what they had learned at West Point, was to take the attack to the enemy's capital. Lincoln's idea was to attack the enemy's armies, primarily that of Robert E. Lee. Today Gen. Joseph Hooker sent his new plan to his commander in chief. It consisted of an end run around Lee to attack....Richmond.

### Tuesday April 12, 1864 Pillow Plunder Prevents Peace

A small trading post, 50 miles from Memphis, Tenn., was guarded by a Union installation named Fort Pillow. It was attacked today by 1500 Confederate cavalry commanded by Nathan Bedford Forrest. Despite aid from the gunboat USS New Era, the 557 Union defenders were quickly overwhelmed. About half of the Union soldiers were black, and almost none of them survived. In an action which remains controversial to this day, Forrest claimed that the black troops continued firing after the fort's commander had offered to surrender, and that his men were infuriated by their treachery. Other accounts claimed that men who had thrown down their guns, and were even trying to run for the woods or river, were slaughtered. The latter version was the one believed from this time forth by black Union troops.

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

## Del Val CWRT 20th Anniversary Luncheon

A grand time was had by all at the Del Val CWRT 20th anniversary luncheon. I arrived at Cannstatters just as the meal was being served as I was with Jim McPherson at Princeton in the morning. I was fortunate to find a seat at a table in the back with the Old Baldy representatives including Steve Wright, Mike and Susan Cavanaugh and



Frank Avato being honored with the 2011 President's Award.

Dick and Debbie Simpson. The event included a book/magazine sale for preservation, door prizes and the much advertised raffle. Dick Simpson won first prize in the raffle and a door prize. After the meal Frank P. Williams from Rhode Island gave

an informative presentation on Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief. He echoed something I heard Mark Neely say down at VMI, that being that Lincoln's Blackhawk war experience should not be overlooked and that these experiences made him a better Commander-in-Chief. Williams credits Lincoln for establishing the modern command system. This resulted from the reorganization of the armies when Grant took charge in the Spring of 1864. Six of the origi-



nal members of Del Val were recognized and given a framed photo of their first meeting. All previous winners of the Merit Award and President's Award in the room were recognized. Our associate Dick



Dick Simpson thanking the Roundtable for his award.



Dick Simpson receiving the 2011 Merit Award.



Dick Simpson being presented the winning raffle prize. An original piece of the Gettysburg Cyclorama.

Simpson was awarded the 2011 Merit Award for all he does for Preservation and spreading information about the War in his various presentations. Frank Avato was honored with the 2011 President's Award for his efforts in starting and sustaining the Round Table in the last 20 years. I passed on to President Boyle the congratulations of the

Old Baldy CWRT for 20 years of service to the Civil War community North of the city and told him we look forward to seeing him and his lovely wife Rose at the Old Baldy 40th anniversary celebration. After the luncheon I had the honor of escorting our program director, Kerry Bryan, back to Center City.

## Another Hometown Hero, who Sleeps in Laurel Hill

This is an edited article from several sources; At Peace with Honor - Blake Magner North&South Magazine, April 1998 - Chester Hearn en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\_Ellet,\_Jr.

Charles Ellet, Jr. was born on January 1, 1810, at Penn's Manor, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the sixth child of Charles and Mary Ellet, brother of Alfred W. Ellet, also a civil engineer and a brigadier general in the Union Army during the Civil War.



Cartoon showing Charles Ellet trying to persuade the government to use his ideas. (Harper's Weekly)

Charles studied civil engineering at École nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris, France, and in 1832 submitted proposals for a suspension bridge across the Potomac River. In 1842, he designed and built the first major wire-cable suspension bridge in the United States, spanning 358 feet over the

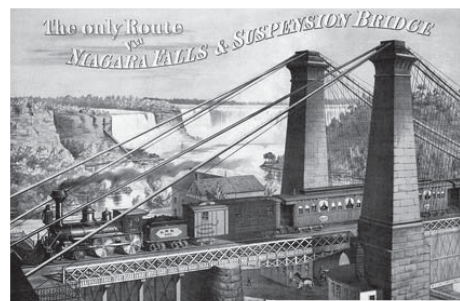
Schuylkill River at Fairmount, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He designed the record-breaking Wheeling suspension bridge over the Ohio River at Wheeling, West Virginia in 1848, and a 770-foot suspension footbridge at Niagara Falls at the same time.

His other civil engineering accomplishments include supervising both the James River & Kanawha Canal in Virginia and the Schuylkill Navigation improvements in



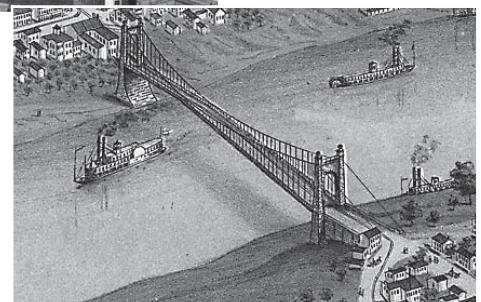
Charles Ellet, Jr. (Wikipedia)

Pennsylvania, and also constructing railroads in those states. Ellet developed theories for improving flood control and navigation of mid-western rivers. In 1849 he had advocated the use of reservoirs, built in the upper reaches of drainage basins, to retain water from the wet season that could be released during periods of low water to improve navigation; to some degree this also would tend to lessen the level of flooding during high flow. In 1850, the Secretary of War, conforming to an Act of Congress, directed Ellet to make surveys and reports on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers with a view to the preparation of adequate



Railroad Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls (Old Postcard)

Suspension Bridge over the Ohio River at Wheeling, WV (Chicago Map Co.)



Continued on page 6

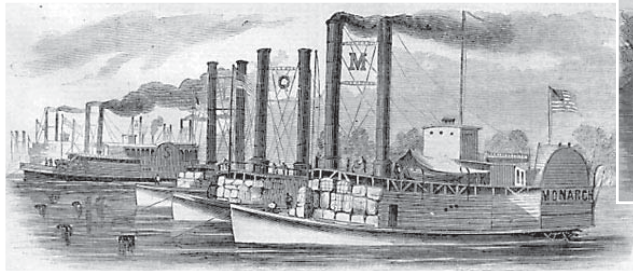


Continued from page 5 - "who sleeps in Laurel Hill"

plans for flood prevention and navigation improvement. His report was very complete, and it exercised considerable influence on later engineering thought and navigation improvements.

### The Civil War

In March 1861, the Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton appointed him colonel of engineers and



Ram Fleet - Monarch, Queen of the West, Lioness and Switzerland (Harper's Weekly)

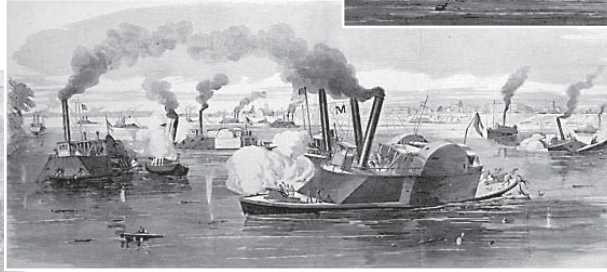
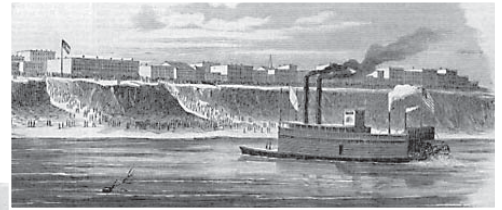
tasked him with developing the United States Ram Fleet. However, it would be his invention of the "Steam Rams," an idea he had in the 1850s, which would be his greatest accomplishment. After the destruction caused by the CSS Virginia in early March 1862, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sent a dispatch to Ellet, instructing him to proceed to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and New Albany, "to provide Steam rams for the defense against iron clad vessels on the Western waters." Ellet was commissioned colonel and would complete the task of building his "Ram Fleet" out of nine old steam boats, in just under fifty days. Assigned as an aide-de-camp to General John C. Fremont on April 28, 1862, he would set out to prove that his idea would work.

The Mississippi River was the key to the Confederacy, and if it could be controlled, the South would be split in two. The Mississippi Ram Fleet (as the Steam Rams were to become known), consisted of nine rams, including The Queen of the West, under the command of Charles Ellet and the Monarch, under Alfred Ellet, with three other members of the Ellet family, including Charles's son Charles Rivers Ellet, as a medical cadet, attached. The Ram Fleet was an all volunteer organization and had the advantage of speed and toughness, but its vessels lacked armor and were not heavily gunned.

On June 6, 1862, the fleet engaged the Confederate Defense Fleet just above Memphis, Tennessee. When most of the Defense Fleet had been sunk or forced to retreat, the city of Memphis surrendered to the Ram fleet. During the action, Colonel Ellet was shot in the knee with a pistol bullet. At first his wound did not seem dangerous, and though he suffered pain and fever, he had good medical attention. From his bed on Switzerland he continued to correspond with the War Department and issue orders to his squadron. On June 8, infection attacked his wound, and he advised Stanton that the Rams had been sent downriver and command temporarily transferred to Alfred Ellet. While he laid on the deck he continued to give orders to the Rams and at one point told Alfred to "stand by his post."

Secretary Stanton felt fully vindicated for financing the Ram Fleet when, on June 8, Ellet's report reached Washington. "The news of your glorious achievement at Memphis reached here last evening," he wrote, "and our

Lioness demands surrender of Memphis (Harper's Weekly)



Monarch rams the General Beauregard (Harper's Weekly)

joy was only dampened by your personal injury." He promised to send Mrs. Ellet to Memphis as soon as arrangements could be made, but the

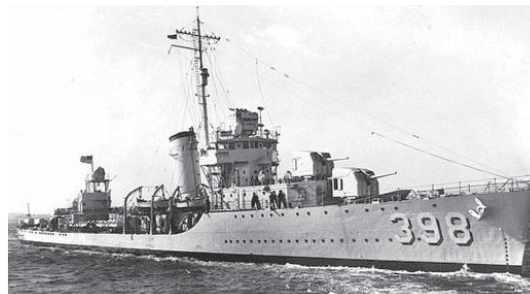
Colonel continued to decline. He knew he was dying, and in his last letter to Stanton, wrote, "I can do nothing here but lie in my bed and suffer." In closing, he urged the secretary to transfer full command of the fleet to Alfred.

Mrs. Ellet reached Memphis June 17 and on the following day started for home with her husband. As the steamer approached Cairo, blood poisoning took the life of Colonel Charles Ellet, Jr. A few days later his grief stricken wife died suddenly. His body was transported back to Philadelphia and taken to Independence Hall, where it would lie in state. On June 27, the funeral for Ellet was held with the Keystone Artillerists acting as honor guard. On June 25, both were buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, and the colonel, who never wanted to wear a uniform, lapsed into history as the "brilliant genius" who captured Memphis with his unarmed rams.

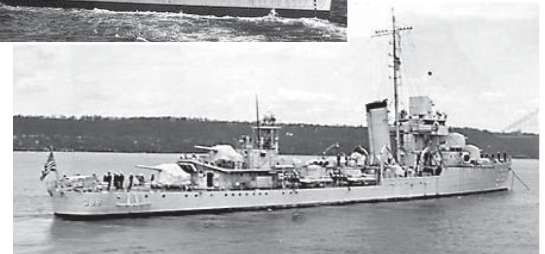
### USS Ellet (DD-398), 1939-1947

On June 11, 1938, a new ship was launched from Kearny, New Jersey. The ship was commissioned the USS Ellet, DD 398, named for the five Ellets who served with the Mississippi Ram Fleet. The ship would have its own share of glory, earning ten battle stars, a credit to the Ellet name.

USS Ellet, a 1500-ton Benham class destroyer, was built at Kearny, New Jersey. Commissioned in February 1939, she



USS Ellet DD-398 1939-1947 (USN)



served off the U.S. east coast and in the Gulf of Mexico for one year on Neutrality Patrols and other operations, then

Continued on page 7

moved to the Pacific. As tensions grew with Japan, Ellet's base was moved to Pearl Harbor, and she took part in efforts to reinforce U.S. positions in the region and otherwise prepare for the possibility of war.

When Japan began the Pacific conflict with the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Ellet was at sea. She spent the next several months escorting convoys and aircraft carriers. In the latter role, she participated in the Doolittle air raid on Japan in April 1942 and the Battle of Midway in early June. Two months later Ellet played escort, anti-aircraft and bombardment roles during the invasion of Guadalcanal and Tulagi. On 9 August 1942, she rescued survivors of the Battle of Savo Island, and helped scuttle the crippled Australian cruiser Canberra. For much of the rest of 1942 and into 1943, she provided escort services in support of the campaign to hold Guadalcanal. Among her activities was participation in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons in late August 1942.

After Guadalcanal was secured in February 1943, Ellet mainly operated in the south Pacific until September 1943. Following an overhaul, she returned to the combat zone

in February 1944 as part of the Marshall Islands invasion force. The destroyer supported the northern New Guinea offensive during the spring of 1944 and participated in the Marianas operation and associated aircraft carrier raids during June-August. In September, she took part in the seizure of Ulithi Atoll.

Assigned to the Marianas Patrol and Escort Group in late October 1944, Ellet spent the rest of her World War II active service in the central Pacific, primarily on escort and air-sea rescue work. She also shelled Iwo Jima during raids in December 1944 and January 1945. Undergoing overhaul at the Mare Island Navy Yard when the fighting ended in August 1945, Ellet was decommissioned in late October of that year and sold for scrapping in August 1947.

USS Ellet was named in honor of five members of the Ellet family who distinguished themselves during the Civil War: Colonel Charles Ellet, Jr; Brigadier General Alfred W. Ellet; Colonel Charles Rivers Ellet; Lieutenant Colonel John A. Ellet; and Edward C. Ellet.



**Belmont Grove and Belmont Plateau  
West Fairmount Park, Philadelphia  
Friday, August 17  
Saturday, August 18  
Sunday, August 19, 2012**

This event is co-sponsored by the Civil War History Consortium of Philadelphia; the Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League; the Sesquicentennial Committee; and the City of Philadelphia.

It will be a Civil War-era living history, Camp, campaign and battle weekend focused on commemorating Civil War historical events., especially involving Philadelphia Civil War units and episodes. The event will be held the weekend of August 17th - August 19th on the grounds of West Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The West Fairmount Park is conveniently located near Interstate 76, the Schuylkill Expressway, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Valley Forge Exit.

Fairmount Park is very historic and has many connections to history. The park was largely laid out by General George G. Meade and hosted the 1876 Centennial Exhibition that drew visitors from America and the world. General Grant and Sherman were at the formal Opening of the event, and many veterans of the Civil War attended, including General Rutherford B. Hayes, who was then campaigning for the presidency and gave a speech at the Ohio House which is still located at Belmont. The Pennsylvania National Guard frequently held its summer training camps on Belmont Plateau, naming the encampments after Civil War commanders, including 'Camp Meade'. In 1899, the annual National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)

was held in Philadelphia. It was the largest Reunion of the G.A.R. (Union veterans) with over 17,000 veterans in attendance. Most of the men camped on Belmont Plateau in 'Camp Sexton', named after the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army at that time. On the summit overlooking the Plateau with a stunning view of Center City Philadelphia sits 'Belmont Mansion' that dates to the mid-18th Century. It was a haven on the Underground RR and sheltered run-away slaves. Nearby at George's Hill is a fine Civil War Monument dedicated to fallen comrades by the members of G.A.R. Post #21; and at Memorial Hall which was dedicated to the memory of America's veterans stands the official city memorial to the veterans of the Civil War, the 'Smith' Memorial.

The event will feature an ambitious program of historical military and civilian activities including recreated Union and Confederate military camps, public battles, demonstrations, sutlers, authentic entertainment and tactical events, all intended to educate the public to its Civil War past at the outset of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

The scenarios, demonstrations, entertainments, and activities will reflect a variety of historic Civil War actions. All period authentic impressions, military and civilian, are welcome. Military units including United States Colored Troops; Navy and Marines; Zouaves; Medical Corps etc. will be accommodated in all battle scenarios. Contraband impressions; Scouts (mounted) Pioneer Battalions; Sutlers will all have a role.

[www.civilwarphilly.net](http://www.civilwarphilly.net) 215-587-5596

**April Event:**

**Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags They Carried' exhibition from 4/12/2011 - 4/30/2012 at the Betsy Ross House Philadelphia, PA**



## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2011/2012

April 12 - Thursday  
"John Fulton Reynolds: Duty, Honor, Sacrifice"  
Historian: Arlene Harris

May 10 - Thursday  
"Shiloh"  
Historian: Pete Romeika

June 14 - Thursday  
"Elizabeth Duane Gillespie  
and the History of Flag Day"  
Historian: Kerry Bryan

All meetings, unless otherwise noted,  
begin at 7:30 PM  
in the Sando Room of the UNION LEAGUE,  
Broad & Sansom Streets in Philadelphia.  
Questions to Steve Wright at 267-258-5943 or  
maqua824@aol.com

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!*

### Dear Civil War Buff:

*Do you want to experience Robert E. Lee's first victory as a general ---150 years to the minute from when it occurred?*

*Do you want to follow the incomparable Ed Bearss as he leads a tour at Second Manassas?*

*Do you want to hear Mr. Bearss evaluate the role of what many call the finest combat Brigade in Longstreet's Corps -- the Texas Brigade?*

*Do you want to learn about the Confederate Potomac defenses in 1861-62 by accessing original sites on Marine Corps Base Quantico?*

*Do you want to see items from the Museum of the Confederacy collections not seen in over 40 years?*

### With Hood's Texas Brigade in Virginia Earning their Reputation, 1861-1862 Sesquicentennial Tour - June 26-29, 2012

Join Ed Bearss, Susannah Ural and other Noted Historians  
3+ days, including 3 lunches and 3 dinners, is only \$595.

A block of rooms at Country Inns & Suites at Ashland, VA has been set aside for tour participants at \$89.99 per standard room per night. Reservations: +1 (800) 830-5222 US/Canada Toll-free. Telephone: +1 (804) 798-7378.

Deposit Deadline: \$100 due May 1st, 2012  
Final Payment Deadline: due May 15, 2012

For more information or a detailed itinerary and registration packet, visit website: <http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org/> You may also contact: Ann Oppenheimer at [oppenheimer.ann@gmail.com](mailto:oppenheimer.ann@gmail.com). Or call her at Cell 210-857-6420 \* Home Phone 210-545-6420. Alternate telephone: Martha Hartzog 512/431-2682.

WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>

Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)

Blog: <http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/>

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE at the CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE of Manor College, Jenkintown, PA.

Indulge your interest in Civil War history through courses designed to preserve a period of time that to this day has had a profound cultural and economic impact on our nation.

In association with the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table, the Institute has developed a variety of courses designed for students from high school through adults.

All courses are PA Act 48 approved.

### Spring Semester Courses

The Battle of Gettysburg: A New Perspective  
12 hours: (Wednesday, April 11 - May 16)

African Americans: Road to Freedom - 6 hours  
(Monday, April 16 -30)

City Life During the Civil War - 12 hours  
10:00 am - 12 pm (Saturday, March 31 - May 19)

For information and registration:  
Manor College

700 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046  
215-884-2218

[www.manor.edu/coned/civilwar.html](http://www.manor.edu/coned/civilwar.html)



*Civil War History*  
CONSORTIUM

### The 150th Civil War History Consortium in the Philadelphia Area

Keep up with the 150th Civil War activities  
in the area contact: Laura Blanchard

Philadelphia Area Consortium  
of Special Collections Libraries

Civil War History Consortium of Greater Philadelphia  
215-985-1445 voice

<http://www.pacscl.org>

<http://www.civilwarphilly.net>

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

856-427-4022 [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: Kerry Bryan