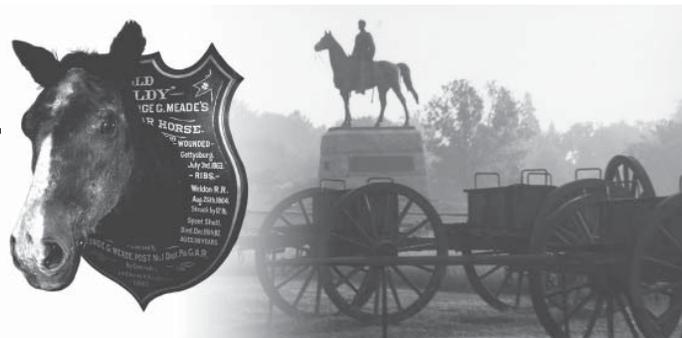


Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



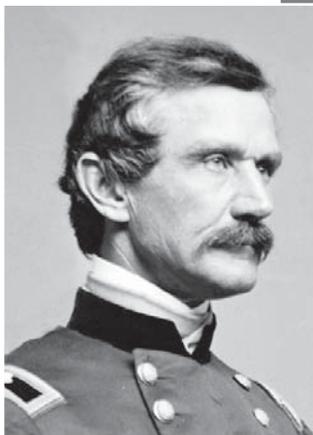
January 10, 2008, The One Hundred and Forty-Eighth Year of the Civil War

“Meet General A. A. Humphreys” at the January meeting of Old Baldy CWRT.

On Thursday, January 10, 2008, Mr. **Gerald “Jerry” McCormick** will grace us with his full-uniform, first-person impression of Major General A. A. Humphreys. A native Philadelphian, Andrew Atkinson Humphreys (November 2, 1810 – December 27, 1883), graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1831. He was a career U.S. Army officer, civil engineer, and a Union general in the Civil War.

At the outbreak of the War, Humphreys was promoted to major and chief topographical engineer, initially involved in planning the defenses of Washington, D.C. After serving under General George McClellan in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, he was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers, and in September of that year assumed command of the new 3rd Division in the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Under his leadership, his division achieved the farthest advance against the fierce Confederate fire from Marye’s Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg. In late May of 1863, Humphreys was transferred to command of the 2nd Division of the III Corps under Major General Dan Sickles. On July 2nd at the Battle of Gettysburg, when Sickles insubordinately moved his corps from its assigned position on Cemetery Ridge, Sickles placed Humphreys’ division on the Emmitsburg Road, directly in the path of the Confederate assault. Too long a front for a single division to defend, two of Humphreys’ brigades were demolished (the third reserve brigade having been pulled back by Sickles). Having put up the best fight that could be expected, Humphreys’ division — as well as Sickles’ entire corps — were finished as a fighting force. After Gettysburg, Humphreys accepted Major General George Meade’s offer to serve as chief of staff, serving in that position until given command of the II Corps in November of 1864, which he led through the balance of the Petersburg Campaign and during the pursuit of Lee’s Army to Appomattox Court House.

After the War, Humphreys became a permanent brigadier general and Chief of Engineers from 1866 until his retire-



Andrew A. Humphreys
- LOC
Monument on
Emmitsburg Road,
Gettysburg - Wiles



ment in 1879. He later wrote two books on his wartime experiences: From Gettysburg to the Rapidan and The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65. He died in Washington D.C. in December, 1883.

Also a native Philadelphian, Jerry McCormick has become well known for his accurate portrayal of General A. A. Humphreys, which he has been perfecting since 2003. A graduate of Roxborough High School with Advance Placement Honors in American History, he went on

to earn a B.A. from Rutgers University, and currently is a substitute teacher in the North Penn School District in Lansdale, PA. With an interest in historic preservation, Mr. McCormick is a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., where General A. A. Humphreys is buried.

Come out and join us for Jerry McCormick’s most interesting first-person presentation on “the great soldier of the Army of the Potomac”. See you on Thursday, January 10 starting at 7:30 PM at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia. If you can, join us at 5:30 as we head out to the Marathon Grille at 19th & Spruce with our guest speaker for a bite to eat before the meeting.

Harry Jenkins, Program Chairman

President's Message

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season! I must admit that for my wife Irene and I, it was perhaps the best Christmas that we’ve had in many years as it was spent with our dear friends the **Holdsworths** and our mutual friends the **Ginsburgs**. While dinner was great and sharing

Continued on page 2

Don't forget 2008 Membership Dues are do in January - See Page 2

Become active in your Roundtable! Come to a meeting! Enjoy an evening of education, information and fellowship!

We urge you to continue your membership and hope to see you soon! Please take a moment and write a check for your annual dues of only \$25.00 (\$35.00 for the family) payable to "Old Baldy CWRT" and send it to: Herb Kaufman, Treasurer, 2601 Bonnie Lane, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

Steve Wright, President

Herb Kaufman, Treasurer

Continued from page 1 - President's Message

time with friends and family was special, I think I speak for all that were there that the highlight of the event was seeing and spending time with Old Baldy's active-duty **Marine PFC Billy Holdsworth**, who was home for a short leave. Billy had just finished his School of Infantry training and was on his way to his permanent assignment with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, 3rd Marine Division in Hawaii. Billy left for Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Sunday, 30 December and arrived there on New Year's Eve in the early afternoon local time. Immediately upon arrival the first "scuttlebutt" that he heard was that his outfit was up for deployment to Iraq in August.

During the holidays I can't help but think about the Dakota War of 1862. In early December some 303 Dakota Sioux, (eastern Sioux, as opposed to their cousins the Lakota), had been tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to death for crimes related to the uprising along the Minnesota River earlier that summer. President Abraham Lincoln intervened and personally reviewed the trial records of every one of the condemned prisoners in an attempt to differentiate between those who had participated in warfare against the United States and those who had murdered and/or raped civilians. When finished, Lincoln had commuted the sentences of 264 prisoners, allowing the execution of 39 of the condemned. (Tatemima, or Round Wind, received a reprieve at last minute. As a result, a total of thirty-eight prisoners were ultimately executed.)

The day after Christmas was chosen for the day of execution, with the town of Mankato as the site. A huge four-sided scaffold was built large enough to hold the thirty-eight condemned prisoners. Eyewitnesses reportedly gave a muffled cry as the trapdoor dropped on the largest mass execution in the history of the United States. The bodies of the prisoners were buried in a mass grave along the sandy banks of the Minnesota River, although they certainly did

not rest in peace. Before the burial an unknown person known as "Dr. Sheardown" removed skin from some of the dead which later turned-up in the form of small boxes. Because of the high demand for cadavers for medical study, a number of the bodies were exhumed for that purpose. Dr. William Worrall Mayo, received the body of Mahpiya Okinajin (He Who Stands in the Clouds). Mayo supposedly had had a run-in with He Who Stands in the Clouds, who (with a small group a friends) confronted him about his horse. Mayo refused to surrender the horse and the confrontation ended. Years later, Mayo ended-up dissecting the body of He Who Stands in the Clouds before medical colleagues in Le Sueur, Minnesota. Afterward, Mayo had the bones cleaned and preserved and he kept them in his office. Many years later, the identifiable remains of Mahpiya Okinajin and other Native peoples were returned to the Dakota tribe for reburial under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, last year was quite remarkable for the Round Table. This year will definitely be a "make or break" year for organization. We need everyone to renew their membership and (if possible) get a new member to join. (When they ask what they get for their membership dues - tell them twelve fine issues of the best round table newsletter in the country!! Most round tables only issue 9 or 10 issues and believe me, Don DOES put out the BEST newsletter around!!) In addition, dues go to supporting historic preservation and to bringing in speakers. This is definitely a grassroots organization so let's all make it even stronger and better!!

Here's wishing you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!! (and the same to OBCWRT!!)

Be well!!!

Steven J. Wright, President

From the Treasurer's Desk

Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year to all the members of the Old Baldy CWRT. Can you believe it, it is 2008! Thanks to all members who are attending our monthly meetings. We have a great list of speakers and programs coming up. Remember, it is your round table. Let us know of your interests and how Old Baldy can best provide you with education, friendship and an enjoyable evening.

As we enter 2008, your annual dues are due. 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 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.**

Special thanks to **Robert Mulberger** for his donation of \$100. to Old Baldy. Thanks Bob for your continued support!

Old Baldy is now operating in cooperation with the Civil War & Underground Railroad Museum. I hope that all the members will have an opportunity to visit the museum with their friends and family. Remember, the museum will now remain open until 5:30 and reopen again after dinner at about 6:45 on meeting nights.

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 January,

Herb Kaufman, Treasurer

Today in Civil War History



Friday January 10, 1862

Grant's Grumblings Generate Goings-on

From his base in Cairo, Illinois, General Ulysses Grant led a unit on a march in the general direction of Columbus, Ky. There were no particular Confederate forces in the vicinity, although minor skirmishing did occur. The weather was wet, cold and miserable, and the main purpose of the exercise was to train both troops and commander to handle such field conditions.

Saturday January 10, 1863

McClelland Makes Mistaken Move

Union Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand led his forces fifty miles from the Mississippi up the Arkansas River to Arkansas Post, also known as Fort Hindman. They began the envelopment of the fort. Attempts by Brig. Gen. T.J. Churchill's Confederates to use artillery against the attack were thwarted by Union gunboat bombardment from the river. This would appear to be an excellent maneuver on McClernand's part except for the minor fact that he did not have entirely proper authorization to do it.

Sunday January 10, 1864

Blundering Blockader Badly Bombarded

Lockwood's Folly Inlet proved well-named (at least the "folly" part) for the ill-fated USS Iron Age. The ship of the blockade ran aground on an unnoticed sand bar off the South Carolina coast. It was destroyed by artillery fire from shore batteries. The blockade as a whole, though, was tighter than ever, and numerous ships were being captured.

Tuesday January 10, 1865

Sneaky Ship Swap Sought

Commander Bulloch, of the Confederate Navy, wrote Richmond today with a complicated story. He had ordered a ship built in France. Paris refused delivery, selling it instead to Denmark for the Schleswig-Holstein War. That war ended abruptly and the Danes refused to take the ship, now named the Sphinx. Bulloch bought it secretly, renamed her the CSS Stonewall, and requested a captain and crew be sent.

www.civilwarinteractive.com



Dr. Greg Urwin

Photos - Bill Hughes

December 13, 2007 meeting

"Glory and Me", with Dr. Greg Urwin

Despite the early forecast of a winter storm (which turned out to be just a day of rain), a good turnout by Old Baldy members made for an interesting and enjoyable evening with our guest speaker, **Dr. Gregory Urwin**, noted historian and professor of history at Temple University. Dr. Urwin described what he termed his "short love/hate affair with Hollywood", an insider's look at the making of *Glory*, the epic, Oscar-winning film about the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the Union Army's most famous black regiment in the Civil War. While a professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas, Urwin equipped and trained thirteen of his black students to participate in filming the climactic Fort Wagner assault sequence in *Glory*. Largely with money from his own pocket, pursuit of funding from university community service programs, and lobbying for business and government support, he commanded his students and other black extras while portraying one of the 54th's white officers. Loading students and equipment in a van and a car, they made their way first to Florida for filming at the Battle of Olustee reenactment, then later to Morris Island off the coast of Charleston, SC, where the Fort Wagner segments were filmed. He and his students along with several hundred reenactors spent three weeks on the island, sleeping in tents and living the camp life much as soldiers did during the Civil War. Urwin premised his presentation by stating this was not a history lesson nor in any way a description of the tactics and actions of the assault on Fort Wagner, but rather a story... "filled with craziness and comedy, star power and fragile egos, spectacle and scandal, camaraderie and class differences, racial unity and divisions, shared hardship and befuddlement, and alternating surges of exaltation, inspiration, and exasperation". And, indeed, a very interesting story it was. Our "Thanks" to Greg Urwin for making the trek from his home in Doylestown on this rainy night, and for a splendid presentation on the mixed emotions of struggle and satisfaction he and his students experienced in the making of *Glory*.

Harry Jenkins

“It Was All Like A Pantomime,” How Acoustic Shadows Affected Civil War Battles.

By Herb Kaufman

In 1887, former Confederate General Evander M. Law wrote the following describing the Battle of Gaines’s Mill in 1862; “But it was all like a pantomime; not a sound could be heard, neither the tremendous roar of the musketry nor even the reports of the artillery.”

In 1862, the two wings of Ulysses Grant’s 18,000 man force caught the Confederate troops under Major General Sterling Price directly between them at the small town of luka, Mississippi. Major General W. S. Rosecrans was to attack from the south. At the sound of his guns, Major General Edward O. Ord was to attack from the north, crushing the Confederates between the two wings. Rosecrans’s 11,000

Union troops engaged Price’s 17 Confederate regiments and artillery about 4:30 PM on September 19, 1862. However, even though he was but 4 miles away, Ord failed to hear the sounds of the fighting and never moved. As the intense battle entered its closing stages, Rosecrans sent a message to Ord, “Why did you not attack this morning?” Ord replied that, “We didn’t hear any sounds of battle last p.m. ...”

The tactics of the Civil War often called for one body of troops to attack or move in a certain direction, “to the sound of the guns.” Yet, in numerous major battles, with tens of thousands of men and artillery engaged in a life and death struggle, no sounds were heard, even by those directly near the fighting. This phenomena is called an acoustic shadow.

The term acoustic shadow describes an event in which a person who would ordinarily hear a sound does not. While all sounds travel at the speed of 1,100 feet per second (12 miles per minute), many factors, both in the air and the ground determine what we can hear. An acoustic shadow, then, is created when sound waves fail to be transmitted due to a variety of circumstances such as the type of terrain or atmospheric conditions.

“A sound is a wave and as such it constitutes a moving signal” which creates an alteration of air pressure. The best illustration of a sound wave is that of the reed of a musical instrument. When the musician blows across the reed, it vibrates creating different sounds through the particular instrument. We hear this sound when the sound wave transmits the changes in pressure to our eardrum.

During the Civil War it was often the case that battlefronts could be many miles in length. We need only look to Gettysburg and Chickamauga for confirmation of the length that a Civil War line of battle might spread. Often, the lines of battle were formed over ravines, ridges, and through woods. This made it often impossible for a

commanding general, or even a brigade or division commander to actually see the full extent of his battle lines. Anyone who has ever walked the length of Pickett’s Charge field could readily see that at a certain point Pickett’s Division almost totally disappeared from the view of the

Union troops on Cemetery Ridge.

Therefore, it is readily understandable that commanders of both sides relied a great deal on their sense of hearing in both planning and conducting a battle.

Scientists have determined that there are three

basic causes for an acoustic shadow: the absorption of sound by foliage or the terrain, the upward refraction of sound due to changes in air temperature, and the upward refraction of sound due to wind shear.

At the Battle of luka, General Rosecrans by no means accepted Ord’s assertion that he never heard the sounds of 20,000 men engaged in battle. He could not imagine what circumstances could occur in nature that would prevent such thunderous sounds from reaching Ord. In this particular instance there had been a heavy rainstorm on the evening preceding the battle. Following the storm, the wind had died down “without a breath of air stirring.” In addition, the terrain through which Rosecrans’ men had to maneuver was made of “thick wood and brush.” Other accounts stated that the area had “the thickest place I ever saw of vines, bushes, and briars” with dense foliage. It is certainly possible that the combination of the dead stillness of the air and the rolling and dense terrain caused the sound of the intense battle to be absorbed, thereby depriving both Generals Ord and Grant of hearing Rosecrans’ attack.

Another more devastating and embarrassing acoustic shadow occurred to Confederate Generals George Pickett, Fitzhugh Lee and Thomas Rosser at the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, 1865. General Phillip Sheridan’s cavalry and two corps of infantry had been sent south and west by Lt. General Grant to sweep through and rollup the right flank of the Army of Northern Virginia. For some reason that neither of the generals ever explained, they did not expect a Union attack that afternoon. Both Pickett and Lee left their battalions and joined General Rosser for an old-fashioned Virginia shad bake near Hatcher’s Run. While the Confederate commanders enjoyed their baked fish, Sheridan’s troopers flanked and overran the Confederate forces. Sheridan riding in the midst of his men yelled out, “Go at ‘em with a will! ... Now go for them!”

Continued on page 5



While thousands of Federal cavalry and infantry crushed the Confederate flank, neither Pickett, Lee nor Rosser heard a single sound of the battle and ate their shad, unconcerned of the condition of their battle lines, and unaware that their divisions had been shattered.

The colonel of the 107th Pennsylvania Infantry stated that the ground was "composed of woods, fields, thickets of underbrush, swamps, ditches, streams, etc." In this case it appears that the "bogs, tangled woods, and thickets of pine..." absorbed the sounds of battle. The undulating and thickly snarled woods and ridges apparently deflected



Dan Sickles - LOC

Continued from the
December issue

Gettysburg Compiler July 6, 1886

A NEW SENSATION.

Courtesy of Ginny Gage,
The Camp Griffin Gazette

The battle of July 2d was fought on the lines I occupied, on my own responsibility. The battle was fought, so far as the Third Army Corps is concerned, without orders of any nature or kind whatever from the Commanding-General of the Army of the Potomac. From sunrise on the morning of July 2d, until after 6 o'clock in the afternoon, when I was wounded, I received no order from General Meade relating to the dispositions of my troops, or the conduct of the battle, except that I was to occupy the position General Geary had left, which I at once reported to General Meade was no position at all; and the further exception, that at half-past three, when the battle was in progress, General Meade directed me to call on General Hancock for support for my right, and upon General Sykes for the support of the Fifth Corps on my left, and upon the artillery of the reserve for such batteries as I might need.

From half-past three in the afternoon until after six o'clock, when I was wounded, I received no communication from General Meade, nor did I again see him on the field. At length, when the assault of the enemy was no imminent that I could wait no longer for orders, I made my own dispositions to meet it. I advanced my corps so as to occupy higher and better fighting ground, clearing away the fences which obstructed my movements. I took positions which threatened the flank of the enemy in moving to our left, and forced him to attack me on my front.

Replying to the charge, that he, Sickles, had neglected to obey orders and move forward until many hours had passed, the speaker appealed to Heaven to support his assertion that he did not receive an order from Meade at all that day. Here he was extremely dramatic, affirming solemnly that he had moved without orders when the sound of firing was heard, and closing with these words "So help me God!" The tone, the gesture, the exclamation

Continued on page 6

the sounds upward and away from the location of the Confederate commanders who remained totally oblivious of the catastrophe that had unfolded.

The acoustic shadow was recognized as having occurred at numerous other battles including Seven Pines, Fort Donelson, Perryville and Chancellorsville. A Federal Staff officer described his encounter with an acoustic shadow at Perryville when he wrote that while riding through the woods there "was not the warning of an instant. At one bound my horse carried me from stillness into the uproar of battle. One turn... brought me face to face with the bloody struggle of thousands of men."

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for 2008

January 10, 2008 - Thursday
"Meet General A. A. Humphreys"
His life and Civil War service presented in "first-person"
Mr. Jerry McCormick

February 14, 2008 - Thursday
Secretary of War Simon Cameron and Lincoln's Cabinet
Mr. Joseph Mieczkowski
Gettysburg Battlefield Guide, President of the Gettysburg CWRT

March 13, 2008 - Thursday
(To Be Determined; Reserve the Date)

April 5, 2008 - Saturday
Old Baldy CWRT Fundraising Dinner,
Williamson's Restaurant, Horsham, PA
**"Curmudgeons, Drunkards, and Outright Fools: Court-
Martials of the Civil War"**
Dr. Thomas P. Lowry

April 10, 2008 - Thursday
"Appomattox / Lee's Retreat"
An overview and Power Point presentation
Mr. Peter Romeika

May 8, 2008 - Thursday
Drummer Boys and Field Music of the Civil War
Harry Jenkins

June 4, 2008 - Thursday
"The War in the West"
Mr. Terry Winschel of the National Park Service, Vicksburg, MS

July 10, 2008 - Thursday
(To Be Determined; Reserve the Date)

September 4, 2008 - Thursday
(Topic TBD)
Mr. Gordon Rhea Historian/Author

(Other dates and topics to be determined.)

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin
at 7:30 PM at the
Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum,
1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Questions to Harry Jenkins at 856-428-8773 or
hj3bama@comcast.net
Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner between
5:30 & 6 P.M.**

You're Welcome to Join Us!

capped the climax and took the audience by storm, cheer succeeding cheer for several minutes. Of Pickett's charge Gen. Sickles said:

The contest of the third day was dramatic, pictorial, brilliant. The battle of the second was the battle of Gettysburg, long, stubborn, for hours doubtful, and from the beginning to the end terrible in the losses suffered by both sides. The episode of the third was a forlorn hope of General Lee, doomed to certain defeat, never for an instant doubtful in the clear judgment of Longstreet.

The General captured his audience by the first sentence, and held the closest attention throughout. In alluding to the love his soldiers ever manifested for him, the speaker lost control of his feelings; his voice choked and tears filled his eyes; a touching incident and creditable to the kindly

nature of the crippled veteran. His peroration reached the sublime. If for long years misrepresented, now the Third Corps was vindicated.

The General's proposition to have the officers of both sides in the second day's battle meet at Gettysburg for examination and discussion of operations, was received with cheers; and as Gen. Longstreet and Gen. McLaws have already signified their willingness to come, the meeting may be regarded as certain and the time not far off.

Though it comes late, the vindication of the Third Corps may not be too late. A battle fought in an hour may require a century to write it.

GEN. SICKLES'S speech at Gettysburg will be published in full in pamphlet form and extensively circulated.

Rich's Recommended Travels

Kinston, North Carolina CSS Neuse State Historic Site The Ironclad Neuse



Interior of CSS Neuse replica showing engine

The CSS Neuse was one of 22 ironclads commissioned by the Confederate navy. Having a wide, flat bottom, the vessel resembled a river barge. When completed, the twin-screw steamer was plated with iron armor and measured 158 feet long and 34 feet wide. Delays in construction, low water, and lack of ground support prevented the gunboat from entering combat below Kinston. When Union troops occupied Kinston in March 1865, the Neuse was burned by its crew, resulting in a large explosion in her port bow, which sank the vessel.

The muddy waters of the Neuse River preserved the gunboat for nearly 100 years. Private efforts to recover the ship began in 1961; but poor weather, lack of funds, and ownership controversies prevented the ship from being raised until 1963. A year later the hull was transported to the site where it now rests. It is one of only three Civil war ironclads on display in the United States.

Amazingly, nearly 15,000 artifacts were recovered from the ship. The Neuse collection, one of the largest for a Confederate naval vessel, provides valuable insight into 19th-century shipbuilding and naval warfare. A portion of the collection is on display in the Visitor Center, along with a beautiful scale model of the ship. The model features a starboard cutaway section that reveals the gunboat's intricate interior features and armament.

A crew of volunteers built (to actual size - 158') a replica of the Civil War Ironclad CSS Neuse. The CSS Neuse replica is a valued educational tool and tourist attraction. The Naval Training Ship CSS Neuse is a "civic action" project conceived, organized by Ted Sampley of the Last Firebase Veterans Archives Project, a 501 c3 Vietnam veterans organization. The Board of Directors of the Naval Training Ship CSS Neuse are all military veterans.

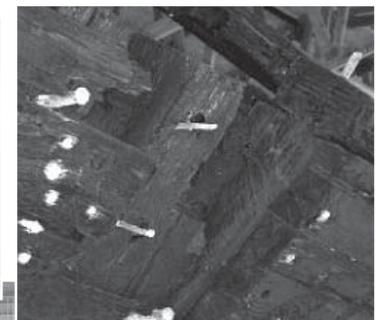


*Article and Photos by Rich Jankowski
www.cssneuseii.com
www.cssneuse.net*

Full size replica of the CSS Neuse



Close up of Original Hull



Original Hull



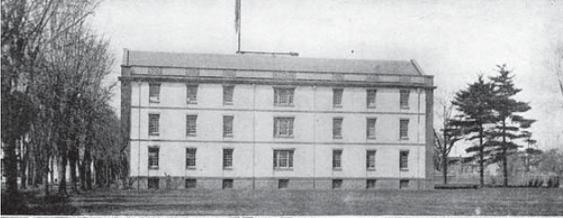
"Philadelphia in the Civil War" Published in 1913

The United States Arsenals at Philadelphia

UPON April 3d, 1861, Capt. Josiah Gorgas, the commandant at the depot of military materials at Bridesburg (Frankford Arsenal), Philadelphia, who was a native of Pennsylvania, had resigned in order to cast his fortunes with the South, and had been succeeded by a loyal officer.¹

This important establishment, generally called "The Frankford Arsenal," had been a part of the Government property in this city forty-five years. The reservation cov-

Continued on page 7

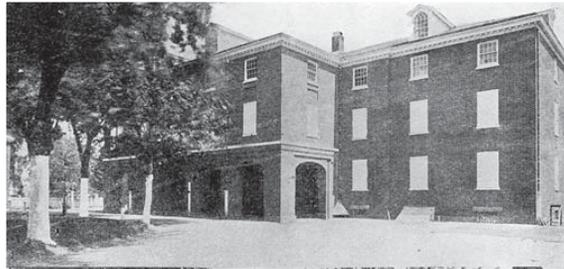


**Frankford Arsenal,
Bridesburg, Philadelphia.**
Main Entrance
Old Store Building
Commandant's Residence

ered fifty-nine acres upon the shore of the Delaware River. The principal structures were the usual barracks, two large Arsenal buildings, two store-houses, a hospital, powder magazine and work-shops. At the opening of the war the materials on hand were supposed to include about 18,000 muskets, a great amount of saltpetre and sulphur, 50,000 pounds of powder, percussion caps, primers, cartridges and general military stores, of which horse equipments were the most important. These supplies were being sent away by the new commandant to "the front" as rapidly as possible, and space was being cleared for an augmented force of workpeople to be employed in the preparation of ammunition.

A brief paragraph appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper upon January 30th, 1861, stating that, upon the preceding day twenty car-loads of rifles had been shipped from the Frankford Arsenal "to Washington." A few weeks earlier an attempt to ship munitions of war from the United States Arsenal at Pittsburgh to southern points had created a riot and the order was countermanded. It may well be doubted if that consignment of rifles from the Frankford Arsenal ever reached the national capital.²

In April, Gen. William F. Small, searching for arms for his "Washington Brigade," applied (after receipt of urgent telegrams from Washington) to the commandant of the Frankford Arsenal, and the latter replied that he had no authority to issue anything to troops not mustered, and, in any event, could only provide fifteen hundred guns, a large proportion being of doubtful value. When, in May, strenuous efforts were being made to equip and forward the 18th, 19th, 22d and 23d (three months) Regiments, the officers of those long-suffering troops protested, with one accord, against the useless, antiquated and misfit



Scenes at the Schuylkill Arsenal, 1862.
(The white horse is "Old Bill," General Meade's war horse.)

employed in the several workshops and warehouses a great

Continued on page 8

muskets offered to them from this Arsenal.

The United States Arsenal, located upon Gray's Ferry Road, between Carpenter street and Washington avenue, and commonly called "The Schuylkill Arsenal," was established in the year 1800.³ Adjoining it upon the north is the United States Naval Hospital and Naval Home. The Arsenal was, throughout the Civil War, an important depot for uniforms, blankets and equipments for the outfitting of the armies of the Republic. In addition to the large regular force

You are invited!

On to Richmond - Seven Days Battles

On Saturday, April 19th and Sunday, April 20th the Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA. (Allentown) will tour **Richmond Battlefields** with **Robert E. L. Krick**, Richmond Battlefields Park historian. The members of the Old Baldy CWRT are invited to join. This will be a two night trip leaving on Friday evening, April 18th and returning on Sunday evening, April 20th.

Sites to be visited will be Drewry's Bluff (site of first Medal of Honor received by a U.S. Marine), Dabbs House (Lee's Headquarters), Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale (we are fortunate to be the first Civil War group to visit this historic site), and Malvern Hill (final Seven Days battle).

A \$50.00 deposit is required. The total cost is \$240.00 (per person) for double occupancy and \$315.00 for single occupancy. Price includes bus, hotel, Saturday dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfast, and a Sunday boxed lunch. Drinks and snacks will be provided by the Roundtable.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact:

**Mike Cavanaugh at (610) 867-8231,
e-mail chief96pbi@rcn.com
or Susan Kovacs, e-mail suziek@rcn.com**

number of persons, chiefly from families of soldiers and sailors in the service or who had died under enlistment, were kept employed in thousands of the humble homes in this section of the city. The operations here were so constantly urgent that warehouses outside were leased by the Government. One of these "branch Arsenals" was the building adjoining the Custom House, upon the west, afterward replaced by the Post Office. Other storehouses for military clothing and equipment were created at William Gault's brew-house at Twenty-first and Spruce streets, at the old hotel building Twenty-fourth and Chestnut streets (built in 1833) and at Murphy & Allison's machine shop on the Schuylkill river north of Market street. In the "emergency" summers of 1862 and 1863 a company of the employees was recruited to assist in defending the State. At one period of the war the increase of the "contract system" in making uniforms threatened the employment of several thousand women. A committee of their number

visited Washington and secured an order from President Lincoln ensuring a continuance of their means of support.

1 Captain Gorgas was a Pennsylvanian, appointed cadet from New York. He went South, where he attained, in the Confederate service, the rank of brigadiergeneral and chief of ordnance.

2 On November 1st, 1859, there were stored at the Frankford arsenal, as set forth in an official report of that date, 19,404 muskets. In the course of the year 1860 the traitorous Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, had caused to be sent from Springfield, Watervliet and other Northern arsenals to those of the South, or had sold to the Governors of the Southern States at \$2.50 each, muskets and rifles to the number of 119,000. With his connivance, experts, some employed from abroad by the agents of the South, were openly allowed the use of models and drawings of weapons, field guns and machinery at the Northern arsenals, and were instructed in the making of shells and fuses at the Government armories. This continued to the date of Floyd's resignation at the end of the year. One of his last official acts was to telegraph to the commandant of the arsenal at Baton Rouge to deliver 5,000 guns to the Governor of Louisiana.

3 The official name of this Arsenal was changed in 1873, by order of the Government, to "Philadelphia Depot of the Quartermaster's Department, U. S. Army

Old Baldy Dinner

The Old Baldy CWRT will hold a fund raising dinner on Saturday April 5, 2008 at Williamson Restaurant in Horsham PA. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Thomas Lowry** author of six books on the Civil War including the highly acclaimed "*The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War.*" Dr. Lowry's topic will be "**Great Hits of the Courts-martial: A Riotous Compendium.**" This is a humorous look at the odd items that turned up in Dr. Lowry and his wife's extensive research of Union courts-martial records at the National Archives. Further details will be available over the next few months. Mark your calendar - SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2008.

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
1805 Pine Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.735.8196
Founded January 1977

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

President: Steve Wright
Vice President: Richard Jankowski
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
Secretary: Bill Hughes

What's News?

The only way you'll know what's happening
in the Civil War today is by reading

"The Civil War News"

The monthly current events newspaper for people with an interest in the Civil War today.

Covering preservation and heritage issues, book reviews, collecting, living history, firearms, coming events, research needs, internet, Plus news stories, letters, features, columns, photos and display and classified ads for a wide variety of Civil War-related products and services.

Call 800-777-1862 for a free sample or subscription

CWN makes a great gift - we'll send a card too

mail@civilwarnews.com - <http://www.civilwarnews.com>