

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



November 8, 2007, The One Hundred and Fourty-Seventh Year of the Civil War

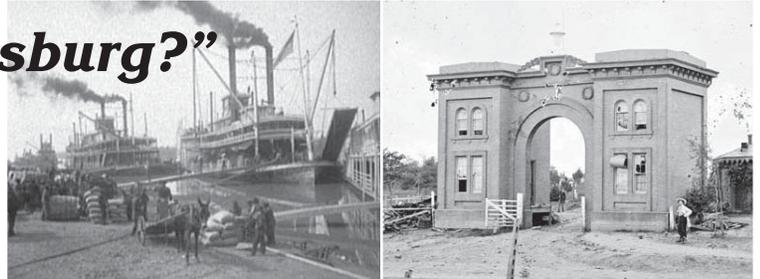
“Vicksburg versus Gettysburg?”

November Round Table Discussion:

On Thursday, November 8th, we will again engage in the classic “Round Table” format from the original concept of Civil War Round Tables. That is — to throw an idea on the table and open the floor to discussion; the pros and cons, the yeas and nays, and perhaps even the arguments, that make Civil War history so engaging! The topic on the table will be Vicksburg vs Gettysburg. Almost since the war ended, political scientists, the press, historians, and the veterans themselves, have argued over which of these key battles was more significant in changing the course of the War and ultimately leading to a Union victory.

In the late summer of 1862, General Robert E. Lee led the Confederacy’s first attempt to take the War to the North in the Maryland Campaign, culminating with the somewhat indecisive Battle of Antietam, but nonetheless resulting in Lee and his army returning to Virginia to regroup. The following spring and early summer, Lee started his second invasion of the North by marching his army through Maryland and into Pennsylvania, posing a threat to Harrisburg, possibly Philadelphia, and perhaps even the Federal Capital of Washington. This invasion led to the chance clash of troops near a small Pennsylvania town in what would become the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 2, & 3, 1863. Often called the “High Tide” of the Confederacy, Lee and his Army of Northern would again be turned back, never again to gain a foothold on Northern soil.

In February of 1862, while Lee began to plan the first invasion of the North, Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant seized control of Forts Henry and Donelson along the Tennessee River, and forcing the surrender of Nashville. Grant’s forces then steamed up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing, leading to the important Union victory at the Battle of Shiloh, and marking the beginning of the North’s strategy to take control of the Mississippi River. At the same time farther south, New Orleans surrendered to Federal forces, giving the North control of the mouth of the mighty Mississippi. Over the next year and through the spring of 1863 — while Lee was planning his second invasion of the North — the Federals took Corinth and Memphis, and also began Grant’s plan to take Vicksburg. After several months of bold maneuvers, several battles, and a lengthy siege, Grant finally took



Vicksburg, followed shortly by Port Hudson, gaining control of the mighty Mississippi and dividing the Confederacy into two unconnected halves. The victory was marked by the raising of the “Stars and Stripes” over the courthouse in Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 — the same day that Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia began its retreat from Gettysburg.

Which battle was the greater loss for the South? Which proved to be the more important victory for the North? Which proved more important to turning the tide of the War? Did Gettysburg get more press than Vicksburg in 1863?; if so, why? Why has so much more been written and studied about Gettysburg?; and why does it continue to be so even today?

Come out and join us — and join in on this most interesting and provocative discussion. See you next Thursday, November 8 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 a local establishment (probably the Marathon Grille at 19th & Spruce) for a bite to eat before the meeting.

President's Message

I am pleased to report that Old Baldy’s active-duty Marine, **Billy Holdsworth**, graduated from MCRD Parris Island on 12 October 2007 with the rank of Private First Class. Billy served as Platoon Guide for most of his time with the Platoon and was the recipient of the Leatherneck Award from the Marine Corps League upon graduation. After spending a short leave with his family he reported to Camp Geiger (which is part of Camp Lejeune) where he will receive advanced infantry training. After Christmas he reports to California for further training before reporting for duty in Iraq. In true Marine fashion, Billy says that he “looks forward to relieving the worn-out Marines that have for so very long been stationed in the War Zone.”

Continued on page 2

Bring a friend, neighbor and another Civil War buff to enjoy a fascinating subject and to support our speakers at Old Baldy.

Any Marine will tell you that Philadelphia has a very rich and strong connection to the United States Marine Corps. It was here that the Marine Corps was born, in Tun Tavern, on 10 November 1775. (Unfortunately, the original location of Tun Tavern was obliterated by the building of I-95. The National Park Service and the Marine Corps had considered building a replica of the tavern at Front and Pine Streets, but that project never came to fruition.)

The first Marine in the Civil War to be awarded the Medal of Honor was Corporal John F. Mackie, a New Yorker who enlisted in the Marines on 23 August 1861. On 15 May 1862 Mackie was serving aboard USS GALENA when that ship was attacking Fort Darling on Drewry's Bluff on the James River. As the citation for his medal reads: "As enemy shell-fire raked the deck of his ship, Corporal Mackie fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits along the shore and, when ordered to fill vacancies at guns caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned the weapon with skill and courage." After receiving the Medal of Honor Mackie was transferred to the Norfolk Navy Yard and later to the nine-gun sloop USS SEMINOLE as "Orderly Sergeant in Charge." Upon his discharge from the Marines he married a woman from the Philadelphia area and settled in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. He died 18 June 1919 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Sergeant James Martin was born in County Derry, Ireland in 1826. As a captain of a gun aboard the USS RICHMOND, Martin was one of thirty-one sailors and marines to receive the Medal of Honor for action on 5 August 1864 during the battle of Mobile Bay. As part of Martin's citation

reads: "Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Sgt. Martin fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious 2-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan." Morgan died 29 October 1895 and is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Undoubtedly the Marine with the most distinguished name was Sergeant Pinkerton Vaughn, from Downingtown, Chester County. While serving aboard USS MISSISSIPPI during the battle of Port Hudson, 14 March 1863, the captain of the ship was forced to run her aground and abandon his vessel. As part of Sergeant Vaughn's citation reads: "During the abandonment of the Mississippi which had to be grounded, Sgt. Vaughn rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer, remaining with the ship until all the crew had landed and the ship had been fired to prevent its falling into enemy hands. Persistent until the last, and conspicuously cool under the heavy shellfire, Sgt. Vaughn was finally ordered to save himself as he saw fit". Vaughn was awarded his medal on 10 July 1863; he died on 22 August 1866 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.

This month's meeting should be especially festive as it is one of our "round table" discussions!

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!!

Be well!!!

Steven J. Wright, President

From the Treasurer's Desk

As you all are aware, last year Old Baldy changed its dues structure to a calendar year basis. Many thanks to everyone who maintained their Old Baldy membership and paid their annual dues for the full year. This helped to stabilize our round table and has allowed us to make significant contributions to battlefield preservation in the name of our membership. As we approach the new year I sincerely hope that all of our members will continue to support Old Baldy by sending in their 2008 dues of \$25.00 (\$35.00 for the family) promptly. This will permit Old Baldy to continue to provide the speakers and discussions that made this past year such a success.

I hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend our November round table discussion of Vicksburg vs Gettysburg. Prior to the meeting I will provide an update as to the plans and status of the Civil War and Underground RR Museum. With the hiring of the new Executive Director, plans are being made for the future and I think that this will be of interest to all Old Baldy members.

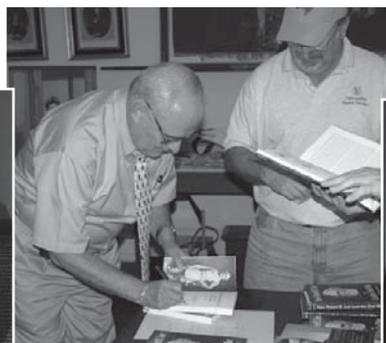
SPECIAL NOTE: There are a few Meade Albums remaining. Please let me know if you would like to purchase one. They are still only \$50.00 and would make a truly super Christmas gift.

See you in November, Herb Kaufman, Treasurer

October 4th, 2007 meeting

"McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence, and Worse"

Returning to Old Baldy our guest speaker was **Edward H. Bonekemper III**. Ed discussed "Little Mac's" over-blown sense of importance, his defiance of Lincoln, his slow Peninsula Campaign, retreat during the Seven Days Battles, timidity at The Battle of Antietam, and his on-going refusal to use the full force of his Army of the Potomac. Ed delved into his missed military opportunities to perhaps end the war earlier, which so infuriated Lincoln. He also explores McClellan's operational ineptitude and fear of failure. It was another well attended and enjoyable presentation.



Edward H. Bonekemper III



"Policeman Wilkes noticing by the last Number of Harper's Weekly, that the well known Rogues, Mason and Slidell, were about to Pawn some of their late Employer's Property at Messrs. Bull, Crapaud & Co.'s Shop, kept a bright look-out for'ard, and nabbed them in the nick of time" LOC

Today in Civil War History

Friday November 8, 1861 Trent Taking Tends To Turmoil

James M. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana were Confederate agents. They were by no means spies, but openly appointed by Jefferson Davis to lobby the cause of the Confederate States of America in the halls of London and Paris respectively. They had boarded the British mail ship Trent in Havana with their wives, children and secretaries. The US authorities knew of their mission but not their point of departure, so when Captain Charles Wilkes of the USS San Jacinto happened to dock in Havana at the same time, he was on his own. He waited for the Trent to leave harbor, followed, and on the high seas pulled alongside and forced them to stop. Mason, Slidell and their secretaries were removed, prompting outrage from the British captain.

Additional Events of November 8th

Saturday November 8, 1862 Beer Ban Bumps Ben "Beast" Butler

US Gen. Benjamin Butler had had the unenviable job of administering the occupied city of New Orleans, where he had employed some creative, if unorthodox, methods to induce the population to comply with Union orders. Aside from padlocking some newspapers, and confiscating others to produce more Union-oriented journalism, Butler's most famous act was his "woman order", stating that females who abused, disrespected or threw the contents of chamber pots on Union soldiers would be treated as common prostitutes rather than "ladies." The last straw, though, was an order closing all breweries and distilleries in the town. He was sacked and replaced with Gen. Nathaniel Banks, who was told to worry about the campaign to reopen the Mississippi River, not the liquor market.

Sunday November 8, 1863

Meade Making Muddy Maneuvering

The late-fall campaign in northern Virginia continued today with much marching, although not much in the way of pitched battles. Gen. George Meade was maneuvering across the Rappahannock with no particular offensive objective in mind except to force Lee to keep on the move as well. There were skirmishes at Jeffersonton, the familiar territory of Brandy Station, Warrenton, Rixleyville, Culpepper Court House, and the extremely well-named Muddy Creek. Weather is not our friend in Virginia in November.

Tuesday November 8, 1864

Electrifying Election Elates Executive

This was Election Day, one of the few you can call "one of the most important elections in the history of the United States of America" without fear of exaggeration. The contestants were the Republican incumbent Abraham Lincoln, who had replaced his somewhat lackluster vice president Hannibal Hamlin with Tennessee Senator (and Democrat) Andrew Johnson in a symbolic gesture of unity, on one side. On the other was Gen. George McClellan, former commander of the Army of the Potomac, running with George H. Pendleton of Ohio. Extraordinary efforts were made to allow soldiers to vote, either by arranging leaves or actually casting ballots in the field, which one would expect to benefit McClellan as he had been a very popular commander. The soldier vote, however, went even stronger for Lincoln than the civilian vote did, and the Republican ticket was victorious. In the electoral vote, Lincoln took every state except Delaware, Kentucky and New Jersey.

www.civilwarinteractive.com

Confederate Grave Reborn as that of Mislaid Yankee

Editor's Note

This is a follow up on the story of Private John O' Dolson from the October Issue. I would like to thank Robert Farrell and Dean Harry of Raleigh for the Photos and information for this story...

JOSH SHAFFER, Staff Writer
The News & Observer

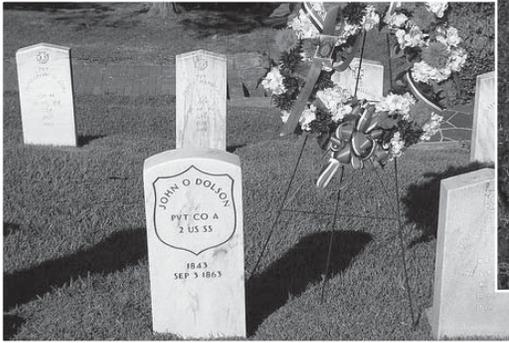
RALEIGH - The first time he walked in Oakwood Cemetery, Charles Purser found the rebel graves covered with knee-deep weeds. The soldiers' graves had no markers, no names, no hint of where they died: Gettysburg, Pa.

For 12 years, Purser worked to discover the dead soldiers' identities, to restore their shabby sanctuary. He pored over troop rosters, muster rolls and cemetery records. He learned every man's name, unit, rank, age, home state, wound, birth date, death date – even death order.

In 2000, Purser and the Sons of Confederate Veterans laid the last of the pointed gravestones on Oakwood's southwest slope.

The dead were properly buried. The past, however, was not.

In December, Purser received a call from Glen Hayes, a Civil War buff in Pleasantville, N.Y., who had studied the



The Grave of Private John O' Dolson with new headstone



Plaque with Private John O' Dolson's story



The Honor Guard - 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters and the 6th NC Infantry Regiment

fallen at Gettysburg. He said there was a surprise buried in Purser's lovingly restored resting place for the Confederate dead.

"I think you've got a Yankee down there," he said. The blue amid the gray was John O. Dolson, a 19-year-old from Minnesota. In life, he was a Union sharpshooter. In death for more than 100 years, he has been an interloper, a mistake and finally an answer from a war in which the fog is clearing still.

Purser, 67, grew up in Charlotte. He joined the Air Force and circled the world during the Cold War as an intelligence analyst.

In 1981, he and his wife retired to the Raleigh area, and Purser got a job as a mail carrier. A few years later, he joined Raleigh's Sons of Confederate Veterans, having had two great-grandparents who fought on the rebel side. The sorry state of the cemetery saddened him, but the research was a delight. Digging through libraries and archives, and tracing old records, reminded him of his Air Force intelligence days.

Every bit of information – a birthday, a burial plot – brought clarity. He pieced together bits of information and created a person, a memory, a larger picture. Reviving the soldiers' memory meant returning to 1863 and the Civil War's bloodiest battle.

51,000 casualties

Gen. Robert E. Lee's army retreated on July 4 of that year, leaving a clash that left 51,000 Union and Confederate soldiers dead or wounded.

Field hospitals rose in churches, barns and civilian parlors until Camp Letterman was formed a mile from the battlefield, where clean water could be found.

About 4,000 men from the Union and the Confederacy passed through the hospital's tent city, with surgeons sawing off so many arms and legs that the limbs lay in piles. Soldiers who recovered became hospital clerks. Those who didn't ended up in the hospital graveyard.

When the Ladies Memorial Association sent for North Carolina's dead in 1871, they received the remains and a list compiled by Dr. Rufus Weaver, whose father had helped catalogue the dead in weeks after the battle. The remains were reburied at Oakwood Cemetery.

To help identify the soldiers, Purser started with a copy of Weaver's list. Some men were easy to trace; others

weren't. Most graves were marked with a small, numbered stone. The unmarked were found by probing the ground with a pole.

In 1990, Purser and the SCV laid the first 11 stones. A few years later, they erected a marker for the 35th man on the Ladies' list: John O. Dobson, Co. A, 2nd N.C. Infantry, CSA. His marker is 11th in a row of 35.

Research reignited

The call that put Purser back on the search came from the Hudson River Valley, from a man he had never met or spoken with.

Purser had spent years picking the brain of a retired Long Island police officer, Ric Richter, who had become an expert on North Carolina soldiers buried at Gettysburg as a hobby.

But Richter had died. This call in December came from a different New Yorker.

Glen Hayes works with the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, a volunteer group that has fought modern development around the battle site since 1959.

His research targets the land around Camp Letterman, which was dissolved shortly after the war and is marked with a memorial tablet.

When the hospital closed, the Union dead were moved to the battlefield's national cemetery and Confederates were shipped south, but many preservationists think forgotten graves remain.

To test this theory, Hayes researched the plots of every soldier who passed through Camp Letterman, poring over Union and Confederate rosters.

Late last year, he came across names so similar they could only be logged by mistake. The Confederate list showed John O. Dobson, Co. A, 2nd infantry. The Union list showed John O. Dolson, Co. A, 2nd sharpshooters. Both men, he found, were buried in the same plot. Either two men with nearly the same name had died in the same hospital on the same day, or one of the two men existed only by clerical error.

Hayes checked a record of personal effects found on dead soldiers. John O. Dolson from Hennepin County,

Camp Letterman



Minn., had \$1.70 in his pocket when he died. The hospital sent it to his sister, Mary, in Richfield Township, Minn. Hayes found no other record of Dobson besides his grave in Raleigh. So he called Oakwood Cemetery, whose staff told him, "You need to call Charles Purser."

A soldier's story

Purser turned first to the Web site ancestry.com. Through census records, he found John O. Dolson listed as a 7-year-old in Illinois in 1850, then as a teenager in Minnesota, living with his sister in 1860.

He checked for Civil War soldiers on the site and found Dolson had enlisted in October 1861, assigned to Co. A of the 2nd sharpshooters.

Purser ordered muster rolls from the National Archives, and he found Dolson present and accounted for until July 1863, when he was wounded at Gettysburg.

He found Dolson's casualty sheet, which showed him buried in section 7, grave 4 at Camp Letterman – the same as Dobson.

More records brought Dolson to life. He stood 5-foot-8 and had blue eyes, and was a farmer before the war.

Purser could find no trace of Dobson.

He came to what he thinks is the only conclusion: Dobson

didn't exist. Dolson died a Yankee and was buried as a Confederate.

Whatever family Dolson had, whatever relative received his last \$1.70, thought he lay beneath the battlefield at Gettysburg. Instead, he lay in Raleigh 350 miles away, still engaged with a Rebel line.

Mistaken identity

Hayes explains it this way:

When soldiers died at Camp Letterman, their names were scrawled in pencil on pieces of wooden ammunition boxes. By the time anyone got around to cataloging the dead, those wooden grave markers had sat in the heat and rain for days. It would have been easy to mistake an "L" for a "B," one 2nd regiment for another.

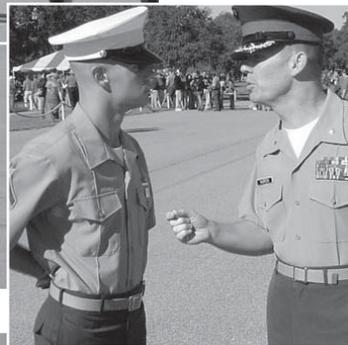
Purser doesn't think anyone will mind a Union man resting on hallowed Confederate ground. The important thing, he said, is knowing his real story.

"He was a soldier," Purser said.

He will order a new stone in a few weeks. The federal government will pay for any soldier's headstone.

Purser also wants a plaque to explain Dolson's presence. His grave, after all, will be rounded on the top, as was Union custom.

Bill "Billy" Holdsworth helped Old Baldy Honor Hancock for 13 years and now He helps Honor his Country



In the first photo, Bill receives a plaque in recognition of being the Honor Graduate of his platoon. The Officer saluting him is Lt. Colonel Brendan B. McBreen. In the photo of Billy listening to an officer speak to him, the officer is Lieutenant Colonel Brendan B. McBreen, Commanding Officer of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion. He was congratulating Billy on being Honor Graduate immediately following the ceremony, on the parade deck of Parris Island. In the photo of Platoon 1081 marching on the Parade Deck, Billy, as Platoon Guide, carries the Guidon. Staff Sergeant T.D. Owens marches alongside.

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for 2007/2008

November 8, 2007 – Thursday
"Vicksburg vs Gettysburg"
Round Table Discussion

December 13, 2007 - Thursday
"Glory" and Me:

A Professor's Short Love/Hate Affair with Hollywood
Dr. Gregory Urwin, Professor of History, Temple University

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

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

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

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!

Philadelphia's Most Significant Civil War Memorial

By Herb Kaufman

In the years following the Civil War the citizens of the City of Philadelphia felt deeply affected by the sacrifices made by its populace during the four turbulent years of struggle. The people of the city firmly believed that those who act heroically in times of great stress should be remembered by future generations. As a result of the intense feelings generated by the conflict, many memorials and statues were erected. Among these are the equestrian statues of George McClellan and John Reynolds on the north City Hall Plaza, the memorial to Ulysses Grant on the Kelly Drive, as well as tributes to Abraham Lincoln and George G. Meade.

However, if one were to ask most current Philadelphians about directions to the city's greatest Civil War memorial, I am sure that few would be able to respond.

Richard Smith (1821-1894) believed that it was important that men act with distinction when called upon to serve their country. He felt strongly that the men from Pennsylvania who served so nobly and assured the victory of the Union during the Civil war should never be forgotten.

Richard Smith was a wealthy Philadelphian who had made a considerable fortune with the invention of electroplate printing and typesetting. He and his wife Sarah lived in a mansion at Broad and Jefferson Streets. He is also the person who built and endowed the Smith Memorial Playground in Fairmount Park near 33rd and Oxford Streets.

In his will, Richard Smith explicitly bequeathed \$500,000 for the design and construction of a memorial to all of Pennsylvania's military and naval heroes of the Civil War. Two immense arches were to be constructed guarding the southwest entrance to Fairmount Park, near the Philadelphia 1876 Centennial Memorial Hall.

In 1897 the Fairmount Park Art Association agreed to the construction of the memorial consisting of two sweeping arches and columns consisting of 14 statues and busts of notable Pennsylvanians who served during the Civil War. The memorial was also to be engraved with the names of dozens of the prominent military officers from Pennsylvania who served the Union during the conflict.

By the end of 1897, fifty-nine sculptors submitted bids to be included in the creation of the memorial. The Art Commission eventually selected 14 of the most notable sculptures and artists of the era including Sir Moses Ezekiel, Daniel Chester French, A. Stirling Calder and Charles Grafly. The group also included two women, Katherine M. Cohen and Bessie O. Potter.

In designing the memorial it was determined that two towering columns would support heroic figures of Major General George G. Meade and Major General John F. Reynolds. Two large equestrian statues of Major Generals Winfield Scott Hancock and George B. McClellan would also be created. Others to be represented by busts on the memorial are Admiral David Dixon Porter, Major General John F. Hartranft, Admiral John A. Dalghren, Major General Samuel Wylie Crawford, Governor Andrew Curtin,



and Brigadier General James A. Beaver, who was also the governor of Pennsylvania at that time. Benefactor Richard Smith would be represented by a life size statue.

Interestingly, among those "heroes" memorialized by their busts are also Richard H. Windrim, the architect of the memorial, and John B. Gest, the executor of Smith's estate and the man who controlled the distribution of the funds.

Finally, artist Paul Wayland Bartlett received the commission for the creation of two large American eagles and globes.

For 15 years the sculptors and city representatives squabbled over the context and design of the sculptures, costs and time schedules. The two towering columns bearing the likenesses of generals Meade and Reynolds placed their figures so high that any artistic appreciation becomes nearly impossible. The final work to be placed on the memorial was Bartlett's portrayal of the mounted General McClellan, in 1912.

By that time both the interest and the spectacle that had been associated with the dedication of the previous Civil War monuments and memorials had all but dissipated. When the finally completed "Monumental Memorial to Pennsylvania's Military and Naval Officers and Men Distinguished for Gallantry in the Late Civil War of the United States" was finally dedicated in late 1912, few citizens attended the proceedings.

Since its dedication, the Civil War Memorial endowed by Richard Smith has become one of the city's most majestic, yet least known military memorials.

The sweeping memorial now stands in dignified majesty, continuing to welcome visitors to the main drive through Fairmount Park. However, few Philadelphians actually venture into that area of the park other than to quickly drive by on their way to other destinations. Few take the time to walk around the memorial and study the names, portraits and sculptures of those historical personalities to whom the memorial pays tribute. In fact, if you ask most Philadelphians including those with a sincere interest in the history of the Civil War to identify this majestic memorial, I imagine very few would be able to respond with any knowledge of its history or the background of those who are represented on the memorial.

Recently, a contemporary architect stated that "the Smith Memorial with its curving neobaroque arch and soaring columns populated by 15 pieces of sculpture, is visually striking and remains one of the most ambitious public monuments erected in Victorian America."



*Continued from the
October issue*

Gettysburg Compiler July 6, 1886

A NEW SENSATION.

*Courtesy of Ginny
Gage, The Camp
Griffin Gazette*

Within rifle shot of where Col. Norris was speaking, the Gettysburg Springs Hotel, were gathered in the dining room an interesting group of Third Corps officers. At the head of the table sat General Daniel E. Sickles. To his right, General George H. Sharp, of New York; to his left, General J. B. Carr. Next to him, General Adam Badeau; to his left, General Henry E. Tremain, and to his left, General C. H. T. Collis. Facing him, on the other side of the table, were Colonel Smith, of Smith's famous battery, and Colonel J. H. Fassett. All of these soldiers were members of the Third Corps, Colonel Fassett being on General Birney's staff and General Tremain on General Sickles' staff. General Carr commanded a division and General Collis a brigade in the same corps. In such a gathering as this Col. Norris's charge could hardly fail to excite positive dissent, if not indignation.

General Sickles spoke first and said: "The facts are that on the morning of the 1st of July I was directed by General Meade to reconnoiter Emmitsburg for a battlefield and General Humphreys and myself and General Birney went out upon that errand early in the day—not, however, until I had sent General Fremont, of his staff, to General Reynolds, so as to keep up communication with that officer, who was between me and Gettysburg. As I left to go out on the reconnoissance, General Carr, who sits at my side, was left in command of the corps."

Here General Carr took up the thread of discussion and said: "My first intimation of trouble was when in the afternoon of July 1 a staff officer of General Hancock came to my headquarters and said: "Where is General Sickles?" I told him where he had gone and he said: "General Reynolds has been killed, and General Hancock desires the Third Corps to be marched towards Gettysburg as rapidly as possible."

"This was the first intimation of trouble. I immediately ordered the troops into line and moved off. Perhaps I had gone a mile when General Sickles rode up to me and asked where I was going. I told him of General Hancock's order and we pushed on with all possible speed."

General Tremain, who was the staff officer General Sickles sent to General Reynolds on the morning of the 1st of July said: "I was with General Reynolds and left him about nine or ten o'clock on the morning of the first day. He had then had his conference with General Buford and did not seem to be in the slightest disturbed about the situation. I asked him if he had any message to send to General Sickles, and he said, in rather a nonchalant way: "Tell him I think he had better come up." There was certainly nothing like an order in what he said. I rode off

and had an eleven miles' horseback ride to reach the commander of the Third Corps. I suppose it was near twelve o'clock when I arrive."

General Sickles here said: "The fact is that I was ordered by General Meade to hold Emmitsburg at all hazards and never received any order whatsoever, nor did any one come to headquarters, except the one General Carr received and obeyed promptly." The veteran produced a copy of his oration and pointed out the fact that he not only gave General Reynolds credit for his work of the first day, but eulogized him for it.

A steadily falling rain on Thursday morning changed plans and the re-union took place at the Rink, in Gettysburg. The immense hall was crowded, 2,500 persons being present. Everybody was in anxious expectancy of seeing the General, and when "Old Dan" hobbled in on one leg and two crutches, a towering figure in a major general's uniform, a strong face marking grit not without tenderness, the scene became one of the wildest, and never to be forgotten by any one present. The music and the cheers started together, and neither seemed able to stop. All the lively airs of the war were rendered by the bands, and men and women sang and shouted for joy. General Sickles was once more at the head of his old third corps.

Upon the restoration of quiet, Gen. Sickles began his address and spoke over an hour. After a brief welcome he said:

This is the first occasion I have ever taken to make a statement of facts concerning the part borne by the Third Army Corps in the battle of Gettysburg. Severely wounded towards the close of the engagement, I was unable to make an official report. Keenly sensible of the injustice done to my command and myself by the Commander-in-chief, General Halleck, and by the commanding General of the Army of the Potomac, General Meade, I asked President Lincoln to grant me a court of inquiry for the purpose of correcting the serious errors contained in the reports of the battle made by General Halleck and General Meade. The President replied, "Sickles, they say you pushed out your men too near the enemy, and began to fight just as that ground of war was about to meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the battle. I am afraid what they say of you is true, and God bless you for it. [Cheers.] Don't ask us to order an Inquist to relieve you from bringing on the battle of Gettysburg. [Cheers.] History will set you all right and give everybody his just place."

To be Continued in the December Issue

GETTYSBURG EVENTS November 2007

November 16 - 18th The Lincoln Forum

Saturday, November 17 1:00 p.m. Remembrance Day Parade and activities, sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans

3:00 p.m. The Lincoln House exhibit and lecture by Gary Kersey at the Historic Gettysburg Railroad Station.

6:00 p.m. The Gettysburg Foundation will host the Fifth Annual Remembrance Illumination (5:30-9:30 p.m.) at the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

Sunday, November 18 7:00 p.m. The Spirit of Frederick Douglass, a portrayal by Michael E. Crutcher, Sr. at the College Union Building, Room 260.

Continued on page 8

Monday, November 19 - 144th Anniversary of the "Gettysburg Address"

10:15 a.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony, Soldiers National Monument, Soldiers' National Cemetery.

10:30 a.m. 144th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address Dedication Day Ceremony, Soldiers' National Cemetery; free and open to the general public. Speakers: The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior

11:15 a.m. Or immediately following the Dedication Day Ceremony US Colored Troops Graveside Salute, Soldiers' National Cemetery; free and open to the public.

8:00 p.m. The Ninth Annual Michael Shaara Prize for Excellence in Civil War Fiction will be awarded by Jeff Shaara. Recipient: Howard Bahr for *The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War*. - 46th Annual Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture, Majestic Theater. Speaker: Richard Norton Smith, "Abraham Lincoln and the Triumph of Politics,"

9:30 p.m. Public Reception and Book Signing, Majestic Theater, free and open to the public.

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.

The Civil War Institute

All classes are Act 48 approved. Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 p.m.

Call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program. Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA.

Antietam Campaign

- 12 hours - This is an account of the bloodiest day in American Military History. It turned out to be one of the most decisive battles of the war and gave President Lincoln the chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Even after he received a captured copy of General Robert E. Lee's plans, Union General George McClellan, known to President Lincoln as a man who had "a bad case of the slows", couldn't take the initiative. Union and Confederate forces pounded each other through the Cornfield, the Sunken road and over Burnside's Bridge. The battle blocked the South's chance for European recognition.

Date: Thursdays, November 29; December 6, 13

Fee: \$45

Seminar taught by: Jerry Carrier

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
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