

A lifelong patriot, Mike serves on the Philadelphia Area Army Civilian Advisory Board and is a military history specialist, curator, and trustee for the Veteran Guard, Third Regiment Infantry, of the National Guard of Pennsylvania.

Mike also has a passionate interest in the history of American flags and banners. Currently he is Vice President for Development and Educational Programing for the Philadelphia Flag Day Association. Beginning in February 2007, the Association began collecting historic American flags and banners, going as far back as 1861. He will be sharing his enthusiastic expertise and displaying reproductions of some of these historic flags on at the October 17th OBC-WRT meeting--don't miss this event!

Homefront Heroes... Charlotte Forten (1837-1914)

Article, Photos
by Kerry Bryan

In late October 1862 Laura Towne and other volunteers dedicated to aiding the newly freed slaves of St. Helena Island, South Carolina, welcomed a new colleague. Her name was Charlotte Forten, and like Laura Towne, she was



Charlotte Forten
Source: nlm.nih.gov

also a well-educated, refined young woman with Philadelphia connections and ardent abolitionist convictions. Both were trained teachers and were driven by their ideals rather than practical considerations in volunteering their services in support of the so-called "Port Royal Experiment." The Port Royal Experiment was a coordinated program of education the fields, workshops, marketplaces, and

fledgling classrooms of the South Carolina Sea Islands, all geared to promoting the independence and productivity of former slaves in territory that had come under Union control after a critical naval battle fought in early November 1861.*

Towne and Forten-- these young women were so much alike in many ways, but they differed in one way that trumped all other factors in their time and place: Laura Towne was white; Charlotte Forten was black, or in the parlance of that era, "colored." Charlotte Forten was the first Northern woman of color to go to the South to teach former slaves.

Charlotte's grandfather James Forten had been a self-made man. Born in 1766 of free parents, young James

had attended for a while the school of Anthony Benezet, the famed Quaker abolitionist, before he volunteered to serve as a powder boy on a Philadelphia privateer during the American Revolution. While still a teenager, he spent a year in England, where he met Granville Sharpe and other British crusaders against the slave trade. Back in the newly formed United States, James became apprenticed to a sail-maker. By age 20 he was foreman of his crew; by age 32 he was the proprietor of the company, with forty employees, both black and white, and had accumulated an estimated fortune of \$100,000.

Beyond achieving economic success, Forten likewise involved himself in civic causes, including the temperance movement and especially abolitionism. The Forten home at 92 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, where James and his wife raised eight children, was frequently visited by the leading antebellum abolitionists, including Lloyd Garrison, whose newspaper *The Liberator* was liberally subsidized by James Forten. In fact, so generous was James Forten in his donations to Garrison and other abolitionist causes that much of his fortune was depleted by the time he died in 1842. After his death his children and extended family continued his work in their dedication to abolitionism, but they could not rely upon inherited wealth to do so.

Charlotte was born in 1837 to Robert Bridges Forten, a sail-maker like his father, and his first wife Mary Woods. Robert Forten, like many of his siblings and his brother-in-law Robert Purvis, frequently addressed anti-slavery meetings. On principle he refused to send Charlotte to Philadelphia schools because they were segregated. Instead she was schooled at home by tutors until 1854, when she was sent to Salem, MA to attend the Higginson Grammar School, the principal of which was Miss -Mary Shepard, likewise an abolitionist. Mary Shepard became a mentor and close friend of Charlotte. While in Salem, Charlotte lived in the home of Charles Lenox Remond, who was perhaps the most renowned black abolitionist in America until he was eclipsed by the rising star of Frederick Douglass.

After graduating with honors from the Higginson School in 1855, she enrolled in the Salem Normal School to prepare her for a career in teaching. In 1866, with the endorsement of the teachers college principal and her former instructors, Charlotte secured a position at the Eppes Grammar School of Salem, where she taught during the ensuing two years.

Living near Boston allowed Charlotte ample opportunities to attend anti-slavery lectures and to expand her social and political connections. She joined the Salem Anti-Slavery Society, and she became friends with the leading abolitionists and progressive thinkers of the era: not only her grandfather's old friend Lloyd Garrison, but also Wendell Phillips, the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, Maria Weston Chapman, William Wells Brown, and others. Having kept a private diary since 1854,** Charlotte also started writing poetry for publication in *The Liberator* and other abolitionist journals.

Never strong physically, in 1858 Charlotte was stricken with "lung disease" (tuberculosis) and forced to resign her teaching post to return to Philadelphia to convalesce and live quietly for the next few years. When her health permitted, she occasionally taught in the school of her aunt Margaretta Forten, and in the winter of 1860 and again in the summer of 1861, she briefly returned to teach in Salem.

She was apparently enjoying a period of relatively stable



Schoolhouse on St. Helena Island
Source: memory.loc.gov

health in the fall of 1862 when she responded to the clarion call of the Port Royal Relief Committee of Philadelphia to join other volunteers working with the former slaves of the Carolina Sea Islands. Earnest

though she may have been in her desire to give service, the diary she kept until 1864 reveals a sensitive young woman who often felt estranged from the former slaves: this erudite, refined young woman from the urbane Philadelphia would seem to have had more in common with her Caucasian colleagues than with the islanders, who not only were rustic and uneducated, but who also spoke Gullah dialect and whose culture was infused with Afro-centric customs.

She intermittently succumbed to tubercular relapses and nervous exhaustion, during which times she had to suspend her teaching activities to convalesce. Finally in May 1864 she bid a final farewell to Laura Towne and Port Royal community to return permanently to the North. In 1864 she published "Life on the Sea Islands" in May and June issues of *The Atlantic Monthly*, which brought the work of the Port Royal Experiment to the attention of Northern readers.



Rev. Francis Grimke
Source: Urbanministry.org

famous abolitionist crusaders Grimke sisters, Sarah and Angelina. Tragically Charlotte and Francis' only child died in infancy. She then devoted herself, as best her health



1862: Former slaves on St. Helena Island, S.C.
Source: gullahcommunity.org

permitted, to assisting her husband with his Presbyterian ministry. She also founded a women's missionary group.



The Grimke Sisters
Source: Columbia.edu

After the Civil War, Charlotte moved to Washington, D.C.. Though her health status precluded her returning to the field, she worked diligently to recruit other teachers to work among the freedmen. Then In 1873 she succeeded in securing a position as clerk with the U.S. Treasury Department (only 15 of 200 candidates were accepted).

Love came late in life. At age 41 she married the Reverend Francis Grimke, a nephew of the

Her health continued to decline and she spent her last years as an invalid. However, she left an invaluable legacy: the journal that she had kept sporadically between 1854 and 1864, which provides an intimate portrait of the experiences of a young black woman growing up in antebellum America, as well as a vivid historical record of life in the Sea Islands during the Civil War. Charlotte Forten was a voice for equality that still resonates.

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* See the May 2102 OBCWRT newsletter "Homefront Heroes" column for an article regarding the Port Royal Relief Committee of Philadelphia; see September 2012 issue for article on Laura Towne.

**Forten, Charlotte L. (1981) *The Journal of Charlotte L. Forten: A Young Black Woman's Reactions to the White World of the Civil War Era*. Ed. by Billington, Ray A. New York: W.W. Norton

Notice

Bill Hughes is trying to assemble information on the history of Old Baldy that we can share with everyone. So if you have copies of old photos, newsletters 2004 and back to the first one they did, any stories you may remember and can put into words, please get them to Bill Hughes at:

Bill Hughes
1671 Marla Place
Vineland, NJ 08361
Phone: 856-457-5203
Email: NYSV107th@aol.com

Today in Civil War History

Thursday October 17, 1861

Fluttering Federal Flag Faces Force

There was little question in anybody's mind that the United States was not going to fight the War from completely off the shores of the Confederacy. There would be an amphibious invasion at some point along the Atlantic coast, and the only question was where the attack would come. Flag Officer Samuel du Pont, one of the senior Navy men in the Atlantic region, was telling anyone who would listen that the most logical spot was Port Royal, South Carolina. The facilities there, he opined, both as a Navy base and a coaling station, were superb. In the South, nervousness at every port was the rule, but little else could be done in the way of reinforcement due to shortages of troops.

Friday October 17, 1862

Draft Dodgers Doubling Daring

In the initial days of the War recruiting soldiers was not a problem: men on both sides flocked to the colors, looking for glory, excitement, adventure, or because they wanted to impress their girlfriends. A year and a half of blood, mud, marching and measles had disabused many of any notion of the romance of war. But the needs for manpower were greater than ever, and so a draft was instituted in the United States. Popularity of this measure was somewhat lacking, even in states which were otherwise strong Union supporters, such as Pennsylvania. Militia forces had to be called out in Berkeley, Luzerne County, to put down opposition to the draft.

Saturday October 17, 1863

Tampa Tribulations Take Time To Transpire

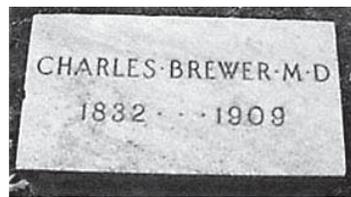
Yesterday saw the beginning of what is known as the Battle of Tampa, an odd case of misnaming since Tampa, an obscure village with a small fort nearby, was not the actual target of the attack. Those were the blockade runners Scottish Chief and Kate Dale, loaded with cotton and ready to sail on the morning tide from the Hillsborough River. After shelling Tampa the USS Tahoma and Adela had sent landing parties ashore to sneak across to the river on foot. Today they struck, assaulting and burning both ships and cargos. Then they hotfooted it back to their own ships with enraged Confederates in hot pursuit. Five of the landing party died, 10 were wounded and five were taken prisoner before they made it back under cover of their ships' guns.

Monday October 17, 1864

Price Ponders Perilous Position

Gen. Sterling Price was on yet another campaign to pry loose the state of Missouri from the grasp of the Federal government. The fact that he had been fighting on numerous occasions since 1861 to accomplish this goal did not discourage him, and on this campaign he had had some successes, most notably the battle of Pilot Knob at Ft. Davidson, although he had let the garrison of the latter escape during the night. Today he was advancing toward Lexington, Mo., in the northwest region of the state, and was encountering skirmishing on both the left and the right flanks of his force. This was the first indication that he had not one but two Union units coming at him, one behind him (which he already knew about) and one ahead (which he did not.)

www.civilwarinteractive.com

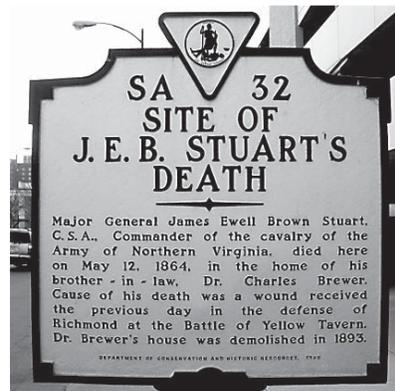


Dr. Charles Brewer

June, 1832 March, 1909

by Bill Hughes

Dr. Charles Brewer, (June 1832- Mar 1909) brother-in-law to Confederate Major General James Ewell Brown ("JEB") Stuart. Married January 5, 1861 to Maria Pendleton Cooke (February 25, 1840- October 13, 1926). She was a sister of JEB's Stuart's wife Laura. In May 1861, Dr. Brewer resigned his U.S. Army commission and entered the Confederate States Army Medical Corps. He was attached the Army General Staff under Surgeons-General Daniel DeLeon and Samuel Preston Moore. He and his wife lived in Richmond for the duration of the war. Dr. Brewer served as Surgeon General on General Robert E. Lee's staff in Richmond. General Stuart died on Dr. Brewer's couch at his home at 206 E. Grace Street, Richmond, after his wounding at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, May 12, 1864. Dr. Brewer and his wife Maria were attending JEB when he died. After the war Dr. Brewer and his family moved to Vineland, NJ, where he practiced medicine and spent the remainder of his life. Specifically, Dr. Charles Brewer was a physician, coroner and a postmaster during the last two years of President Cleveland's term. He was also an inspector of penal institutions and the physician of the New Jersey State Prison. He lived at 121 S. Sixth Street, Vineland, and is buried in Siloam Cemetery in that town.

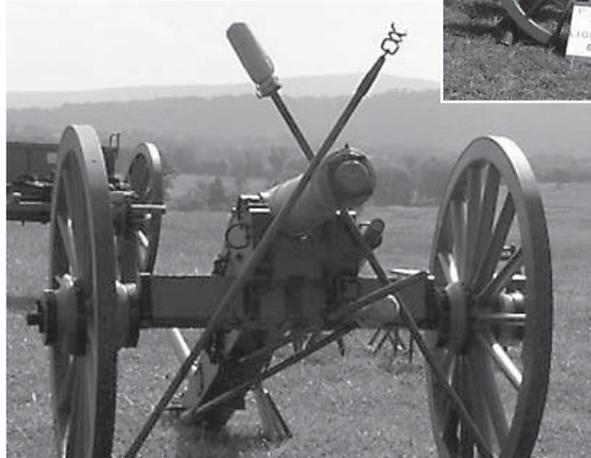


Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart, C.S.A., Commander of the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia, died here on May 12, 1864, in the home of his brother-in-law, Dr. Charles Brewer. Cause of his death was a wound received the previous day in the defense of Richmond at the Battle of Yellow Tavern. Dr. Brewer's house was demolished in 1893.

“New Jersey Day at Antietam”

by Rich Jankowski

I represented our Round Table at New Jersey Day at Antietam in August, which was co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the New Jersey Sesquicentennial Committee. The Park Service set aside a day for each state to commemorate its troops in the battle. The weather was superb for the many outdoor events scheduled. Demonstrations throughout the day included an interpretation of the 13th New Jersey behind Dunker Church and Hexamer’s Battery on the Visitor Center grounds. The morning programs were “New Jersey in the Maryland Campaign” and “The 13th New Jersey at Antietam” walks. In the early afternoon, the New Jersey Monument at the intersection of Starke and Dunker Church Road was rededicated.



Hexamer's Battery



The Rededication Ceremony included remarks from Thomas Burke, Jr., President of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, a letter from Governor Christie, an overview of New Jersey at Antietam by Dr. David Martin, comments on “The Meaning of Antietam” by New Jersey’s own Abraham Lincoln (Robert Costello) and the laying of a wreath. The afternoon programs consisted of “Clara Barton at Antietam” and “Lincoln and McClellan at Antietam,” the later being a discussion about the two Union leaders. These presentations were followed by a procession over to the Dunker Church to recreate the famous tent scene, as photographed by Matthew Brady. The day's events concluded with “Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Taps.”



Top of New Jersey Monument



Lincoln (Bob Costello)

During the day the New Jersey 150th Committee offered its publications and commemorative items to visitors, as well as serving to answer questions about the role of New Jersey volunteers at Antietam. The New Jersey at Antietam Guide was released two days before the event. Comments from the Park Service indicated the New Jersey Day was one of the better attended and represented State Days, as visitors from around the nation learned about New Jersey’s role at Antietam. Inquiries are being made about a similar event to be held late Spring 2013 at Gettysburg. Details will be provided when available.

Guests at dedecation



Dr. David Martin



Thomas Burke

State of New Jersey Monument at Antietam

The State of New Jersey Monument at Antietam is on the corner of Hagerstown Turnpike and Cornfield Avenue. It was dedicated on September 17, 1903.

The figure atop the monument represents Captain Hugh C. Irish of the 13th New Jersey Infantry Regiment, who was killed not far from the monument.

From the six panels circling the lower monument:

First New Jersey Infantry Lieut. Col. Mark W. Collett, Commanding First Brigade, First Division Sixth Corps

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th New Jersey Infantry and Hexamer's Battery A were known as the "First New Jersey Brigade." These were the first three year Volunteers from the state. After serving through the Peninsula Campaign on September 14, 1862 the Brigade performed such gallant service at Crampton's Pass as to call forth the High Commendation reproduced on the next tablet.

Second New Jersey Infantry Colonel Samuel L. Buck, Commanding First Brigade, First Division Sixth Corps

Headquarters, 1st, Brigade, 1st Division Sixth Corps, Camp in Crampton's Pass Maryland Sept. 15, 1862.

General Orders

Soldiers of the first New Jersey Brigade. The 14th of September, 1862, is one long to be remembered, for on that day you dashingly met and drove the enemy at every point, your advance in line of battle, under a galling Artillery fire was a feat seldom if ever surpassed. The Heights you took show plainly what determined and well disciplined soldiers can do.

Third New Jersey Infantry Colonel Henry W. Brown, Commanding First Brigade, First Division Sixth Corps

"You have sustained the reputation of your state and done credit to your officers and yourselves. While we lament the death of our brave comrades who have fallen so gloriously we can only commend their souls to GOD and their sorrowing friend to his sure protection. May you go from Victory to Victory, is the hope and wish of the Colonel commanding Brigade". A.T.A. Tolbert Colonel Commanding

4th New Jersey Infantry Colonel William B. Hatch, Commanding First Brigade, First Division, Sixth Corps

From its Bivouac at Crampton's Pass the first New Jersey Brigade marched to the field on the morning of September 17, 1862, and took position 600 yards, easterly of this point near the Dunkard Church, where it remained until Sept. 19. It supported the sixth Corps Artillery and for six hours was under severe Artillery fire by which several men were killed or wounded.

Thirteenth New Jersey Infantry Colonel Ezra A. Carman, Commanding Third Brigade, First Division Twelfth Corps

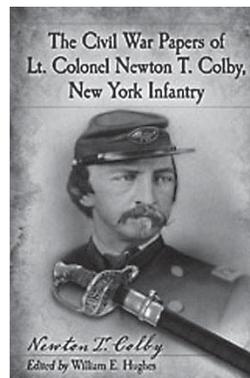
Here this Regiment, seventeen days after leaving home, met "its Baptism of fire", September 17, 1862. The first to fall was Captain Hugh C. Irish, later in the day the regiment was heavily engaged in rear of the Dunkard Church, its loss during the day was 102, in the Army of the Potomac,



and afterwards with General Sherman's Army, the Regiment served until the close of the war.

Battery A. First New Jersey Artillery Captain William Hexamer, Commanding First Brigade, First Division Sixth Corp

After engagement at Crampton's Pass Sept. 14, 1862, the Battery was engaged on Sept. 17, at three different points on this field. From three to six o'clock the Battery fired 280 shells, 200 shrapnel and 15 canisters, forcing out of position two Confederate Batteries and repelling an Infantry force. www.antietam.stonesentinels.com/index.php



**"The Civil War Papers of
Lt. Colonel Newton T. Colby
New York Infantry"**

Now in paperback at \$25.00

Contact:

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Vineland, NJ 08361

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The Bloodiest One Day Battle in American History

23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led to Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Old Baldy at Antietam, May 2002



L-R, Pat Purcell, Ted Alexander, Steve Wright, Ed Bears, Mike Cavanaugh May 2002

From the Treasurer's Desk

Please Continue to Support Old Baldy CWRT!!

Thank you so very much for all the Old Baldy CWRT members who have already sent in their dues for 2012. Your response is much appreciated.

As you know we have experienced some challenging times. However, the future continues to be positive, especially with the expansion to New Jersey, and a change in the day of the monthly meetings. We are certainly aware that this change in location and day will be difficult for a number of current members. However, the dwindling number of members attending the meetings at the Union League has made a change necessary if we wish to see Old Baldy CWRT continue.

We hope that the Old Baldy CWRT will continue to operate and sponsor excellent speakers on a variety of topics.

Therefore, we would much appreciate it if you would maintain your support and membership in Old Baldy CWRT.

Your continued membership support is essential if we wish to see our round table keep going and flourishing.

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. (Please add a \$10. donation if you desire to receive our outstanding newsletter by mail.)

Please mail your dues payable to "OLD BALDY CWRT" to:

**Herb Kaufman, Treasurer,
2601 Bonnie Lane,
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.**

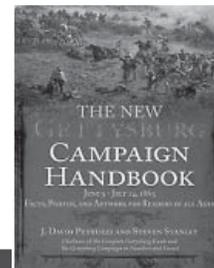
We hope that everyone will come out to a meeting and join in the discussions. It's a great night out with friends who share your interests and enthusiasm for this era.

*All the best, and hope to see you in the future,
Herb Kaufman Treasurer*

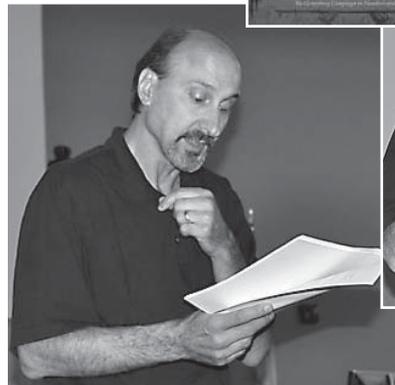
September 12th meeting "The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook"

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia held its September 12th meeting at the Camden County College. **J. D. Petruzzi** had presented a great presentation on his new book "**The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook**". J. D. discussed how he became interested in the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg. How his collection of documents and books led to him becoming an accomplished author of many books and articles on Gettysburg. His latest book **The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook** takes you from early June to the end of July. His friend Steven Stanley did the layout and all the maps.

The book is part of a series of Civil War books published by Savas Beatie. J. D. is working on a series to be aired in us an interesting presentation.



of a series of published by D.'s new project television miniseries to be aired in 2013. J. D. gave and educational



J. D. Petruzzi

Manor College has announced its program of classes for the 2012 Fall Session. Instructors are all members of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table.

Fall classes for the Civil War Institute will be starting shortly. They may be taken as part of the certificate program or individually. All are Act 48 approved. Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 PM, unless otherwise noted. 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. For full program

HU<http://www.manor.edu/coned/civilwar.htm>

Please note that several classes in the fall semester will be conducted at the Giant Super Food Store Conference Center, 315 North York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090.

* Indicates Core Course

** Indicates Elective Course

**** Antietam Campaign**

- 0.6 CEUs - 6 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.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier

Sessions: 3

Dates: Saturdays, October - October 27 (No Class October 20)

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Fee: \$69, Early Bird \$59

*** Life of the Common Soldier .**

- 1.2 CEUs - 12 Hours

The common soldier of the Civil War marched the dusty and often muddy roads to fight in the bloodiest battles ever seen in the Western Hemisphere. Yet, they were scarcely heard publicly in their own time. Now, by studying the thousands of letters and diaries left behind, we can share in their deeds, joys, and hardships. Here is an examination of how they lived, what they believed, why they volunteered, and how they fought and died for their country.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman M.Ed.

**Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT
Speakers and Activities for 2012**

October and November meetings will be on Wednesdays and begin at 7:15 PM

Connector Building - Civic Hall, Atrium of Camden County College, Peter Cheeseman Road in Blackwood, New Jersey

October 17 - Wednesday "Flags of the Confederacy"

Author/Historian: Mike Axelrodi

November 7 - Wednesday "A Sword In The Attic: Searching for Thomas Hall"

Writer/Historian: Bill Cannon

Questions to Rich Jankowski at 856-427-4022 or jediwarrior11@verizon.net

You're Welcome to Join Us!

Sessions: 6

Dates: Mondays, October 8 - November 19 (No Class November 5)

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$115, Early Bird \$105

Location: Giant Super Food Store Conference Center, 315 North York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090

*** The Civil War Overview Series.**

- 1.2 CEUs - 12 Hours

The Civil War Series is an overview of the events that led to the war, major battles and the after-effects that still impact our nation today. The war will be examined year by year. This is a program for all ages conducted by a team of experts. It is one you will not want to miss!

Instructor: Del Val Civil War Round Table

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursdays, October 11 - November 15

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$115, Early Bird \$105

**** Gettysburg: Aftermath of a Battle.**

- 0.6 CEUs - 6 Hours

The biggest battle ever fought on American soil obviously had a major impact on the outcome of the war and on the men who fought it. But it also changed the lives of the civilians who lived in the little Pennsylvania crossroads town. When the armies left, the people of Gettysburg had to pick up the pieces.

Instructor: Nancy Caldwell

Sessions: 6

Dates: Wednesdays, November 7 - November 21

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$69, Early Bird \$59

**** Fredericksburg Campaign**

- 0.6 CEUs - 6 Hours

On December 13, 1862, the Union Army led by General Ambrose Burnside met the army of Robert E. Lee at the town of Fredericksburg. The ensuing battle is known as the most disastrous defeat of the Federal Army of the Potomac. Futile assaults by the Union on Confederate positions, such as Marye's Heights, and the slaughter of many Union men highlight this tragedy. This class will look at the reason why the Union lost. We will also look at the brave men who fought, how Lee's strategy brought Burnside to defeat, and the strategies and blunders that made this battle one of the most memorable in the Civil War.

Instructor: Hugh Boyle

Sessions: 3

Dates: Mondays, November 26 - December 10

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$69, Early Bird \$59

Location: Giant Super Food Store Conference Center, 315 North York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090

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

856-427-4022 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