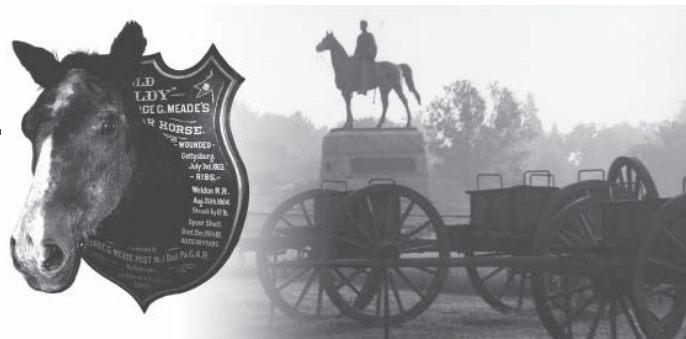


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



September 20, 2007, The One Hundred and Fourty-Seventh Year of the Civil War

- NOTICE -

New Meeting Dates for September and October - September 20, 2007 and October 4, 2007

## “The Last Days of Civil War Notables”

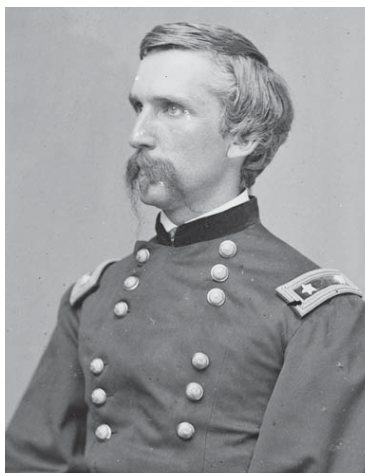
Belle Boyd LOC



Dan Sickles LOC



Joshua Chamberlain LOC



for this most interesting and informative presentation. If you can, join us at 5:30 as we head out to a local establishment for a bite to eat before the meeting.

Join us on **Thursday, September 20th** for this most interesting and informative presentation.

This will be another great meeting that you don't want to miss...

A week later than the usual Thursday due to scheduling issues at the Museum, the next meeting of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table will be **Thursday, September 20** starting at 7:30 PM at the *Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia*. Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Sidney Copel**. With his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Temple University, Dr. Copel is a noted clinical psychologist who retired from practice in 1995 after serving as Administrator at the Devereux Institute as well as in private practice. He served as psychological consultant to schools and police departments, and as consultant for selection of player personnel for the Pro-Football Eagles, Rams, and Broncos. His September 20th presentation is entitled “**The Last Days of Civil War Notables**”, highlighting the post-war lives of some well-known and not-so-well-known personalities of the era, with stories that run from the humorous to the tragic. You're sure to enjoy his stories and slide show on such notables as Joshua Chamberlain, Dan Sickles, Belle Boyd, and nearly 20 others. We hope to see you on Thursday, September 20th

### President's Message

I must begin this President's Message with a correction. In my last missive, I said that Marine Recruit **Billy Holdsworth** would have his Basic Training shortened by two weeks. This turns out to be a rumor that was being floated about and even told to Marine Corps families. Billy will get his full thirteen-weeks of Marine Corps Basic Training at Parris Island and will graduate on 12 October. Billy's dad, **Bill Holdsworth**, proudly reports that Billy is doing very well at Parris Island. He was selected to serve on the Presidential security detail once he completed his basic training, which he respectfully declined, saying that he didn't enlist to guard a politician – any politician. He has also been promoted to the highest single rank in his platoon, Platoon Guide. Billy reports that the work is hard, the days are long, and the food is alright – but that's being compared with that which Mom makes.

It's hard to believe that the summer is already over....

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.

A couple of weeks ago I accomplished a life-long desire to visit the site of Fort Abraham Lincoln, which is located near Bismarck, North Dakota. The fort was conceived in 1872 as part of a plan to protect workers who were building the Northern Pacific Railroad. A year later six companies of the Seventh Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, arrived at the site at the confluence of the Heart and Missouri Rivers to help erect the fort. The Seventh remained at Fort Abraham Lincoln until 1881 and the fort was officially abandoned in 1891. Today the site is administered by the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation, and one may wander about the post and visit several reconstructed buildings, including the post-commander's house where George and Libbie Custer would have lived.

Of course the day I visited the fort it was cold and wet, with the temperature not reaching 60 degrees. The week before the weather had been bright, sunny, and 106 degrees and that was the weather that I had planned for. So I was cold, wet, and thrilled to be walking the same parade ground as the 7th Cavalry!

The Abraham Lincoln Foundation has done a magnificent job in the restoration and furnishing the "Custer" House, using photographs and letters to restore the interior of the building to the year 1875. Amazingly, a number of original Custer pieces are in the reconstructed house, including a rocker from Libbie's Monroe, Michigan home that the General had rescued from a fire when the original post commander's house was destroyed in 1874. Tours of the house are given by costumed interpreters in the guise of laundresses who permit visitors to see the house because the Custers are "away for the day."

A mile away from the restored fort is the restored Mandan On-a-Slant Indian village. By 1781 the Mandan had been living on this site for over 200 years, although their population had been decimated by smallpox. Sheheke-shote had been born at On-a-Slant village and it was near there that he met Lewis and Clark, who returned east with them to meet President Thomas Jefferson. Above the hills overlooking On-a-Slant village are reconstructed blockhouses marking the site of Fort McKeen, the infantry post that housed two companies of the 6th U.S. Infantry.

I've always felt that the best way to get in touch with the past is to walk the actual ground. You can read about an event for many years, but when you feel the actual ground beneath your feet you gain a special appreciation for a historical place and time. I've been to the Little Big Horn many times and each time is special. But standing behind the reconstructed Custer home at Fort Abraham Lincoln by myself was truly awesome in the classic sense of the word. I could easily imagine the long line of cavalry riding out between the two low hills toward Fort McKeen that day in May 1876 when heading toward the Little Big Horn valley. Libbie and her sister-in-law, Maggie Calhoun, wife of Lieutenant James Calhoun, rode along with the column to their first camp on the Heart River. Afterward, they returned to the fort for nearly two months of waiting for word of the fates of their husband's, brother's, brother's-in-law, nephew's and friends. Standing in the cold mist behind the Custer house it was easy to look up on the hill behind the house and gaze upon the rock where Libbie enjoyed taking picnics. I could easily imagine her spending hours alone on that rock, waiting alone and wondering of everyone's fate. It was a very haunting and humbling experience.

Perhaps I am selfish, but this is why we need to preserve our historic lands! You can read about it all you want - but there is nothing like walking the actual ground....

*As with everyone else - , I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting! Be well!!*

*Steven J. Wright, President*

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## From the Treasurer's Desk

Many thanks to **Dennis Kelly** for his really outstanding presentation at our August meeting. Dennis described the evolution of the forts surrounding the United States. He did this in a most interesting manner as he went all the way back to the Romans and described their construction of the first forts. I must say that his description of the evolution and history of the forts system added a great deal to our knowledge of Civil War history and tactics.

I encourage all to attend our September meeting as the presentation will certainly be a real treat. **Sid Copel** is a member of the Delaware Valley CWRT and has a great sense of humor and knowledge of history. His presentations are always unusual and present information that cannot be found in the usual sources. Please note the change in date to Thursday, September 20.

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. I hope to see you on September 20.

*See you in September, Herb Kaufman, Treasurer*

## August 9, 2007 meeting **FORTS: How to Make Them and How to Take Them**



*Interior View of Fort Wagner LOC*

**Dennis Kelly** spoke about forts from their very beginning and how they have progressed. He covered all the Civil War forts especially Fort Monroe, Fort Jefferson in Florida, Fort Mifflin, and of course Fort Delaware. He showed the difference in design and how effective they were. He covered earthen forts like Fort Wagner and how they were almost impossible to destroy. Dennis used several really nice charts and drawings to emphasize his presentation. **Again we enjoyed a very fine presentation...**



## Today in Civil War History

**September 20, 1863**

### Second Day of the Battle of Chickamauga

In one of the bloodiest battles of the war, the Confederate Army of Tennessee drives the Union Army of the Cumberland back into Chattanooga, Tennessee, from Chickamauga Creek in northern Georgia. Although technically a Confederate victory, the battle had little long-term effect on the military situation in the region.

During the summer of 1863, Union General William Rosecrans had outmaneuvered Confederate General Braxton Bragg. Without fighting any major battles, Rosecrans had moved Bragg out of Tullahoma, Tennessee, and, by September, had captured Chattanooga. Pursuing Bragg into the mountainous region of northern Georgia, Rosecrans gleaned information from Confederate deserters that indicated Bragg was retreating. However, this information was false and had been deliberately fed to the Yankees.

Bragg had hoped to attack Rosecrans and drive the Federals south, away from Chattanooga and Union supply lines. On September 19, a division from Union General George Thomas's corps moved out to strike at what Thomas thought was an isolated Confederate brigade. But his force ran into dismounted Rebel cavalry, and the battle escalated when Bragg sent additional troops to the skirmish. As the day wore on, the battle spread down the lines until both armies were fully engaged.

That night, additional Confederate troops arrived under the command of James Longstreet. Longstreet was part of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and his men had fought at Gettysburg two months prior. He was dispatched with two of his divisions to stem the tide of Confederate defeat in the West.

Longstreet's appearance paid off for the Confederates. Around noon on September 20, the stalemate broke when Rosecrans ordered General Thomas Wood to move his division to plug a gap in the Yankee line. Although no such gap existed, one was created when Wood moved his division. Longstreet's troops were now able to march through the gap, and the Union line collapsed in chaos. Most of the Union army began a hasty retreat to nearby Chattanooga, leaving Thomas's corps alone on the battlefield. Thomas stubbornly held his ground and halted the Rebel attack, which allowed him to successfully withdraw without further losses. His action earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga."

Bragg did not immediately pursue Rosecrans to Chattanooga. Instead, the Confederates besieged the city until Union reinforcements arrived in late October. One of the largest battles of the war, Chickamauga resulted in 18,500 Confederate casualties and 16,100 Union casualties. Each side lost about 28 percent of their forces.

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

## Additional Events of September 20th

**Friday September 20, 1861**

### Hemp Harvest Hastens High Heroics

For eight days the Confederates of Sterling Price had had a small Federal unit, the "Irish Guard" under Col. James A. Mulligan, surrounded and besieged in Lexington, Mo. Mulligan, hopelessly outnumbered, refused to surrender because he was expecting a relief column to be sent by James Fremont from St. Louis. Fremont, being locked in battle with political enemy Charles Blair Jr., never showed. Price forced the issue today in one of the few Civil War battles settled by hemp. Frontal assaults on the college buildings having failed before, Price's men today took large round bales of hemp, wetted them down, and rolled the bales forward for protection from Federal fire. It worked. Mulligan surrendered.

**Friday September 20, 1862**

### McClellan Mildness Military Madness?

There are those who excuse George McClellan's restraint in the Battle of Antietam on the grounds that he had to hold back substantial reserves as the last defense of Washington in case of a disaster on the field. Today, though, the battle had been over for two days, Lee's army had its back against the flooded Potomac River and was attempting to move his divisions across it to retreat back to Virginia. McClellan was still facing him, the reserves were still there, and all Little Mac did was send some cavalry to harass him, and kept the reserves in reserve and sat in Sharpsburg. Others noticed this inaction as well: Antietam was McClellan's last battle.

**Tuesday September 20, 1864**

### Early's Elements Engineer Escape

Phil Sheridan finally had Jubal Early's Cavalry force on the run in the Shenandoah Valley. Following the Battle of Winchester yesterday, Early was moving "up" the valley, which due to the direction the river flows, meant moving South. The pursuit lasted through Middleton, Va., passing through Strasburg until they reached a spot called Fisher's Hill. There Early's men stopped. In response, Sheridan ordered his men, who were still north of the town, to halt and begin to entrench. In the early days of the war it would have been unheard of for proud cavaliers of the Cavalry to dig ditches to fight in, but there had been some changes made.

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

### E-mail Address Request

Want to help the Old Baldy CWRT save money?  
Have your newsletter sent each month to your  
e-mail address. E-mail Mike Cavanaugh at:  
[chief96pbi@rcn.com](mailto:chief96pbi@rcn.com)

**Do It Today!**

**From The Gettysburg Times  
Out of the Past column. – Sept. 13, 1906**

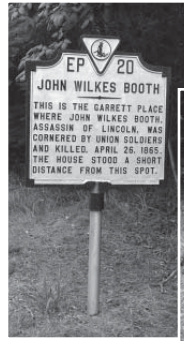
The reunion of the Blue and Gray to be held here Saturday next, Sept 15 promises to be a most interesting affair. Pickett's Division Association will arrive here from Richmond, VA., on a special train about 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and the Philadelphia Brigade Association is expected to arrive about the same time. After partaking of dinner, both associations will journey to the "Bloody Angle," where the reunion will be held and at which time and place, the Philadelphia Brigade Association will turn over General Armistead's sword to Pickett's Association at the spot where it was received from General Armistead 43 years ago.

*Courtesy of Ginny Gage, The Camp Griffin Gazette*

**The Garrett Farm  
(John Wilkes Booth death site)**

**Editor's Note**

I was on my way back from a three week trip to Georgia and Florida to visit family and upon leaving Richmond on Route 95 I encountered a parking lot of traffic... looking at a map I saw the old Route 301 and decided to bypass the DC and Baltimore area and there was a chance I would come across the Garrett Farm Location... after a few miles of driving through Camp A. P. Hill I saw a State Historical Marker and a small area to pull off... there was a marker on one side of the road and one on the other side... I pulled off and took some photos of the signs and saw



a small path in the woods and walked about 50 feet into a small clearing... there were no signs of any foundations...

there was a small granite marker that was placed there by a CSA group... I have found out that it was placed in the exact spot that Booth died on the front porch of the farm house... several years ago (while there was still some foundations left) someone had

done some exacting research and located this spot...

The location of the site is in the median of a new four lane highway... it is heavily wood and very dangerous do to the highway traffic and lack of parking space... but it is worth the visit to this historical site...



**Part of the Official Records Report  
on the capture of Booth**

His horse was got out, he was mounted, and we went back to the house of Mr. Garrett, about twelve miles from Bowling Green. I ordered my command to surround the house, and, as a precautionary measure, sent six men

*Continued on page 6*

**-NOTICE-**

**The September meeting has been moved to Thursday September 20, 2007 and the October meeting to October 4, 2007**

**Schedule of  
Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for 2007**

September 20, 2007 – Thursday  
**“The Last Days of Civil War Notables”**  
 Dr. Sidney Copel

October 4, 2007 – Thursday  
**“George B. McClellan: Lincoln’s Worst Nightmare”**  
 Ed Bonekemper, on his new book

Nov. 8 or Dec. 13 (TBD)  
**“Glorious” and Me:**

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

**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!***

The Civil War and Emancipation Studies at Temple (CWEST),  
 Association of Mid-Atlantic Civil War Round Tables (AMART),

The Pennsylvania Reserves - PVRC Battalion  
 G.A.R. Civil War Museum and Library

*are proud to announce! A Civil War Symposium*

**“The History of  
 The Pennsylvania Reserve Corps”**

Saturday, September 22, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
 Walk Auditorium - Ritter Hall, Main Campus Temple University

Price: \$50.00 if received by July 31, 2007, afterwards \$60.00  
 Includes: continental breakfast, lunch and snack breaks

Speakers Include: Guillermo Bosch, Rick Sauers, Pat Schroeder, Mike Riley, Rich Kohr, Rich Adams, Andy Waskie, Gary Grove, Joseph Gibbs and other distinguished historians

For further information, please email

Gary Grove at [Bucktails@comcast.net](mailto:Bucktails@comcast.net)  
 Rich Adams at [Rich@PABucktalls.com](mailto:Rich@PABucktalls.com)

Call: 215-204-5452

*Silver Nelaton Probe used to explore Lincoln's wound and the fatal bullet "Lincoln"*

## **Could Modern Medicine Have Saved Abraham Lincoln?**

*By Herb Kaufman*

All of us are most probably well aware of, and conversant with the events that occurred in Ford's Theatre on the evening of April 14, 1865. At 10:14 P.M. John Wilkes Booth pulled the trigger of his .44 caliber Philadelphia Derringer while he stood at the left rear of Mr. Lincoln. The bullet struck the President in the lower left side of his head, just below the left ear.

With that single shot, the entire scope of American history was drastically changed forever. The medical practices of that era left little doubt that the wound

to the President was fatal. As was the common practice, the first physician to attend the President, Dr. Charles A. Leale, placed his unwashed finger into the President's head wound to explore the trajectory of the deadly missile. Several times he repeated this procedure, each time removing a blood clot from the wound. He administered some brandy by mouth, and assisted in carrying the mortally wounded president across the street to the Peterson Boarding House.

The physician's of the period were without the knowledge of antiseptics, had no CT scans or x-rays, and the use of intravenous fluids and blood transfusions were yet far in the future. Dr. Charles S. Taft was the second surgeon to reach the President's box. He recorded that the President's left pupil was widely dilated, and that the right pupil was contracted. They postulated that the bullet had "blasted pieces of the skull into the right orbit." Both agreed that the wound was fatal.

Surgeon General Joseph Barnes later arrived at the Peterson House and examined the president. By this point, although Lincoln continued to breathe, "his pupils became fixed, dilated and non-reactive to light." At 2:00 a.m. Barnes introduced a silver probe into the wound. Later, he used a porcelain tipped Nelaton probe, extending it deep into the track of the wound. Neither of these instruments had the least bit of cleanliness and did nothing more than disturb the wound and introduce deadly bacteria into Lincoln's body.

During the night the wound continuously oozed blood and brain tissue. There was nothing these noted physicians could then do except watch and wait. The President continued to struggle for life, until his breathing ceased at 7:22 A. M., April 15, 1865.

Interestingly, the exact course of the bullet remains a mystery and subject of contention. At the time of the autopsy, the bullet fell from its place in the President's head, leading to speculation as to its original location. Surgeon General Barnes believed that the bullet had lodged behind the right eye, while Dr. Joseph Woodward and Dr. Robert King Stone, both of whom participated in the autopsy, stated that the bullet had lodged behind the left eye. On this topic, historian James Swanson writes, "Because of the angle of Lincoln's head at the moment of impact, (the bullet) drove a diagonal tunnel through Lincoln's brain from left to right. ... The ball came to rest in Lincoln's brain, lodged just behind the right eye." However, the official autopsy results declare that the bullet "lodged in the white matter of the cerebrum just above the anterior portion of the left corpus striatum."

Over the ensuing years, many physicians and historians have questioned whether the resuscitative procedures and trauma centers of today could have saved Mr. Lincoln. Most recently, Thomas A. Scalea M. D., physician-in-chief at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland presented an explanation of how the president would be treated had this wound occurred today.

Dr. Scalea stated that Mr. Lincoln would have first been stabilized in the field, an airway would have been inserted, and intravenous fluids begun. He would have been quickly transported to a modern trauma center equipped with sophisticated diagnostic equipment. He would have undergone a surgical procedure and be given medication to reduce the swelling of the brain. Dr. Scalea stated that Mr. Lincoln "needed surgery, modern-day life support and the appropriate level of intensive care." In Dr. Scalea's view, "This could be a recoverable injury, with a reasonable expectation that he would survive."

Dr. Scalea noted that apparently the frontal lobes of Lincoln's brain were untouched by the bullet. These lobes govern cognition and it is possible that Lincoln's cognitive abilities would have remained in tact. Nevertheless, the bullet did cut through the left side of Lincoln's brain traveling "nearly all the way through his head." Even today it would have been too dangerous to remove the bullet and this would not be attempted.

While it is certainly possible that Lincoln's life could have been saved, his ability to communicate and function remains unclear, "He probably would have been left with substantial disability, but you never really know," stated Dr. Scalea.

Dr. Scalea concluded his presentation by affirming that "we have all seen people make a seemingly miraculous recovery," but "brain injury is very hard to predict."

It would appear that even in this day of modern medical miracles, had he survived, the wound would have left the President with serious impairments that would have contravened his ability to govern. Since the law on presidential succession was not adopted until the assassination of President Kennedy, it appears that Lincoln's forceful Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton would then have assumed control of the government and would have led the nation in Lincoln's place until the next presidential election.

# Civil War Nurses

By Dr. John Bamberl  
Member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons

Approximately two thousand women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in military hospitals during the American civil war. Seeking direct involvement in the national struggle rather than domestic support roles which society had traditionally confined the majority of their sex, they experienced at first hand the grim reality of war-amputated limbs, mutilated bodies, disease and death and provided invaluable aid to the sick and wounded soldiers and medical authorities on either side.



Dorothea Dix LOC

consequently the activities and influence of the woman nurse constitute one of the rare aspects of civil war history that has not been extensively recorded.

Available evidence indicates that their activities often had important ramifications in both a immediate and broader social sense, and that as a group they deserve attention as full participants in the civil war conflict rather than as mere helpers of the main actors. These women often had a notable impact upon the men they tended and served under; and further the introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in a traditionally male military environment was one significant step toward a fuller involvement in American society.



Clara Barton LOC

male military environment was one significant step toward a fuller involvement in American society.

Prior to this time the medical assistants were either Stewarts assigned to the duty or the walking wounded. Very few of the women nurses left any records of their wartime service. They therefore remain in large measure historically anonymous, except for their names on hospital muster rolls, and

Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton were the leaders of a national effort to organize a nursing corps to care for the war's wounded and sick. Dix was already recognized for her improving the treatment of the insane when she began to recruit women for the army medical bureau. Military traditionalists opposed her but she prevailed armed with an indomitable will and singleness of purpose. One of the standards that Dix established for her nurse was that they be middle aged and plain looking. Recruits nicknamed her "Dragon Dix" one recruit stated "in those days it as considered indecorous for angels of mercy to appear other wise than gray headed and spectacled".

Clara Barton worked on parallel lines, but outside the official military system. A Massachusetts schoolteacher, Barton came to Washington in 1854 to work in the U. S. Patent Office. Determined to play a role in the events if 1861, she cared for soldiers that returned to Washington from Manassas. Thanks to financial support from New England Barton had the means and resolve to overcome the military bureaucracy to travel to the front lines. "I went in while the battle raged," she recalled with pride. After the war she was instrumental in the creation of an American branch of the International Red Cross.

*"In my feeble estimation, General McClellan with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield Clara Barton".*

*Dr. James Dunn, surgeon at Antitam battlefield.*

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Continued from page 4 - Garrett Farm

in rear of the barn and outbuildings. While I was placing my men around the buildings the detectives knocked at the door, which was opened by the elder Mr. Garrett, who was much excited; he said the men who had been there went to the woods the previous evening. While engaged in conversation the son of Mr. Garrett came in, advising the father to tell where they were. I seized this man by the collar, and pulled him out of the door and down the steps, put my revolver to his head and told him to tell me at once where the two assassins were; he replied, "in the barn." I said "show me the barn." We started on the run for the barn, I holding him by the collar, calling on my men to follow me and surround more closely the building I should indicate. In the meantime another of the Garrett sons appeared, who was seized by one of the detectives and ordered to get a candle. He immediately procured a candle. On arriving at the barn I left the Garrett I had in charge with some of my men, and posted my men around the barn. This accomplished, I returned to the front of the barn, and found Garrett coming out of the barn; it appears that he had been sent in there during my absence to summon Booth to surrender. This I disapproved, as there were soldiers enough there to perform such duty. Booth, however, refused to surrender. The detectives were in favor of firing the barn, which I opposed, declaring my intention to wait until daylight and I would send my men through the four different doors and overpower the assassin, but after consultation the project of burning the building was abandoned for the time being. In the meantime considerable conversation took place concerning the surrender of Booth between Mr. Baker, myself, and the assassin. Sergt. Boston Corbett, Company L, Sixteenth New York Cavalry asked permission to enter the barn alone, which

I refused. Booth all this time was very defiant and refused to surrender. At one time he said if we would draw up in line fifty paces off he would come out, adding that he was lame and had only one leg. This, however, I refused. Booth up to this time had denied there was anyone in the barn besides himself. Considerable conversation now took place between myself, Booth, and the detectives. We threatened to burn the barn if he did not surrender; at one time gave him ten minutes to make up his mind. Finally, Booth said, "Oh; Captain, there is a man here who wants to surrender awful bad:" I answered, and I think Mr. Baker did at the same time, "Hand out your arms." Herold replied, "I have none." Baker said, "We know exactly what you have got." Booth replied, "I own all the arms, and intend to use them on you gentlemen." After some little parley I said, "Let him out." Some one objected. I ordered Garrett, the younger son, who had the key, to unlock the barn, which he did. I partially opened the door, and told Herold to put out his hand, which he did. I then told him to put [out] his other hand. I took hold of both his wrists and pulled him out of the barn. Almost simultaneous with my taking Herold out of the barn the hay in the rear of the barn was ignited by Mr. Conger, and the barn fired. Sergt. Boston Corbett, Company L, Sixteenth New York Cavalry, shot the assassin Booth, wounding him in the neck. I entered the barn as soon as the shot was fired, dragging Herold with me, and found that Booth had fallen on his back. Messrs. Conger and Baker, with some of my men, entered the barn and took hold of Booth. I proceeded with Herold to find a rope to secure him, there being no irons for that purpose. The assassin Booth lived about two hours. In the meantime a doctor was procured, who remained with Booth till he died. I procured a wagon, sewed up the body in a blanket myself, and placed it in the wagon. I then proceeded to Port Royal, where we arrived at 9 a.m. April 26, 1865, and crossed the river in a scow. While crossing my command Mr. Baker, without authority, moved off with the body of the assassin, taking with him the two men who had been previously detailed as a guard to the body, also one of the prisoners (Captain Jett, rebel). I was some time crossing my command, and experienced some difficulty in bringing Herold and the two Garretts along, having only one horse to mount the three; thus delay was occasioned. After proceeding some distance I procured an additional horse. Fearing some accident might happen to the body of the assassin and the prisoner Jett, whom Mr. Baker had taken with him. I dispatched an orderly to tell Mr. Baker to halt. The orderly rode over four miles at full speed, when, overtaking Mr. Baker, he told him to halt until the column came up. This Mr. Baker, however, did not do, but continued on missing me and the road. I arrived at Belle Plain

at 6 p.m., and found the corpse had not yet arrived. I felt great anxiety, and was about to apply to Major Bosworth, Sixteenth New York Cavalry, who was at Belle Plain with his command, for a detachment of men to go in search of the body, when Mr. Baker arrived. I immediately asked him where the prisoner, Captain Jett, was. He replied, "he did not know; he had escaped." After a short delay the body of the assassin Booth was placed on board the steamer John S. Ide, and we proceeded to Washington, where I delivered over the body of Booth, Herold, and the two Garretts to Col. L. C. Baker, at 3 a.m. the 27th day of April, 1865.

The command consisted of twenty-six enlisted men of the Sixteenth New York Cavalry, and myself, the two gentlemen, Messrs. Conger and Baker, sent by Colonel Baker, making a total in all of twenty-nine men.

I would say that great credit is due to all concerned for the fortitude and eagerness they displayed in pursuing and arresting the murderers. For nearly sixty hours hardly an eye was closed or a horse dismounted until the errand was accomplished.

In conclusion I beg to state that it has afforded my command and myself inexpressible pleasure to be the humble instruments of capturing the foul assassins who caused the death of our beloved President and plunged the nation in mourning.

*All of which is respectfully submitted.*

*EDWARD P. DOHERTY,*

*First Lieut., Sixteenth New York Cavalry, Comdg.  
Detachment.*

## Old Baldy Dinner

The Old Baldy CWRT will hold a fund raising dinner on Saturday April 5, 2007 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 you calendar - SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2008.

## The Civil War Institute

While it may seem that summer has barely begun, we all know how quickly the seasons fly past. And what else can that mean except that it will be September before we know it, and the school bells will be ringing once again. While some of us may be past our school days, it's never too late to have fun learning.

Whether you're an old pro at taking the courses at the Civil War Institute, or you're new to the program, why not check out what we have to offer!

Our Fall 2007 semester begins on Thursday September 6. Once again, we are offering two "core" courses (indicated by \*\*) and three electives, including a new course on the Antietam Campaign. And, of course, all classes are Act 48

**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**  
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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.

**\*\*The Civil War Series Overview (1861-1870)**

- 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 instructors who are experts on the subject. It is one you will not want to miss.

**Date:** Thursdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11

**Fee:** \$77

**Seminar taught by:** DVCWRT Members

**Medicine in the Civil War**

- 6 hours - This course will explore that era of Civil War medicine that ministered to the sick before antitoxins and the science of bacteriology existed, when crude sanitation and an ignorance of water were deadly. It will look at how more men died of disease than battle wounds. The course will show how these Civil War doctors became medical explorers in treating disease, and why there were so many amputations. You will see how the medicine of the day met the horror of the battlefield.

**Date:** Mondays, September 17, 24; October 1

**Fee:** \$45

**Seminar taught by:** Herb Kaufman

**Abraham Lincoln – The “War Years”**

- 6 hours - Abraham Lincoln can not be separated from the Civil War; the war years were his presidency. This course takes an in-depth look at those 50 months of his presidency starting with his election in 1860 to his inauguration and the coming of the Civil War. Each year was a crucial one dealing with war, politics, slavery, with Congress, his cabinet; the press with attacks on him and his wife. Difficulties in

finding the general he wanted. His running for reelection in 1864 added to this aged man before the eyes of America. His 50 months in the White House ended at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865. This course will look at who he was, what he accomplished in those war years and what is the Lincoln legacy.

**Date:** Wednesdays, October 10, 17, 24

**Fee:** \$45

**Seminar taught by:** Hugh Boyle

**\*\*The Gettysburg Campaign**

- 12 hours - Two mighty armies engaged by chance in the greatest single battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. A detailed examination of events leading up to the battle and each day's activity will be covered. Did the mighty Army of the Potomac finally get the leadership it deserved? Did Robert E. Lee blunder in his strategy? Did his commanders let him down? Would he have prevailed if Jackson were alive? Was James Longstreet, Lee's "war-horse," right in his view of the battle?

**Date:** Mondays, October 29; November 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec 3

**Fee:** \$77

**Seminar taught by:** Frank Avato

**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

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