

Old Baldy

Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



January 9, 2014, The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

“A visit from Governor Charles Olden”



Governor
Charles Smith Olden



Bruce Sirak

Join us on **Thursday, January 9th at 7:15 PM** at **Camden County College, Blackwood Campus** when we shall have the privilege of a visit and discussion with Governor Charles Olden of New Jersey.

When **Bruce Sirak** was 10 years old, his family visited Gettysburg, where he learned about one of the greatest battles ever fought on American soil. That vacation inspired him to develop a strong interest in the Civil War era, an admiration for patriotism, and great appreciation for all United States veterans. Now he is not able to put down any book about U.S. history, and he has expanded his interest in history to include all world wars.

After attending the 125th Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1988, Bruce became a Civil War re-enactor. Each year thousands of people gather to relive that time in history as well as others carrying old weapons, acting out battles, and wearing reproduction period clothing, such as the 100 percent wool uniform that re-enactors like Bruce wear in the middle of July.

Bruce portrayed a private in the 28th Massachusetts Co. B, a regiment of the famed Irish Brigade. Over the years he has participated in numerous battle reenactments, as well as festivals and school programs. His experiences have given him a much better understanding of what it might have been like to have been a soldier during the Civil War,

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Notes from the President...

Happy 2014 to you! Hope everyone had an enjoyable, relaxing and safe Holiday season. 2013 was a good building year for our Round Table and we need to keep the momentum going as we expand and develop a foothold in South Jersey. Keep telling those you know and meet about our group as we continue to grow. Let us know of upcoming events through the year so we can get out letting citizens know of our presence in the area. Bring your dues to the meeting to give to **Bill Hughes** or send them to our Treasurer **Herb Kaufman**.

Last month, **Don Ensberger** explained the ‘real’ plan for Fredericksburg, how Meade’s breakthrough factored in and why the charges up the hill made sense. All present in the big room came away with a better understanding of the critical event of the War. This month we are joined by **Bruce Sirak** in the person of **Governor Charles Olden** (Governor of New Jersey for the first two years of the War). Governor Olden was to visit us last April but had personal challenges and comes to us now with an improved program.

It was good to see our Round Table well represented at the 198th celebration of **General George Gordon Meade’s** birthday and his 173rd wedding anniversary. Many were in character to the parade to the grave for the champagne toast. After the weather challenge last month, we will attempt to have a Board meeting the week of our meeting with updates on our plans for the year to be announced at the meeting.

Be sure to check for upcoming events from the Center for Civil Leadership and Responsibility at the College and the schedule of courses for the Civil War Institute at Manor. Look for details on future events including the Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium in March and the Virginia 2014 Signature Conference.

Travel safe and bring a friend or two to welcome “The Governor” on the 9th.

Rich Jankowski, President

**Please join us at
7:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 9th,
at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus,
Connector Building - Room 101.**

whether it meant engaging in hand to hand combat or getting by on meager rations.

Bruce moved from reenacting the character of a front line soldier to portraying Charles Smith Olden, governor of New Jersey from 1860-1863, during the first years of the Civil War. A former state senator and treasurer of what was then the College of New Jersey (Princeton University today), Olden may be best known for constructing the magnificent mansion called "Drumthwacket," which is now the official residence of all New Jersey governors.

New Jersey did not have any Civil War battles on its soil, but it contributed a great deal in terms of not only martial manpower, but also civilian support to the Union's fight in the War Between the States. Bruce Sirak firmly believes that New Jersey's citizens should be extremely proud of their State and of its veterans who served valiantly to support the Union cause in the Civil War era.

Bruce Sirak of Burlington Twp., NJ, is a founding member of the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table, named for New Jersey's first training camp during the Civil War.

From the Treasurer's Desk

Best wishes for a very wonderful and Happy New Year to all the members of the Old Baldy CWRT.

Can you believe it, it is 2014!! As we approach the new year just a brief reminder that annual dues are due.

Our round table has just completed a banner year that featured outstanding speakers on a wide variety of topics. Of course, all members will continue to receive our truly superb monthly Old Baldy newsletter. More importantly, the round table has continued to flourish in South Jersey. Our membership has steadily increased, and it is anticipated that your continued membership and participation will allow Old Baldy to continue as the premier Civil War round table in this area.

Thanks to all members who are attending our monthly meetings. Kerry Bryan, our Program Chairwoman has already been hard at work lining up a great list of speakers and programs for next year.

Remember, it is your round table.

Let us know of your interests and how Old Baldy CWRT can best provide you with education, friendship and an enjoyable evening.

As we enter 2014, your annual dues are due. We have some really great programs and discussions planned and we hope that you will remain a member

of our renowned round table.

Dues remain only \$25.00 (\$35.00 for the entire family). If you wish to continue to have our outstanding newsletter sent by USPS, please add a donation of \$10. for the year, in addition to your dues.

Please bring your dues to the next meeting, or mail your dues your dues payable to:

**"OLD BALDY CWRT"
Herb Kaufman, Treasurer
2601 Bonnie Lane
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**

**or
"OLD BALDY CWRT"
Bill Hughes, Secretary
1671 Maria Place
Vineland, NJ 08361**

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 for the holidays and coming year,
Herb***

John Jarrett Craft... will be missed.

As with all obituaries, that of John Jarrett Craft's gave the bare details of his life: that he was 77 years old at the time of his passing on December 8, 2013; he was the beloved husband of Deborah and father of John, Pamela, and Christopher; that he was survived by seven grandchildren to whom he was extremely devoted to; that he was the former Director of Adult Education for the School District of the Philadelphia and former Executive Director of the Civil War Library and Museum.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing John would tell you that he was a rare and unique individual. John was a lifelong educator who also had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. He first "discovered" the Civil War while attending a swim meeting at Gettysburg in which one of his son's was participating. This led to his visiting the CWLM, his becoming a volunteer at the Museum, and eventually

becoming a member of the Museum's Executive Board and Director. It was under his guidance that the Meade Room and Special Exhibit Gallery (directly behind the Meade Room) were restored and renovated by his interior designer wife, Deborah Craft.

Anybody who was fortunate enough to have John pass through his or her life was probably better for it. Because he was a lifelong educator, both professionally and personally, he was constantly sharing the wealth of information that he had gained through a life well spent - but a life that was not always easy. Upon his passing, more than one person commented that they looked upon him as not only a mentor, but also a father figure; a sentiment that I definitely shared.

Steve Wright

**25 MORE
MEN WANTED**



**TO FILL UP
COMPANY A,
Camden Regiment,
NOW SWORN IN, AND UNDER PAY
IN CAMP OLDEN,
Near Trenton**

None but sound able bodied men will be accepted.
C. MEVES, Recruiting Officer,
Cor. 4th and Federal streets, Camden, N. J.
Those wishing to enlist must be ready to proceed to Trenton on Monday,
August 10, 1861.

New-jersey Troops at Camp Olden.; The Troops in Good Health and Spirits Gov. Olden Innocent of the Charges Made Against Him the Three New-jersey Regiments Their Equipments, &c.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

TRENTON, Saturday, June 8, 1861.

The three regiments of New-Jersey troops now stationed at Camp Olden are in excellent health and spirits, and will shortly proceed to the seat of war. Camp Olden is situated about three miles from the City of Trenton, and

located in one of the healthiest places near the town. It was found necessary to have the camp removed the distance above named so that the troops might have less associations with the city, as it was discovered that when they paid Trenton a visit results of a very serious consequence, prejudicial to their health, were sure to ensue.

That the rum-shops of the city had purposely manufactured unwholesome and impure drink especially for them has been too apparent, from the dangerous illness with which many of them had been suddenly attacked; and it has been discovered that, so heartily did they indulge in the adulterated stuffs prepared for them, their lives were in great danger. This has taken place on several occasions, and to so serious a height had the evil complained of arisen, that it became the bounden duty of the authorities to interfere and put an end to such wicked proceedings.

The matter was taken up by many of the New York and other newspapers, and false representations were made against Gov. OLDEN and the officers of the regiment. The misstatements reflected very severely on the Governor and the heads of the troops; but the false and unfounded accusations are now put at rest by the letter of your correspondent, who visited Camp Olden on Friday last, and returned on Saturday.

He states that neither Gov. OLDEN nor any of the regimental authorities were in the slightest to blame, but the hawkers of filthy and spurious drinks, which in themselves were sufficiently calculated to destroy the health of the troops, and, if indulged in to any extent, would result in death itself. The authorities and officers having obtained information on this head, have issued the most stringent orders upon the subject, and the troops of the three regiments now encamped outside Trenton are in excellent condition, the camp itself being in a most salubrious and delightful neighborhood. Your correspondent discoursed freely with many of the men, and their own statements strongly confute the formerly published libelous misstatements. The food they receive is excellent and substantial, and in abundance. They have no complaints to make, only that they evince a strong wish to be off to the scene of hostilities, so that they may be ready to take their part in the operations which the Government have determined to take against the Southern rebels, who have brought the country to its present alarming position.

The men are kept very close to drill duty. This is the more requisite, not only that they may be kept at good exercise, so necessary to those who have been accustomed heretofore to hard work and constant employment, but also that when they reach the scene of action, they may be the more fully prepared to take their place creditably amongst the mighty-phalanx who have nobly volunteered their services in behalf of supporting the honor, dignity and glory of the Union. In this parade work they have attained to a high degree of perfection, and will not be a whit behind their brother New-Jersey companions, who have gone before them.

I hope the foregoing will have the effect of exonerating Gov. OLDEN and the military authorities, as well as of doing fair and impartial justice to the men themselves, who are steady, sober and obedient in every respect. A word now in regard to their equipments.

The great obstacle to the movement of the men to the war arises from the fact that they have not yet been fully equipped, nor received their necessary arms and clothing. The clothing will be furnished during the present week, and the Government has given orders that it shall be of the best quality.

The Government has contracted for three thousand muskets under the newest alterations, and made in the most approved manner; and to render the men completely efficient, they will not be permitted, under any circumstances, to leave until they are fully clothed, equipped and armed, so that on their arrival to take their part in the glories in which they will be called upon to share, they may be ready to at once enter upon the performance of their arduous duties. Additional drill-ground has been taken, and the men are kept close to drill every day. They attract much attention, and are highly thought of by the people with whom they commingle. They appear to well understand the responsibilities of the enterprise upon which they have entered, and will, I am gratified to believe, when they join the other hosts, be a highly creditable auxiliary.

Today in Civil War History

Thursday January 9, 1862 Lincoln Laments Loathesome Lethargy

Some weeks ago Abraham Lincoln had started sending letters and telegrams to his two senior commanding generals in the Western Theater, Don Carlos Buell and Henry Halleck, asking when, in their opinions, they would be ready to carry the battle against the enemy. Specifically he was looking at them to carry out the Western half of the Anaconda Plan to strangle the Confederacy by recapturing the Mississippi River. To Lincoln's increasing annoyance, he wasn't getting dates far in the future, because he wasn't getting any response at all. Today he complained about this during a meeting with General of the Army George McClellan. This was ironic, because McClellan would prove to be the worst procrastinator of them all.

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Governor
Charles Smith Olden



Final Resting place of
Governor Olden:
Stoney Brook Burial
Ground - Princeton, NJ
Photo-Bruce Sirak

Charles Smith Olden - New Jersey's Civil War Governor - January 15, 1860 to January 20, 1863

Charles Smith Olden, governor of New Jersey, born in Princeton, New Jersey, 19 February, 1799; died there, 7 April, 1876. He was educated at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, left, school early to work in his father's store, entered a mercantile house in Philadelphia in 1823, and in 1826 went to New Orleans, where he became a successful merchant, retiring from business in 1834 and returning to Princeton. As treasurer of Princeton college, he aided in extricating it from financial embarrassment after the destruction of Nassau hall by fire. He represented his county in the state senate from 1844 till 1850. In 1859 he was elected by the Republicans governor of New Jersey, and was efficient in organizing and equipping the state's quota of troops. He attended the Peace congress in 1861. His service as governor ended in 1863, and he subsequently filled the offices of judge of the court of errors and appeals, member of the court of pardons, riparian commissioner, and presidential elector.

Friday January 9, 1863 Miscellaneous Military Moves Make Muddle

There was little of a particularly aggressive nature going on today. In the Federal West, the Army of the Cumberland, Gen. Rosecrans commanding, was reorganized into three corps, one each for George Thomas, Alexander McCook and Thomas Crittenden. None of the three corps was in a position to do anything about the Union garrison at Hartsville, Mo, which was compelled to surrender to the Confederate forces of Gen. Marmaduke. Considerably further South, there was a to-do in the area south of St. Joseph's, Fla., when the USS "Ethan Allen" sailed up. There was little fighting but much destruction: the "Allen" was on a mission to destroy the salt manufacturers and all their equipment and reserves. The one they got today was said to be producing 75 bushels of salt per day and selling it all at a good price in Richmond.

Saturday January 9, 1864 Naval Nastiness Nears Notability

There was little hostile action on any front today (with the exception of a very tiny skirmish at the equally tiny Terman's Ferry, Ky.) but the rumors were vast and numerous. They were also mostly naval: in Washington, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles received a disturbing telegram from Admiral C.H. Bell in California. According to Bell, he had himself just received word that the Confederates were constructing a large new raider in an unexpected place, Vancouver, British Columbia. Welles' agents had largely blocked Southern attempts to get ships in Europe, but had overlooked the Canadian option. In Richmond, Jefferson Davis was sending notice to commanders in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia that Admiral Farragut was preparing to attack Mobile.

Monday January 9, 1865 Slavery Support Swiftly Slipping

In Washington the debate on the 13th Amendment to outlaw slavery everywhere in America was heating up. The bill had already passed the Senate easily but was having a harder time in the more volatile House. Lincoln was putting pressure everywhere he could to move the matter along, and day by day more Congressmen signed on in support. In Tennessee, the state's control by Union forces was considered strong enough that a Constitutional Convention was allowed to be held, and today they too adopted an amendment abolishing slavery in the state. It next had to be put to a vote of the people, or at least male people.

www.civilwarinteractive

New Superintendent Named at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site

Philadelphia, PA - Ed W. Clark has been selected as the new Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, both in Gettysburg, PA. Clark has served most recently as Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park. "Ed's deep understanding of park operations and tremendous partnership skills - as well as deep connections to the Civil War community - make him the ideal candidate to lead one of the most significant battlefields in the nation, if not the world," noted National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach. "Ed's network and skill-set will serve the park staff, community and visitors well." While at Manassas, Clark has been a Service-wide leader for the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the broader Civil War to Civil Rights commemorative effort. Clark has also successfully managed Manassas through some challenging projects including bringing the park's General Management Plan to conclusion and he has also worked to create a new sustainable organization during complicated political and financial times. He served as



Continued from page 4 - "New Superintendent"

the acting Associate Regional Director for Operations for the National Capital Region of the National Park Service and the acting National Coordinator for National Heritage Areas for the Service. Prior to Manassas, he served as the Deputy Chief Ranger at Shenandoah National Park, and Supervisory Park Ranger at the Blue Ridge Parkway - among other posts. He is currently enrolled in the Senior Executive Service's Candidate Development Program, identifying him as one of the Service's most promising senior leaders. "I am thrilled to have been chosen as the new Superintendent of Gettysburg and Eisenhower," noted

Clark. "These landscapes are some of the most iconic in our nation's history. I'm very proud to be joining the excellent staff and volunteers of these sites and look forward to continuing to work with the many exceptional partners, while becoming involved in the local community." Clark is a native of Roanoke, Virginia and holds degrees from Radford University and Ferrum College. Clark is married to wife Heidi, and they have two children, Ben and Reid. Clark replaces Superintendent Bob Kirby, who retires on January 3rd. Ed Clark will begin his new position in early February.

In the footsteps of Lieutenant Aaron B. Jerome, Signal Officer and Major General John Buford on the morning of July 1, 1863.



Seminary Museum

During a visit to Gettysburg January 2-5, 2014, OBCWRT member visited the new Seminary Museum. The July crowds were long gone, and she was the sole attendee on 2:00 pm tour to the cupola, which affords a magnificent 360° view of the countryside. Famously, Army of the Potomac Generals John Buford and John Reynolds met in the seminary's cupola on the morning of July 1, 1863, to survey the terrain as the battle was fomenting.

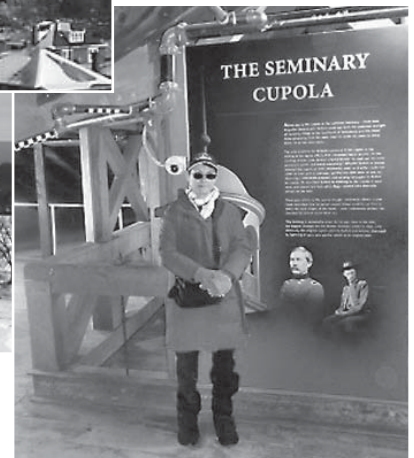


Looking northeast from the cupola, the view includes the Gettysburg (formerly Pennsylvania) College campus.



To the Cupola.

Looking southeast, Cemetery Ridge rises on the horizon.



The Museum guide obligingly took Kerry Bryan's photo.



To the northwest is Herr's Ridge where General Reynolds was felled by a sharpshooter soon after his meeting with Buford.

Trivia

What State University, whose students left en masse in 1861 to join the "University Grays" or the "Lamar Rifles", is best known by its nickname, the Antebellum term for the Mistress of a Southern Plantation?

Ole Miss, the University of Mississippi

Birthday Commemoration of Major General George Gordon Meade

Once again the General Meade Society of Philadelphia hosted a successful birthday commemoration of General George Gordon Meade at Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31. It would have been Meade's 198th birthday (and also his wedding anniversary). Living historians, VIPs and others braved the cold to gather at the

cemetery gatehouse and proceeded to the general's gravesite for a short ceremony and a champagne toast. Here are a few photos. - Photos by Tom Huntington, Blair Thorn and Rich Jankowski





December 12th Meeting... "Meade's Breakthrough at Fredericksburg"

Don Ernsberger presented a very in-depth discussion on Meade's Breakthrough at Fredericksburg. Don's discussion was that the key to the entire battle on December 13 was the action downstream from the main bridge area of Fredericksburg where Meade's Pennsylvania Reserves broke the Confederate lines in an attempt to carry out what was to have been Major General Ambrose E. Burnside's true objective that day. And not the fateful charges at Marye's Heights. Don's presentations have always had a great deal of details along packed with Don's research abilities.

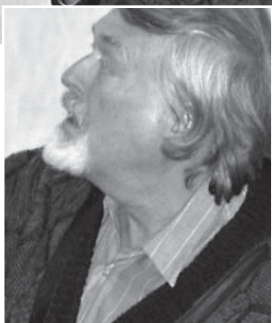
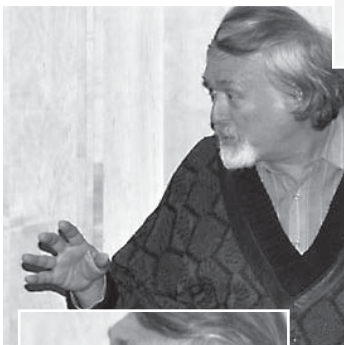
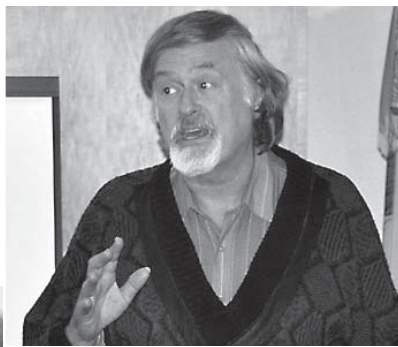


Trivia

What Milk product, patented in 1856, became an important part of the Union Soldiers' diet?

Gail Borden's Condensed Milk

Don Ernsberger



Annual General Meade Society Champagne Brunch & Award Ceremony Sunday

January 26, 2014 11 AM – 2 PM

Join the General Meade Society of Philadelphia
for
Its Annual Deluxe Champagne Brunch
and Award Ceremony
to Celebrate the New Year and Toast the Victor
of Gettysburg!
Presenting the Society 'Order of Merit' Award!
(Special Guest Recipient)

at
Cannstatter Volksfest Verein
9130 Academy Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114

(directions: <http://www.cvvphilly.com/directions.html>) ;

Cost: \$40. per person \$75. per couple Complete Deluxe
Brunch & Champagne Toast & Silent Auction
To reserve: Contact Gerry McCormick at 215-848-7753
or email: gedwinmc@msn.com
Reservations should be made at least one week prior
to the Brunch!

Go to the Meade Society website for additional details.
(www.generalmeadesociety.org) ;

The Civil War Institute

The **Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table** and the **Continuing Education Program at Manor College** have six courses set for the Winter/Spring semester beginning in January – including two **BRAND NEW ELECTIVE CLASSES!!** Tell your family and friends that CW Institute classes make a great gift suggestion!

Classes may be taken as part of the certificate program or individually. 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.

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

* Indicates Core Course ** Indicates Elective Course

**The Irish in the Civil War - .6 CEUs – 6 Hours

Both Blue and Gray had a generous touch of green. So why did these men fight and die so bravely in a country that was new to them? And what generals were more gallant than the Union's Phil Sheridan and the Confederacy's Pat Cleburne?

Dates: Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 3
Fee: \$79
Instructor: Hugh Boyle

**NEW COURSE - Desperate Measures: Unusual Incidents and Strange Adventures in the Civil War - .6 CEUs – 6 Hours

Strange but true; this axiom was never more relevant than describing many of the unusual and extraordinary occurrences during the Civil War. This course concentrates on a significant number of controversial personalities, occurrences and events, and strange and highly unusual incidents that occurred prior to and during the four years of the Civil War.

Dates: Wednesdays, February 12, 19, 26
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 3
Fee: \$79
Instructor: Herb Kaufman, M.Ed.

**Sherman's March to Victory - .6 CEUs – 6 Hours

Follow William T. Sherman in the campaign that captured Atlanta and likely saved Lincoln's presidency. Afterward, Sherman marches to the Atlantic, cutting a 60-mile-wide swath of destruction that has been called the first total-war strategy. Finally, he makes an even more destructive march through South Carolina and forces the surrender of Joseph Johnston in North Carolina.

Dates: Mondays, March 10, 17, 24
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 3
Fee: \$79
Instructor: Jerry Carrier

*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!

Dates: Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9, 16
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 6
Fee: \$125
Instructor: Del Val Civil War Round Table

*John Brown and Harpers Ferry - .6 CEUs – 6 Hours

What kind of man was John Brown? What led him to his crusade for freedom that involved acts of lawless violence? This course answers these questions and tells of those who helped, encouraged and supported him. It will show how his hopes to

ignite a slave rebellion ended in his death on a gallows. John Brown was an important link in the chain of events that led to the Civil War. The course will reveal the man, his mission and his place in American history.

Dates: Mondays, April 7, 14, 21
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 3
Fee: \$79
Instructor: Patricia Caldwell, M.A.

**NEW COURSE - The Overland Campaign of 1864 - .6 CEUs – 6 Hours

"Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also." This was Gen. Grant's instruction to Gen. Meade in his plan to "hammer continuously against the armed force of the enemy." This course follows the tactics and battles of the Overland Campaign from May 5 to June 16, 1864, beginning in the Wilderness and culminating with the siege of Petersburg.

Dates: Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sessions: 3
Fee: \$79
Instructor: Herb Kaufman, M.Ed.

Be sure to visit the webpage of Manor College for Civil War trivia, book reviews, testimonials, faculty spotlight, a video, and much more. Become a fan of The Civil War Institute at Manor College on Facebook.

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2014

January 9 – Thursday
"Charles Smith Olden:
New Jersey's Lincoln"
Bruce Sirak

February 6* – Thursday
"Octavius V. Catto"
Robert Branch
(Living Historian)

*Meeting on first Thursday of month

Questions to Kerry Bryan at 215-564-4654 or
kerrylll@verizon.net

You're Welcome to Join Us!

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
Camden County College
Blackwood Campus - Connector Building
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

856-427-4022 oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
Founded January 1977

President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: Bob Russo
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
Secretary: Bill Hughes
Programs: Kerry Bryan

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

WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>
Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
Blog: <http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/>
Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table