



Old Baldy

Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

OLD BALDY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE (OBCWRT)

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table (OBCWRT) encourages and promotes greater interest in the American Civil War by sponsoring meetings, programs, and other events that highlight the history of the Civil War era. These include lecture series, Symposiums and a Book Award. OBCWRT also advocates and supports local and national Civil War preservation programs.

Participants in Round Table discussions are welcome to share historical information and their interpretations thereof.

PROGRAMS

OBCWRT draws an array of speakers, sometimes tapping the expertise of its own members, to provide a range of topics and perspectives, e.g. Civil War economics, medicine, railroads, monuments, Gettysburg and other battles, roles of women, drummers, Lincoln, flags, famous generals and common soldiers, the Union Navy, homefront volunteers, spies, the U.S. Colored Troops, etc. The Round Table also periodically offers book discussions, members' "show and tell" sessions, and social hours.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Informative programs, field trips, monthly newsletter, membership in the Camden County History Alliance and the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, Memorial Day Services at

the tomb of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock and special events. An important benefit is the camaraderie of the group and our opportunities to learn from and share knowledge with fellow Civil War enthusiasts.

MEETINGS

OBCWRT meets at 7:15 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Camden County College (Blackwood Campus), 200 College Drive, Connector Building, Room 101, Blackwood, NJ 08012. The campus has a spacious lot that provides free parking.

NEWSLETTER

Members receive the Round Table's award-winning monthly newsletter. It provides meeting information, timely articles and images as well as news from other historic groups and Civil War venues. Members are welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Our newsletter received the Kevin M. Hale Publication Award for best newsletter in New Jersey from the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

TOURS

OBCWRT has conducted field trips to significant Civil War sites. Many of the tours were conducted by noted local or Park historians to provide in depth coverage which is not always available to the general public.

APPLICATION

We invite you to become a member of OBCWRT and join us monthly for an informative evening of Civil War history, whether a lecture by a historians and/or author, or a round table conducive to group discussion and exchange. We invite you to attend your first meeting as our guest and encourage you to bring (or mail) a completed membership application which is available on our website under the About Us tab.



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Camden County College (Blackwood Campus)
200 College Drive
Connector Building, Room 101
Blackwood, NJ 08012

WEB Site: www.oldbaldycwrt.org
Facebook: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
E-Mail: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

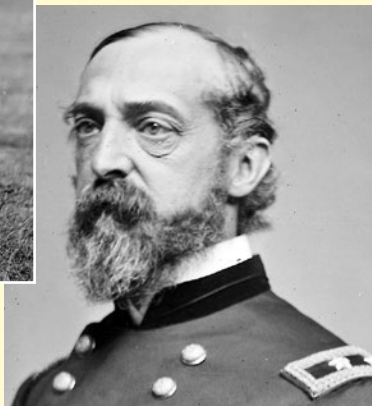
Founded January 1977

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



Old Baldy

The Story of "Old Baldy," General Meade's War Horse



indomitable war horse returned to service with General Meade and received the last of his fourteen wounds at the Battle of Weldon Railroad in August, 1864.

The white face on the horse purchased from the government in 1861, by General George G. Meade, suggested the name "Baldy." Baldy was ridden by General David Hunter at the Battle of First Bull Run. Twice wounded in that battle, the horse was returned to the government herd, from whence he was eventually purchased by General Meade. At first Meade was disappointed by his new horse, and was concerned that the princely sum of \$150.00 which he paid for him had been ill spent. But Baldy soon proved his valor.

During the Civil War it was considered vital that army commanders lead their troops by example. On their horses, urging their men forward, they became prime targets for opposing riflemen. The bullets and shells intended for their masters often found their mark instead in the horses that they rode. As a brigade commander, General Meade first rode Baldy at the Battle of Second Bull Run, where Baldy was shot in the leg. After the horse's wound healed, General Meade again rode him, at the Battle of Antietam, where Baldy was seriously wounded in the neck by a Confederate minie ball. Having left the horse felled on the field, Meade sent an aide the next morning to retrieve his saddle. To everyone's amazement, Baldy was not only still alive, but was back on his feet and quietly grazing amidst the carnage of the battlefield.

Baldy saw action again during the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At the Battle of Gettysburg, a Confederate bullet passed within an inch of General Meade's thigh and slammed into Baldy. Meade sent the horse to the rear and thought he would never ride him again. But this

That winter the General retired Baldy to a stable in Jenkintown, PA, just a few miles from his home in Philadelphia. After the War, General Meade often rode the horse, especially through Fairmount Park, for which the General served as its first commissioner. When Meade died in November, 1872, of pneumonia exacerbated by an old wound to the lung he had incurred at the Battle of Glendale on June 30, 1862, his faithful steed, now affectionately known as "Old" Baldy, served as the "Riderless Horse" at the general's funeral.

Old Baldy survived the General by ten years, dying in 1882 at the age of thirty. On Christmas Day of that year, nine days after his death, Old Baldy was "resurrected" by two admirers of General Meade, Harry W. Hervey and Albert C. Johnston. They had Old Baldy's head preserved and then mounted on an ebony shield on which they inscribed his service record. Old Baldy was then presented to General George G. Meade Post #1, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), of Philadelphia.

The head of Old Baldy was cleaned and restored in 1991, and for some years reposed in a place of honor in the Meade Room of the Civil War Library and Museum (CWLM) in downtown Philadelphia. When the CWLM closed on Pine Street, Old Baldy was eventually returned to the GAR Museum and Library, located on Griscom Street in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. Old Baldy now presides over the Meade Room at the GAR Museum, where he occupies a custom-made, humidity-controlled, mahogany and glass display case.



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