

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Kevin M. Hale Award  
for  
best Historical Newsletter  
in New Jersey

April 9, 2020 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

## “The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May



Hampton Newsome

Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, April 9** on **Zoom**. This month's topic is **“The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864”**

On a cold day in early January 1864, Robert E. Lee wrote to Confederate president Jefferson Davis "The time is at hand when, if an attempt can be made to cap-

ture the enemy's forces at New Berne, it should be done." Over the next few months, Lee's dispatch would precipitate a momentous series of events as the Confederates, threatened by a supply crisis and an emerging peace movement, sought to seize Federal bases in eastern North Carolina. This is the story of these operations; the late war Confederate resurgence in the Old North State.

Hampton Newsome is an attorney residing in Arlington, Virginia. He holds a Bachelors in Public Policy from Duke University, a Masters in City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning from the University of Virginia School of Architecture, and his JD from the University of Virginia Law School.

Hampton is the author of "Richmond Must Fall", covering the October 1864 Richmond-Petersburg campaign, and was recognized as a best book of 2013 by the Civil War Monitor. His book "The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864" was recently named as the Best Book of the Year for 2019 by the Civil War Books and Authors blog. He also maintains his own blog entitled "Ransack Garret and Closet".

### ZOOMcast

Our April roundtable meeting will be a **ZOOMcast** with author Hampton Newsome. Hampton will discuss his book *“The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864”*.

If you would like to check connecting to ZOOM in advance, please email me at [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto:dgilson404@gmail.com) and I will schedule a brief test with you.

### Notes from the President...

April brings us a new reality as we live apart and communicate electronically. Our Round Table will do its best to stay in touch and bring the members quality programs during the period of "social distancing." Your patience and fortitude will permit our group to endure this period and be better when it is over. If you have not submitted your dues to **Frank Barletta** this year, now is a good time to send them. Thank you to all have already renewed for this year.

The March meeting when **Paul Prentiss** told us about the Battle of Mobile Bay seems so far away much has changed since we parted. The Board had an on-line meeting and we are planning for our April 9th meeting on-line. **Hampton Newsome** will join us on our computers to tell us about his book, *“The Fight for the Old North State.”* Be sure to log into ZOOM to hear it and see your fellow members. **Dave** is working on scheduling additional presentations for us while we wait this crisis out.

It was just one year ago we were planning our trip to Vineland, welcoming **Bill Vosseler** to present on General George Thomas and we reached 1000 likes on our Facebook page. You too can use the collection of past copies of our award-winning newsletter on our webpage to recall

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our past events, and articles. Feel free to write an article for a future newsletter, tell us how you are spending your time "in house."

Thank you to everyone who has checked on other members and kept the lines of communication open. Continue to send **Kathy Clark** links to websites, that are showing programs, talks or tours that other members may be interested in viewing, so she may share them with everyone. Together we will get through this period.

We are waiting to hear if the South Jersey History Fair will be held on June 12th. The other events on the further horizon are the Civil War Round Table Congress in Blackwood, in September and our Western Theater Symposium May 1st 2021 at Rutgers Camden. Let us know if you are interested in assisting with these events.

Normally I usually invite you to join us at the Lamp Post Diner for dinner, but this month enjoy a fine meal at home and join us on Zoom. Since it is a special event, support a local business and order curb-side pickup.

*Be safe, we want to see you all this summer.*

**Rich Jankowski, President**

### **From the Treasurer's desk**

**Your membership has made it possible for all of us to enjoy a year's worth of outstanding speakers thanks to our Program Coordinator, Dave Gilson.**

**Additionally, we have been able to continue our goal of providing donations to worthy organizations, including the following:**

**Memorial Hall Foundation  
New Jersey Historical Society  
Vineland Historical Society  
The Center for Camden County College  
Battleship New Jersey  
GAR Civil War Museum  
Wreaths Across America**

**In appreciation of your membership, we will be conducting a raffle in which the names of all 2019 members will be placed in a hat, and the winning member drawn will receive a free year's subscription to "The Civil War Monitor Magazine".**

**Just a reminder, your 2020 Membership dues are due in January. Thank you for your continued support. \$25. regular dues \$35. Family membership**

**Frank Barletta  
44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053**

## **Today in Civil War History**

**1862 Wednesday, April 9**

### **Far West**

There is a skirmish at Owen's River, California.

**1863 Thursday, April 9**

### **Western Theater**

McClelland's troops continue to clear a route for Grant's forthcoming assault on Vicksburg. Plantation houses are ripped down to provide planking for the innumerable bridges required.

**1864 Saturday, April 9**

### **Eastern Theater**

General Grant issues his campaign orders. The Eastern Theater has been quiet since the early fall, but Grant intends to win the war here now. Making Lee's army his objective, he says to Meade's Army of the Potomac, "Wherever Lee goes, there you will head also."

### **Western Theater**

Bedford Forrest continues to raid Federal communications in western Tennessee.

### **Trans-Mississippi**

With all hope gone of taking Shreveport before he has to relinquish A. J. Smith's corps to Sherman, Banks orders his army to retreat. At Pleasant Hill the Union troops form a line of battle to deal with Taylor's Confederates, who pursue impetuously through the woods. A Confederate assault breaks into the Federal position but they are dislodged by a counter-attack and ultimately driven from the field. Both sides subsequently claimed to have fought a superior enemy force, but the numbers engaged were actually about 12,000 on either side. Confederate losses are 1200 killed and wounded, plus 426 missing. Union casualties are 150 dead, 844 wounded, and 375 missing for a total of 1369. Naval Operations USS frigate Minnesota is damaged by a torpedo from the Confederate torpedo boat Squib off Newport News, Virginia.

**1865 Sunday, March 12**

### **Eastern Theater**

The Army of Northern Virginia fights its last battle. After making progress against the Union Cavalry screen, the Confederates encounter firm lines of Federal infantry. There is no escape. Lee bows to the inevitable and a white towel is borne aloft and carried through the Federal lines by an officer bearing Lee's request for an immediate truce. Lee and Grant meet in the house of Wilbur McLean at Appomattox Court House and the Union general scratches out the terms of surrender in pencil. Grant, observing the magnificent sword Lee is wearing, allows officers the right to retain their personal weapons. Lee reads the terms, mentioning that most of his cavalymen and many of his artillerists own the horses they have been campaigning with. Grant immediately modifies the terms to allow all those who claim a horse to keep it. Lee signs and rides back through the silent gray ranks. Looking neither right nor left, he tells them: "Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers."

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### **Western Theater**

In the early hours of the morning the Union forces at Mobile enter Spanish Fort, evacuated by the Confederate garrison after some 90 cannon were emplaced in the Federal siege lines during last week. A general assault in the afternoon by 16,000 Union troops overruns the Confederate-defensive lines, capturing nearly 3500 men.

## **Women in the Civil War**

### **Sarah Rosetta Wakerman**

Sarah Rosetta Wakerman (January 16, 1843 – June 19, 1864) was a woman who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War under the male name of Lyons Wakeman. Wakeman served with Company H, 153rd New York Volunteer Infantry. Her letters written during her service remained unread for nearly a century because they were stored in the attic of her relatives.

#### **Early life**

Wakeman was born January 16, 1843, in Bainbridge, New York, to Harvey Anable Wakeman and Emily Hale Wakeman. She was the oldest of nine children in the farming family of Afton, New York. By the age of seventeen, she had received some formal education and was working as a domestic servant. Wakeman understood the tremendous financial pressure her family was under, and without possible suitors to take on her expenses, Wakeman left her home as a man in 1862 and went to work as a boatman for the Chenango Canal. Wakeman's letters to her family allude to some sort of rift between them before her departure.

While on her job, she met army recruiters offering a \$152 bounty[4] and enlisted on August 30, 1862, using the name Lyons Wakeman and claiming to be 21 years old. The bounty would have been incredible motivation for Wakeman to enlist, being far more than what she could earn as a woman. Wakeman enlisted as a private of Company H of the 153rd New York State Volunteers in Root, New York. The description on her enlistment papers stated that she was five feet tall, fair-skinned, brown hair with blue eyes. She misrepresented her age on the papers which stated that she was twenty-one at the time of her enlistment when in fact she was actually seventeen or eighteen.

#### **Military service**

Her regiment was assigned guard duty in Alexandria, Virginia and later in Washington, DC, to protect the nation's food. Despite the often tedious camp life and challenging conditions of life as a soldier, Wakeman wrote that "I liked to be a soldier very well." Much down time potentially gave Wakeman time to write her numerous letters. The first letter Wakeman sent home contained information about why she left home and what she was doing. Wakeman often sent money home in the hope of making amends. She used her birth name when signing her correspondence; if her letters had been intercepted, this act could have ended her military career. Wakeman often wrote about being financially independent, something many women of the time wanted. Over her years of service, Wakeman sent numerous and regular letters to her family, providing a narrative of her life during the service. She was religious, and her faith comfort-



ed her during challenging times. Despite occasional turmoil, she was proud to be a "good soldier".

One point of interest in Wakeman's service is her time spent as a guard at Washington's Carroll Prison. During her time there, one of the three women held at the prison was arrested for a crime Wakeman herself was committing: impersonating a man to fight for the Union.

Wakeman finally saw battle as the 153rd Regiment was transferred to an active battle field in February, 1864. Her unit participated in Major General Nathaniel P.

Banks ill-fated Red River Campaign. The battle that ensued took place at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. This force probably numbered around 11,000 soldiers. Wakeman survived her only apparent combat engagement on April 9, 1864. After Wakeman's arrival, she sent her last letter home from the Grand Ecore Landing on the Red River.

The last letter Wakeman sent reported her battle experiences: "Our army made an advance up the river to Pleasant Hill about 40 miles (64 km). There we had a fight. The first day of the fight our army got whip[p]ed and we had to retreat back about 10 miles (16 km). The next day the fight was renewed and the firing took place about eight o'clock in the morning. There was a heavy Cannonading all day and a Sharp firing of infantry. I was not in the first day's fight, but the next day I had to face the enemy bullets with my regiment. I was under fire about four hours and laid on the field of battle all night. There was three wounded in my Co. and one killed. I feel thankful to God that he spared my life, and I pray to him that he will lead me safe through the field of battle and that I may return safe home."

#### **Death and legacy**

Pvt. Lyons Wakeman headstone in the Chalmette National Cemetery.

Of the deceased soldiers, Wakeman wrote, they lay "sometimes in heaps and in rows... with distorted features, among mangled and dead horses, trampled in mud, and thrown in all conceivable sorts of places. You can distinctly hear, over the whole field, the hum and hissing of decomposition."

The Red River Campaign claimed several lives includ-



ing Wakeman's own. She contracted chronic diarrhea of which she eventually died on June 19, 1864, in the Marine USA General Hospital in New Orleans. Wakeman was not the only one to meet such an end; thousands of Union soldiers were killed by drinking water contaminated by rotting animals. Wakeman's identity was not revealed during her burial; her headstone reads "Lyons Wakeman." She was buried with full military honors at Chalmette National Cemetery in New Orleans.

Her letters and their record of her military experiences were discovered more than a century after her death in a relative's attic. Her descendants still have the letters, a photograph, and a ring of Wakeman's.

Wakeman's letters were rediscovered in 1976 and subsequently edited and published by Lauren Burgess in 1994 as *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias Pvt. Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers, 1862 - 1864.*

*Internet, Wikipedia*



## Society for Women and the Civil War ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Society for Women and the Civil War ([www.SWCW.org](http://www.SWCW.org)) will hold its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 24-26, 2020.

This year's theme will be "The Women of the Valley." The keynote speaker will be distinguished author and consultant Jonathan A. Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia.

There will be additional presentations by noted scholars and tours of local sites of interest, emphasizing their roles relevant to the contributions of women during the various Civil War campaigns that took place in the Shenandoah Valley.

The conference is open to non-members.

For more information please visit [www.SWCW.org](http://www.SWCW.org)

# Plum Run Bend - The Forgotten Battle

**The largest gunboat fleet engagement of the Civil War is almost unknown, and deeply shrouded in confusion and controversy.**

*By E.B. Long, June 1972, CWTI*

A naval man of the days of Nelson or John Paul Jones would not have conceived of the river war. This was not a fit battle ground for the old ships of the line. But novel as the equipment was, unconventional as the methods of fighting were, there were two major fleet actions on the western waters of strategic importance and of sufficient size to be deemed full scale. The Battle of Memphis has received a small amount of its just due. The importance of the Federal seizure of Memphis was and is obvious. The first of these battles, however, is seldom mentioned in general histories. When it is covered in Civil War naval volumes, it is often treated as an oddity, an irregular kind of engagement; and its strategic significance is sometimes played down.

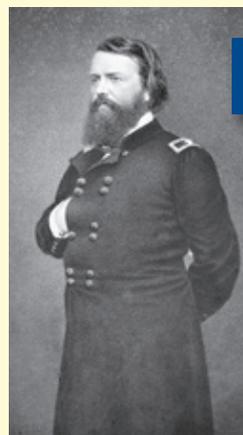
Yet, in its day, the battle of Plum Run Bend (or Plum Point or Fort Pillow) was not treated so lightly. Its importance was recognized in 1862, at least along the Mississippi. The danger to the entire Federal ironclad fleet from the Confederate attack was not overlooked. What was not then grasped was that Plum Run Bend would be one of the two largest fleet actions by gunboats on rivers in the entire history of warfare. This form of combat will probably never occur again.

It was spring of 1862 on the Mississippi; the Civil War was a year old. A general pattern of strategy appeared to be taking form. The Confederacy had thus far succeeded in

defending its fragile new nation; the North had not succeeded in effecting an early restoration of the Union.

In Virginia George B. McClellan was starting his ponderous march toward the Confederate Capital of Richmond. The blockade was tightening along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Federal skill in capturing enclaves along the coasts had provided coaling and supply stations for the blockaders and had given possible launching points for invasion of the South. In late April New Orleans the largest city of the South had fallen.

In the West along the rivers, Federal armies prevailed at Forts Henry and Donelson and at Pea Ridge in Arkansas. The Confederate defense line in Kentucky, from Columbus on the Mississippi through Bowling Green



**Major General, USA  
John Pope**

to Cumberland Gap had collapsed. Nashville was now a major Yankee base. Despite an embarrassing surprise and a tactically drawn battle, Grant's army held the ground at Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing.

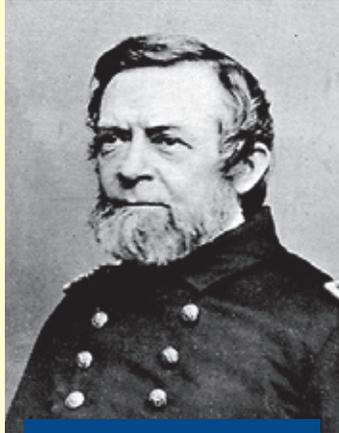
Perhaps strategically as important as bloody Shiloh was John Pope's capture, with the aid of the Federal Navy of New Madrid. Missouri

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and Island No. 10 this opened the Mississippi to Fort Pillow above Memphis and created another threat to the heart of the Confederacy in the West. Thus, by early May of 1862, the Confederate situation along the Mississippi looked perilous indeed; for it was threatened by land and river from both north and south.

On the Mississippi, immediately after the success at Island No. 10, General Pope and Flag Officer Andrew Foote planned to head for Fort Pillow, the next Confederate bastion on the river.

Andrew Hull Foote, a 56-year-old New Englander, had been a Navy man since 1822. He had sailed many seas, had served on many vessels, and had commanded others. Foote had seen service ashore, had been on hoards to modernize the Navy, had written a hook and, always strongly religious, had been successful in his crusade to end the grog ration. Known as an officer of high standards and rigid discipline, Foote seemed to have won not only the respect but the love of many of his men. Despite his long experience on the open sea, he adapted well to the narrow waters of the rivers. Foote was said to have been slow at decisions, but unswervingly firm in purpose. Fellow navy man Henry Walke described him as having a "sailor-like heartiness and frankness about him that made his company very desirable."



**Rear Admiral, USA  
Andrew Hull Foote**

Taking over naval operations on the upper Mississippi in August of 1861, Foote oversaw completion of the badly needed gunboats and mortar boats, and the creation of a flotilla. On February 6, 1862, his fleet captured strategically essential Fort Henry on the Tennessee. In mid February Foote's flotilla, cooperating with Grant's troops in the siege of Fort Donelson, suffered severely and was forced to withdraw. Foote, on the flagship *St. Louis*, was wounded in the arm and foot. Turning back to the Mississippi, the gunboats did more than a creditable job at Island No. 10 in abetting Pope's army. Despite an unhealed wound and general poor health, Foote did not rest.

On April 12 the flotilla, mortar boats, and Pope's troops left New Madrid for Fort Pillow and Memphis. By April 13, Foote and Pope, with his 20,000 men, were near Fort Pillow. On the 13th there was a brief skirmish between the Federal ironclads and five small Confederate vessels. Some twenty shots flew before the Confederates pulled back down the river toward Fort Pillow. As the pursuing Federals neared the fort, the Confederates opened fire with no effect. Foote then tied up his flotilla out of range.

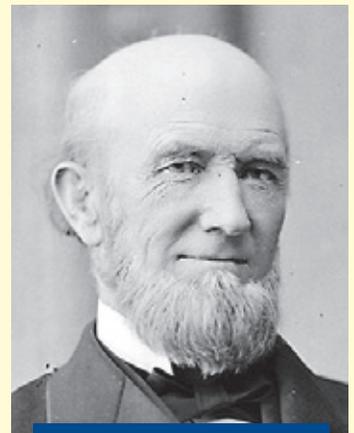
The Mississippi in this area was its usual circuitous self. After several bends from New Madrid south, the river made a sharp turn near Osceola, Arkansas around Plum Point on the Tennessee shore. Just below that, across from what was called the First Chickasaw Bluff, was Craighead Point, Arkansas. Just to the south stood Fort Pillow on its high bluffs on the Tennessee side.

In an afternoon conference on the 13th, Foote, Pope and Assistant Secretary of War Tom Scott, who was on a western inspection trip, decided that mortar boats should be put along the Arkansas shore, under the protection of the ironclad gunboats. Pope was to land most of his army about five miles above Fort Pillow and try to attack in the rear, while the flotilla bombarded in front. The next day, however, Pope returned to say that he was unable to reach the rear of the fort from up river. He proposed to cut a canal on the Arkansas side, since this procedure had been useful at Island No. 10. This would supposedly position gunboats below and help Pope cross the Mississippi and attack the fort from below. Foote also wired Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles to say that the wound received at Donelson "has quite a depressing effect upon me. . ." Inflammation and swelling in the foot and leg had increased, sapping Foote's energy and denying him sleep.

Federal mortars began firing on the fort April 14 and 15 while Pope's army assembled on the Arkansas side of the river. Then came a blow. Major General Henry Wager Halleck, now in command in the West, was gathering his forces for the famous march on Corinth, Mississippi, and on April 15 ordered Pope's army to join him at Pittsburg Landing. Halleck said he thought it best that Foote continue his bombardment of Fort Pillow. Pope was to leave enough men to occupy any fort that might be taken; and on the 16th, he told Foote that he was leaving him two strong regiments.

Thus the plan for Pope and Foote to continue moving down the Mississippi was abandoned. Although the point can be debated, it seems that it would have been best to let their plans mature, thus posing a two-pronged threat to the Confederates from both Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee and from along the Mississippi. Foote now had to alter his plans and be content temporarily with threatening Fort Pillow with mortars and gunboats. He was most anxious to take Fort Pillow and Memphis because of reports that there were ten Confederate gunboats at the former and more said to be en route. He had a rumor, which proved to be erroneous, that the heavy ironclad gunboat *Louisiana* had been completed at New Orleans and was on its way north.

Foote confessed that he was "greatly exercised about our position. . . His force now consisted of seven ironclads, one wooden gunboat, sixteen mortar boats and two regiments numbering no more than 1500 men altogether. The fleet included six of the innovative Eads ironclads: *Cairo*, *Cincinnati*, *Carondelet*, *Pittsburg*, *Mound City* and *St. Louis*, plus the flagship, the huge ironclad *Benton*. Despite this strength, an attack without a battery below the fort "would be extremely hazardous. . ." "Foote realized a defeat would "place all that we have gained on this and other rivers at the mercy of the rebel fleet. . ."



**James Buchanan Eads  
War Ship Builder**

Federal naval officers worried that their gunboats if damaged or out of control would float downstream into enemy



**USS Benton**



**USS Mound City**



**USS Carondelet**



**USS Cincinnati**



**USS Cairo**



**USS Pittsburg**



**USS Saint Louis**

hands. By April 30 Foote put the enemy at thirteen gunboats and rams. "We are prepared for an attack at any moment," he wrote Welles. He also reported that the Federal position was a poor one since the slow ironclads could hardly stem the current. "and in grappling with the enemy we should drift under the guns of the fort, which are but 4 or 5 miles below the upper gun boats." He still wanted to run the blockade, get below, and attack the Confederate flotilla. This would enable him to attack the fort upstream. If this were done. however, one or two Confederate vessels might get north of the Federals and wreak havoc among the transports, mortar boats, and supply vessels.

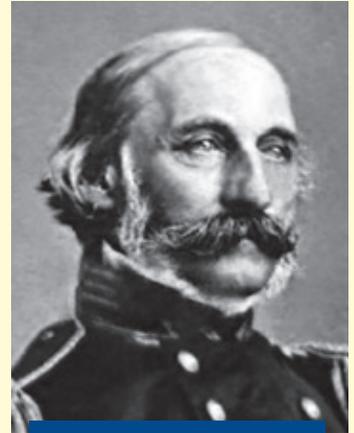
In mid-April Foote told Welles that he was suffering from a foot wound and was "apprehensive from its increasing inflammation, that it will even still more seriously prevent my giving that attention required to my more responsible duties as flag-officer." Doctors reported that the condition was one that, if neglected, would probably soon totally prevent Foote from performing his duties. They advised him to go home to recover his health.

If he were relieved, Foote suggested that Captain Charles H. Davis be his successor. Davis, an old naval officer and friend of Foote's, was born in Boston in 1807 and became a midshipman in 1824. Like Foote. he served on several vessels and on many seas; and earned a degree from

Harvard by studying between cruises. Described as "a man of science and a practical officer," Davis spent fifteen years in scientific work for the Navy. Promoted to commander in 1854, he returned to sea in 1856. When war broke out he was, in effect, the head of the Bureau of Detail which selected and assigned officers. He served on several important commissions in connection with war planning, particularly on the Atlantic Coast. He was Samuel F. Du Pont's flag officer in Charleston Harbor, and now he was to

enter an entirely new field of endeavor on the Western rivers. Described as handsome and distinguished, with a lovable temperament, Davis was popular but not well known as a fighting officer.

On April 22, Welles sent orders to Captain Davis in New York to report to Foote for duty. The next day Welles wrote Foote that he did not wish to detach him from command; but if he felt the need to go north, Foote would be retained in his position, and Davis would be second in command. On May 9 Davis was appointed flag officer to serve during Foote's absence. Then Foote left temporarily, as he thought, for Cleveland. Several eyewitnesses described Foote's departure as sad and moving. Newspaper man Junius Henri Browne reported that "Old tars swung their hats, and not a few of their eyes moistened when they looked, as they supposed, upon the brave old Commodore for the last time, as indeed they did." Foote told his crew that he knew he would be hurting the cause by retaining his position. At times Foote could hardly speak and his eyes filled with tears.



**Captain, USA  
Charles Henry Davis**

Meanwhile, to the south, at Fort Pillow, sat that effervescent, always-present-where-the-action-was M. Jeff Thompson, brigadier general of the Missouri State Guard. Now commanding marines and gunners for the Confederate River Defense Service, he wrote on May 4 to General P. G. T. Beauregard at Corinth that the Confederates were awaiting the turn of events. The enemy was being kept at a distance, but Thompson wrote that he had "not the confidence in the fleet which I was led to expect. . ."

The Confederate River Defense Service, supposedly under army control, was not really part of the Confederate Navy, but a make shift, motley fleet of merchant vessels converted to rams. It was commanded by Captain James E. Montgomery, who had been a river captain on the Mississippi before the war. The River Defense Service, which had seen action at New Orleans, had an undisciplined collection of officers; yet Montgomery and his compatriots, aided by the Confederate Government, did put together some sort of defensive flotilla for use on the Mississippi.

Montgomery's fleet in the upper river in early May consisted of eight converted steamers, carrying one or two guns each. Their main weapons were their rams and their relatively high speed, which was greater than that of the Union gunboats. For protection they had a little iron plating on the bows, but they depended on wood planking and cotton bales to halt Federal shells. It was an improvised floating conglomeration, but the best the Confederates could do. There remained a telling difference between gunboats built for war and a boat with a gun or two on it.

On the night of May 9, shortly after Davis took over from the ailing Foote, there was a council of war by the Confederate captains of the River Defense Service. They decided to attack the Federals on the Mississippi the next morning, May 10. Thompson reported that their purpose was to cut out

a gunboat which for the past two days had been guarding the mortar boat bombarding the fort.

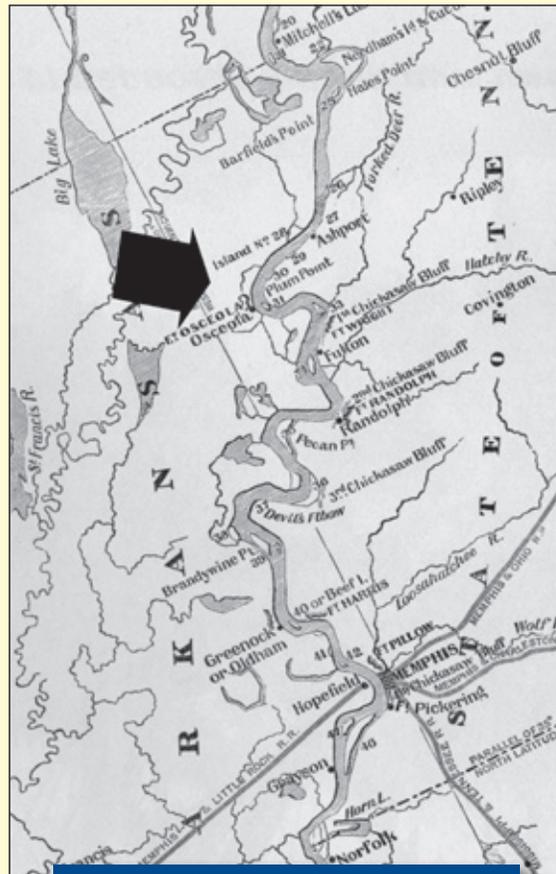
Upon Montgomery's signal at 6 a.m. on a pleasant, calm, hazy morning, the eight Confederate ships of war steamed around the point in front of Fort Pillow. They bore down on the mortar boat bombarding the fort and upon the Cincinnati, supposedly the guarding ironclad. Actually the Cincinnati was made fast to some trees, her steam down, the hands holy-stoning the decks. A youth full eyewitness aboard the Cincinnati, who, at the time, was dreamily writing his girl friend a letter later wrote of seeing the Confederates steaming upstream under forced draft toward his vessel. The endangered Federal ironclad slipped her cables and swung out into the river while frantic engineers threw oil and anything else flammable into the furnaces to get up steam.

From farther upstream, the oncoming enemy was spotted by the flagship Benton. Reporter Browne wrote. "No one imagined the Rebels would come up in the face of open day and offer us a battle." Davis, in his main report of May 11, admitted that the Confederates "steamed gallantly up the river." At the time three ironclads lay tied up on the Tennessee side, while four sat where Foote left them on the western or Arkansas shore. Davis, facing battle after less than twenty-four hours in command, claimed that the ironclads were ready for action, and that most of them were prompt in obeying his orders. It appears that the flagship did order the flotilla underway as soon as the enemy was sighted. Since the calm air did not allow flags to be seen by all, some orders were given verbally across the river waters.

The captain of the Carondelet, the controversial and verbose Henry Walke, who, in his voluminous writings, often disputed with everyone else when it came to giving credit to himself or his vessel, claimed that Foote had issued orders to be ready for battle. "This most important order, however, was not strictly and properly obeyed by several of our gunboats and the flag steamer Benton was one of them." According to Walke, the Carondelet was ready. Walke flatly stated there were efforts after the battle to cover up the unpreparedness of the Benton.

As the River Defense flotilla rounded the point in full view. Acting Master Thomas B. Gregory, in command of Federal Mortar Boat 16, changed his target from Fort Pillow and, loading for short range, trained his mortars upon the enemy. Even though mortars were hardly a fighting type of vessel, he fired eleven times. In return, two Confederate 32-pounders sent shells through the mortar boat, but no one was wounded. For his coolness and skill, Gregory was later promoted to acting volunteer lieutenant.

The converted Confederate two-master, General Bragg,



Map showing area of Plum Run Bend and Memphis Battles

under Captain H. H. Leonard, led the Southern fleet which, charging rapidly ahead, struck the Cincinnati a glancing, but destructive blow" on the starboard. The ramming took a six by twelve foot piece out of the midships of the ironclad, flooded the magazine, and knocked everything down "from one end of the boat to the other." The Cincinnati fired what the Federals thought was a devastating broadside into the General Bragg at a distance of approximately ten feet. The Bragg, not seriously damaged, was forced to back off, falling down stream with tiller ropes severed. Montgomery was full of praise for the work of the vessel.

Next, the Sterling Price, under Thomas Henthorne, struck the Cincinnati a second blow, a little aft of her starboard midships, which carried away the rudder, sternpost, and a good portion of the stern. This ramming swung the ironclad around and now the General Sumter, under W. W. Lamb, struck a third blow while running at full speed.

Commander Roger N. Stembel of the Cincinnati was severely wounded in the shoulder and throat early in the action. Reportedly, one of the Yankee sailors immediately killed the man who shot Stembel.

The youthful sailor on the Cincinnati called it a "jumbled free-for all." He wrote that upon the third ramming a cry came from the Confederates. "Haul down your flag and we will save you." The Yankee answer was "Our flag will go down when we do!" With several rolls and a shudder, the Cincinnati went down: the crew all piled up on the hurricane deck which remained above water. They were "perched like so many turkeys on a corncrib. . . enforced spectators of the exciting and magnificent scene around us."

The General Earl Van Dorn, under Captain Isaac D. Fulkerson, the second in line of the attacking Confederates, dashed on past the Bragg and the Cincinnati, fired at the Union mortar boat, and headed toward the Mound City. The Mound City was moving into battle to aid the Cincinnati and was firing into the General Price and the General Sumter veering at the very last moment, the Mound City was struck and damaged by the iron bow of the Van Dorn. Slowly the Mound City sank on a bar, but, like the Cincinnati, a good portion of the boat was above water. The Van Dorn was little damaged, but splinters of the Mound City stuck to her ram, and she now lay upstream of four Federal ironclads.

Montgomery's four other vessels, Beaugard, Colonel Lovell, General M. Jeff Thompson, and the flagship Little Rebel, apparently did not come within ramming range, but made use of their guns; and the riflemen on the open forecastles and sterns poured in small arms fire. As Thompson put it, the flagship Little Rebel "ran aground amid the storm as heedlessly as if charmed." Montgomery said his boats went "boldly into the contest in their prescribed order.



**CSS General Bragg**



**CSS Beauregard CSS General Thompson**



**CSS General Price**



**Typical CSS Ram**

"Montgomery put the scene of action about four miles above Fort Pillow. With some damage to his inferior fleet, he hoisted the flag of recall. More Federal iron clads were coming in and, as Thompson wrote, "the enemy's boats were enough injured to repay our attempt and damage fourfold." Montgomery said he perceived that the iron-clads were taking positions where the water was too shallow for his vessels to follow and use their rams. Admittedly, Confederate guns were far inferior to theirs, both in number and size." Montgomery was probably wise in ordering the pullback which he said was accomplished "with a coolness that deserves the highest commendation."

The length of the engagement, according to Montgomery, was thirty minutes; although other reports have it somewhat longer. Montgomery stated that although the enemy fire was "most terrible," there were no serious injuries to the River Defense Service, despite enemy claims. Confederate casualties were two men killed, and another with a broken arm.

Montgomery praised Thompson who was personally on the General Bragg while his sharpshooters were divided among the boats. The day after the light, Montgomery took the Little Rebel up to survey the scene of the battle. He was pleased to find the Cincinnati sunk near the shore and the Mound City sunk on a bar. Proud of the success of his audacious attack, Montgomery told Beauregard, his superior, that "you may rest assured, if we can get fuel, unless the enemy greatly increase their force, they will never penetrate farther down the Mississippi."

Davis seems to have handled his hasty indoctrination into battle skillfully, although there is little doubt that the Federals were caught napping. No lookouts were down river, the gunboats were too far apart, and steam was not up on all vessels. Not all, or perhaps very little, of the blame for this can be laid to Davis. Foote and his captains appear to have been somewhat lax.

Davis told Welles by telegram on the day of the battle, "The naval engagement for which the rebels have been preparing took place this morning." He reported the action lasted an hour. Greatly exaggerating the Confederate losses, Davis stated that two Rebel gunboats were blown up and one sunk. At the same time he minimized Union losses; his first report was typical of many accounts of the battle of Plum Point Bend. There were so many errors, discrepancies, and distortions in the reports that, in some cases, facts were unobtainable.

Newspapers were even more unreliable than usual. The Chicago Times reported that the monotony was broken, and that it had been a "glorious" fight. The Federals "have sent the rebels back down the river badly crippled." The Times report even included the ironclads Louisiana and Mallory in the battle: The Louisiana had been destroyed by her crew, on orders, after the fall of New Orleans, and no Mallory is listed in the Official Navy Records. According to the paper, a large number of Confederates drowned, and two Rebel boats "disappeared." The paper implied that there was no serious damage to the Federals and it labeled "erroneous" the report that the Cincinnati was disabled or sunk.

The Confederates consistently misidentified the Cincinnati which they rammed three times: all the Eads gunboats looked very much alike, particularly under the stress of battle. Both sides, in reports, had the wrong men commanding the fleets, had incorrect names of the Confederate rams, and had the accounts so confused that just who really did what and when cannot be accurately determined. Later, several Federal commanders disputed various points of Davis' reports. It seems that both sides, particularly the Federal, put forth the best picture possible.

Davis did admit in his main report that Mortar Boat No. 16 was for a moment unprotected. Davis stated that the Cincinnati was supported by the Mound City under Augustus H. Kilty. He strongly praised the Mound City and said she disabled two of the enemy. Davis noted, in passing, the work of the Carondelet under Walke.

Davis reported that all of the enemy vessels "might easily have been captured if we had possessed the means of towing them out of action, but the steam power of our gunboats is so disproportionate to the bulk of the vessels that they can accomplish but little beyond overcoming the strength of the current, even when unencumbered." Evidence indicates that none of the Confederates were so badly crippled that they could have been captured.

Regarding casualties, Davis reported that Stembel and Fourth Master G. A. Reynolds of the Cincinnati were severely wounded. Reynolds later died. Two other seamen, one on the Cincinnati and one on the Mound City were also wounded. Davis, in his early reports, did not admit to Welles that two Federal gunboats were actually sunk, albeit in shallow water. However, on May 12 Davis did report to Welles that the Cincinnati and the Mound City, "were so much injured by the enemy's rams that it was necessary to run them on the banks." By the 11th the Mound City was afloat "but greatly damaged," according to S. L. Phelps of the Benton. He had suggested using logs lashed to the sides to help raise her. The Cincinnati was in worse shape. Davis praised Acting Volunteer Lieutenant William R. Hoel who took command of the Cincinnati when Stembel was wounded. Foote, in Cleveland, wrote Davis his congratulations on "making such a glorious fight."

Davis wrote that he expected the rams to come up river again, and urged that the Federal gunboats being built in the North be quickly brought into service on the Mississippi. Concerned by the loss of two major vessels, Davis had the ironclad Louisville, which had been operating farther north on the river, sent to him. Steamers and equipment were dis-



patched from Cairo to raise the two sunken ironclads.

Among the conflicting accounts were those of Phelps of the flagship Benton and Walke of the Carondelet. Walke, in his official report, told of getting underway and coming to aid the Cincinnati. He stated that one of the rams received a 50-pound rifled shot from the Carondelet as it rammed the Cincinnati. He also reported that the boilers exploded. It appears that the Carondelet was struck by mistake by exploded shell fragments and two grapeshot, apparently from the Federal Pittsburg.

In later writings, Walke credited his boat, his men and, not very indirectly, himself with an even more dramatic and important role. In fact, the Carondelet is made to appear to be the savior of the Federal flotilla. Walke depreciates the work of the Benton and others.

Reporter on-the-scene Junius Browne wrote that the Benton did play a primary role, despite reports to the contrary. He wrote that the Benton, under control of its pilot, turned around several times, as if on an axis, so she could fire in succession from her bow, stern, and broadside guns.

The Benton's commander, Phelps, wrote to Foote giving an account that is in direct variance with some of the others. He praised the Cincinnati for steaming up and going for the Rebels. He stated that, in order, the Benton, Mound City, and Carondelet came to the assistance of the Cincinnati, followed by the Pittsburg and St. Louis, with Cairo in the rear. Like Walke, Phelps claimed that his guns blew up one of the Confederate rams that hit the Cincinnati. Perhaps this was the same ram that Walke mentioned. Phelps also claimed a second ram while protecting the injured Mound City. At any rate, it can be established that no Southern ram was actually destroyed. Phelps stated that the Mound City "had her bow pretty much wrenched off and was run onto the shoal opposite where we have been lying. The Cincinnati ran to the bank below. . . and sunk in 11 feet of water.

"Phelps concluded that the "loss of the rebels must be very heavy; their vessels were literally torn to pieces, and some had holes in their sides through which a man could walk. Those that blew up-it makes me shudder to think of them." Phelps's sympathy was clearly wasted.

By May 15 the Cincinnati had been raised and repaired sufficiently to leave for Cairo. Davis admitted that "The injuries she sustained proved to be much more serious than at first reported." Already he was in conference with army officers about new plans for capturing Fort Pillow. Further-

more, the Federal fleet had taken new precautions after Plum Run Bend. They put railroad iron about the stern, the weakest point of the Benton. In addition, logs, chains, and railroad iron were used on other ironclads. Meanwhile, everything seemed quiet at Fort Pillow. Federals had reports from deserters that two Confederate rams were missing and that 108 men were buried after the fight. Both rumors were highly erroneous. By late May Federal Brigadier General Isaac F. Quinby had arrived with army reinforcements. New reconnaissance was under way.

On May 26, Colonel Charles Ellet, Jr. commanding the new army ram fleet, arrived and was itching for action. Already conferences between Ellet and Davis were causing some friction regarding what action should be undertaken and when. Interservice rivalries were immediately apparent. Davis was anxious to make a move, but he was unwilling to attempt to run his gunboats by Fort Pillow unless shore batteries could be placed on the Arkansas side where the vessels, if crippled, could take refuge. While the Army and Navy groped for a way to attack the fort, the controversies, particularly between Davis and Ellet, increased. But it all came to nothing.

On the morning of June 5, Davis wired Washington that Fort Pillow had been evacuated and the artillery and commissary stores destroyed. The Federal attack had been planned for the same day. Davis now announced he was preparing to move down the river toward Memphis with most of his force.

Early on the morning of June 6, five Federal ironclads and four rams moved toward the city. People thronged the bluffs of the Mississippi to watch. Montgomery's eight vessels of the River Defense force were no match for the attackers. After successful action by the Federal rams, the gunboats came in, pouring shot into the weakly armored Confederates. The battle became a melee of close quarter fighting. Only one Confederate gunboat, the Van Dom, got away. Three were totally destroyed; four others captured. The Federals suffered some damage, but the victory was complete. Most important, the city of Memphis was in Federal hands and the Confederate defenses were shattered. The Mississippi River was now controlled by the Federals except in the state of Mississippi. The Union had obtained a major new base.

True, the fall of Fort Pillow and the capture of Memphis had been delayed perhaps a month by the Battle of Plum Run Bend, but this did not cause any serious repercussions to the Federals. Most historians do give some attention to

the strategic importance of the Battle of Memphis, but few give it sufficient consideration. On the other hand, Plum Run Bend has been ignored, or only casually covered.

Plum Run Bend was the largest gunboat fleet action up to that time, and can possibly be considered larger, in some ways, than the fight at Memphis. It was a rare thing in Civil War naval fighting; a Confederate fleet attack and a Confederate victory. Disguise it or not, two of the vital Federal ironclads had been sunk at an amazingly small Southern cost. The use of rams came into its own as a weapon. Land forces were not involved. The battle was fought by

two commanders who have received far too little recognition.

It was clearly illustrated that if the Confederates had had more ships, more guns, and vessels more directly designed for war, they might well have created even more havoc. With better supplies, they might have succeeded in throwing panic into all Union forces along the river clear back to Cairo, and even could have delayed the Federal land invasion of the Deep South. This was another of numerous examples of Confederate drive, initiative, courage, and ability that failed in the long run owing to lack of resources.

## March 12th Meeting

### **“Dam the torpedoes! Full speed ahead! – Admiral David Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay August 5, 1864”**



Paul Prentiss



On August 5, 1864, Admiral David Farragut led his flotilla of ships through the Confederate defenses into Mobile Bay. Farragut wanted to seal this Southern port and enjoy a win for the Union. If he succeeded the troops would be one step closer to ending the war but if not, the South would have reason to continue fighting. If the fighting continued close to Lincoln's reelection bid the South felt McClellan had a chance to win the nomination. Farragut was not going to lose to the South. With his determination to succeed his force of 18 warships entered Mobile bay. The Confederate Navy had four ships including the CSS Tennessee (a powerful ironclad) and Confederate forts, Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines guarding the inlet to the bay.

Farragut's forces steamed into the mouth of the bay in two columns led by four ironclads. As they were proceeding the USS Tecumseh was met with a fire that sank this iron-hulled, single turret monitor. Navigating the bay was difficult especially on the east side where there was a long narrow buildup of sand. The approach to the lower half of the bay was tricky for the ships, there was always a risk of getting grounded on either side of the inlet. It was extreme-

ly important for the Union troops to acquire this port on the Gulf of Mexico to stop the South from importing and exporting goods.

As Farragut and ships were proceeding into the bay, they knew the Confederate troops had planted naval mines (torpedoes) across the entrance on the eastern side of the channel. They also knew that the entrance to the bay was guarded by Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines. Monitors formed a column into the bay, close to Fort Morgan on the right side of the channel. A separate double column was formed with the armored ships shielding the wooden ships from gunfire as they passed the forts. The line of ships were to maintain a distance but because of the swift current and low steam pressure (reduced steam pressure in order to slow down the damage if the boilers were hit) caused the wooden ships to gain speed as a result the ships were going faster than the monitors. The ships kept bunching up instead of continuing to advance into the bay to protect themselves from shots fired from the forts. All ships, monitors, ironclad, gunboats or sloops all required different speeds to operate but when the current is running fast it is hard to keep up the right speed.

At 7:40am, the USS Tecumseh fired the first shot, the fort replied, and the action began. The USS Tecumseh strikes a torpedo and sinks in minutes. Farragut and his entire fleet of 14 warships were able to pass the CSS Tennessee commanded by Franklin Buchanan and Rear Admiral David Glasgow. As it was the CSS Tennessee could not get up enough speed to ram any of the Union ships that were passing by. Farragut knew there were torpedoes submerged in the channel but because he felt they had been in the water for a long period of time they would no longer be effective. Farragut was right and his flotilla were able to get through the bay without being harmed.

Buchanan was sure the CSS Tennessee could attack the wooden ships but, again, because the ship could only go above six knots, the ship ran into shots from the guns from the USS Chickasaw. The Tennessee went down but was not out. Buchanan was continuing to fight until the USS Monongahela came toward the Tennessee and with sig-

nal flags spread the message "Ram the Tennessee!" The USS Manhattan, USS Chickasaw and USS Winnebago all attacked the CSS Tennessee until finally the the white flag of surrender was seen. Buchanan was wounded. Note: The USS Monongahela's Executive Officer was Paul's distant cousin, LT Roderick Prentiss. He was struck by cannon fire while attacking Fort Morgan and died of his wounds.

Farragut looked toward the Forts, started firing shells toward Fort Gaines. The fort surrendered and the men waded toward the mainland of Mobile Bay. As the Union troops were hiding in the dunes of Dauphin Island, they were able to take the fort on August 8th. Farragut decided to put the ships together in pairs with the more powerful sloops in front. The mistake was ordering the USS Brooklyn in front of the fleet and putting smaller ships in the rear. While the ships were into a day-long bombardment of Fort Morgan some of the fleet was drifting under fire. The attack continued all day causing a fire inside the fort but that did not stop the attacks. It was 6am of the next day before the siege was over. Now Farragut and fleet were able to continue past the forts into Mobile Bay. There were Army-Navy attacks, but the city finally fell in the last days of the war.

This battle was so important to the Northern spirits and assured that President Abraham Lincoln would be re-elected. But the closure of the port of Mobile also may have caused the economic defeat of the South. Either way the ending and how the results are interpreted was a great victory for the Union cause. The Battle of Mobile Bay was Farragut's naval victory. It was the last naval battle that Farragut ever saw.

Paul's presentation was a look at the Battle of Mobile Bay from a Naval point of view. Paul had us think about the strategy and tactics used by the commanders of the ships on both sides of the battle. The impact of this Battle was very important to the Union cause and helped to end the Civil War after so many years of loss and destruction on both sides. Thanks, Paul, for bringing your views of the Battle of Mobile Bay to the round table as part of your own Naval experiences. Flat Old Baldy, although not part of any Naval battle, was also happy to learn about another aspect of Civil War Naval history.

### **On-Line Activities to Help Make Life a Little Easier While We are Trying to Keep Healthy and Safe**

The first site is about visiting Civil War sites:  
<https://www.google.com/search?g=youtube+videos+of+historic+civil+war+sites&og=youtube+videos+of+historic+civil+war+sites&ags=chrome..69i57j3312.26567joj7&client=ms-android-samsung-ss&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8>

The second site is touring Civil War museums.  
<https://www.google.com/search?g=virtual+tours+of+civil+war+museums&og=virtual+tours+of+civil+war+museums&ags=chrome..69i57j33.17028j0j7&client=ms-android-samsung-ss&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8>

Frank sent a Battlefield Trust YouTube video "Harper's Ferry Virtual Tour with Garry Adelman". This is a very interesting tour taking a hike to Maryland Heights. What a hike!  
[www.AmericanBattlefieldTrust-YouTube](http://www.AmericanBattlefieldTrust-YouTube) There are many different YouTube sites that you can also view. There is a lot



## **Award and Flat Old Baldy**

**Susan Prentiss  
5 Year Award**



of interesting Civil War history.

I contributed two sites about Harriet Tubman: first is a YouTube video on the new visitor's center and the second site is on PBS.

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

Video: Follow Harriet Tubman's footsteps at the new visitor's center [www.pbslearningmedia.org](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org)

Video: Harriet Tubman: Abolition Activist Video

Garden State Legacy

There are many past issues of the Garden State Legacy magazine online to explore New Jersey History as well as a bookstore page. [www.gardenstatelegacy.com](http://www.gardenstatelegacy.com)

"When Women Vote: The Old Barracks and the Anti-Suffrage Movement" an online exhibit at the Old Barracks Museum. [www.barracks.org/whenwomenvote](http://www.barracks.org/whenwomenvote)

Visit Morven Museum and Gardens from home via Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Take a virtual tour of Cape May! [https://cmcmuseum.org/museum\\_virtualtour.php](https://cmcmuseum.org/museum_virtualtour.php).

Rich sent this site:

Virginia Museum of History and Culture! [www.virginiahistory.org/AtHome](http://www.virginiahistory.org/AtHome). There is a lecture Archives, virtual tours, podcast, back issues of the "Virginia Magazine of History and Biography"-Back issues. There is also a section on activities for adults.

Lebanon Township Museum! Go to boredom busters and download Lebanon Township wordsearch at [www.lebanontownship.net](http://www.lebanontownship.net). There are also events online by going to [Events-museum@lebtwp.net](mailto:Events-museum@lebtwp.net)

[PrincetonHistory.org/history@home](http://PrincetonHistory.org/history@home). See virtual walking tours, explore a digital exhibit or browse the Digital collection. The website adds more remote projects soon-watch at this site.

Rich also sent this site to view:

Tour of Andersonville on Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/132886196814944/?multi\\_permaLinks=2304178166352392&notif\\_id=1585406644036649&notif\\_t=group\\_activity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/132886196814944/?multi_permaLinks=2304178166352392&notif_id=1585406644036649&notif_t=group_activity)

April 11 and May 16, 2020; 9:30am-noon  
"Historic Stony Brook: Gateway to Princeton History". Examine the lives of Princeton's early settlers and community

they established. Tour starts at the Updike Farmstead, 354 Quaker Road, Princeton, New Jersey. \$8/person. Information: email [eve@princetonhistory.org](mailto:eve@princetonhistory.org) and purchase tickets online at [www.princetonhistory.org](http://www.princetonhistory.org).

Just a reminder tomorrow Friday, April 3 live YouTube Lecture on the Battle of Mobile Bay at 2pm with John V. Quarstein at the Mariner Museum and Park/ Visit website: [youtu.be/Krga4hHLY.Y](http://youtu.be/Krga4hHLY.Y)

Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era  
<https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/gcjcwe>

National Archives: <https://education.blogs.archives.gov/2020/03/30/online-student-programs/>

Pulitzer Center Webinar: <https://pulitzercenter.org/event/webinar-digital-resources-and-virtual-opportunities-k-12-students>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home>

Kids Gardening: <https://kidsgardening.org/>

Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-026/?locl=twloc>

Smithsonian Learning Lab: <https://learninglab.si.edu/>

Smithsonian Distance Learning: <https://www.si.edu/home>



**Civil War Institute  
2020 Summer Conference  
June 12 - 17, 2020**

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College (CWI) would like to offer the members of Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable a 15% discount to attend the CWI Summer Conference from June 12-17, 2020. You can find registration details about our conference on our website and the full schedule of events. We believe in your mission, and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history.

For more than 35 years, the Civil War Institute has hosted a premiere annual summer conference bringing leading historians and diverse public audiences together for lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre Gettysburg College campus, and there are part-time and full-time packages available.

For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffry Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig within our lineup of more than 40 distinguished speakers and tour guides. The conference will feature a wide range of topics, including POW prison escapes, soldier impressment, the Civil War in the West, the guerrilla experience, and more. The 2020

**WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>  
Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table**

program will also debut debates between leading scholars about Civil War generalship. This year's topics include George B. McClellan at Antietam, James Longstreet, and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

In addition to touring the Gettysburg battlefield, participants will also be able to visit other nearby battlefields and such as First Manassas, 2nd Fredericksburg and Salem Church, Antietam, Cool Springs, Spotsylvania, and Bristoe Station. Attendees who prefer a shorter, more physically active experience can choose to sign up for our new "active track" package, which features lectures and a day and a half of walking-intensive tours of the Gettysburg battlefield with historian Timothy Orr. The 2020 conference offers something for everyone, from longtime students of the Civil War to those who are new to Civil War history.

We would very much appreciate it if you could share this special conference offer with your membership in your own promotional materials, including your newsletter and website. Feel free to use the conference description in this email and to share the link to the conference: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/>.

**Civil War Institute**  
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717.337.6590  
[civilwar@gettysburg.edu](mailto:civilwar@gettysburg.edu)  
[www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/)

**Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT  
Speakers and Activities for 2020**

**May 14, 2020 – Thursday**  
Drew A. Gruber  
"The Battle of Williamsburg"

**June 11, 2020 – Thursday**  
Member Sharing Night II

**July 9, 2020 – Thursday**  
Robert Jorgensen  
"The Federal Bridge Crossing at Fredericksburg"

**Questions to**  
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto:dgilson404@gmail.com).

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