

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

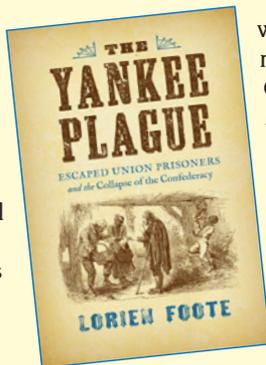
February 11, 2021

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



“The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy”

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, February 11, for an online web conference (no physical meeting). Members will receive **ZOOM** dial-in instructions via email. This



war and society, and 19th-century American reform movements. She is the author of *The Gentlemen and the Roughs: Manhood, Honor, and Violence in the Union Army* (NYU Press, 2010), which received honorable mention as finalist for the 2011 Lincoln Prize. She is also the author of *Seeking the One Great Remedy: Francis George Shaw and Nineteenth-Century Reform* (Ohio University Press, 2003). Dr. Foote is the creator and principal investigator of a project with the

month's topic is **Dr. Lorien Foote** on “*The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy*”

Center for Virtual History at the University of Georgia that is currently mapping the movement of 3000 Federal prisoners of war who escaped from the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

During the winter of 1864, more than 3,000 Federal prisoners of war escaped from Confederate prison camps into South Carolina and North Carolina, often with the aid of local slaves. Their flight created, in the words of contemporary observers, a "Yankee plague," heralding a grim end to the Confederate cause. In this fascinating look at Union soldiers' flight for freedom in the last months of the Civil War, Lorien Foote reveals new connections between the collapse of the Confederate prison system, the large-scale escape of Union soldiers, and the full unraveling of the Confederate States of America.

By this point in the war, the Confederacy was reeling from prison overpopulation, a crumbling military, violence from internal enemies, and slavery's breakdown. The fugitive Federals moving across the countryside in mass numbers, Foote argues, accelerated the collapse as slaves and deserters decided the presence of these men presented an opportune moment for escalated resistance.

Blending rich analysis with an engaging narrative, Foote uses these ragged Union escapees as a lens with which to assess the dying Confederate States, providing a new window into the South's ultimate defeat.

Dr. Lorien Foote is the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History at Texas A&M University, where she teaches classes in the Civil War and Reconstruction,

of Georgia that is currently mapping the movement of 3000 Federal prisoners of war who escaped from the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

Notes from the President...

We finally received some snow, which is better to watch in an 'at home' environment, than having travel in it. We are happy to report so far, none of our member has been affected by the virus. Continue to practice safe habits and look for the message from **Frank Caporusso** on how to schedule your vaccine shot in New Jersey. This all will pass and we will be together soon.

It has been a year since we lost **Mike Cavanaugh**. His legacy lives on in our round table and the award named after him. Let us keep growing the organization he helped found 45 years ago. Thank you to everyone who has submitted your dues for 2021 so we can continue to serve the local and Zoom community as a unique and inviting group. Greetings to our new members across the nation. Check the Welcome box for their names and locations. If you have not done so yet, find Frank's address in the box on the next page and send him your payment so we can hit 70 members by March.

Last month **Dr. Alice Baumgartner** Zoomed in to us, from southern California, to share her research on “Run-

Continued on page 2

away Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War.” All in attendance across the nation enjoyed the presentation and lively discussion afterward. Also last month, we were treated to a bonus session with the long awaited and one delayed Member’s Night. **Kathy Clark** shared the story of her visit to the new library in Helsinki to good reviews. **Tom Scurria** and **Sean Glisson** told us of their adventures on the Stephen Ambrose Mississippi River Campaign tour. It also led to a good discussion. This month **Dr. Lorien Foote** will visit, from Texas, to tell us about “*The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy.*” Invite friends, family and foes to join us on the 11th. Watch for the Irish in March.

We now have a link on our website to renew your dues. Thank you to new member **Janet Whaley** for assisting **Frank Barletta** in setting it up. Our Western Theater Symposium has been rescheduled until May 2022 because of the pandemic. Watch for details on it later this year. Congratulation to **Dave Blahna** for winning Dr. Baumgartner’s book at our meeting last month. Perhaps after he finishes reading it, he can write a review for the newsletter. Also, as you have heard we are conducting an abbreviated version of our regular book raffle to keep you reading. Tune into the meeting to learn more.

We made \$46.94 on sales of \$938.80 from the Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends program thank for your purchases. Look for information in this newsletter about the Union League’s Lincoln Day celebration.

Mark your calendars to be in Fairmont Park at noon on May 15th at the Old Baldy statue for his birthday celebration. Look for the information on registering to be a judge for New Jersey History Day in this newsletter. Plan to join us on May 29th in Norristown to lay our wreath at General Hancock’s grave.

Future newsletters will have write-ups from members on what they have been learning during our time apart. Be sure to send your story to **Don Wiles** so it can be published and shared with our members. Watch for updates on our Trail marker sign and 45th anniversary celebration soon. Let us know how we can make your membership experience better. Do share this gem with others by inviting them to tune into our broadcast (no matter where they reside).

Keep supporting your local businesses during the pandemic and stay safe. Look forward to seeing your smiling face on Thursday when Dr. Foote visits us.

Rich Jankowski, President

Today in Civil War History

1862 Tuesday, February 11

Western Theater

McClelland’s division begins to move the 12 miles from Fort Henry to Fort Donelson. General Grant and his superior, General Halleck, both know the virtues of speedy movement, but the six days’ delay has been necessary both to replenish the army (which had set off from Cairo with only three days’ rations) and to allow more gunboats to arrive to replace the ones damaged in exchanges with the guns

From the Treasure’s Quarantine Desk

Well, it has been a very different kind of year, what can I say? Fortunately, our Round Table has continued to flourish, even though we’ve had our meetings on Zoom. In fact, our membership has grown.

*A big shout out goes to **Rich, our President and head cheerleader.** Also, thanks to **Dave Gilson** for continuing to bring us great speakers with a very diverse range of topics. And to the rest of us, the Old Baldy Members, congratulations and thank you.*

It has been through our presentation on Zoom that we have not only been able to keep our current members engaged, but have reached new viewers and recruited new members

*We thank all our great members for your support and continued commitment to our success. Your support has made it possible, not only to permit us to bring these **special speakers**, but to continue giving charitable donations to some very special organizations. Some included are **The Memorial Hall Fund, American Battlefield Trust, Gettysburg Foundation and Civil War Trails Foundation.***

*As the year came to an end, it is time again to show your support with your **2021 Membership Dues.** Though we remain on a strong financial footing, we have been unable to pursue our normal fund-raising activities. Thus, making your dues that much more important this year.*

***On a personal note,** I have always felt that our organization was so much more than just a Round Table. It is a group of people brought together by a common enjoyment of Civil War history, but more importantly, people I love having wonderful conversations with, but also being with them. I miss you all. I await the day when we can meet in person, shake hands, hug and sit down for dinner at the diner .*

Thank you again. Stay safe.

**\$25. regular dues \$35. Family membership
Mail to: Frank Barletta
44 Morning Glory Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053**

of Fort Henry. Even as the first division moves, Federal gunboats are entering the Cumberland River and moving upstream to Fort Donelson.

1863 Wednesday, February 11

Eastern Theater

The reorganization of the Army of the Potomac continues. The problem of desertion is taken into hand, with disloyal officers being weeded from command, and furloughs being much more tightly controlled. The living conditions of the army itself also receive attention. Comfortable winter huts are built, and the regular issue of fresh bread and fresh

vegetables is instituted. Results are rapid; desertions almost cease, absentees return to their regiments, and the proportion of the army unfit through illness drops from 10 percent to under 5 percent.

Naval Operations

Porter is the next major commander to voice his opinions on the supply situation. His large fleet needs a constant supply of coal, so he asks for 160,000 bushels to be sent to the Yazoo River, plus a monthly supply of 70,000 bushels. Some 40,000 are needed at White River plus 20,000 at Memphis. Keeping up with these demands is a nightmare as never before have such large forces existed and been concentrated in one area.

Great Britain

In Great Britain, Confederate envoy James Mason addressed a Lord Mayor's banquet in London to push for British assistance.

1864 Thursday, February 11

Eastern Theater

Confederate guerrillas under Major Harry W. Gillmore derail a train in West Virginia, then rob the passengers.

Western Theater

General Sooy Smith finally begins his long awaited cavalry raid, one day after he was supposed to link up with Sherman's infantry. Heavy rains continue to hamper movement.

1865 Saturday, February 11

Eastern Theater

Sherman's army cuts the Augusta-Georgia railroad, dividing the Confederates assembling at Augusta, Georgia, and the forces at Charleston, South Carolina. Beauregard urges the evacuation of Charleston to avoid one of the South's few remaining armies being besieged.

Was Robert E. Lee a Traitor?

By Frank Caporusso, Member OBCWRT

Lecture Review

Professor Allen Guelzo, Professor of Civil War Era History at Gettysburg College

Topic: Was Robert E. Lee a Traitor?

Delivered at Washington and Lee University

You Tube

While I was vaguely aware that high ranking Confederate officials were considered for punishment as leaders of the rebellion. I was not aware of any specifics, especially with reference to Robert E. Lee. Professor Guelzo presents the broad history of the attempt to try Lee.

Justice John Curtiss Underwood was a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Virginia from 6/11/1864 -2/3/1871. In this capacity he presided over the potential tri-

By Frank Caporusso, Member OBCWRT

I am providing links to several sites where you can sign up for CoVid vaccination.

Please act quickly as appointments at some venues are extended out to June. The Rowan School of medicine has a rolling signup and you can try that site Daily to check for appointments. However, as opposed to FEMA sites it is only Registering as CURRENT supplies are available. This site seems to open at 8:30 AM and fills VERY quickly.

- 1) - Rowanmedicine.com/vaccine/registration
- 2) - Virtua.org

These 2 sites are "site specific" You can also see a list of sites throughout NJ and links to each registration site in general at : Covid19.nj.gov.

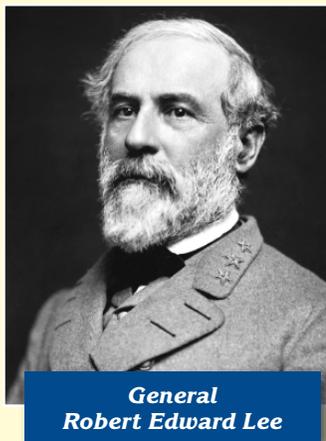
If you are over 65, have ANY chronic illness, or work / volunteer in any type of healthcare setting PLEASE note this as it should help you move closer to the top of the list. (My friends are being pushed into June but since I work in health care, I was able to schedule in early February

MOST centers are NOT doing walk-ups contrary to many rumors. If you go to a vscination center at the end of the day you MAY be given a leftover dose but I wouldn't count on it



Welcome to the new recruits

- Roseann Bacha-Garza
McAllen, Texas
- Robert Sparks
Newtown, PA
- Barney Yetter
Canon City, CO
- Janet Whaley
Pasadena, CA



General Robert Edward Lee

al of Lee after he was indicted for treason. Apparently he was rather aggressive in his support of this attempt.

Professor Guelzo makes several points:

The constitution at that time (before the 14th Amendment) does not define what constitutes citizenship. Any mention of citizenship in the Constitution consists of contradictory statements concerning US and/or State citizenship. Lee argued that he therefore essentially

had dual citizenship and had a right to opt to support his home state of Virginia.

Lee asserts that he resigned from the US army on 4/12/61 and that, therefore, he did not violate his oath as a soldier and officer. However, opponents insist that his resignation was not ACCEPTED until 4/25/1861, by which time he had already assumed command of forces in Virginia.

There is also a controversy as to whether Lee sought command of the Union army. It seems most agree that he was approached by Francis Preston Blair and NOT vice versa.

Beyond these issues are several more key ones:

General Grant had NOT included any restraints on Lee except to lay down arms and support the Union. Indeed, Grant threatened to resign over this if charges against Lee remained in place.

Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase was not inclined to preside over any trial -which was his responsibility as Circuit Court Judge as part of his Supreme Court duties-in areas remaining under Military Government.

Guelzo cites ex Parte Merryman which challenged Lincoln's ability to suspend Habeas Corpus and said this was the prerogative of Congress. There followed ex Parte Milligan which prohibited Military Tribunals in areas where the civilian judiciary was functioning

Lastly, Guelzo also points out that any trial for treason must occur in the place of said treason—in this case, Virginia, specifically Richmond, where it would be very difficult to empanel a jury to judge Robert E. Lee's alleged treason.

Lee didn't fully get off the hook until the Christmas 1868 declaration of President Andrew Johnson dropping proceedings against all the main Confederate leaders. This occurred shortly after he avoided conviction by the Senate after being impeached by the House.

There were many other facts and opinions offered by Professor Guelzo and this 1 hour presentation is available on You Tube and is worth a visit. Professor Guelzo is

also widely represented on You Tube for other presentations.



Professor Allen Guelzo

The Conference on Women and the Civil War Register Now!

Our 21st Conference, The Women of the Shenandoah Valley, will be held July 23 - 25, 2021, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

For conference details, <http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html>

To register for the conference: <http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html>

Meet "Happy" A Golden Retriever You Will Not Soon Forget!

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

"Happy" began his first six years of life in a shelter with no record of where he came from, but he knew where he was going. He got his forever home when Martha and Tom Dulz and their children rescued him. He was safe and, at last, at home. Happy had hip problems that effect retrievers and needed surgery. The family took him to Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center, meeting with Dr. Fox who saw the "bad" hip. Happy had total hip replacement. Happy's personality and his caring disposition brought smiles to everyone he met. That is why the Veterinary Center felt he would make a great therapy dog. The training was extensive! There were several situations the dog was put through, learning how to meet people with many different health or behavioral issues. Happy adapted to every person and situation easily and just loved children. He began his therapy career in nursing homes, hospitals, schools,



and shelters. Happy brought joy to the elderly, disabled, dementia patients, and those with Alzheimer's.

One of the visits that the Dulz family took with Happy was to visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania and watch as the visitors reacted with tears or show emotion as they visited the site. The Dulz's family with Happy made 76 visits to the memorial which was a three-and-half hour round trip. Happy would sit on a bench and visitors would come up to him to pet him and talk to the family. He especially liked to be around children and tried to make their time at the memorial less challenging. Parents also needed the comforting effect that Happy could give

around all people big or small. Happy was also taught to "stand up" whenever he saw a uniformed veteran of any of the branches of service. Happy sensed what visitors needed by wagging his tail or just being his friendly self. He helped parents who were not sure how to answer their children's questions by being himself. Happy would also wait a respectful distance from the Wall of Honor while families and friends were honoring the crash's 40 victims. He loved his job always greeting people in wheelchairs first.

Martha Dulz (Happy's owner) called the National Park Service, explaining what was happening between the visitors and Happy, noting that he was already a therapy dog. Martha asked the Park Service if they were interested in having Happy and the Dulz family as greeters at the memorial. The purpose was for Happy to comfort visitors and children with their parents as they visited this very emotional memorial. As a result, Happy became the only therapy dog in the National Park Service.

Happy retired from volunteer duties at Flight 93 on September 2015. He still went to nursing homes until ten days

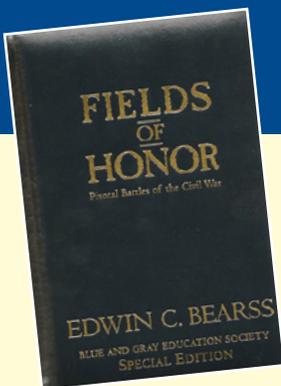
before his death from cancer. He is missed as the very gentle dog who touched so many lives. It was said, "He really opened doors that wouldn't have opened otherwise." The Park Service is considering expanding the program because of knowing Happy and his special personally. He was the greeter at the memorial who made parents and their children's lives a little better trying to understand this part of US history.

Our pets give us happiness, love and caring. They make our lives better by giving inconveniently love. They are there when we need them for any reason and will never let us down. Happy did that for the visitors at the Flight 93 Memorial and in the nursing home or wherever he visited. He sensed how a person was feeling and wanted to sit by their side for comfort. How wonderful it is to say that the National Park Service was thinking about the visitors at the memorial and found a way to comfort as they relive the tragedy of that September 11th day. I honor Happy for all he did to make his fellow man feel love and comfort wherever they may be living or visiting. He will never be forgotten.

Book Review

"Fields of Honor: Pivotal Battles of the Civil War"

by Ed Bearss



by Jim Heenehan,
Member OBCWRT

With the passing of Ed Bearss last year, I decided to read his book, Fields of Honor, that I've had for many years. The book was published in 2006

thanks to the Len Reidel and his Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES). Ed worked with the BGES for 20+ years, conducting scores of Civil War tours. I was fortunate enough to attend three of these - Gettysburg, North Anna, and The Road to Appomattox. The BGES filmed all Ed's tours and then distilled 1000s of hours of film to make this book. The result is 13 key moments in the Civil War told in Ed's own words. And it's great. Anyone who has been on tour with Ed will instantly recognize his booming voice giving insightful analysis of various battles and events, tinged with his many humorous asides.

The books chapters (tours) are Harper's Ferry, Fort Sumter, First Manassas, Shiloh, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor/Petersburg, Sherman's Carolina campaign, and Five Forks to Appomattox. An epilogue covers Ed's raising of the US ironclad Cairo. While the above list has an Eastern Theater emphasis, that might be because the BGES is based in Virginia (though the BGES does a lot of western battle tours as well).

Here's an example of Ed's writing (speaking) setting up the battle of Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga. After noting that Bragg's defensive position is much weaker than it looks and that Bragg has split his forces, having sent Pat

Cleburne's division to join Longstreet the previous day, he recounts Thomas' successful assault on Orchard Knob midway between Grant and Bragg's men on Missionary Ridge. Ed continues:

"General Bragg is alarmed, He lacks significant earthworks up on Missionary Ridge. He'd better recall Pat Cleburne and fast. So the wages of sin are coming back to haunt Bragg. He has to spend all day and all night looking for a new place to establish his defensive line. He'll find out too late that the crest of Missionary Ridge is very narrow. At the top there may be 50 feet of level ground; in some places it's going to be even less. That means that on short notice he's not going to be able to select a good defensive option."

Can't you just hear Ed as he strides up and down explaining all this? Anyway, it's a wonderful book and if you are a fan of Ed Bearss, well worth reading. While Amazon has a softcover edition available, if you contact the BGES directly you can also get a copy of the special leather-bound edition with gold edging on the pages.



“The Northwest Conspiracy”

by D. Alexander Brown, CWTI, May 1971

Continued from (January) issue -

One of the most misunderstood episodes of the war centered around a plot that never came off to free Confederate prisoners in the North, and foment revolt.

At this point in the conspiracy only a handful of Sons of Liberty officers were involved in the plot with the Confederates in Canada. They called themselves the Committee of Thirteen. Of the men in this group, the motives of Charles Walsh, a Chicago Democratic leader, are most difficult to comprehend. Early in the war he had devoted much of his time and money to raising two regiments of Irishmen to serve in the Union Army, the 23d and 90th Illinois Volunteers. He owned a prosperous livery business, and for weeks his earnings had suffered while he used his teams and stables for assembling and housing recruits for Mr. Lincoln’s Army. He ran so short of money that he had to remove his daughter from an expensive private school. Walsh was a loyal Democrat, however, as loyal to his party as he was to the Irish and his church.

By 1864 he was bitterly angry over the forceful method the high-riding Republicans were using against Democratic voters in Chicago. Yet it is doubtful if Walsh fully understood how far Hines meant to go, or if Hines understood the limits to which Walsh was willing to go.

In mid-July a secret committee of the Sons of Liberty met with the Confederates in Canada and obtained a considerable amount of money to be used in buying arms.

A few days later they held another meeting in Chicago to choose a new date for the uprising. They chose August 16, but once again postponed action—this time until



**Colonel
George St. Leger Grenfel**

August 29, the eve of the Democratic national convention. On August 24, Hines and Castleman set their plan in motion. From the Confederates in Canada they carefully selected fifty eight men, many of them tried and true comrades from John Morgan’s shattered cavalry regiments. Among them was Colonel George St. Leger Grenfel, a British soldier-of-fortune who had served with Morgan in 1862-63. Grenfel later

had joined Jeb Stuart; then made his way to Washington to take the amnesty oath so that he could travel in the North. In New York, Grenfel had met some old friends who persuaded him to join them on an excursion to Canada. While visiting Toronto he found the Morgan men and apparently could not resist the tantalizing Chicago adventure

proposed by Tom Hines.

There was also George (Lightning) Ellsworth, the audacious telegrapher who had tricked the Yankees time and again while on raids with Morgan. Others were Ben Drake, one of the most daring of the scouts, and George Eastin who loved sword-fighting on horseback and had already been memorialized for posterity in a ballad.

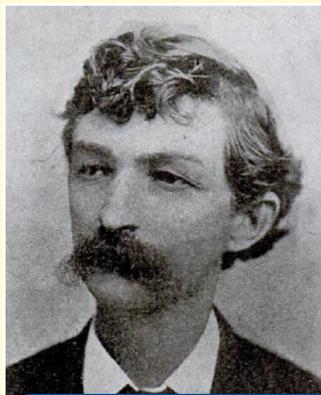
When Jacob Thompson allotted \$23,000 for the Chicago invasion, he asked Hines to take twelve more “men with good connections.” Hines was dubious.



**Camp Douglas
Confederate Prisoners
of War**

He did not suspect the loyalty of the new recruits, but he had had no opportunity to study their reliability. One weak man could destroy everything. Hines accepted them, but only at Thompson’s insistence.

Thompson appeared to be especially impressed with the credentials of Maurice Langhorn, a former Confederate artillery sergeant who had made his way through the lines from Kentucky to Canada. Langhorn became the unofficial quartermaster for the expedition, assisting with arrangements for railway travel from Toronto to Chicago, and the issuance of six-shooters, ammunition, and \$100 in cash to each man.



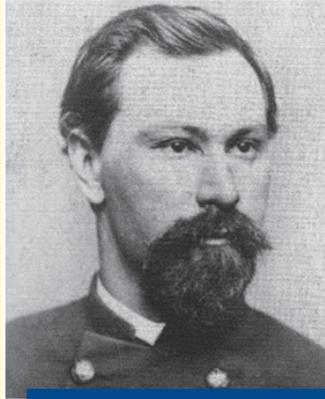
**Captain
Thomas Henry Hines**

Beginning on August 24, a few Confederates left Toronto each day by train. Upon arrival in Chicago they went to the Richmond House and registered as members of the Missouri delegation to the Democratic convention. Grenfel, Langhorn, and Hines were among those who left on the 26th. Observing that Grenfel was wearing a gray uniform

suit, Langhorn warned him: “Colonel, if you go in those clothes to Chicago, they will arrest you.” “No,” Grenfel replied, “this is an old uniform that was worn in an English battalion I once belonged to. I have my English papers, and

my gun and dog, and if they ask me what I am doing, I will say I am going hunting."

Traveling on one of these trains from Canada was Thomas Keefe, a United States secret agent, who was busily memorizing faces and gathering information to report to the commander at Camp Douglas, Colonel Benjamin Sweet. Camp Douglas held 8,000 Confederate prisoners near the Chicago lake front, and during the past several weeks Colonel Sweet had successfully penetrated the Chicago Sons of Liberty with informers. He had also been reading his prisoners' incoming and outgoing mail and was aware of a plot against Camp Douglas. 'He had noticed that the prisoners from John Morgan's regiments seemed unusually brash and restless.



Colonel Benjamin Sweet

Anticipating some sort of incident during the Democratic convention, Colonel Sweet had requested an additional 2,000 troops to guard his 8,000 prisoners, and the last week of August these Federal reinforcements were quietly moved into position.

During the weekend of August 27-28, thousands of visitors poured into Chicago. Most came by rail, but one observer reported as many as 300 wagons rolling into the city from downstate Illinois and Indiana. It was not unusual to see men carrying sidearms, and some carried shotguns.

Colonel Grenfel was carrying a hunting rifle and was accompanied by his yellow-spotted dog when he entered the Richmond House and boldly signed the register: "G. St. Leger Grenfel, Gt. Britain." When Tom Hines arrived he signed as "Dr. Hunter." Sergeant Maurice Langhorn registered as "George Langley."

The Sons of Liberty were also meeting in Chicago, and were hopeful of being addressed by their hero, Clement Vallandigham. Some historians have stated that Vallandigham attended a secret meeting of the Sons of Liberty, but this would have been difficult for him to accomplish. "Vallandigham is here and excites as much curiosity as a loosed elephant would in our streets," one newspaper reported. "Crowds follow him everywhere he goes." He did make one speech to his admirers from the balcony of the Sherman House, where he was staying, and delivered another in Chicago's Court House Square.

On Sunday evening August 28, Hines and Castleman met with a group of Sons of Liberty officers in the Richmond House. Hines described his plan for the assault on Camp Douglas, adding that a few trusted men among the Confederate prisoners there were ready to lead an uprising from within. He then asked how many men were available in Chicago to help his little band of Confederates launch the attack. The Sons of Liberty were evasive. Charles Walsh made vague remarks about a thousand good Irish fighters, but he was not sure when they could be ready.

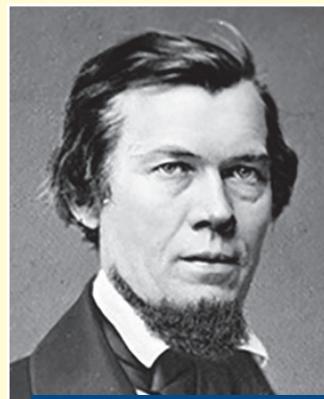
What was worrying the Sons of Liberty were some stories that had appeared in Chicago newspapers a day or two before—not lead stories but bare references to red signal lights that had been seen one night outside Camp Douglas, some conjectures that there might be "a demonstration to release the rebel prisoners at Camp Douglas."

Although the Chicago Police Commission had laughed off the rumors, assuring the press that fears of a breakout at the prison camp were groundless, the Sons of Liberty were nervous because there had been public mention of the possibility. Many more soldiers certainly were in evidence around Camp Douglas, which indicated that the authorities knew something about Hines's plan. In spite of this, Hines declared himself willing to lead the attack at any time during the Democratic convention, provided the Sons of Liberty could give him 5,000 men.

Next day the Peace Democrats, who were opposed to the nomination of General George McClellan, held a demonstration outside the Richmond House. Speakers denounced the war, called for the nomination of Horatio Seymour, and flaunted banners which read: **BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS. WAR IS DISUNION—SHEATHE THE SWORD AND SAVE THE UNION. PEACE AND UNION.**

By Tuesday afternoon, Hines knew he was not going to get 5,000 men. There was, however, a possibility of switching to an alternate plan to seize Rock Island arsenal, two hundred miles west of Chicago, and free several thousand Confederate prisoners there. Castleman and twenty of the most reliable Morgan men, with 500 Sons of Liberty assisting, would board the regular night passenger train to Rock Island and take possession of it en route. Hines with the remaining fifty Confederates meanwhile would take control of "all the wires and railroads out of Chicago, preventing any truthful telegraphic news, or any transportation, and convey to the outside world the breaking up of the National Democratic Convention by assault of United States troops." While Hines and his men were startling the nation with their false alarms, Castleman and his band would free the prisoners at Rock Island, then move on to Springfield and take possession of the Illinois state capital. The only element missing in this plot was the little army of 500 from the Sons of Liberty.

To the great disgust of Hines and Castleman, the Sons of Liberty could not furnish them with even a hundred men. The organization's leaders had taken a considerable amount of Jacob Thompson's money for buying arms and for recruiting, but now at the showdown they could offer only apologies, lame explanations, and requests for more time. "Impractical dignitaries," Castleman labeled them, and neither he nor Hines believed them when they promised to be better organized and ready for action at the time



Jacob Thompson

of the Presidential election in November.

For another twenty-four

hours, Hines and his men stayed close to the Richmond House, hoping until the last moment for something favorable to develop. They heard that Vallandigham was the hero of the convention, enthusiastically cheered whenever he appeared, and that he had been given a free hand in writing a peace platform for the Democrats. But on Wednesday the 31st, when McClellan beat out Seymour for the party's nomination for President, it was Vallandigham who moved that the vote be made unanimous. The Chicago newspapers that evening made dismal reading for the Northwest conspirators. The headlines not only told of McClellan's nomination, A MAN OF WAR ON A PEACE PLATFORM, but the news from the front was even more depressing: ATLANTA FALLS TO SHERMAN'S ARMY.



Clement Vallandigham

The Chicago convention was now over and the thousands of visitors were preparing to depart. With them must go Hines and his Confederates. "Another day in Chicago," Castleman remarked, "would be fraught with great danger." Hines called his men together and offered them the options of returning to Canada, trying to make their way south to the Confederacy, or going with him and Castleman to southern Illinois and Indiana where they would organize an army from the ranks of the Sons of Liberty. This time they would bypass the "impractical dignitaries," Castleman said, "and get in touch with subordinates who were often in real earnest." Twenty-three men chose to return to Canada, twenty-five said they would go south; twelve went with Hines to Mattoon, Illinois, and ten with Castleman to Marshall, Illinois, where they established bases in preparation for a second invasion of Chicago on the eve of the Presidential election. They were determined to make one more try at freeing the prisoners in Camp Douglas.

One of those who decided to head southward was Colonel Grenfel, but he and his spotted hunting dog went only as far as Carlisle, Illinois. There he stopped at the Hunter's Home, an inn favored by sportsmen in pursuit of prairie chickens. For several weeks he "mixed in the highest society, acted like a gentleman, talked of nothing but hunting," and spent some time with a doctor who treated him for diarrhea and rheumatism.

Another who chose the southward route was Maurice Langhorn. Instead of crossing into the Confederacy he went to Washington, D. C. On October 10 he took the oath of allegiance to the Union, and a few days later started back to Chicago.

On Saturday afternoon, November 5, Langhorn called upon the commander of Camp Douglas, Colonel Benjamin Sweet. He introduced himself by showing Sweet a letter bearing the signature of Secretary of State Seward which indicated that he was a former Confederate soldier who had taken an oath of allegiance to the Union. Langhorn then revealed to Sweet that he had been one of the Chica-

go conspirators in August, had since repented, and was now devoting his time to canvassing for the election of Abraham Lincoln. Not more than an hour before, Langhorn continued, he had met one of his former comrades on a Chicago street. The conspirators were back in Chicago five hundred strong, Tom Hines was their leader, and they were planning to storm Camp Douglas on the following Tuesday, election day.

Langhorn could not have chosen a more opportune time for a betrayal of his former associates. During the past week, Colonel Sweet had been desperately seeking some evidence of a conspiracy so that he could move against the Sons of Liberty, arrest a few prominent leaders and link the whole affair with the Democratic party on the eve of the elections. The resulting roorback would not only help the Union candidates, but might bring Sweet a promotion to brigadier general.

Throughout the autumn Republican leaders in Indiana had successfully created an image of disloyalty around that state's Democratic party by linking it with the Sons of Liberty in a spectacular trial of several officers of the organization who were arrested in September on charges of treason. While the trial was in progress, John Castleman was arrested in a second roundup. A few days later, a Confederate raid from Canada against the St. Albans bank in Vermont added fuel to the fire.

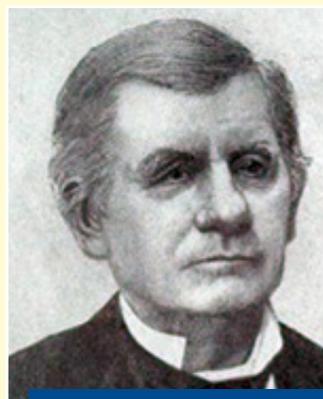
Colonel Sweet and other loyal Union men in Illinois were eager to trap the anti-war Democrats in similar fashion and frighten the regular party members into voting for Lincoln on election day. Langhorn therefore was just the man Sweet needed. Sweet did not trust the turncoat, but Langhorn seemed to know all the Confederate conspirators and he offered the valuable information that some were staying at the Richmond House, some at the Tremont House. Sweet suggested that Langhorn register at the Tremont House; next day the colonel would meet him there for a further report. ..

Only forty-eight hours before Langhorn walked into Sweet's office, the colonel had put out a feeler for a conspiracy in the person of John T. Shanks. Shanks was a sallow-faced Texan in his mid-30's who was captured during Morgan's raid into Ohio. In civilian life, Shanks had been a forger and embezzler; during his military career he had always kept one eye out for the main chance.

In prison he naturally gravitated into an easy clerkship in the camp hospital, with light duties and special privileges. Shanks had applied to take the oath of allegiance so that he might join a "Galvanized Yankee" company for

service on the Western frontier. Colonel Sweet knew that Shanks was a shifty character, but the colonel decided the Texan might be useful in tracking down conspirators in Chicago.

On the evening of November 3, Sweet arranged for Shanks to "escape" from Camp Douglas. In company with Detective Thomas Keefe, the Texan went to the home of Judge Buckner Morris, a well-to-do Kentucky-born lawyer who had lived in



**Judge
Buckner Morris**

Continued from page 8 - "Conspiracy"

Chicago for many years and always voted the straight Democratic ticket. Morris frequently referred to President Lincoln as "Abraham the First"; he publicly advocated his impeachment and wanted the war settled by compromise. He was treasurer of the Chicago Sons of Liberty. Colonel Sweet sent Shanks to Morris' home because the colonel suspected him of aiding escaped Confederate prisoners. Late in October five prisoners had tunneled out of Camp Douglas, and no trace of them had been found. Sweet suspected that they might have joined the Chicago conspirators, and he hoped that Shanks might find his way to them through Morris.

While Detective Keefe waited down the street, Shanks knocked on judge Morris' door, secured admission, and convinced the judge and his wife that he was a genuine escaped Confederate prisoner. Mrs. Morris gave him \$30 to cover his railroad fare to Cincinnati, and the name and address of a man there who would help him through the lines into Kentucky. Shanks departed, rejoined Keefe, and together they went to report to Colonel Sweet. After marking each bill with an X, Shanks turned the money over to the colonel for future evidence. Shanks of course had failed in his mission to penetrate the conspiracy, and Sweet had to put him temporarily under cover.

Two days later, however, when Maurice Langhorn unexpectedly appeared with his voluntary information, Sweet decided to try his luck again with Shanks by sending him to the Richmond House. On Sunday afternoon (November 6) Shanks strolled into the Richmond House and registered as John Thompson, Springfield, Illinois. On the registry he found Colonel Grenfel's name. Shanks had known the Englishman while he was with Morgan's cavalry. Grenfel was not in his room, but Shanks waited in the lobby until he recognized the soldier-of-fortune as he came limping in about 7:30 with his spotted hunting dog. Shanks approached him, identified himself as a former comrade who had escaped from Camp Douglas, and then accompanied Grenfel to his room.

Grenfel was cordial, but told Shanks that he was short of funds and could not help him escape from Chicago. About 8:30 Shanks excused himself and went out to report to Detective Keefe. Shanks had found Colonel Grenfel, but had learned nothing of any conspiracy. Keefe told him to go back and try again.

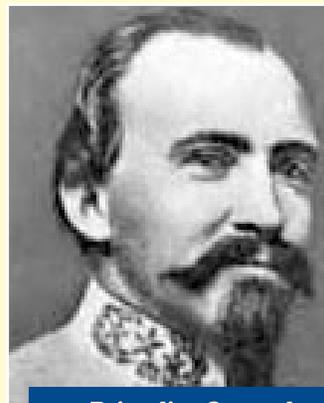
Shanks returned to Grenfel's hotel room about 9:30, and stories of what occurred there, what was said, who were present, are based entirely upon the Texan's testimony. Much of it could have been invented by Shanks to please Keefe and Sweet, or all of it could have been true. According to Shanks, Grenfel introduced him to two other men, Fielding and Ware. (Fielding's real name was John Bettersworth.) Shanks sent down for a bottle of brandy and soon the four men were sipping the liqueur and talking of an attack upon Camp Douglas. Grenfel's arthritis was troubling him; frequently he would rise from his chair to hobble about the room, but at the same time (Shanks testified) he talked enthusiastically of setting fires all over Chicago while the attack was proceeding against Camp Douglas. During the course of the evening, Shanks volunteered to join the enterprise and sketched out a map of the prison's interior for them. About ten o'clock Ware excused himself; he said he was going to see Tom Hines to help formulate the final plans.

Just before midnight Grenfel announced that he was "quite unwell" and would like to go to bed. Shanks picked up his half-empty brandy bottle, and he and Fielding (Bettersworth) went to the latter's room. During the next hour, according to Shanks, Fielding laid out the entire plan of attack upon Camp Douglas. About 1,500 men would be available, he said, from Sons of Liberty groups in Illinois and Indiana. At 4 p.m., Tuesday November 8, election day, they would start from various points in Chicago and by 7 o'clock would assemble on three sides of the prison camp. After assuring Fielding that he would see him the following morning, Shanks went to his own room in the hotel. The time was between one and two a.m., Monday November 7th. An hour or so later, Shanks was rudely awakened by policemen who informed him that he was under arrest.

Late Sunday evening, after hearing from Shanks through Detective Keefe, and after receiving additional information from Maurice Langhorn, Colonel Sweet had decided to strike with several raids during the night. Instead of telegraphing his commanding officer, Brigadier General John Cook in Springfield, to secure approval for the raids, Sweet sent a dispatch by messenger: "I am not entirely sure of the telegraph," he explained. "I have every reason to believe that Colonel Marmaduke, of the rebel army, is in the city under an assumed name, and that Captain Hines, of Morgan's command, also Col. G. St. Leger Grenfel, formerly Morgan's adjutant-general, as well as other officers of the rebel army. . . . I must also arrest two or three prominent citizens who are connected with these officers. . . . These arrests may cause much

excitement. . . . I regret that I am not able to consult with you on my proposed action before acting without letting an opportunity pass which may never again occur."

As he set his forces into action, Colonel Sweet remarked to a member of his staff: "If things come out all right, I'll be a brigadier general." The "prominent citizens" arrested on his orders were Judge Morris and Charles Walsh, both members of the Sons of Liberty and leaders of the Democratic party.



**Brigadier General
John Hunt Morgan**

Langhorn's "valuable assistance" had led Sweet to Walsh. The net also brought in Grenfel, Colonel Vincent Marmaduke, and two former officers of Morgan's command, Charles Daniel and James Cantrill. In addition about a hundred men were picked up from grog-shops and flop-houses, or from among drunkards in the streets, all being charged with conspiracy against the United States Government. As usual, Tom Hines managed to escape.

Thus ended the myth of the Northwest Conspiracy. The charges and arrests, however, made a splendid roor-back for Republican newspapers that afternoon. On the following morning, election day, the story was spread across the Nation. The Democrats had no time to defend the party from the charges of complicity. The exposure of the "conspiracy" also provided an excuse for placing armed soldiers near ballot boxes to guard them from

"disloyal" Democrats, and on November 8, 1864, good Union men everywhere suspected all Democrats of disloyalty.

The arrest of John Shanks, of course, was a deception to enable the shifty Texan to gather further evidence while in confinement with his fellow prisoners. The trial of the conspirators began the following January and dragged on until the war ended. Judge Morris and Vincent Marmaduke were acquitted; Charles Walsh was sentenced to five years in prison. Charles Daniel, being a Morgan man, found a way to escape to Canada before the trial ended. (John Castleman, another Morgan man, also escaped from his jail in Indiana.) James Cantrill turned state's evidence and was allowed to take the oath of allegiance. Colonel Grcnfel, who was probably the least guilty of all, was sentenced to death; later the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. Colonel Sweet received his promotion to brigadier general; Shanks was given command of a "Galvanized Yankee" company and sent out west to fight Indians; Langhorn was awarded



Confederate Mound at Camp Douglas

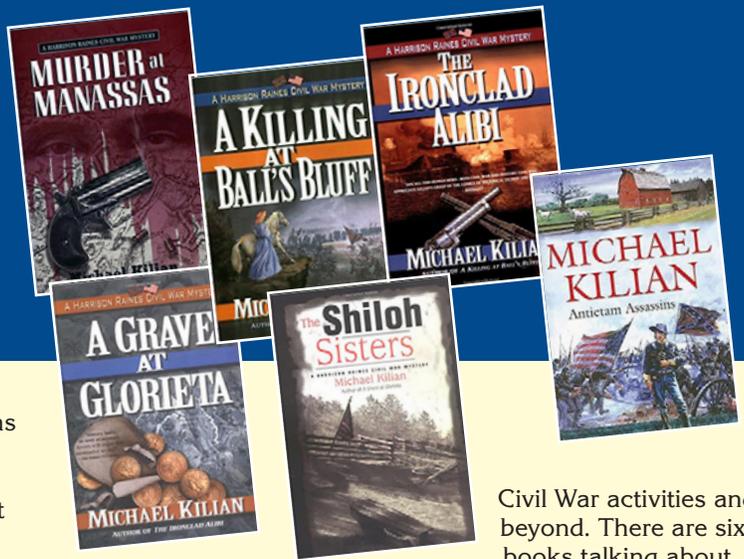
a Government clerkship. Tom Hines returned to Kentucky and after the war became a respectable lawyer and judge.

The Northwest Conspiracy may well have been the most enormous fraud of the entire Civil War period. The Confederate leaders vastly inflated the size of their forces in order to draw the Sons of Liberty into the conspiracy. In turn, the Sons of Liberty exaggerated the size of their following in order to obtain funds from the Confederates to build up their organization. Topping both of these magnifications was the crude hyperbole of Union military and political leaders who hoped to split the Democrats and frighten that party's loyal members into voting for Union candidates in the crucial election of 1864. Above all, the Confederates misread the surface evidences of disloyalty in the Northwest. When opportunities for action were provided, few of those

who spoke so fervently for revolution were willing to take the final step, to use the bullet and the gun against their government.

Book Reviews by Kathy Clark

Michael Killian's six book series of the Harrison Raines Adventures.



During this time of trying to stay healthy and indoors I was looking for a book that would be entertaining, Civil War history, and full of adventure. Going onto the amazon site I came across a series of mysteries by Michael Killian that fit the bill. He wrote about selected Civil War battles with descriptive accounts of the battles themselves in the context of a historical fiction. Along the way we meet people who were exactly part of history including Bell Boyd, Rose Greenhow, Elizabeth Van Lew, and others. They interacted with Harrison (Harry) Raines and other characters in the stories. Harrison was a Virginia plantation owner and was a supporter of the Union cause. His Father and brother, however, fought with the Confederates. Harry earns his living as a gambler, horse trader, and investor.

Harrison met Pinkerton and his agency while he was in Washington D.C. and was asked to join the agency. He decided to do just that, and true adventures began for him and the people he met along the way as he got involved in

Civil War activities and beyond. There are six books talking about certain Civil War battles.

The first book of the series is "Murder at Manassas". This story takes readers to the first battle of the Civil War and the results. The soldiers were young, green, and were eager to get into the battle. Harry gets involved with a murder of a Northern Major. As it was, he was the last person to see him alive. Harry endangered his own life to try to find the person who killed the Major.

The second book was "A Killing at Ball's Bluff". Harrison is now a captain in the US Secret Service with Allan Pinkerton and with approval from Abraham Lincoln. Harrison was told to stand guard near Colonel Baker, Lincoln's close

friend. While trying to do his job Colonel Baker was killed during the Battle at Ball's Bluff. Harrison was trying to find the killer while he was jailed as a Yankee spy accused of the murder.

The third book is "The Ironclad Alibi" which tells the story of the sea battle of the Monitor and the CSS Virginia. Harrison is now a Federal Scout, back at his Virginia plantation. Harry knows the man who is part of the restoration of the Merrimack and his wife, Bella Mills. Bella was killed and Harry's ex-slave and friend Caesar Augustus was put in jail accused of the murder. Harry rescues him, finds the real killer, and warns the Union about the upcoming sea battle.

The series went West and the Civil War in New Mexico with "A Grave at Glorieta" along with the details of the battle at Glorieta Pass and the results. Harrison was dispatched to New Mexico to find the Confederate plans to expand its country all the way west to California. In Santa Fe, Harry meets the Union army's contact to try to stop the soldiers at Glorieta Pass. Harrison's attempt to solve the murder of his contact while gathering intelligence that he needs to get to the Union Army is part of the story.

Book five "The Shiloh Sisters" which was a mystery that Harrison solved as the battle of Shiloh was part of his scouting services. As the battle of Shiloh was continuing the wife of an important person and her sister were murdered. Harrison Raines meets General Grant when he called the US Secret Service to investigate the sister's murders.

Finally, "Antietam Assassins" where Harrison was a scout for Grant. He learned a lot of Grant's commanding skills and helped scout before the battle of Antietam and as the battle continued. He was also a scout for McClellan who was terribly slow in beginning to help the Union cause. Harry resigns from the Secret Service and returns to his plantation. When a Presbyterian minister (family friend) and several young women who also knew the minister were found murdered, Harry starts an investigation. The investigation was stopped by the arrival of Robert E. Lee and the starting of the Battle of Antietam.

There are so many other interesting stories along with the battle information throughout the entire series that I continued to read book 1-6 without stopping. As we are home quite a lot these days sometimes it is just as interesting to read a historical fiction along with the history that the story gives. I know I like to read historical fiction, as well as non-fiction, even though knowing that some information is left to the author's discretion.

I enjoyed this series getting to know Harrison Raines, his many friends, and his Civil War activities. His love of Virginia and his home are the especially important aspects of his life. He believes in freedom for all Black people including his own slave, who got paid for all he did for Harrison. Even if you only read one or two books of the series the stories do give some pleasure. This is the time to find a Civil War adventure like never before.

Have Fun Reading!

"South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War"

Presentation by Alice L Baumgartner

January 14 Meeting

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

In the North slaves were using the Underground Railroad with conductors and ordinary citizens, who put their own live-in danger, guiding slaves into areas to help them get to freedom. They may be getting slaves to Pennsylvania or over the border into Canada. The slaves that were nearer to the Mexican border could become free just by crossing the border. In Mexico trying to capture runaway slaves was not part of Mexico's constitution in 1857 which states freedom for all Mexicans is possible. The northern United States could not grant freedom for all slaves. Even when the Underground Railroad was able to get many slaves freedom in Canada in 1836 it really did not promise that slaves could be free. Through the Fugitive Slave Act that was initiated in the slave states in the United States there were always chances that a slave would be captured and sent back to their owner. Mexico, on the other hand, was not committed to the anti-slavery policies and by 1829 slavery was abolished in Mexico.

September 16, 1829 President Vicente Guerrero ended slavery. From 1570-1810 the slave population was large but after 1810 the population was only between 7 and 10 thousand. It seemed like the antislavery sentiment was rising. The Mexicans felt by the 1820's that they were going



Alice L. Baumgartner

to begin colonialism and that slavery could not be part of the process. This was putting Mexico and Spain in a different way of life. At the end of the American Revolution Mexico was independent making good on liberty and property. Between 1821-1827 nine states ended slavery and between 1821- 27 free womb laws prom-

ised that children born to enslaved people would be free. That could end slavery in a generation. Ending slavery for the Mexican territory was a gradual process to keep politics stable. Trying to send a degree from Mexican Congress in 1827 to abolish slavery was not the right time. Slave labor was exclusively needed in the cane fields, so this law was abolished.

Sugar producing in North and South growing areas needed slaves to work the fields. Currently the slaves in Mexico were of prime importance. The United States wanted to put slaves in Texas where cotton was producing and expanding rapidly. By April 28, 1822 in Texas imported slaves became

free after being indentured for ten years. This changed in 1834 when slaves in Mexican soil were free.

The Texas Revolution began in 1835 with slavery becoming part of the issue of the revolution. The Battle of San Jacinto (April 20-21, 1836) Texas forces defeat Mexico. Before and while the revolution was continuing enslaved people were entering Texas and Mexico. Abolitionist were rebelling by breaking tools, calling in sick and whatever else that could do to show their anger over the slaves coming into Mexico. Mexico had a weak government, so it was easy for Texas and Louisiana with fugitive slaves to escape and join military colonies. This helped to gain a fast hold in Mexico. It gave the fugitive slaves, who were kidnaped, arms to fight.

Some slaves went to cities for employment or lease themselves to white jobs as they joined the labor force. Laws were passed that a slave could file against the employer if something went wrong. By August 20, 1850 slave holders from the United States went to Mexico to get fugitive slaves. Mexico's abolition contributed to sectional controversy in the United States.

August 8, 1846 David Wilmot (first term Democrats from Pennsylvania) talked about the 2 million appropriation bill that the Polk administration had requested to fund the United States - Mexico War. He proposed an amendment to the bill guaranteeing that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should ever exist in territories that the United States might acquire from Mexico where slavery existed in territories there should be left alone. A debate followed but the bill was dead. They knew slavery has been abolished in Mexico and congress did not have the power to reestablish it. The Democrats threated the balance of the North and South.

Southern states were not going to abolish slavery. Northern senator James Shield of Illinois did not agree with the south. Thomas Hart Benton read Mexican laws in the United States Senate in Spanish, so no one knew what he said.

Wilmot's Proviso was voted down, people could amend their laws themselves. By 1849, California petitions for admission as a free state. Henry Clay and Stephen Douglas said, "Slavery does not exist by law in any of the territory acquired by the United States from the Republic of Mexico." Henry Clay explained, "I cannot vote to convert a territory already free into a slave territory."

The balance of power between the slaves and free states were falling apart. The Kanas-Nebraska Act was voted on and passed. A group of Northern Whigs and discontented Democrats were not satisfied and decided to form a new party - the Republican party and talked of succession. Even though Northern states now enjoyed majorities in both the House and Senate. This is the start of more talk of secession and continued unrest in the United States which eventually resulted in the North and South waging a war between themselves.

We thank you, Alice, for a highly informative presentation on a subject that we did not have a lot of information. We all know the Underground Railroad and the knowledge of slave activity in the North. At the same time slaves were getting to Mexico by crossing the border between the United States and Mexico. Alice's book is very professionally written and researched. It is a great book to enjoy while watching the snow fall outside or enjoying the history as we all continue trying to be safe inside.

David Blahna (Mechanicsburg, PA) won a copy of "South to Freedom" by Dr. Alice L. Baumgartner at the January meeting.

A paid member will earn a copy of the presenter's book at the end of the meeting.

Reinstating Book Raffle

In an attempt, to make our Zoom meeting more like our in-person meetings, the board has proposed having a drawing at the end of each Zoom meeting.

The Raffle will be for the book written by our speaker for

that night's meeting. This will also be a thank you to our speaker for making their presentation.

Rules: The name of each 2020 member will be put in a hat. Additionally, those members attending the Zoom meeting will have their names added to the hat (a second chance).

At the conclusion of the meeting, a winning name will be drawn. **Good Luck**

"Those White Roses"

Amazing Mary

By Martha Thomas, CWTI, March 1984

Who was the only woman ever to win the Medal of Honor? A recent syndicated newspaper quiz asked the question; only one of twenty-four people queried in an informal survey knew the answer. "Mary Walker", the respondent said. "She was some kind of quack, I think."

Thus is Doctor Mary Edwards Walker remembered by

posterity. The truth is she was a legitimate medical doctor, serving as both nurse and physician during the Civil War—work that won the Medal of Honor. She was also a skilled lecturer, a vociferous advocate of women's rights and women's dress reform, and the author of several books. For a 19th-century woman, she was eccentric, aggressive, and abrasive. By century-old standards, she is often thought of as "some kind of quack."

Walker's less attractive traits made for energy, enterprise, and decisiveness—all necessary to cope with the traumas

of the war years. She craved adventure and excitement. She was undaunted by bureaucratic red tape, army regulations, and contemporary conventional mores. Judgment of her work in those years depended on who was reporting.

The New York Tribune wrote that she was "exceedingly popular among the soldiers in the hospitals, and is undoubtedly doing much good."

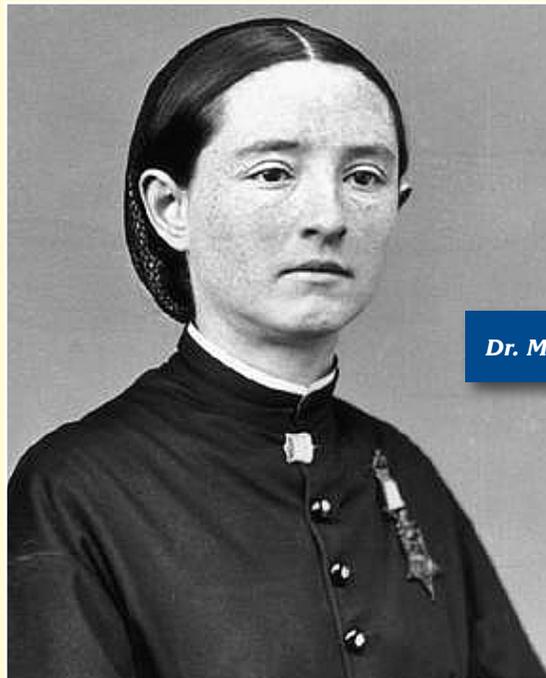
About the same time, a medical examining board of the Army of Cumberland called her a "medical monstrosity" and found her so inadequate "as to render it doubtful whether she has pursued the study of medicine."

She had. She was the only woman in the June 1855 graduating class of Syracuse Medical College. The training she received during the three-term course (each term was 13 weeks long) was typical of medical education in the mid-19th century before the development of modern diagnostic and treatment methods. During 1853 and 1854, she attended the winter and spring terms, and in 1854 and 1855, the winter term. In between the college sessions she "interned" with practicing physicians.

Syracuse Medical College was a so-called "eclectic" medical school, with training based on the principle that "nothing should be used as a remedy that will injure the human constitution, and that all means used should have a direct tendency to sustain and not depress the vital powers." With this philosophy as a background, students studied materia medica, chemistry, physiology, pharmacology, anatomy, surgery, the practice of medicine and medical pathology, obstetrics, diseases of women and children, and medical jurisprudence— all in thirty-nine weeks!

Doctor Walker's medical school education cost a total of \$195, plus board and room at about \$15 a week. She had difficulties completing her work— not because of course content, but because of financial problems. She had to pay her own way. Her original goal was to be a medical missionary, but the family income could not support the training involved. Instead, she attended the Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York, and turned to teaching grammar school. She found teaching unsatisfactory and decided on a variation of her earlier dream: she would become a physician. She saved her money until she had enough to enroll in medical school.

Her medical training was average for the times. Certainly, she thought she was a good doctor. Later she wrote of herself (in the third person) that she was "not only the most prominent woman in the United States Army, but has been the most steadily prominent of any American woman ever since that time. No woman on our soil has such a versatility of talents, and yet she is the most refined woman there is before the public, notwithstanding all of her public life among all classes of people."



Dr. Mary Edward Walker

She did make an effort to keep up with advances in medical training. In the spring of 1862, in the middle of the Civil War, she went to New York City for what would be considered today postgraduate training. She attended lectures at Hygeia Therapeutic College and clinics at Bellevue Hospital. After the war, when she was traveling and lecturing in England, she observed medical treatment and surgery in London hospitals.

Doctor Walker first set up her medical practice in Columbus, Ohio, where she failed to attract patients, presumably because she was a woman. She moved to Rome, New York, and had better luck, perhaps because she married Albert Miller, a medical school classmate, and opened an office with him.

However, the marriage was short-lived. Doctor Walker (she never called herself Miller) left her husband after only four years of marriage, when she discovered he was having an affair with another woman. She again set up as a lone practitioner, running a classified advertisement in the Rome Sentinel on May 8, 1860, to announce the opening of her new office.

In the same issue, the editor of the Sentinel noted that, "Reference is made to the advertisement of Dr. Mary Walker, Female Physician, who it will be seen, has removed her office to the rooms over Messrs. Shelley's Clothing Store. As there is generally alleged to be so much rivalry and jealousy between those of the medical profession, we hardly dare to venture to give one of them a puff, even by way of preference over the other. Those, however, who prefer the skill of a female physician to that of a male, have now an excellent opportunity to make their choice."

Unfortunately, Walker's gender was not her only difficulty. Divorcing her husband antagonized people. And many of her troubles, both then and later during the Civil War and her crusading years, grew out of her support of women's dress reform. She became a "bloomer girl" in the early 1850's when the costume was introduced by Amelia Jenks Bloomer. From this time on, she habitually wore a dark broadcloth knee length tunic, gathered at the waist, over loosely fitting pantaloons of the same material.

"Why don't you wear proper clothing?" Major General William Tecumseh Sherman challenged her during the war. "That clothing is neither one thing nor the other."

During the latter part of the Civil War, she did partially take his advice, sometimes wearing the same uniform as the men for whom she cared and with whom she served. By the 1870s she adopted for day wear a frock coat and trousers. For lectures, or for evening, she chose male formal dress.

Her unconventional dress and ambition can be traced to her childhood and to the unorthodox views of her parents, Alvah and Vesta Whitcomb Walker, both descendants of

old New England families. His forebears were among those who settled Plymouth Colony. Her mother's ancestors fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Robert Ingersoll, the 19th century agnostic philosopher and orator, was a cousin. Their native village, staid Greenwich, Massachusetts, lacked opportu-

nities, and after their marriage in 1824, they headed west. Their intended destination was Kentucky, one of the places Alvah Walker had visited on a four-year exploratory journey to the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys before his marriage.

To be Continued in Next Issue (March)



New Jersey History Day Judges

Our competitions are fast approaching and we need you to volunteer to help us make these contests a positive and worthwhile experience for students. Last year, over 1,300 students competed at the regional level. If you are interested in judging please click on the link below with the instructions in how to register.

Judge Registration Instructions:

https://mcusercontent.com/46568611a9fcb4fa5bef0e35/files/0b0166fd-7899-40e9-a5d3-2dad49541256/judging_with_images_final_edit_PDF.pdf

The three regional dates for this year are listed below, along with the state contest at William Paterson:

- Rutgers University - Camden, Saturday, March 6th <https://nj-rcrc.nhd.org>
 - Monmouth University, Saturday, March 13th <https://nj-mrc.nhd.org>
 - Kean University, Saturday, March 20th <https://nj-ku.nhd.org>
 - William Paterson University, Saturday, May 1st <https://nj.nhd.org>
- If you can judge more than one competition, special thanks in advance!

There will be workshops on new NHD rules and rubrics, which will take place throughout the month of February prior to the regional competition dates. More information regarding the webinars will be sent soon!

Lincoln Day is nearly upon us!

Please join us for this long-standing Union League tradition!

Friday, February 12, 2021
12:00pm, via Zoom

The Union League Legacy Foundation will present a Lincoln Day program to honor the Union League's patron saint - our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln.

The program will be on Zoom, and feature some of the usual Lincoln Day traditions to honor President Lincoln. The keynote will be provided by historian David Blight, with remarks by Union League President, Craig Mills.

Lincoln Day is presented complimentary, but reservations are required.

Please feel free to share with others as well. For questions about Lincoln Day, please contact the Legacy Foundation: LegacyFoundation@unionleague.org.

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

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2021

February 11, 2021 - Thursday
Dr. Lorien Foote

"The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy"

March 11, 2021 - Thursday
Christopher Klein

"When the Irish Invaded Canada: The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who Fought for Ireland's Freedom"

March 25, 2021 - Thursday
Paul Prentiss
"Discussion Night"

April 8, 2021 - Thursday
Walt Lafty
"The 9th New Jersey and the Bermuda Hundred Campaign"

Questions to
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - dgilson404@gmail.com.

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

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
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Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium
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