

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

April 8, 2021

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

“9th New Jersey Infantry and The Bermuda Hundred Campaign”



Walt Lafty

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, April 8, for an online web conference (no physical meeting). Members will receive **ZOOM** dial-in instructions via email. This month's topic is **Walt Lafty** on “9th New Jersey Infantry and The Bermuda Hundred Campaign”

A campaign that was an integral part of Grant's spring offensive plan of 1864, the fighting in Bermuda Hundred in May of that year is mostly forgotten. Overshadowed by the other battles in Grant's push to Richmond, the Bermuda Hundred Campaign suffered thousands of casualties. With engagements that started at Port Walthall Junction on May 6, the campaign concluded at the second battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 16 with over 6,000 casualties in that final battle alone.

It ended with the famous quote on the resulting situation for Union Commanding General Benjamin Butler, that he “was in a bottle . . . the enemy had corked the bottle”. It was also a campaign in which the 9th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment would suffer its greatest losses of the war. The 9th was the only New Jersey Infantry Regiment in the entire Army of the James. There were also two artillery batteries representing the state of New Jersey.

Walt Lafty is a member of the Old Baldy CWRT and the Delaware Valley CWRT where he is a Board member as well as a member of the Preservation Committee. He also serves as Secretary for the Baker-Fisher Camp #101 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, located in Hatboro, PA. In addition, Walt is the Research Administrator for the G.A.R. Museum and Library in Philadelphia.



Notes from the President...

Spring is here, daylight has shifted, baseball season has started, basketball is half way through its season and thoughts of being outdoors increase. Two changes from past Aprils are the two questions we are all asking each other: Have you had your shots? and when can we gather in person again? A big change from six months ago as hope is on the horizon and optimism rising. Thank you all for living risk free lives in the last year and avoiding contact with the virus. We are grateful for your diligence and plan to see many of you soon. Have received positive feedback and appreciation for our round table being in the lives of our members. I thank the Board for keeping it on track during the unique year we experienced.

Be sure to order your Old Baldy CWRT apparel before April 12th from our store. Details are in this newsletter, on our website and Facebook page. Welcome to our new members and all who have renewed for 2021. Great things will continue to happen with your support. I hear **Bill and Nancy Buchanan** are looking forward to our birthday celebration for Old Baldy at his statue in Fairmont Park at noon on May 15th. **Bill and Debbie Holdsworth** hope you will join us for our placement of a wreath at General Winfield Scott Hancock's tomb at 11 AM on May 29th in Montgomery Cemetery. Take advantage of an opportunity to get out, get fresh air and see follow Old Baldy members.

Last month we gathered twice to socialize and learn. First **Christopher Klein** visited us, on the 11th to tell us about “when the Irish invaded Canada.” We were pleased to have members of the Meade Society join us and get us to 50 attendees on our Zoom cast. We hit our record, let us top it this month. All learned much about this incident that many of us did not know about before last month. On the last

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Thursday of the month, **Paul Prentiss** led a discussion on camp life during the war. Thank you to those who contributed letters from soldiers. Look for another discussion in the future.

This month **Walt Lafty** will share his research on the “9th New Jersey Infantry and The Bermuda Hundred Campaign.” Tune in for this informative presentation about this key part of Grant’s spring plan in 1864. Later in the month we will assemble for another member sharing night to hear about **Dr. Ray Klien’s** trip with Flat Old Baldy to Cambodia and **Dave Gilson** doing a walking tour of Civil War London. Do not miss this entertaining evening. Let Dave know how great the programs have been. Tune in to our gatherings for a chance to win a book from the raffle.

Watch for details in the coming months on two projects we are working on to advance our round table in southern New Jersey and nationally. The first is a joint fundraiser with the Battlefield Trust for Maintenance work at the Slaughter Pen at Fredericksburg. The other is a project to distribute our Civil War sites map to schools in south Jersey. We will need your assistance to make these ventures a success. We will have a member profile in next month’s newsletter. Still seeking more volunteers to interview and document our members. Do get your write ups of what you have been doing to pass your time away from us in the last year to **Don Wiles** so he can share it in the newsletter.

Continue to support local businesses and count the days until we gather in person again. See you all on the 8th.

Rich Jankowski, President

Tired of looking out the window?

“Old Baldy waiting for us to join him on May 15th”

(His Birthday)



Do you long for the sweet smell of grass and sounds of birds chirping? Do you need some warm spring sunshine to kiss your face and gentle breeze to rustle your hair? Do you miss actually seeing your friends in person? Well it sounds like you may have caught a case of Spring Fever and we are offering a cure. Join us in celebrating Old Baldy’s 169th birthday in beautiful Fairmont Park on Saturday 15 May. Round Table members are venturing out for a few hours in the sun to picnic on the grass by the statue on Lansdown Drive so please join us in Fairmount Park on Saturday May 15th at 11 AM to celebrate with family and friends. There is plenty of parking is available at the “Please Touch Museum” lot. Please sign up by contacting:

**Paul and Susan Prentiss at
prentissfamily@gmail.com
865-745-8336.**

From the Treasurer’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**

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**

Today in Civil War History

1862 Tuesday, April 8

Western Theater

General Pope's command takes Confederate positions on Island Number Ten, capturing 3000 prisoners; 17 Confederates are killed.

1863 Wednesday, April 8

Naval Operations

The ironclad Keokuk founders owing to the damage inflicted by the Confederate batteries in Forts Sumter and Moultrie.

Western Theater

Still smarting from being placed under Grant's command, McClelland's XIII Corps presses forward through the tangled Louisiana waterways. Several vicious skirmish actions occur near New Carthage, as the Confederates contest the slow Federal advance.

1864 Friday, April 8

The North

The US Senate passes a joint resolution, voting 38 to 6 to abolish slavery and approving the thirteenth amendment to the constitution. Unthinkable before the war, the lack of opposition reflects the change of attitude resulting from three years of conflict.

Trans-Mississippi

Without waiting for General E. Kirby Smith to arrive General Richard Taylor advances with 9000 Confederates and occupies a defensive position at the edge of one of the few clearings in the forest at Sabine Cross Roads. Banks' column arrives and the leading brigades, some 4500 men, deploy for action. After two hours' indecisive skirmishing, Taylor launches his men forward and crushes the head of Banks' army. The superior Union artillery is helpless in the forest and several batteries are overrun immediately. The defeated Union troops recoil onto the front of the wagon train, panicking the drivers and those troops hurrying forward to join the battle. In scenes of great confusion, Banks' men are routed for over three miles. The retreat is checked by Emory's division, which stands firm. Union losses are 113 dead, 581 wounded, and 1541 missing or captured, for a total of 2235. Taylor's troops suffer about 1000 killed and wounded.

1865 Saturday, April 8

Eastern Theater

Lee plans to break through Sheridan's cavalry to resume the retreat. But Lee and his officers agree that if the Federal horsemen are supported by infantry, they will have no choice but to surrender.

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 vaccination center at the end of the day you MAY be given a leftover dose but I wouldn't count on it

David Dixon is donating three copies of his book: "Radical-Warrior" for the raffle May 13th meeting.

Remember to tune in to win...

“Those White Roses”

Each Month we would like you to meet some of these heroic women.

Nurses were not part of the Armies, There was no Nursing Corps. These were women who went off to contribute their efforts to helping the wounded, dying and ill. They helped in Hospitals, Battlefields and Camps. There are very few records and photographs of these brave women so the accounts are few.

Bridget Divers (Deavers)

Bridget was born in Ireland, but her date of birth and the date she came to the United States is unknown. What is known is that Bridget enlisted as a nurse for the First Michigan Cavalry when her husband enlisted as a private early in the Civil War.

Bridget did her job well, and her activities attracted the attention and admiration of Mary Livermore, Administrator of the United States Sanitary Commission. Bridget was honored for her acts of heroism in removing wounded men from the battlefield while still under fire. When her husband's unit was assigned to Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, Bridget gained the nickname the Irish Biddy because Sheridan had trouble pronouncing Bridget's name. On more than one occasion, Bridget encouraged the retreating soldiers to hold the lines of combat, and thus prevented Union defeat. Bridget often picked up the weapons of fallen soldiers and fought alongside of the men. She served with the army of occupation in Texas and then later when they returned to Michigan. Her husband was killed during the occupation of Texas. Unhappy with the solitude of retirement, Bridget rejoined the Regular United States Army as a laundress in California. There are no details of her death or where she was interred.



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Sarah Dysart

Sarah Dysart of Tipton, Pennsylvania volunteered after hearing President Lincoln's request for nurses in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Sarah had absolutely no experience in nursing and no idea of what to expect. She worked in the field hospitals at Harpers Ferry, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Gettysburg. She accompanied recovery parties into raging battles, caring for the wounded until they could be removed from the field.

Soldiers gave her a gold watch for her bravery. The medical officers of the Twelfth Army Corps awarded her a gold badge shaped into a cross with a crown set in pearls. After



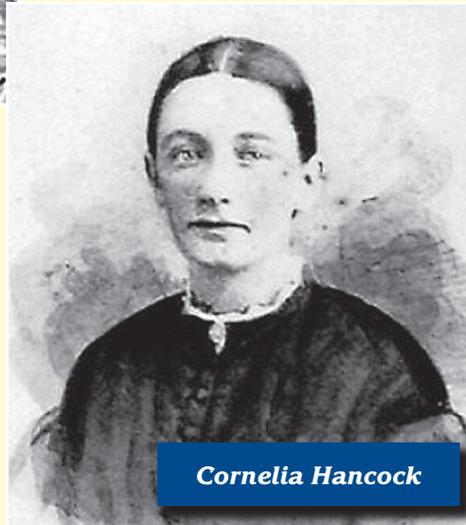
the Civil War ended and the wounded returned home, Sarah disappeared into the pages of history.

Cornelia Hancock

Cornelia Hancock was born on February 8, 1840, at Hancock's Bridge, New Jersey, the youngest child of Thomas Y. and Rachel (Nicholson) Hancock. Her secret desire as a child was to escape the quiet Quaker community of her birth. Her chance came in July 1863, when she joined her brother-in-law, Dr. Henry T. Child, a surgeon at Gettysburg. She served as his nurse.

Cornelia had applied earlier to Dorothea Dix but was rejected because she was too attractive. Cornelia traveled alone to Gettysburg and arrived three days after the battle. She wrote to her sister:

We went...to one of the churches, where I saw for the first time what war meant. Hundreds of desperately wounded men were stretched out on boards laid across the high-backed pews so closely as they could be packed together. The boards were covered with straw. Thus elevated, these poor sufferers' faces, white and drawn with pain, were almost on a level with my own. I seemed to stand breast-high in a sea of anguish.



Cornelia Hancock

She began by cooking and cleaning, and just eight weeks later, Cornelia was in charge of ten tents of amputees. Two months after her arrival in Gettysburg, Dr. Child recommended that Cornelia take a month of rest and Cornelia returned to

her sister's home in Philadelphia. Inactivity was an albatross about Cornelia's neck and in October 1863, she went to Washington to care for the freed slaves. Cornelia was disillusioned by the poor treatment of negroes, and wrote to her sister: "...where are all those good abolitionists north that do so much talking and so little acting?"

While in Washington, an ambulance driver tossed out five children who were infected with smallpox. Cornelia placed the children in a hospital tent and cared for them herself. Her action impressed the Surgeon General and he allowed her to work wherever she

wished. The Quaker community in Philadelphia paid her a meager salary for her activities. On February 10, 1864, the Surgeon General reassigned Cornelia to the Third Division,

II Corps field hospital at Brandy Station, Virginia, where he needed a competent head nurse.

Three months later the Brandy Station hospital was operating smoothly and Cornelia was moved to the First Division, II Corps with a permanent pass granted by Secretary of War William Stanton. She walked in Grant's bloody trek through the South. By late June 1863, Cornelia was in charge of several field hospitals, including the army hospital at City Point, Virginia which she considered her base point until the war's end.

Her merits were extolled by the New York Tribune article published on May 31, 1864, entitled "What a Woman Can Do - An Incident of the Late Battle." Cornelia was awarded a silver medal of appreciation from her patients.

After the Civil War, Cornelia accompanied Laura Towne to the South where they opened a school for freed slaves near Beaufort, South Carolina. The school was supported by the Society of Friends. Cornelia served as principal of the school from 1866 until 1875, when she was forced to resign her position due to illness. After three years of recuperation, Cornelia founded the Society for Organizing Charity in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to aid the impoverished. Five years later in 1882, Cornelia founded the Children's Aid Society and Bureau of Information as a branch of the Society of Organizing Charity. Both organizations were operated by



Quaker volunteers. In 1886, a children's nursery and classes for illiterate adults were added to the organization's catalog of activities.

Serving the underprivileged was not Cornelia's only occupation during the 1880s. She also established "Wrightsville" where she cleaned up the slums, improved municipal services, banished livestock except as a means of transportation, created a school, bank, and library. "Wrightsville" was Cornelia's attempt at giving the impoverished another chance at a better life. There is no record of the length of time "Wrightsville" survived. In 1914, Cornelia, who never married, retired from her philanthropic activities. A niece living in Atlantic City, New Jersey asked Cornelia to live with her and her family.

Cornelia accepted and remained with the niece until her death in 1927, at the age of 87, the victim of chronic nephritis. She was buried at Homerville, New Jersey. The letters Cornelia had written to her sister in Philadelphia during the Civil War (from July 1863 until May 1865) were published in 1937 under the title of *The South After Gettysburg*. The book describes a front-line nurse's activities during the battle's aftermath.

Editor's Note: These stories are from a book "White Roses... Stories of Civil War Nurses. Authored by Rebecca D. Larson. Available on Amazon.

The Gettysburg Dobbin House

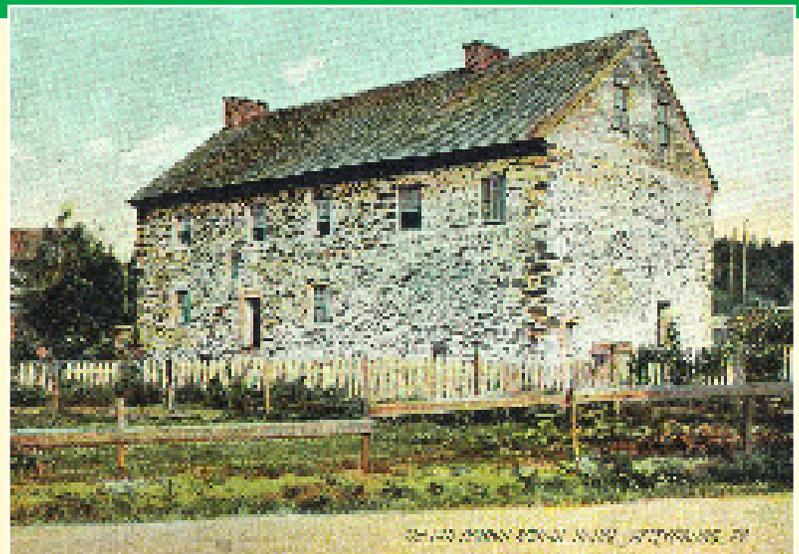
Editor's Note

This is my connection to Gettysburg and the Civil War; my paternal father was Curvin H. Heiss, designer and owner of the Diorama and the Dobbin House between 1950s and 1960s. This is a brief version of the history of the house. Don Wiles, Member OBCWRT.

Reverend Alexander Dobbin And The Historic Dobbin House Tavern And The Gettysburg Diorama

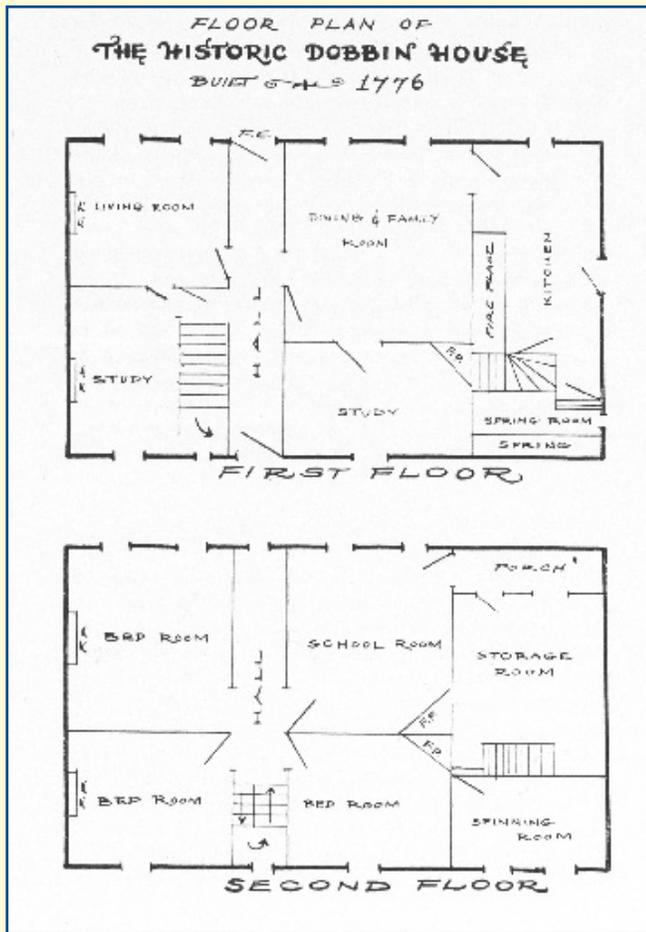
"Four Score and Seven Years" before President Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address (1863-87 = 1776), Gettysburg's oldest and most historic building, the Dobbin House, was built. Just imagine the residents of the then eighty-seven-year-old house who probably sat on the balcony to watch as Lincoln delivered his speech a few hundred yards away at the National Cemetery!

Reverend Alexander Dobbin, who built the Dobbin House, was an early frontier pioneer who helped settle and civilize this area. Born in Ireland in 1742, he grew to be a man of keen foresight, a person highly respected by his peers, an educator of men of stature, a Minister and a rugged individual who played a major role in the founding of Gettysburg.



After studying the classics in Ireland, Dobbin and his bride, Isabella Gamble, set sail for a new life in the New World. Shortly after his arrival in America, he became pastor of the Rock Creek Presbyterian Church, located one mile north of Gettysburg.

In 1774, the Dobbins purchased 300 acres of land in and around what is now the town of Gettysburg and com-



menced construction of a farm and the Dobbin House, for use as their dwelling and as a Classical School, today's equivalent of a combined Theological Seminary, liberal arts college. Dobbin's school was the first of its kind in America west of the Susquehanna River, an academy which enjoyed an excellent reputation for educating many professional men of renown.

Rev. Dobbin needed a large house for his school and family, for his Irish wife had borne him ten children before her early death.

He remarried the widow, Mary Agnew, who already had nine children of her own! Rev. Dobbin, a short, stout, smiling gentleman who wore a white wig, became a highly respected community leader, as well as minister and educator. He worked diligently to establish in 1800 an autonomous Adams County, which originally was part a of neighboring York County. Thereafter, he was one of two appointed commissioners to choose Gettysburg as the County seat.

In the mid-1800's, a secret crawl space, featured in



"National Geographic", served as a "station" for hiding runaway slaves on their perilous journey to freedom on the "Underground Railroad." After the battle of Gettysburg ceased, and the armies had departed, it served as a hospital for wounded soldiers of both the North and the South. Dobbin's historic home has been recognized by being placed on The National Register of Historic Places, the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission Registry, and Gettysburg Historic Landmarks.

Today this historic house appears virtually the same as it did over 200 years ago. Its native stone walls, seven fireplaces, and hand carved woodwork have been painstakingly restored to their original beauty 6 character, with interior decor in the traditional eighteenth century manner. Many of the home's antique furnishings are identical to those listed in the Inventory of Rev. Dobbin's Estate. The china and flatware exactly match fragments which were unearthed during the re-excavation of the cellar. The servants' period-clothing is completely authentic right down to the tie on pockets!

From Diorama To Restaurant

The "Dobbin House Museum" continued under Lippy's ownership for the next thirteen years. Then, in August 1954, John sold the house to the "Gettysburg Battlefield Diorama, Inc." This corporation, conceived by Curvin Heiss of Gettysburg, was formed to exhibit more than 3,000 Civil War soldier miniatures which Heiss and his son "Corky" had completed. These were placed on a realistic (though compressed) model of the Battlefield— complete with flashing lights to simulate smoke, and a taped narration that included sound effects. In order to install the "Diorama," the inner walls on the second floor had to be removed to accomodate a small auditorium. A museum and gift shop continued downstairs.

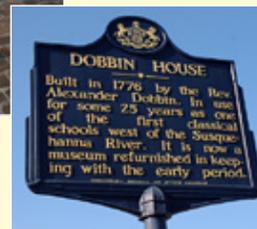
The "Diorama" became a well known tourist attraction, largely because it made one of the earliest uses of the new electronic technology of the 1950's that was capturing the imaginations of Americans. It was a real forerunner of the many other "sound and light" displays that are now so much a part of the Gettysburg tourist district. However, in 1967, the "Gettysburg Battlefield Diorama, Inc." sold its

rights and the house to Mr. and Mrs. John Adamik of Aspers. Though the Adamiks worked enthusiastically to maintain the feature, stiffening competition from other Civil War attractions made it more difficult to operate. In the summer of 1977, they sold the house to A. Kenneth and Thelma H. Dick of Gettysburg, though retaining the "Diorama," which they dismantled in August of that year.

The Battlefield Diorama

The Battlefield Diorama, installed in 1954, was created by Curvin Heiss with the help of his son. Mr. Heiss is a local Gettysburg citizen and a life-long student of the battle. More than

six years were devoted to the construction of the miniature scene. Each figure was originally carved in wood to create a mold into which lead was poured. The soldiers have movable heads, arms, and legs. Each tiny man was painted in detail, and an estimated 10 gallons of paint and 300 brush-



es were used in the art work. The Battlefield Diorama has been visited by travelers from every state in the Union and from many foreign countries. Distinguished guests include President Eisenhower, members of his family and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

All of the glory and all of the carnage of the great battle takes place before the eyes of the visitor on a platform eight feet wide and thirty-eight feet long. The battle action is highlighted by the winking flashes of 550 miniature bulbs. Rifles crack, cannons belch flames, and tiny clouds of smoke drift across the battlefield. Spotlights focus on each maneuver during the day, while at night tiny lanterns glow in General Meade's headquarters. Nearly 30 miles of wire are required to operate the action on the diorama.

The visitor listens to a tape-recorded narrative which explains the events that take place on the platform. Approximately 3800 miniature figures participate in the battle, each complete in authentic detail even as to rank and regimental insignia. Nine hundred different postures rail fences, and even battle flags. The scene shows the site of the battle from the foot of Big Round Top at the south to Barlow's Knoll at the north. The visitor surveys the struggle from a point just behind the Union line.

To The Restaurant...

The purchase of the Dobbin House by Mr. and Mrs. Dick began a significant new chapter in the development of the building as a tourist attraction. Formerly the owner of "Fantasyland," a popular children's amusement park once located on the Taneytown Road just south of town, the Dicks were moved to invest money in the building at the urging of their daughter, Jacqueline Dick White, who wished to see the building restored to its 18th century appearance and opened as a period tavern. Though the original exterior of the house remained largely the same, a number of major alterations had taken place on the inside, most notably the removal of several walls. Local contractors Don and Allen Crouse began restoration in the fall of 1977, and immediately encountered two major challenges—raising the house eight inches (it had sunk after a beam cracked), and eliminating a quagmire of mud from the shallow basement in order to excavate a cellar deep enough to accommodate "The Springhouse Tavern." In addition to these problems, the building had to be completely rewired, and the inner walls that had been removed on both floors had to be replaced. Much of the original woodwork had been damaged or removed, and to restore it, Frank Auspitz of York was hired to repair or replace windows, shutters, mantles, chair rails, and base-boards where needed.

Though every effort was made at a faithful restoration, a number of compromises were necessary in order to comply with state and federal regulations for a public restaurant, including a new kitchen addition, a fire escape, and

a doorway through an original wall to provide access to a restroom. Care was taken to construct these alterations, however, so that they could be removed easily if a future owner wished to do so. The work was completed in the spring of 1978, and the "Dobbin House Restaurant" opened in May of that year.

Since 1978, Jacqueline White has assumed ownership of the Dobbin House, and in August 1984 completed a major addition to the restaurant on the north side of the building. Prior to the beginning of this work in October 1983, Mrs. White afforded this writer the opportunity to undertake a salvage archaeological dig on the lot. With some initial guidance from state archaeologists Barry Kent and Steven Warfel, and the field supervision of Stephen Hinks, then a graduate student in archaeology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, we excavated an area 18 feet by 12 feet to a uniform depth of eighteen inches. Though we did not discover any significant "features" (foundations of outbuildings, for example), we did uncover several trash pits that yielded more than 2,000 ceramic and crock shards, hundreds of glass fragments, assorted nails, buttons, clay marbles, bottles, and relics of the battle—minie balls and shell fragments. Perhaps the most interesting finds were items that could well have been from the Dobbin household, including pieces of 18th century "Queensware" and "Chinese Export Porcelain." One other compelling find was a late 18th century stoneware chamberpot, reconstructed after locating widely scattered fragments. Since 18th century trash patterns were generally less sanitary than our own, and because householders literally threw some trash "out the window," it is quite likely that someone in the Dobbin household tossed this pot out. The chamberpot, and other items discovered in the house and cellar during restoration, are on exhibit in the "porch room" museum.

It would be inaccurate to call the end of this study a "conclusion," for much more has yet to be uncovered. Most 18th century ministers kept diaries, and wrote voluminously, yet none of Dobbin's correspondence has come to light. Certainly other information will follow.

Note: If you visit Gettysburg be sure and stop by the Dobbin House for a look at the oldest house in Gettysburg and try their fare...



“WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA: The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who Fought for Ireland’s Freedom”

Presentation by Christopher Klein

March 11 Meeting

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

A group of Irish Union and Confederate veterans tried to invade Canada five different times. They wanted to hold Canada hostage until the independence of Ireland became a reality. It seems that the borders between the United States and Canada was a target during different times in their history. The Fenian Brotherhood tried five different times to achieve this goal but failed every time. Some of these invasions started with the Continental Army fighting during the Revolutionary War. One such incidence was called the “Pig War” when an American, Lyman Cutler, shot a large black pig as he was rooting in his garden eating his potatoes. After he shot the pig, he found out that it was owned by an Irish man, Charles Griffin. You can imagine that Charles was terribly upset. Cutler offered \$10 to compensate for the pig but Griffin was not satisfied with this offer. There was a threat by the English authorities to arrest Cutler and the residents wanted military protection.

Captain George Pickett and his men were told to go to San Juan island to prevent the British from landing and the Americans began to occupy the islands with war ships. It took General Winfield Scott to negotiate with Governor Douglas to solve the problem. Both sides agreed to retain military occupation of the island. The Union Jack still flies over the “English Camp”.

Before the “Pig War”, 1845-1852, was the potato famine because of the failure of the potato crops to produce healthy potatoes. The famine continued over several years of planting. The potato was a particularly important crop for the poor Irish family. The families were starving to death and many left the country and came to America along with the Irish flu. One of the reasons the Irish families wanted to come to America was for religious freedom. They wanted to practice their Catholic religion openly. By 1854, elections were held for seats in Congress and judges. The sentiment at the time was that the elected officials did not want the Irish to live in America. Many Irish were deported because of these elections, taking their family and going back to their own country. It seems that the Irish were not getting along very well with the residents of the United States. The only thing they had in common was to band together in church so they could continue their Irish history for future generations.

By 1858, the Fenian Brotherhood was founded by John O’Mahony and Michael Doherty with the sole purpose to band together to “overthrow British rule in Ireland”. This organization was banded by the Pope even though it was an active organization for the Irish. As the organization was getting started the Civil War began. Patriotism was strong in America and many Americans enlisted in this war. At the same time many Irish wanted to enlist and by 1863-64 Union camps were actively recruiting Fenian members.



Christopher Klein

Along with many men fighting and dying the Irish were dying in great number too. By 1863, the Brotherhood had a constitution and rules for general government. They signed up Irish members at their Headquarters at Union Square, New York. The society was still

banded by the church. A split began within the members who wanted to get the British out of Canada rather than go to Great Britain to set the Irish people free.

If the Brotherhood wanted to get revenue to invade Canada in the future the members decided to issue war bonds. Hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrants subscribed. The money from the sale of bonds were to go to buying guns, ammo, food, clothing for their members as they continued a series of raids into Canada. The purchase of the bonds was also used to try to seize the transportation system of Canada. The bonds were issued and six months later they could be redeemed but that never happened. During this time Confederate ships were being made in British ports. The Confederacy was not happy when the CS Alabama was attacked by Great Britain and Canadian forces. The Confederate states wanted reparations for the attack on their ship. After going to President Andrew Johnson with the complaint as well as the growing anger toward Canada a bill was passed in 1865. The bill stated that equal men from both sides were to come together to invade Canada until the army got paid for the attack on their CS Alabama. The attack never happened. Another attempt to invade the Eastern ports of Ontario and Quebec failed. Land boats from Chicago, Detroit, Vermont, Cleveland, and Buffalo were sent to the St. Lawrence River to gain control of the waterway. Ontario and Quebec attacked but found that the invasion was falling apart. The troops were experienced, many had fought in the Civil War, but did not get enough men to make the numbers needed.

Many men who wanted to continue to fight after the Civil War participated in the first raid on the island of Campobello. It was not a success for the Fenian Brotherhood. Gunboats from US and Britain came into the battle and Fenian’s left. Another plan was from St. Albans, Vermont with 1200 Fenians arriving by train. They raid stores food, fired a few shots, and took down the flag from the British custom house and then marched home. General George Meade met the US troops and sent them home by train.

Two months later, the Battle of Ridgeway with John O’Neill and his army with the goal of capturing Quebec and making it the seat of the Irish Republic-in-exile. The army

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8 - "The Irish"

boarded barges and crossed the Niagara River at Buffalo to capture the British colony of Canada, hold it hostage and ransom it for Ireland's independence. This was one of the first Irish raids. The Irish Republican Army claimed the right to hoist an Irish flag over Fort Erie replacing the Union Jack. They were able to get supplies, weapons, and ammunition which was purchased from the US government and smuggled into Buffalo. In this battle was the first and only battle that O'Neill's army was victorious. Even though the supply lines were cut by the US government the men were forced to retreat to the US. Continued attacks in 1870 and 1871 failed. After 1871 the movement collapsed.

The purpose of the raids was to conquer Canada and exchange it with Great Britain for Irish independence. But the only thing the raids increased was anti-American feelings in Canada. In its own way a developing sense of Canadian nationalism which led the provinces into forming their own Confederation in 1867. As a result of Canada's new found spirit through their militia's strength they were able to

organize the Canadian provinces into their own country. Thank you to Christopher Klein for the most informative presentation on the Irish and their attempt to invade Canada. The story was explained and brought out information that some of the members of Old Baldy were not aware of in Irish history. After reading Christopher Klein's book the story between the Irish and Canada became even more vivid. This was another presentation organized by Dave which brought another aspect of our history to the roundtable. This program was a great success.

Deane Smith won a copy of "When the Irish Invaded Canada" by Christopher Klein at the March meeting.

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

"The Invalid Corps"

by Byron Stinson, CWTI, May 1971

This patchwork body of amputees and walking wounded did yeoman service, including some real action. When asked if the Invalids would fight, their commander could only answer, "General, they can't run!"

Continued from March Issue

After January 1, 1864, boards meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, and Columbus, Ohio were charged with "purification of the Corps from officers of inferior ability." Despite stiff consideration of field service, disability, general education, sobriety, and efficiency, only one officer in twenty-four was passed over. Apparently the mere existence of the boards kept the grossly inept from applying. The Field Record of the Officers of the Veteran Reserve Corps, a booklet published after the war, seems to be an apology for the officers of the Corps. Apology or not, it shows that a hearty 82 percent of them had been literally shot to pieces by Rebel gunfire. Those with such illnesses as "general debility" and "paralysis" had seen so much action that to question their devotion would be unchivalrous.

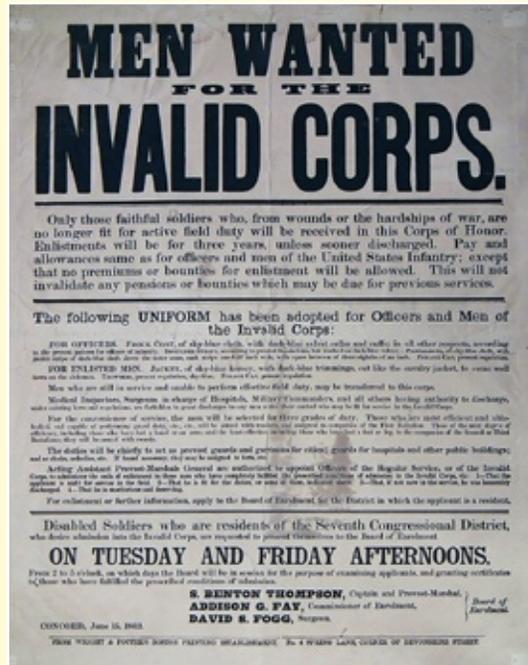
By January 1864 the Corps mustered 491 officers and 17,764 enlisted men. In the spring, to cash in on the "veteran volunteers" movement, the War Department changed the name of the Invalid Corps to the Veteran Reserve Corps and opened its ranks to three-year-men after the expiration of their regular enlistments. The opportunity to rejoin in the Corps offered an alternative to soldiers

who were weary of real campaigning but who wanted to see the war through. The idea was not wildly successful but it did remove the hated words "Invalid Corps" from the record. At about this time, without fanfare, the Quartermaster General began to issue regular uniforms to the Veteran Reserve—a measure that did wonders for morale.

Interestingly, after January 1864, a silence of a year settles over the Corps in the Official Records. After a flurry of orders and directives there is almost nothing in the book until DeForest's famous defense (which was written after the war). Yet by October 1864 the Corps mustered a respectable 30,000 men in twenty-four First Battalion regiments and 155 Second Battalion companies. The idea of a limited duty force is so sound that the silence can only be interpreted as indicating it had settled down to the work at hand.

So many armed men, so widely dispersed, sooner or later must collide with the enemy. Their clashes—trivial in comparison to The Wilderness, Atlanta, and Cedar Creek—were encouraging to the "condemned Yankees." Their first brush was with Morgan's Raiders, July 14, 1863; Whitelaw Reid describes the action of the 43d Company of the Second Battalion at Camp Dennison, Ohio:

The Governor [of Ohio] then ordered Colonel Neff, then in command of the post, to hold himself in readiness, and take every precaution against being surprised and overcome by the enemy. The Colonel, in obeying these





Company H, 9th Regiment, Invalid Corps

orders, armed the little force of invalids and a few of the Governor's Guards [88th Ohio Infantry] on duty at headquarters and stationed them in appropriate positions . . . One small detachment [of raiders] did find its way within about a mile of Camp Dennison but was so roughly handled by a force of invalids under Captain Van Doehm that they hastily withdrew and joined the main body of freebooters.

The historian of the 88th Ohio, however, saw the Corps as less than the answer to the weary Nation's prayers:

In October 1863, the 88th Ohio was again relieved of the monotonous guard duty at Camp Chase and sent to relieve the 150th Ohio on provost duty at Cincinnati. A detachment of the Veteran Reserve Corps took the place of the 88th Ohio at Camp Chase, but, from the looseness of discipline and a strong disgust for the duty, a complete failure was made; so much so, that the commandant of that important prison informed the War Department that he should decline to be held responsible. . . .

Throughout the fall and winter of 1863-64, the 16th Regiment under the command of Major Gaebel campaigned in the mountains of Pennsylvania against paramilitary units resisting the draft. Despite their infirmities, the 16th specialized in night raids which served to keep "treasonable organizations from coalescing into units of dangerous size." One man of the 16th was killed and several were wounded. (Following the provost officers, so many of whom had been murdered, it would seem the men of the Invalid Corps would be exposed to the bullet and knife of the assassin to an alarming degree. Surprisingly, of the 60,000 who served only fifteen were murdered. This rate is no higher proportionally than that for the army as a whole.) DeForest tells of the 18th Regiment, in line of battle with the 32d Maine and the 67th Pennsylvania, at White House, Virginia, (June 20, 1864). As the brigadier tensely awaited an attack by Wade Hampton's cavalry, he repeatedly inspected the position of the 18th. Unable to contain his apprehension, he finally asked the major in command, "Sir! Will your men fight?" Eyeballing his line of scarecrows and amputees, the major shifted his chew, "General, they can't run!" Western regiments had their share of the general troubles. The 23d was sent to Louisville to protect the Louisville & Lebanon Railroad from guerril-

las. They were reasonably successful and claimed to have broken up the Mitchell gang by killing Mitchell, shooting up some twenty-odd members of the bunch, and capturing their horses. The 23d lost two men wounded in the fracas.

Without question their finest hour came in July 1864, when Early's ragged legion tested the Washington defenses before drifting back into the Valley. Anxiously awaiting the arrival of the VI Corps from the Army of the Potomac, Generals Montgomery Meigs and Christopher C. Augur larded their works with 4,400 men of the 1st, 6th, 7th, 9th, 14th, 19th, and 24th Regiments of the First Battalion. Lt. Frank Wilkeson, Recollections of a Private Soldier in the Army of the Potomac, was unimpressed as he watched them pass his battery at Fort Totten:

Late in the afternoon, July 10th, word was sent to inform us from Washington that Early was marching with his entire army on the Capitol, and that he was then near Rockville. That evening the motliest crowd of soldiers I ever saw came straggling out from Washington to man the rifle-pits which connected the forts. This force was composed of quartermaster's employees, clerks from the War, Navy, and State Departments, convalescents from the military hospitals, and the veteran reserves, the latter clad in the distinctive dress of the corps. . . . They gabbled, and were evidently trying to keep up their courage by talking loudly and boastfully on their determination to hold the rifle-pits at all hazards. I smiled sorrowfully. . . .

Despite Wilkeson's sorrowful smile, the 6th Regiment, after a 23-mile march, threw a skirmish line in front of Fort DeRussy which cost them an officer and four men wounded. The 9th Regiment went into action at Fort Stevens on July 12, 1864, under the eye of President Lincoln. They drove in the Rebel skirmishers and "held them at bay until nightfall with a sharp fire." Five of their men were killed and seven wounded. It has been pointed out that they were supported in this action by "several hundred" men of the VI Corps—still, the 9th was there. There was a problem with the 6th Regiment which replaced the 128th Ohio Infantry at Johnson's Island. Somewhat more charitable than the writer for the 88th Ohio, the author of the 128th's history blames the hard winter of 1864-65 for the troubles of the 6th, ". . . for of those who remained, infirm as many of them were by their wounds and disease, the climate and exposure proved too severe; so that all who remained for guard duty

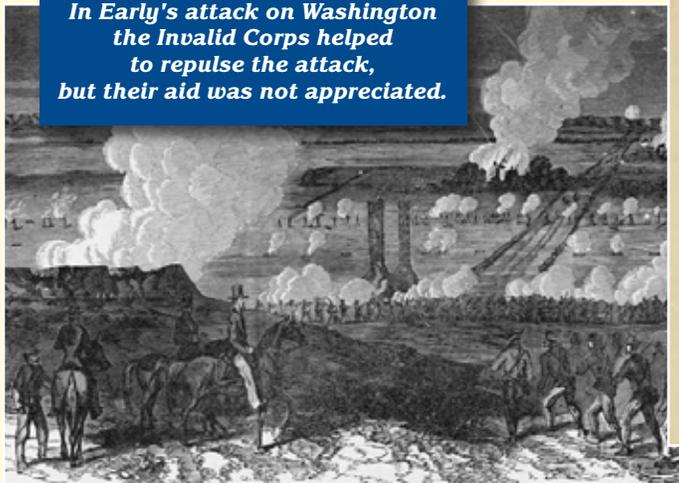
did not make good the places of the 128th OVI. The 6th Regiment left the command early in 1865." Captain DeForest, after fighting with the 12th Connecticut from New Orleans to Opequon, applied for discharge on December 2, 1864, and "went home with what seemed a totally ruined constitution." After two months of invalidism, during which he wrote Miss Razlenel's Conversion from Secession to Loyalty, he felt recuperated enough to manage limited duty status. He was appointed commander of Company I of the 14th Regiment and stationed in Washington, D.C. Later he became the last commander of the Veteran Reserve.

Considering the dirty duty heaped upon the Corps it is little wonder they are unremembered by history. Their last job was to supervise the mustering out of the line regiments in the summer of '65. Coming home had none of the picnic atmosphere of mustering in. Homefolks who weren't heartily sick of the war were busy haggling in local politics, and most politicians were as yet blissfully unaware of the veteran as a voter. Chip-on-the-shoulder veterans were easily stung by any oversight on the part of local officials and responded by rioting when they fancied themselves slighted. The worst disturbances were at Elmira and Rochester, New York, where the 1st Regiment was called out "to put down disorders committed by disbanding regiments." In its three-year term of service, the Corps lost sixteen men killed in action while twenty-six died of wounds, and 1,640 of disease. For their pains they enjoyed the disapproval of General Grant, who opposed all plans for retaining them as part of the army. DeForest wrote his report for the Official Records in an attempt to justify their services. In his words, "But for the Secretary of War it would have been mustered out before now" (November 1865).

Other than the Secretary of War, only the Medical Department came forward to defend them. Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes said the last kind word, ". . . this military organization will provide the most economical and advantageous mode of supplying a permanent Corps of nurses and attendants. . . . [the surgeons are] highly pleased with the manner in which duty is performed." In July 1866, Captain DeForest and his six remaining clerks were transferred to the Bureau of Freedmen and Refugees under Major General O. O. Howard. It was all over for the Invalid Corps.

The Corps was ahead of its time and suffered thereby. In modern armies limited duty status is conferred by the physical qualifications established for the various specialties—different for the aviator and the flight surgeon, for the frogman and the yeoman. Jury-rigged as it was, the Invalid Corps provided important employment for soldiers who would otherwise have been lost to the service, and gave a disciplined structure to the dispirited, disorganized, unhappy, hangers-on of the Union Army. An analysis of the 92d Ohio Infantry, as a representative regiment,

In Early's attack on Washington the Invalid Corps helped to repulse the attack, but their aid was not appreciated.



Major General Jubal Anderson Early

is of interest. The 92d is similar to scores of other solid, if undistinguished, regiments that served the Union during the Civil War. Mustered September 17, 1862, it remained in the Western theater, seeing action at Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, and Bentonville. Fifty-one of its members were killed in action and 193 died of disease. Seventy-one were transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, three fourths of whom went to First Battalion Regiments. The First Battalion men went to ten different regiments, the 7th and the 15th each accumulating a dozen or so from the 92d over a two-year period. The Second Battalion men all went to different companies. Private Smith A. Day of Company I pulled the 152d Company, while Private James M. Maxwell, also of Company I, drew the 154th Company—even though they were both transferred on the same day (April 30, 1864), at Nashville, Tennessee.

Old Baldy Clothing Store Sale

What are the fashionable Old Baldy Members wearing this spring, summer and fall?

*Why of course it is high quality Old Baldy apparel offered by Tuttle Marking Services. The store is open. Check out the website Old Baldy Store to see our special branded Tees, Polos, Jackets and Hats. Show your support but be ready to explain our unique organization to people intrigued by Old Baldy on your clothing. It is simple to order, just go to the website, and choose the item, size and color. Be sure to add to your cart and then hit **PLACE YOUR ORDER**. It is that simple. Your orders will be delivered to your home by mail in time to wear at the Old Baldy Birthday celebration on May 15th. The \$12 shipping charge is for all your items (not each) and the postage will be adjusted (down) if you are only ordering a light tee-shirt.*

You need to act right away because the store is only opened for a limited time. The Order Deadline is Monday, April 12th. , and don't forget to checkout this link [Old Baldy Store](#)

TUTTLE MARKETING SERVICES

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
Online Store Apparel Options
Store timeline: March 15th-April
12th
Shipping to members homes \$12.00



Inner Harbor 6.8oz. 100% Ringspun Combed Cotton Pique Polo

Color: Red, White, Navy,
White stock out in Mens 2XL and Ladies Small

Size: Ladies: S-2XL; Mens: S-3XL; Add: \$2.00/2XL; \$3.00/3XL

Material: Cotton

Quantity	1
Price	\$ 27.00

Comments: Price includes logo embroidered on left chest.

Product #: 7001



Gildan (R);Ultra Cotton (R) - Adult size 6 oz. cotton jersey T-shirt with seamless double needle collar.

Color: Red; White; Navy, Natural
No stock in Natural 3XL

Size: S-3XL; Add: \$2.00/2XL; \$3.00/3XL

Material: Cotton

Quantity	1
Price	\$24.00

Comments: Price includes one color/one location imprint; set up included.

Product #: 2000



Gildan 100% Cotton Long Sleeve Tee

Color: Red, White, Navy, Natural
No stock in white 3XL

Size: S-3XL; Add: \$2.00/2XL; \$3.00/3XL

Material: Polyester

Quantity	1
Price	\$ 28.00

Comments: Price includes one color/one location imprint; set up included.

Product #: CW22

TUTTLE MARKETING SERVICES

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
Online Store Apparel Options
Store timeline: March 15th-April
12th
Shipping to members homes \$12.00



Lightweight brushed cotton sandwich bill cap. Fabric: 100% lightweight brushed cotton twill. unstructured. Profile: Mid.

Color: Navy-White; Khaki/Charcoal Blue

Size: Adjustable

Material: Cotton-Twill

Quantity	1
Price	\$ 22.00

Comments: Price includes logo embroidered on front of cap.

Product #: C830



Softshell jacket. 95% polyester/5% elastane outer layer - Style change no longer fleece lined.

Color: Black; Graphite

Size: Ladies: S-2XL; Mens: S-3XL; Add: \$2.00/2XL; \$3.00/3XL

Material: Blend: Polyester/Elastane (95/5)-Fleece

Quantity	1
Price	\$ 50.00

Comments: Price includes logo embroidered on left chest.

Product #: 5250



Cornerstone Heavyweight Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Thermal Lining. This durable hooded sweatshirt has a thermal lining to help keep you warm and comfortable in all types of weather....

Color: Navy & Black

Size:

Material: Blend: Cotton/Polyester (60/40)

Quantity	1
Price	\$ 56.00

Comments: Price includes logo embroidered on left chest.

Product #: CS620

Picnic in the Park

Celebrating Old Baldy's 169th Birthday



We are picnicking on the grass by the statue on Lansdown Dr. Plenty of parking is available at the "Please Touch Museum" lot. Please sign up by contacting Paul and Susan Prentiss at pprentissfamily@gmail.com 865-745-8336
More information to follow as the date draws closer.

Join us in Fairmount Park on Saturday May 15th at 11 AM to celebrate with family and friends.



ca. 1852 – Dec 16, 1882

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

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2021

April 22, 2021 – Thursday
Member Sharing night

Dr. Ray Klein: Flat Old Baldy Travels Cambodia - One Thousand Years of War, Massive Construction and Destruction, Five Years of Civil War...What Next??
Dave Gilson: A Walking Tour of Civil War London

May 13, 2021 – Thursday
David T. Dixon

"Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General"

June 10, 2021 – Thursday
Jeffery William Hunt

"Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive, From Kelly's Ford to the Rapidan, October 21 to November 20, 1863"

July 8, 2021 – Thursday
Dr. Christian B. Keller

"The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy"

Questions to
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