

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

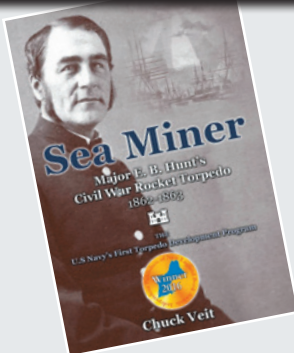
November 14, 2024

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

“Edward B. Hunt’s Sea Miner”



Chuck Veit



“Sea Miner” is not a talk for the faint of heart—it is, quite literally, rocket science. Edward Hunt’s incredible weapon seems to belong to at least the Second World War (or perhaps much later). If you are tired of the “same old Civil War stories” of bludgeoning tactics and staggering losses from wounds and disease, Sea Miner will show you what the scientists were up to during the war. Don’t worry: there is no math in the presentation!

Sea Miner is the painstakingly reconstructed story of the U.S. Navy’s first sponsored torpedo development program. Begun in 1862, the project was beyond “top secret,” for the weapon it sought to create would overnight make the U.S. Navy supreme upon the oceans. This was critical, as global war against an alliance of the Confederacy, England and France was anticipated. The inventor, Major Edward B. Hunt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, succeeded, but his mania for secrecy left no details of his activities—all plans, records and diagrams were destroyed at the conclusion of each stage of development. In the absence of hard facts, historians have long considered Sea Miner to have been a failure; nothing could be further from the truth. This is a story from the Civil War that doesn’t seem to belong to that period at all; it is wholly unexpected. The advances made by Hunt would not be seen again for eighty years, and not replicated by the U.S. Navy until the mid-1950s.

In addition to researching and writing little-known naval history, Chuck Veit enjoys delivering presentations on a number of the episodes he’s discovered. He has spoken twice at the Maritime Heritage Conference in Norfolk, six times at the Naval War College in Newport, to the Naval Order of the United States in Jacksonville, at the Portsmouth Navy Yard’s 238th Anniversary Ball, and at the Mariners’ Museum Civil War Navy Conference in Newport News. Other venues include a large number of historical societies, Civil War Roundtables and schools in the Northeast and in Seattle. Chuck has also been interviewed on Civil War Talk Radio to discuss A Dog Before a Soldier as well as Sea Miner.

Notes from the President

Once again, we have much to be thankful for this year. While there were challenges, our round table experienced many accomplishments this year. In addition to the successful fundraising campaign and execution of the Williamsburg Civil War Trails sign dedication trip, we reach 100 members

Meeting Notice

**Join us at 7:15 PM
on Thursday, November 14,
Free and open to the public. In-person
meeting at Camden County College,
William G. Rohrer Center,
1889 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill, NJ
08003, and simulcast on Zoom.**

*“Members, and Friends of the
Roundtable who receive our email
communications, will automatically
receive the Zoom link and do not need
to request it”*

**Please email
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net
at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom
access.**

**President’s Notes Page 1
Member Profile Page 2
Today in Civil War History Page 3
“Cato Ceremony” Page 4
“Who We have Become” Page 5
October Meeting Review Page 6
Phillip Kearny Page 6
Canada Conspiracy Page 10
Alligator Page 13
Island CWRT Page 13
250th Homecoming Page 14
Save the Date Page 14
New Members Page 15
Flat Old Baldy Member Photos Page 15
OBCWRT Upcoming Events Page 15
Meeting/Speaker Schedule Page 15**

OBCWRT Awards

Gold
Transparency
2024

Candid.

The Society For Women
and the Civil War
for Service to the Society
presented to OBCWRT

Civil War Roundtable Congress
The Wallace L. Rueckel
Innovation Award
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for 25 Year Service to the Trust
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Kevin M. Hale Award
for best Historical
Newsletter in New Jersey
(2017, 2022)

Continued from page 2 - "Notes from the President"

again, established an Advisory Committee, transferred the website and had another fun picnic. Thank you to VP KC for running the round table while I was on sabbatical and the MAC Book Award Team for completing their process. We recently qualified for the Gold Seal of Transparency on GuideStar and submitted a Grant application for funding to assist with administrative costs.

Thank you to all for adjusting to the Zoom only meeting last month for Allen R. Thompson. He cleared up some of the mystery around the July 2nd actions with a detailed review from the experience of individual soldiers. The book raffle winners look forward to learning more when they read his book. This month Chuck and Lorie Veit will visit us in Cherry Hill to tell us about Sea Miner: Major E. B. Hunt's Civil War Rocket Torpedo. He will also provide an update on the Alligator Jr. project. Plan on coming on the 14th. Next month is our Biennial election and end of year social event.

If you have not responded to the survey, please do it soon as your feedback is important in planning for next year. Thank you to all who sold Boscov's coupons this year and those who helped Dave at the Glassboro event. It was good to chat with Harry Jenkins when he stopped by to visit. The Nominating Committee will announce their slate of candidates for the election in December. Members will be able to nominate additional candidates at the November and December meetings. Consider running for a position on our Board. The MAC book Award team is finishing up its work and will announce the winner soon. Several members ventured to the Armed Forces Heritage Museum in Burlington for a tour. If you have not seen it yet plan for a visit. Watch for a write-up about it in a coming newsletter.

Flat Old Baldy has been traveling, follow his exploits on his Welcome Wednesday posts on Facebook. Watch for articles in the newsletter about big trips he has taken recently. If you would like him to join you on an adventure, contact his social secretary to schedule a pickup. Upcoming events include Wreaths Across America at noon on December 14th at the Beverly National Cemetery (visit (<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/> to register as a volunteer to place wreathes), and General Meade Birthday celebration on December 31st at noon at Laural Hill Cemetery. Pick up Old Baldy rack cards and flyers to leave on your visits to local and history venues. Copies of our South Jersey Civil War sites map, our blue bags and 50th anniversary glasses make great Holiday gifts.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Have a peaceful celebration, a fine meal and safe travel. Join us for a pre-meeting meal with Chuck and Lorie at the Kettle & Grill at 5:30 on the 14th.

Dr. Rich Jankowski, President



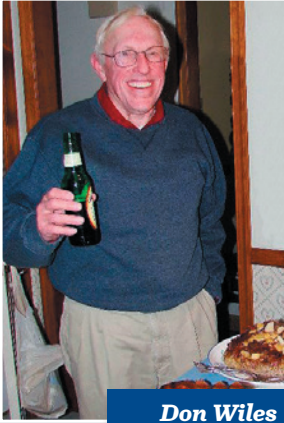
Rich Jankowski
President, OBCWRT

Member Profile - Don Wiles

Updated profile by
Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member

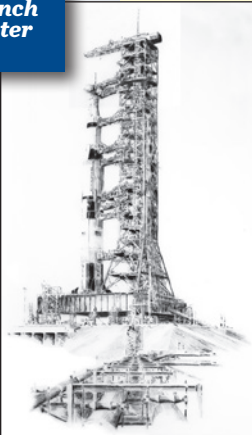
Last we heard from Don was summer 2016 when he told us his hometown of York, Pa. was captured by Confederates during the Gettysburg Campaign without a shot fired.

"Most of the men had enlisted in the 87th Pennsylvania and were away somewhere else. If you can, take a trip to York and go to the Historical Society. It has great files on the activity during the Gettysburg Campaign: how they hid the medical supplies under the wooden sidewalks, how several of the doctors escaped from their Confederate captors on the way to Gettysburg, how some of the patients went down to Wrightsville to help hold the bridge."



Don Wiles

**Apollo 11, Prior Launch
Kennedy Space Center
(Pencil)**



**John Burns Monument,
Gettysburg
(Watercolor-Dry Brush)**

Don misses York. He would like to visit his cousins there, but he says travel from Florida is difficult when you have a dog. Besides, St. Augustine needs him. Don volunteers at the main branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System sorting donated books for fundraisers. He gives talks and presentations to Floridians on the Gettysburg National Cemetery and on his ancestor who was aboard the steamboat Sultana when, on April 27, 1865, it exploded on the Mississippi River killing 1,547 individuals, mostly Union soldiers on their way home following their release from Confederate prisons. Floating all night on a wooden crate that held an alligator, which he eventually killed with a bayonet, Don's forefather was rescued by the gunboat Essex.

We learned in Don's original profile published July 24, 2016 that he was an award-winning illustrator having worked up and down the Eastern Seaboard. He worked at Kennedy Space Center doing illustrations for the Apollo Astronauts and NASA. His artwork went to the moon and back. If you would like to see a portfolio of his work on the NASA Apollo 11 Mission, search Google for "Don Wiles NASA." He also made an illustration of the guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg for its commissioning in Philadelphia on June 22, 1991. It hangs in the Ward Room of the ship. "I loved what I did and I loved going to work every day. When I wasn't working I was Civil-waring, reading, touring, and getting to Gettysburg any chance I got."

Someday at your favorite bookstore you might see Don Wiles sitting on a shelf. Not physically, of course, but a book with his name right there on the front cover. The subject? The entire Gettysburg Campaign (June - August) of the American Civil War. Don has completed 500 pages so far, mostly photographs he has taken. Another 250 pages and Don will have a publishing house on speed dial.

In the meantime, if you are looking for an interesting book to read Don recommends *The Confederate Approach on Harrisburg* by Cooper H. Wingert with the foreword by Old Baldy friend Scott L. Mingus Sr. The book is a solid account of the troop actions in the Cumberland/Harrisburg and Carlisle areas in the lead-up to and during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Don could not be prouder of his three children: a son who is a senior associate director of athletics at Flagler College (FL), the youngest/winningest coach elected to the Florida Hall of Fame, and the Wiles High School Football Field in St. Augustine carries his name; a second son who is an accountant and lives in Kennesaw, Georgia (Home of the "General"); and a daughter who is the financial manager for ride construction/modification at Disney in Orlando. And five grandchildren, all girls: pediatric physical therapist, manager of merchandise services at Disney, healthcare recruiter, distributor/organizer for a steel fabricator, and a financial insurance manager with the PGA at Sawgrass (Home of the Players).

Today in Civil War History

1861 Thursday, November 14

The North

McClellan, writing to General Halleck, expresses dissatisfaction at Frémont's handling of the Department of the West. "You will have extraordinary duties . . . Chaos must be reduced to order . . . staff personnel will have to be changed . . . a system of reckless expenditure and fraud, perhaps unheard of before in the history of the world, will have to be reduced to the limits of an economy consistent with the interests and necessities of the state." This last is a calumny, possibly motivated by McClellan's dislike of Frémont; there is no evidence that Frémont's command was in any way more corrupt than those nearer to Washington.

1862 Friday, November 14

Eastern Theater

Burnside reorganizes the Army of the Potomac before setting off for Fredericksburg. He divides the army into three Grand Divisions. Sumner's Grand Division, the "Right," comprises Couch's II Corps and Wilcox's IX Corps, formerly Burnside's command. Hooker's Grand Division, the "Center," has Stoneman's III Corps and Butterfield's V Corps. This had been Fitz John Porter's command until he was removed. Franklin's Grand Division, the "Left," takes in Reynold's I Corps (Hooker's old corps) and W.F. Smith's VI Corps, which had previously been commanded by Franklin. Burnside also has XJ Corps near Manassas Junction and XII Corps guarding Harper's Ferry.

1863 Saturday, November 14

Western Theater

Sherman arrives in Bridgeport at the head of 17,000 men. His troops have covered 675 miles by boat, rail, and foot in the last two weeks. Grant briefs him on the situation at Chattanooga, explaining that nothing much can be expected from the Army of the Cumberland. In Grant's opinion, they will be reluctant to leave their trenches, so the men from Vicksburg will have to lead the way.

The South

The Confederate Government threatens to use force and confiscate property to collect taxes from the farmers of North Carolina. The whole episode illustrates the central weakness of the Confederacy: the self-sufficient agrarian economy can only sustain a limited burden of taxation. With few banks and little capital to work with, the government's resources are quite inadequate for this prolonged struggle.

1864 Monday, November 14

The North

President Lincoln accepts the resignation of Major-General George B. McClellan and appoints Sheridan to the rank of major-general.

Western Theater

Major-General Schofield reaches Pulaski, Tennessee, with his leading division. There are now 18,000 Union troops concentrated there, with another 5000 men nearby. Bedford Forrest joins Hood at Florence. Judson Kilpatrick leaves Atlanta at the head of Sherman's cavalry vanguard. Slocum leads XK Corps to Decatur, tearing up the railroad.

"Annual Catto Honor Ceremony"

by Rich Jankowski
President
OBCWRT

Flat Old Baldy and representatives of the round table attended the annual Major Octavius Valentine Catto Honor Ceremony at his memorial statue at the southwest corner of Philadelphia City Hall. The ceremony included wreath laying, military salutes, and several short speeches. It is a fine opportunity to remember and pay tribute to this local hero who lived in turbulent times. Catto was an African American educator and Civil Rights activist, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard who recruited troops for the War, desegregated trolley cars, and played organized baseball and cricket. The event is sponsored by the PA National Guard, the Catto Association and Temple University. A hardy crowd of over 100 citizens gathered for the event. It was previously held near Mother Bethel Methodist Church at 6th and Lombard Street, near where Catto was shot and killed defending voters. It was moved to the City Hall area in 2017 after the Statue was unveiled by Mayor Kenny. Brigadier General Jon

Pippy, PA National Guard, gave the keynote address. FOB saw several friends at the event including OB Director Paul Prentiss, Commander Susan, John Voris, Dr. Andy Waskie, Mary Wible, and Albert El. Students from the History Club at Saint Joseph's Prep were in attendance to honor Major Catto. After the ceremony, a luncheon was held at the Union League to award the Catto medal to two current members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Plan on attending the event next October and in the meantime research to learn more about O. V. Catto.



"Who We Have Become..."

Gold
Transparency
2024

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Last month, we shared what else the round table does besides host presentations on the second Thursday of the month. Now we will discuss our welcoming culture and the accolades we have earned. The Round Table has worked to create a friendly accepting environment for members and guests both in person and on ZOOM. This has allowed us to connect with interested folks across the nation and internationally to attend our programs. We meet and learn about members through the profiles published in the newsletter each month, as well as our social events throughout the year. Each of the last two years we have reached over 100 members. Members and friends of OB have been generous in the fundraising campaigns we have held to support historical causes. The other pillars that support our organization are the diverse quality programs we offer, our monthly award-winning newsletter and the willingness to assist other organizations both in and outside the Civil War and History community. We are represented at both CCHA and LHSNJ meetings.

As you can see listed on the side of the newsletter and on the website our Round Table has been recognized by several organizations. We have twice been awarded the best historical newsletter in the State of New Jersey by the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. We were the first CWRT in the nation to be awarded the CWRT Congress Innovation Award and first to complete the CWRT-C Sustainability Challenge. We have earned Silver Transparency on GuideStar and 'Service to the Society' from

the Society for Women and the Civil War. We have been an active contributor to American Battlefield Trust for over 25 years and are at the Color Bearer level.

We will continue to need your support and input to maintain and grow our organization. Our upcoming 50th Anniversary in January 2027 will provide an opportunity for the membership to come together to help OB CWRT shine in our Golden year. Assist the new administration by taking on a task to advance our round table, inviting a guest, or planning an activity. Thank you to all who served to get us to this point.

General Philip Kearny "The Bravest of the Brave"

**Books Used
in Writing this Essay**

**Kearny the Magnificent:
The Story
of General Philip Kearny,
1815-1862,
by Irving Werstein,
The John Day Company,
NY, 1962.**

**Letters from the Peninsula:
The Civil War Letters
of General Philip Kearny,
by William B. Style,
Belle Grove Publishing
Company, NJ, 1988.**

**The Little Bugler,
by William B. Style,
Belle Grove Publishing
Company, NJ, 1998.**

**To the Gates of Richmond:
The Peninsula Campaign,
by Stephen Sears,
Houghton Mifflin**



Philip Kearny, Jr.

Philip Kearny (pronounced CAR-nee) was a flamboyant adventurer and soldier who most notably fought for the United States of America in the Mexican, Indian, and Civil Wars. During his brilliant military career he proved himself honorable, chivalrous, and compassionate towards his men, with a joie de vivre that inspired his troops in battle. Kearny's courage earned him the respect of his soldiers and fellow officers alike, the greatest of which came from General-in-Chief Winfield Scott who called him "the bravest and most perfect soldier" he had ever known.

Life as a Young Aristocrat

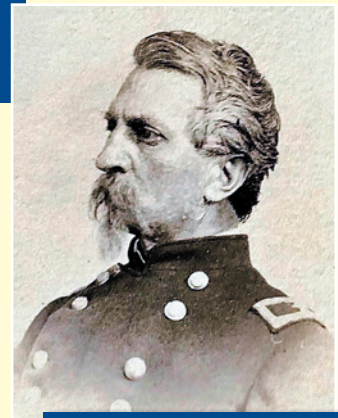
Born in New York City on June 1, 1815, the only child of Philip and Susan (Watts) Kearny, young Philip never knew want due to his aristocratic heritage and upbringing. Yet, he knew suffering at an early age with the untimely death of his beloved mother before his ninth birthday. A shy and sensitive youth, Philip spent many hours alone sketching battle scenes and playing with toy soldiers. There was also a daring side to him as he would race at top speed on horseback. But though his demeanor was reckless he demonstrated great skill as a rider, and his rare talent in handling horses would serve him well throughout his life.

Perhaps the greatest immediate influence in his youth was that of his uncle, the distinguished Major General Stephen Watts Kearny. Philip looked up to him as a role model with aspirations of following in his footsteps as a career soldier. This fascination with the military displeased his father and maternal grandfather who had other occupations in mind for the family's only boy. As one of the founders of the New York Stock Exchange, the elder Philip had planned a career for him that would support his business on Wall Street. Meanwhile his grandfather, the family patriarch, had contemplated a career for him as a minister.

To appease both parties, Philip attended Columbia College (now Columbia University) where he studied law, graduating with honors. He worked for a brief time as a clerk at a law office, a job which left him restless and bored. When his grandfather died, the 21-year-old received an inheritance that afforded him financial independence. Now an adult and still longing for a taste of soldierly life, Philip decided to pursue his dream of a military career. In his own idealistic way, he desired to live out his recently-adopted motto: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori," a quotation by the Roman poet and satirist Horace, which translates as "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country."

A Cavalier in America and Abroad

Kearny obtained his first commission with the army cavalry in 1837 as a member of the 1st U.S. Dragoons, Company F, stationed at Jefferson Barracks and Fort Leavenworth. From the beginning, his military career was destined to



**Major General, USA
Philip Kearny, Jr.**

be winning one, as he showed an enormous amount of confidence in himself, a willful determination in all his undertakings, great honesty and forthrightness in his dealings with others, progressiveness in his thinking, and an abhorrence of setbacks and failure.

Kearny's success as a soldier would not be overlooked by his superiors. Within the next two years he would be selected by the Secretary of War to attend the French Cavalry School at Saumur. At this renowned institute he studied cavalry tactics and served as aide-de-camp and officer in the 1st Chasseurs d'Afrique, considered one of the best regiments in the French Army. In 1840, he received his baptism of fire in the Algerian War, where he rode with the sword in his right hand, pistol in his left, and the reins in his teeth, as was the style of the Chasseurs. His fearless character in battle earned him the

nickname by his French comrades "Kearny le Magnifique" or "Kearny the Magnificent." The engagement was a victory for the French.

Kearny had found in France a second home and would often return, though not always as a soldier. Up until the American Civil War, he would maintain contact with his friends in Paris. The French seemed to share his passionate temperament and fondness for the good life. While a student at the Cavalry School, he threw an elegant ball which increased his popularity among his peers and officers and cost him a small fortune. But for those he cared about, his generosity knew no bounds. In all his pursuits he gave 100 percent of his energy, whether it was in his work or diversions. Throughout his life, Kearny would equally enjoy recreational activities, social affairs, and engaging in battle, all one and the same. His enthusiasm for adventure would take him on journeys across the country and around the world, beyond Northern Africa and Paris, to places such as Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Mexico, and India.

Back home in America, life as an aide-de-camp to General Winfield Scott, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, was dull and uninspiring for the ambitious and action-oriented Kearny. A year later, in 1841, the dashing officer wed the charming and headstrong Diana Moore Bullitt in what would be a disharmonious union. The discord in their relationship and his uneventful subsequent years as lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Dragoons rendered him frustrated and restless. At his wife's persistent urging, he resigned from the military.

His retirement would be short lived. With the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846, Kearny withdrew his resignation and was assigned to raise a troop of cavalry for the 1st U.S. Dragoons, Company F. He spared no expense in recruiting his men and acquiring 120 matched dapple gray horses. The following year, while seeking to capture General Santa Anna at Churubusco, outside of Mexico City, he led a fierce charge to the San Antonio gate. Bearing in mind the Chasseurs' credo to never retreat, Kearny nearly reached the gate, despite the signal for recall. His left arm was shattered by grapeshot and required amputation at the shoulder. For his bravery and gallantry, he was breveted Major by General Scott.

The 1850's proved to be a decade of continual change and new challenges for Philip. After the birth of their fourth child, Diana left him and took the children to her native Kentucky. Kearny served for a time as a recruiting officer in New York City. Later, as a major with the 1st U.S. Dragoons, he and his troops sojourned to the Pacific Northwest to quell the Rogue River Indian uprisings. Having successfully accomplished his mission, Kearny felt slighted for the lack of promotions and new assignments for him. The proud cavalier resigned from the military, then set sail on a world tour in December 1851.

A few years later, now at Paris, Philip met the fair Agnes Maxwell, daughter of the customs collector at the port of New York City. Though his liaison with this young woman created quite a controversy amongst the American social circuit, the two became too enamored of one another to relinquish their association. In 1854, Kearny had begun construction of a palatial mansion in the present day locale of Kearny, New Jersey. He had envisioned a life of bliss there with Agnes, but this would not be possible until his marriage with Diana was terminated.

By the end of the decade, following his bitter divorce from Diana, the contented



**New Jersey Brigade
Monument
Gettysburg**



**Kearny Monument
Newark, New Jersey**

newlyweds were able to enjoy life at their estate which was named Bellegrove. They also found happiness at various residences overseas, until the eruption of the Italian Wars in Europe stirred Kearny's soldierly blood and urged him to enlist to the aid of his former French comrades. As a volunteer aide to the commander of the Imperial Cavalry under Emperor Napoleon III, Kearny fought at the battlefields on Italian soil at Montebello, Magenta and Solferino. He was commended by General Morris for his bravery during the grand charge at Solferino and accorded the Cross of the Legion of Honor by his hosts for his services to their country.

"Dulce et Decorum est pro Patria Mori"

At the outset of a civil war brewing in America in 1861, Kearny returned home with Agnes and their three children. By now, he had an extensive and impressive military career and was highly qualified for an appointment to command troops of his native New York. When his request was denied—largely because of his personal life which was regarded as scandalous in Victorian times—Kearny became incensed. However, as New Jersey was in search of a commander to lead their first brigade of infantry, he received an appointment as Brigadier General of Volunteers.



**A sketch of Kearny's Death
at Chantilly**

At first Kearny was less than impressed with the unkempt, untrained, and unmotivated volunteers that comprised the regiments. But through sheer diligence he soon transformed these men into true soldiers. Those in his brigade would quickly learn that the general was a strict taskmaster who was also generous in bestowing praise and recognition for a job well done. He earned the respect of his men for his strong convictions and leadership skills. He would also win their loyalty and affection for personally looking after them and ensuring that they were properly nourished, uniformed and armed. Any deficiencies in these areas were resolved by him taking action to purchase the necessary goods out of his own pocket.

Not long after the Union defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, General Winfield Scott retired and was replaced by General George McClellan. The tedious months of idleness for the First New Jersey Brigade and the habitual hesitation of the new Commander-in-Chief frustrated Kearny to no end. But the magnitude of personal matters would weigh even more heavily upon him. In February 1862, the death of his and Agnes's young son proved to be a tragedy that he would never overcome.

In May, Kearny was appointed commander of the Third Division, Third Corps. By now, McClellan's Peninsula Campaign—a plan to capture Richmond, Virginia, the capitol of the Confederacy—was well under way. Kearny's newly assigned troops were immediately engaged in the battle at Yorktown and then at Williamsburg where the general bravely led the charge, sword in hand, reins in his teeth. True to form, Kearny displayed a keen wit and a joyous spirit in battle which seemed to inspire and embolden his men, encouraging them to follow him at any cost. The rare bond that was created between them and him would be so strong that even long after his death he would be fondly remembered by his soldiers.

After the Battle of Seven Pines, in which neither side gained any ground, Kearny devised a method that would help him readily identify his men and also alleviate some of the monotony of camp life which persisted at this time. He had each man sew on his cap a diamond-shaped piece of red flannel. This concept for corps badges soon became widely used in the army and is still in use today. By the end of June, in the Seven Days' Battles, Kearny's division was engaged at Oak Grove, Glendale, and Malvern Hill. Typically believing his forces to be outnumbered, McClellan ordered a retreat to Harrison's Landing on the James River, in what would be termed the "Great Skedaddle."



**A Marker to Kearny
at Ox Hill (Chantilly)**

The Peninsula Campaign was now abandoned, much to Kearny's disgust and despite his vehement protestations against McClellan's order. Though he was promoted to Major General on July 4, 1862, his irritation with the Commander-in-Chief escalated, along with his bitterness for not being appointed a corps commander. By the end of August, the Third Division fought in the Second Battle of Bull Run. What seemed a victory in the beginning culminated in a major disaster in the end due in part to a lack of supports the



Kearny's Funeral Arlington Cemetery 1912



Kearny Grave Arlington

Kearny Crosses



Enlisted Men

Officers



general had requested. With this humiliating defeat for the Union, on top of other recent disturbances, Kearny flew into a rage.

On September 1, 1862, on the heels of the disaster at Bull Run, the Battle of Chantilly was fought. By nightfall, the rain poured down in blinding sheets. Though advised not to reconnoiter a gap in the line that was left unguarded, Kearny willfully rode there and was met by Confederates who were lying in wait. When asked to surrender himself a prisoner, the general refused and dashed away. A minié ball struck him in the spine, and the brave warrior fell instantly and died—as he had wished—for his country.

Philip Kearny's loss would be felt deeply by many on both sides of the war, for a number of the officers in the Confederacy had been comrades of his during the Mexican War and regarded him with the highest respect. He was buried at Trinity Churchyard in New York City. He would be reburied at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in 1912. A magnificent equestrian monument bearing the general's likeness in bronze would be erected over the burial site in 1914.

On November 29, 1862, the officers of the First Division, Third Corps established a medal of honor which bore Kearny's motto: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." This medal, which was to be known as the "Kearny Medal of Valor," was presented to all officers (and those soldiers promoted to officers prior to January 1, 1863) who had "honorably served in battle under General Kearny in his division." On March 13, 1863, Brigadier General Birney, who served in Kearny's brigade, issued an order to establish a "cross of valor" which was to be known as the "Kearny Cross." This would be awarded to non-commissioned officers and privates who had distinguished themselves in battle. With honors as these, the memory of their legendary hero would not be forgotten.

In 1890, Philip and Agnes's eldest daughter Susan requested a personal tribute about her father by the Comte de Paris (Louis Philippe Albert d'Orleans). The Comte de Paris, a former aide of General McClellan and son of the Duc d'Orleans (whom Kearny had served as a member of the Chasseurs), wrote an elegant tribute. The most striking passage that I believe best sums up Kearny's character says:

One who saw Philip Kearny recognized in him the typical soldier. As early as 1849 the young and brilliant cavalry officer had lost his left arm before one of the gates of Mexico at the battle of Churubusco. His infirmity did not prevent him from always mounting the most vigorous-looking horses, which he controlled on the march with rare elegance, holding in his only hand his reins and his naked sword. A head, the picture of energy, framed by the cape which almost invariably hung about his shoulders, a strongly marked nose, and a piercing eye, gave him the look of an eagle. His abrupt speech and his imperious manner denoted a proud disposition, and a character incapable of flattery or of dissimulation. But though at first his manner was not always fitted to attract, one soon learned to appreciate the noble qualities of his heart, the firmness of his will, the accuracy of his judgment, the truthfulness and grandeur of his soul. This man, apparently so nervous, was calmness itself in the presence of the enemy. His unerring eye, his prompt decision, his clear and concise orders, at once revealed in him the true warrior. He inspired an unbounded confidence in all those who had once been under fire with him.

[William B. Styple, *Letters from the Peninsula: The Civil War Letters of General Philip Kearny* (New Jersey: Belle Grove Publishing Company, 1988), p. 25.]

"Conspiracy in Canada"

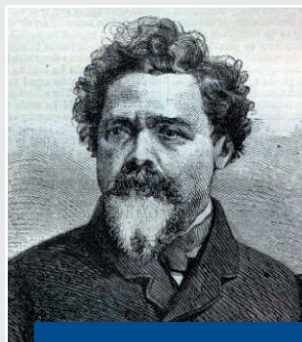
Intelligence in the Civil War
ISBN No. 1-929667-12-4



Captain, CSA
Thomas Henry Hines



Jacob Thompson



George N. Sanders



Clement L. Vallandigham

In secret sessions during February 1864, the Confederate Congress passed a bill that authorized a campaign of sabotage against "the enemy's property, by land or sea." The bill established a Secret Service fund—\$5 million in U.S. dollars—to finance the sabotage. As an incentive, saboteurs would get rewards proportional to the destruction they wreaked. One million dollars of that fund was specifically earmarked for use by agents in Canada. For some time, agents there had been plotting far more than across-the-border sabotage. They believed that their plans for large-scale covert actions could win the war.

Canada, then officially known as British North America, was against slavery, but not fully supportive of the North. As a British possession, Canada reflected Britain's brand of neutrality, which tipped toward the South and King Cotton. Many Canadians worried about the possibility that the breakup of the Union might tempt the United States to add territory by attempting to annex Canada. As the war wore on and Canadians' sympathy for the South grew, so did toleration for harboring Confederate agents.

The Canadian operations station was in Toronto under the military command of Captain Thomas Henry Hines, who had ridden with Morgan's Raiders in guerrilla sorties into Kentucky and Tennessee. On the raids, Hines had made contact with leaders of pro-South underground networks in what was then called the "Northwest"—part of today's Midwest.

Hines's orders from the Confederate War Department said he was "detailed for special service" in Canada and was empowered to carry out "any hostile operation" that did not violate Canadian neutrality. As Hines saw his mission, which became known to foes as the Northwest Conspiracy, he was "creating a Revolution." By raising an insurrection in the Northwest states, he believed that he would turn them against the Union and bring an end to the war on Southern terms.

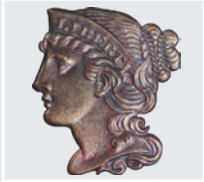
The conspirators especially recruited sympathizers from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, where an estimated 40 percent of the population was Southern-born. Many belonged to secret societies, such as the Knights of the Golden Circle or the Order of the Sons of Liberty, which were anti-Union and anti-abolition. Members wore on their lapels the head of Liberty, cut from copper pennies. Their enemies called them Copperheads for the poisonous snake that struck without warning.

Among the conspirators were military officers in civilian clothes and politicians, such as Jacob Thompson who had been Secretary of the Interior under President James Buchanan and Clement Clay, former U.S. Senator from Alabama. They were ostensibly "commissioners" sent to Canada with vaguely defined public roles as their cover. Other politicians involved in plots were George N. Sanders, who had taken part in Confederate operations in Europe, and Clement L. Vallandigham, who had been a powerful member of Congress from Ohio. He claimed he had 300,000 Sons of Liberty ready to follow him in an insurrection that would produce a Northwest Confederacy.

Hines reported to the civilians, especially Thompson. But there was a shadowy connection between Hines and the Secret Service Bureau of the Confederate Signal Corps. One clue to this connection is a Signal Corps order that Hines be instructed in the use of Confederate ciphers.

Much of the Canada-Richmond communication system relied on couriers, and one of them was a double agent. Richard Montgomery, as a Confederate agent, carried dispatches from Confederate President Jefferson Davis to the Canadian station. As a Union agent, he stopped off in Washington, where the dispatches, which were usually in cipher, were copied and decrypted. To strengthen Davis' faith in Montgomery, Assistant Secretary of War Charles Dana even had him captured and imprisoned. In his staged escape, Montgomery claimed he shot himself in the arm so he could have proof of his desperate flight.

Not far from the Canadian border were two large Union prisoner of war



Copperheads



**Knights
of the
Golden Circle**



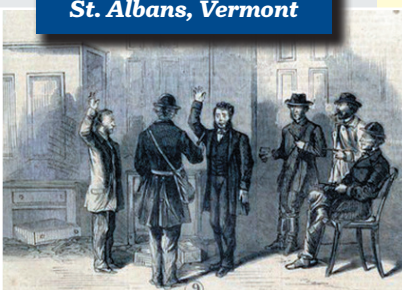
Johnson's Island



Camp Douglas



USS Michigan



St. Albans, Vermont



**Colonel, USA
Benjamin J. Sweet**

camps—on Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio in Lake Erie, and at Fort Douglas in Chicago. To enlist soldiers for the insurrection, the conspirators came up with an elaborate plan: agents would slip out of Canada, take over Lake Erie river steamers, and use them as impromptu warships for the boarding and seizure of the U.S.S. Michigan, which guarded the lake for the Union. The Confederates would then attack Johnson's Island, free the thousands of prisoners there, and arm them. In coordinated raids, prisoners at Fort Douglas would also be freed and armed. The Confederate soldiers, allied with the Sons of Liberty, would then take over the region, forcing the North to sue for peace.

On September 19, 1864, John Yates Beall, a veteran blockade runner, and about 20 men boarded the Philo Parsons, a small Detroit-Sandusky steamer, in Detroit as ordinary passengers. At Beall's request, the captain made an unscheduled stop at Amherstburg on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, and several more of Beall's men boarded, toting a large trunk filled with grappling hooks for seizing the Michigan.

As the Philo Parsons neared Johnson's Island, Beall put a pistol to the helmsman's head and took over the ship. The Confederate flag was hoisted, and the real passengers and most of the crew were put ashore on another island. Then Beall sailed the steamer to a point off Johnson's Island and awaited a signal from the Michigan.

A genial Philadelphia banker—and a new friend of the captain of the Michigan—was supposed to signal Beall that all was clear for the attack. However, the supposed banker, who was really Captain Charles H. Cole of the Confederate Army, had been arrested by Union soldiers. Cole, Confederates later said, had been betrayed. Union records show that Cole, captured on a tip from a Confederate captive and held aboard the Michigan, "disclosed the whole plot" in time for the Union warship to prepare for battle.

Seeing no signal and fearing that the Michigan had been alerted, Beall's crew, murmuring mutiny, demanded that he abort the attack. He set course for Canada, landed everyone ashore, and then burned the Philo Parsons.

A month after the Michigan fiasco, about 20 Confederate agents in civilian clothes entered St. Albans, Vermont, 15 miles south of the Canadian border. The plan was to burn down the village in a "retribution" raid, retaliating for Union rampages in the South. The raiders robbed three banks of about \$200,000, but managed to set fire only to a woodshed. They recrossed the border on stolen horses, killing a pursuer.

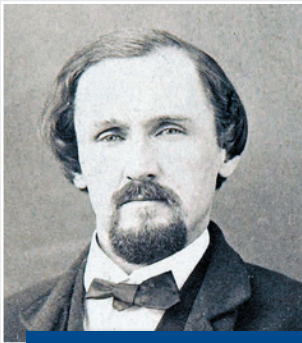
Montgomery, the double agent, had passed to Washington a dispatch that mentioned a military operation in Vermont without naming St. Albans. Canadian authorities tracked down and arrested 14 of the raiders, but did not turn them over to U.S. authorities. They were eventually freed through the efforts of George Sanders.

Another mission, twice postponed, was soon to begin. Colonel Benjamin J. Sweet, commander of the POW camp at Fort Douglas, knew it was coming. In a dispatch to his commanding officer, he reported that Chicago "is filling up with suspicious characters, some of whom we know to be escaped prisoners, and others who were here from Canada...." Sweet sent the dispatch by messenger because he feared the conspirators might intercept telegrams.

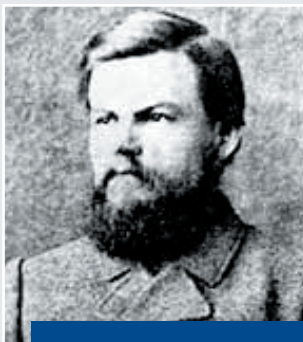
Sweet had only 800 men to guard about 9,000 prisoners. They were restless because they, like Sweet, had heard the wild rumors of insurrection, prison camp breakouts, and an invasion of Chicago. Sweet tracked the rumors and, from a planted agent, learned the identities and plans of the Confederate officers who had slipped into Chicago.

As he described the plot, the infiltrators planned to strike on November 8. They "intended to make a night attack on and surprise this camp, release and arm the prisoners of war, cut the telegraph wires, burn the railroad depots, seize the banks and stores containing arms and ammunition, take possession of the city, and commence a campaign for the release of other prisoners of war in the States of Illinois and Indiana, thus organizing an army to effect and give success to the general uprising so long contemplated by the Sons of Liberty."

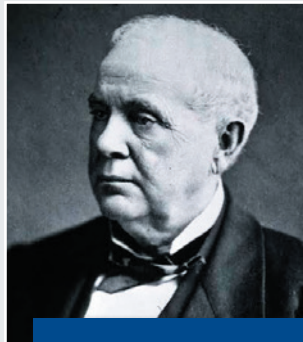
Sweet struck first on the night of November 7. With the aid of Union Army



John Beall



Robert Cobb Kennedy



Luke Pryor Blackburn



Lafayette Baker

agents, Sweet arrested the raid's leaders and Sons of Liberty officers, along with "106 bushwhackers, guerrillas, and rebel soldiers." Cached in a collaborator's home near the camp were 142 shotguns and 349 revolvers, along with thousands of rounds of ammunition. Sweet reinforced the military guard in the city by mobilizing a force of 250 militiamen—and arming them with the raiders' confiscated guns.

Undeterred by the failure in Chicago, Commissioners Thompson and Clay authorized the boldest operation yet: the torching of New York City by eight agents. The agents were to set the fires with containers of "Greek fire," the general name, dating to antiquity, for incendiary substances. The 1864 version of Greek fire was developed for the Confederacy by a Cincinnati chemist who mixed phosphorous with carbon bisulphide. Exposed to air, the mixture bursts into flames.

In New York, the leader of the saboteurs went to a certain basement where an old man with a beard handed him a valise containing twelve dozen sealed, four-ounce bottles. Each man checked into a series of hotels, then went back to each one, opened a bottle in the room, left, and locked the door. They set fires in 19 hotels, a theater, and P.T. Barnum's American Museum. The fires did not amount to much. There was no panic. There was no uprising.

The last known Canadian sabotage operation came in December 1864. John Beall, who had failed to seize the Michigan, vainly tried three times to derail Union trains as they passed near Buffalo. Some of these trains carried Confederate prisoners. As he was heading back to Canada after the third attempt, he was arrested. Tried and convicted as a spy and a guerrilla, Beall was hanged on February 24, 1865.

A month later, Robert Cobb Kennedy met the same fate. He had been caught trying to get from Canada to Richmond. He blurted out a confession that doomed him as one of the New York terrorists. "I know that I am to be hung for setting fire to Barnum's Museum," he said, "but that was only a joke."

The next arrest of a Canadian conspirator came in May 1865. Luke Pryor Blackburn, a Kentucky doctor attached to the Confederate sabotage group, was arrested in Canada on charges of conspiracy to murder in a foreign country. The charge had originated with an alert U.S. consul in Bermuda. Blackburn had been in Bermuda caring for victims of a yellow-fever epidemic. The consul learned that Blackburn had secretly collected victims' sweat-soaked clothing and blankets and shipped them to Canada.

At Blackburn's Canadian trial, an accomplice-turned informant testified that Blackburn believed that yellow fever could be transmitted by the victims' clothing. (It was not yet known that the disease was spread by the bites of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.) On Blackburn's instructions, the accomplice picked up trunks in Halifax and shipped them to Northern cities in a plot to start a yellow-fever epidemic. A special valise was to be presented to President Lincoln. Secreted among the gift of dress shirts were rags of fever victims' clothing.

Blackburn was soon acquitted for lack of evidence, but few noticed. The war was over, and Lincoln was already dead—assassinated by a man who had met with the Canadian conspirators, John Wilkes Booth. Booth had been in Canada in October 1864, but little is known about his visit with conspirators there. Richard Montgomery, the double agent in Canada, claimed that Booth and others had met to plot the kidnapping of President Lincoln. (The ransom was to be the freeing of Confederate prisoners of war, who could then fight again and perhaps win the war.) The kidnappers were to strike in March 1865, but an unexpected change in Lincoln's schedule thwarted them. When General Lee surrendered to General Grant on April 9, 1865, the plot dissolved.

But five days later, Booth transformed himself from kidnapper to assassin and killed Lincoln. Lafayette Baker, head of the National Detective Police, responded to a summons from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton: "Come here immediately and see if you can find the murderer of the President." On April 26, Baker found Booth, but failed to take him alive. The assassin was fatally shot when he refused to come out of a barn that his pursuers had set afire.

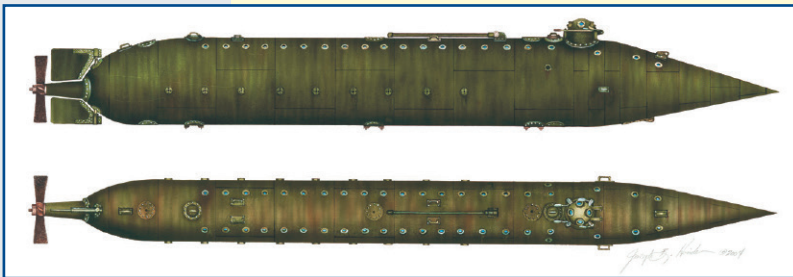


Join the Hunt for the Alligator Junior

The prototype Civil War submarine abandoned in Rancocas Creek.

www.navyandmarine.org

Inventor Brutus de Villeroi developed what became known as Alligator Jr. in 1859, initially as a salvage vessel, and offered her to the US Navy shortly after the start of the Civil War. The Navy was interested, but asked de Villeroi to build a larger version. That boat became the Alligator, the first submersible deployed to a combat zone with an enlisted crew. Lost in an 1863 storm off Cape Hatteras, Alligator was the focus of search efforts beginning in 2002. But after several years it became apparent that her location would remain elusive.



The Alligator's prototype, dubbed "Alligator Junior", is now the subject of an effort to pinpoint her location and hopefully, to begin recovery. Junior, it is believed, sits buried in the muddy bank of the Rancocas Creek in Riverside, NJ, close to the former site of de Villeroi's boatyard. Locals claim parts of her were visible into the early 1960s.

The Original Alligator Submarine

The next step toward identification and eventual recovery requires large-scale aerial magnetometer scans. This is the point we are at today; raising funds to pay for this work. To find this craft would be an incredible boon to the understanding of period technology and the earliest days of submarine warfare. If you would like to support this project, to find the first submarine in which the U.S. Navy took interest, please visit www.navyandmarine.org

Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events



Monday, November 18, Zoom
Nicole Etcheson, history professor and author: *Bleeding Kansas -- The Crisis of the 1850s*, based on her book, *Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era*

Tuesday, November 19, 2:00pm Pacific Time,
Dennis Doyle, Ph.D., two Master's, History and Sociology professor, and President of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Professor Doyle will give a presentation on "Irish Americans in the Civil War." and the Lincoln Memorial Shrine

For Zoom links, and regional Round Table program times & locations, go to:
inlandempirecwrt.org and socalcwrt.org.



The Cruiser Olympia won fame in the Spanish-American War and served as a flagship in WWI



Independence Hall

HOMECOMING 250

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

To kickoff America's celebration of its 250 years of independence, Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps will honor the men and women who gained and continue to defend our independence. Through our efforts, the Secretary of the Navy has announced that the Navy and Marine Corps should celebrate their 250th birthdays in their birthplace, Philadelphia, PA, and Camden, NJ. Homecoming 250 will salute their 250 years of distinguished service by hosting spectacular events, ceremonies, parades, aerial demonstrations, exhibitions, and educational programs featuring historic buildings, ships, museums, and waterfront sites on both sides of the Delaware River.



COMING HOME TO THE BIRTHPLACE

No better place to celebrate the Navy and Marines' 250th!

THE NAVY & MARINES...

- Were created in Independence Hall and organized at Tun Tavern
- Commissioned their first ships and officers here
- Launched their first missions from the Delaware River
- Relaunched the Navy and Marines at Congress Hall
- Built the first Naval Shipyard and supplied innovative ships for over 200 years



US Navy ROTC Midshipmen, 2021



"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

Mark Thursday December 12th with a bold red circle...

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

As we are conducting OB CWRT annual Election and Holiday Social meeting in our regular room at the CCC William G. Rohrer Center. Join us at our December meeting to choose the next administration, celebrate the end of the year and take a break from the holiday frenzy. Round Table members, family and friends are all invited to join together for the last time in 2024 and discuss the past year, the successful trip in May to Williamsburg, share stories, plans for our 50th anniversary, drink a little non-alcoholic cheer and nibble on delicious treats. Some lucky folks will even walk away with presents too boot!

Please look for the Holiday Party Planning email later this month and of course more information will be communicated at our upcoming November meeting. We will be seeking food items and door prizes.

If you dare to volunteer prior to knowing anything more or you just happen to be the Party Planner extraordinaire, send Kathy Clark an email at Klynn522@comcast.net.



New Members

***Marty Berger
Harrison, NJ 07029***



***Priscilla Gabosch
getting her
10-year membership pin***

***FOB welcomes member s
Dorothy Wright
and Stephen Goldberg
from Green Brook, NJ***



Upcoming Events that the Old Baldy CWRT is Participating In...

**Wreaths Across America
December 14, Beverly National Cemetery
Meade's Birthday at Laurel Hill**

WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>

Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2024/2025

**December 12, 2024 - Thursday
Election Meeting and Social Night**

**January 9, 2025 - Thursday
James Pula
"Union General Daniel Butterfield:
A Civil War Biography"**

**February 13, 2025 - Thursday
Kelly Hancock
"The Art of Surviving: Belle Isle and Beyond"**

**March 13, 2025 - Thursday
Phil Roycraft
"The Plot to Perpetuate Slavery: How George McClellan,
Southern Spies and a Confidence Man Nearly Derailed
Emancipation"**

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

**Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
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William G. Rohrer Center
1889 Marlton Pike East
Cherry Hill, NJ
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Founded January 1977**

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