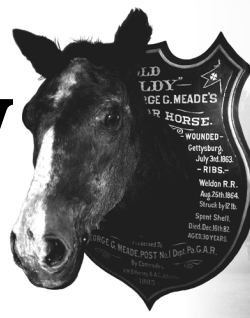


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



May 12, 2005, The One Hundred and Forty-Fourth Year of the Civil War



*St Clair Augustine Mulholland and the 116th Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg*



## May 12th Thursday Meeting "St Clair Mulholland"

The May 12th Meeting of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table will start at 7:30 pm on Thursday at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia. **Steve Wright**, Irish Brigade author, Past President of the Old Baldy CWRT will be the speaker. Steve was involved with the erection of the John Gibbon monument at Gettysburg, he has written articles for "Gettysburg Magazine" and published CW books and is a CW Tour Guide and Speaker. Steve's topic will be on *General St Clair Mulholland and the 116th Pennsylvania Regiment*. It should be a great evening.

## The President's Letter

Unfortunately our speaker for April had to cancel. Hugh Boyle had a heart problem that had to be dealt with and, I'm happy to report, everything came out okay. Hugh felt bad about canceling but I assured him that his first priority is his health and we are delighted that he is coming along fine. We are happy that Hugh has agreed to reschedule for September and this gives us a further

chance to study up on General Dan Sickles over the summer.

Our speaker on May 12th will be our own Steve Wright. He will be talking about Philadelphian St. Clair Mulholland. A brevet brigadier general, Mulholland was the commander of the 116th Pennsylvania Volunteers, part of the famed Irish Brigade. Come on out and learn of this very interesting personally, a big player of 19th Century Philadelphia history.

I am sorry to report that Perry Triplett has passed away. Perry, for those of you who have never had the pleasure, was a champion of the LaMott section of Cheltenham Township the site of Camp William Penn. He worked for years to gain recognition for the historic site, the training ground for over 10,000 black soldiers during the Civil War. Designated United States Colored Troops, these men fought and died in many of the major battles of the war. I remember getting phone calls from Perry and knew it was time to grab a cup of coffee and put my feet up. This call would surely be over an hour, but Perry Triplett was totally dedicated to the cause. He was a thorn in the side of many politicians and government officials and was able to have the camp site designated in the 1990's as a National Historic Landmark. His dream was to make the location a park supervised by the National Park Service. Hopefully this will someday come true. Perry's funeral was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove and his pallbearers were uniformed reenactors from the 3rd and 6th regiments of the United States Colored Troops along with 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers. Perry was 77 years of age and was never married. He is survived by his brother Fred. Members of the LaMott community have pledged to continue his work. To visit the site of Camp William Penn go to the end of North Broad Street and make a left on Cheltenham Avenue, go about two or three short blocks to Sycamore Street. Turn right and go one block to the Community Center. There is a monument on the corner and also there is a small USCT museum nearby.

*Mike Cavanaugh*  
President

**Bring a friend, neighbor and another Civil War buff to enjoy a fascinating subject and to support our speakers at Old Baldy.**

## Today in Civil War History

### **May 12, 1864** **Bloody day** **at the Bloody Angle**

Close-range firing and hand-to-hand combat at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, result in one of the most brutal battles of the Civil War. After the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5-6), Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee raced respective Union and Confederate forces southward. Grant aimed his army a dozen miles southeast of the Wilderness, toward the critical crossroads of Spotsylvania Court House. Sensing Grant's plan, Lee sent part of his army on a furious night march to secure the road junction before the Union soldiers got there. The Confederates soon constructed a five-mile long system of entrenchments in the shape of an inverted U.

On May 10, Grant began to attack Lee's position at Spotsylvania. After achieving a temporary breakthrough at the Rebel center, Grant was convinced that a weakness existed there, as the bend of the Confederate line dispersed their fire. At dawn on May 12, Union General Winfield Scott Hancock's troops emerged from the fog and overran the Rebel trenches, taking nearly 3,000 prisoners and more than a dozen cannons. While the Yankees erupted in celebration, the Confederates counterattacked and began to drive the Federals back. The battle raged for over 20 hours along the center of the Confederate line—the top of the inverted U—which became known as the "Bloody



Angle." Lee's men eventually constructed a second line of defense behind the original Rebel trenches, and fighting ceased just before dawn on May 13.

Around the Bloody Angle, the dead lay five deep, and bodies had to be moved from the trenches to make room for the living. The action around Spotsylvania shocked even the grizzled veterans of the two great armies. Said one officer, "I never expect to be fully believed when I tell what I saw of the horrors of Spotsylvania." And yet the battle was not done; the armies slugged it out for another week. In spite of his losses, Grant persisted, writing to General Henry Halleck in Washington, "I will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

1863 Engagement at Raymond, Mississippi

*HistoryChannel*

## Patriotic Volunteer Fireman

*Philadelphia in the Civil War 1861 - 1865*  
*Published 1913*

No class of citizens responded more promptly to their country's call in the spring of 1861 than the members of the volunteer fire companies of Philadelphia, then eighty-seven in number. They were numerous in all of the early regiments recruited in the city, and composed the greater part of the "23d," Birney's Zouaves, and the "72d," Baxter's Philadelphia Fire Zouaves. The "fire-fighters" were also well represented on the many ships of war built and manned at this port. The heroic records of these men are to be found in the regimental histories of our local organizations, and in the naval reports of the period. During the summer of 1861 the city authorities had acquired, by gift and purchase, a number of fine rifled cannon with caissons and equipments. Later in the year it was proposed to form an artillery regiment composed of firemen. So greatly had the various companies been depleted by enlistments that it was not found practicable. The firemen, however, offered the use of their horses for any emergency service. Twice in the course of the war, at the instance of Chief David M. Lyie, the time-honored Hibernia Engine Company sent its steam engine, with a detail of men, to Fortress Monroe and Washington, upon request of the War Department. This powerful steam fire

engine was built for the "Hibernias" by Reanie & Neafie, of Philadelphia, and was the pioneer engine of its kind in this city, if not in the United States.

This patriotic company was organized in 1752. It was represented in all of the wars of this country from the formation of the Government. The Hibernia Target Company, formed in 1853, became a company in the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, this being the first full company of firemen sent out during the Civil War by any fire organization in the United States. The Northern Liberty and Vigilant Fire Companies, also dating from long before the Revolutionary War, were proud of the fact that their members had worn the uniforms of the Continentals as well as of Zouaves. The first organization of local firemen in the field was Capt. Wm. McMullen's "Rangers," a company recruited from the "Moyamensing Hose" for the three months' service, under Gen. Robert Patterson, in 1861.

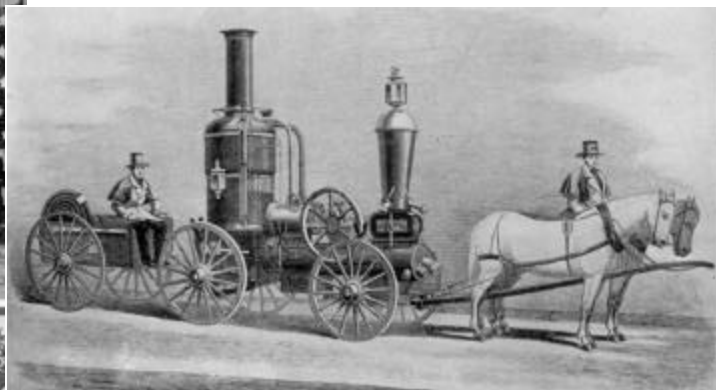
The total number of Philadelphia firemen who served in the Union Army between 1861 and 1865 is estimated to have been about eleven thousand.

Not less notable is the story of the splendid work accomplished by the firemen of the city through their volunteer ambulance service, which began with the Southwark Hose Company No. 9. These ambulances were thirty-five in number. They were built with money subscribed by the firemen and their friends and were maintained at the houses of the Delaware, Southwark, Washington, Weccacoe,

*continued on page 3*



*Types of the Fire Ambulances*



*Hibernia Engine. Twice in the Service of the United States*



*Ambulance of the Philadelphia Fire Engine Company, Exhibited at the Paris Exposition of 1867*

Diligent, Philadelphia (2), Assistance, America, Fairmount, Northern Liberty, United States, Vigilant, Good Intent, Globe, Mechanic, Decatur, Fellowship (2), Monroe, Good Will (2), and West Philadelphia Engine Companies, and the Franklin, Hope, Southwark, Western, Philadelphia, Good Will, Neptune, Cohocksink, Kensington, Independence, Northern Liberty and West Philadelphia Hose Companies. Great rivalry existed between the several

companies in the artistic embellishment of their handsome and servicable vehicles. They were kept in readiness for instant call. Upon the arrival of vessels or trains filled with wounded and invalid soldiers the electric call "9-6," repeated three times, was rung upon the bells in the fire towers, and, away the ambulances sped for the river front or the depots.

In the five days preceding Christmas, 1862, the ambulances, under the direction of Chief David M. Lyie, carried 2,500 patients from the Citizens' Volunteer Hospitals to others throughout the city.[1]

In many instances the fire companies invested their funds in Government bonds, and when the sad harvest of battle was brought to our doors the fire houses became temporary hospitals. Many of the dead of the 72d Regiment, who fell at Antietam and Gettysburg, were exhumed from graves upon the fields where they had fought by their brother firemen and given burial in the home cemeteries.

In 1867 the handsome ambulance of the Philadelphia Fire Engine Company was sent to the Exposition Universelle at Paris as a part of the United States Government display, and was exhibited in the Army and Navy section. The company was awarded a bronze medal and a diploma by the Exposition authorities.



*23rd Pennsylvania Infantry (Birney Zouaves) Monument at Gettysburg (Photo-Pennsylvania at Gettysburg 1904)*



*73rd New York Infantry Monument at Gettysburg dedicated to New York City Firemen (Photo-New York at Gettysburg 1900)*



*72nd Pennsylvania Infantry (Baxter's Philadelphia Fire Zouaves) Monument at Gettysburg (Photo-Pennsylvania at Gettysburg 1904)*

For many years after the volunteer fire department had been disbanded the "old timers," when upon their frequent visitations to other cities, generally carried along one or two war ambulances as the most prized of their treasures.[2]

[1] It is stated in Lossing's History of the Civil War that the Philadelphia fire ambulances carried from the trains to the hospitals and elsewhere one hundred and twenty thousand sick or wounded soldiers.

[2]The survivors of the old-time fire companies still maintain local organizations in the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association, Tenth street above Brown street; the Volunteer Firemen's Association, Eighth and Buttonwood streets, and the Active Volunteer Firemen's Association, at Buttonwood street and Old York road. The Tivoli, William Penn and Taylor Hose Companies also continue their headquarters. These associations include many old soldiers and possess a number of valuable collections of apparatus, relics and pictures.

## This Month in Civil War History

### May 1861

**May 6 - Arkansas seceded from the Union**

**May 18/19 - Sewell's Point**

**May 20 - North Carolina seceded from the Union**

### May 1862

**May 1862 -- "Stonewall" Jackson Defeats Union Forces**

Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, commanding forces in the Shenandoah Valley, attacked Union forces in late March, forcing them to retreat across the Potomac. As a result, Union troops were rushed to protect Washington, D.C.

**May 5 - Williamsburg/Fort Magruder**

**May 7 - Eltham's Landing Barhamsville/West Point**

**May 8 - McDowell/Sitlington's Hill**

**May 15 - Drewry's Bluff/Fort Darling/Fort Drewry**

**May 15/17 - Princeton Courthouse/Actions at Wolf Creek**

**May 23 - Front Royal/Guard Hill/Cedarville**

**May 25 - Winchester/Bowers Hill**

**May 27 - Hanover Court House/Slash Church**

**May 31/June 1 Seven Pines/Fair Oaks Station**

**May 31 -- The Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks).**

The Confederate army attacked federal forces at Seven Pines, almost defeating them; last-minute reinforcements saved the Union from a serious defeat. Confederate commander Joseph E. Johnston was severely wounded, and command of the Army of Northern Virginia fell to Robert E. Lee.

### May 1863

**May 1863 - The Battle of Chancellorsville**

On April 27, Union General Hooker crossed the Rappahannock River to attack General Lee's forces. Lee split his army, attacking a surprised Union army in three places and almost completely defeating them. Hooker withdrew across the Rappahannock River, giving the South a victory, but it was the Confederates' most costly victory in terms of casualties.

**May 10 Stonewall Jackson dies**

Stonewall Jackson dies of pneumonia following amputation of his arm at Chancellorsville

**May 1863 - The Vicksburg Campaign**

Union General Grant won several victories around Vicksburg, Mississippi, the fortified city considered essential to the Union's plans to regain control of the Mississippi River. On May 22, Grant began a siege of the city. After six weeks, Confederate General John

## World War II Seminar Report

1945 - Sixty Years After

March 19, 2005

**Total income for distribution was  
\$1,100.00.  
We gave \$600.00 to the World War II  
Lecture Institute in Abington and  
Doylestown  
and \$500.00 to the Mid-Atlantic Air  
Museum in Reading.**

The World War II Seminar, sponsored by The Old Baldy and Delaware Valley Civil War Round Tables and the Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA., was held on Saturday March 19, 2005, in Horsham, Pennsylvania. Over eighty people, including over twenty World War II veterans, attended the seminar and all agreed it was a very informative and enjoyable day. Four panels of veterans representing all the services gave those attending a rare insight on what it was like to participate in the Great War. Keynote speaker Paul Stillwell gave a splendid talk on the history of the USS Missouri. Four raffle prizes were awarded along with many valuable door prizes.

I would like to personally thank all those who helped make the day run so smoothly; Pat and Nancy Caldwell, Jeff Stocker, Ed Root, Dick Jacoby, Steve Wright, Hugh and Rose Boyle, Frank Avato, Ann Schrange, Jack Hatter of Volume Control and Eric Schmincke. And, of course, to the veterans on the panels, my sincere appreciation for your participation in the program and your service to our country. All those I forgot - Thank You.

Mike Cavanaugh  
Seminar Director

Pemberton surrendered, giving up the city and 30,000 men. The capture of Port Hudson, Louisiana, shortly thereafter placed the entire Mississippi River in Union hands. The Confederacy was split in two.

**May 1 - Port Gibson / Thompson's Hill**

**May 1/2 - Chalk Bluff**

**May 3 - Fredericksburg II/Marye's Heights**

**May 3/4 - Salem Church/Banks' Ford**

**May 12 - Raymond**

**May 13 - Big Black River skirmishes at Baldwin's Ferry and Hall's Ferry**

**May 14 - Jackson**

**May 16 - Champion Hill/Bakers Creek**

**May 17 - Big Black River Bridge**

**May 18/July 4 - Vicksburg**

**May 21 - Plains Store/Springfield Road**

**May 21/July 9 - Port Hudson**

### May 1864

**May 1864 - Wilderness Campaign**

General Grant, promoted to commander of the Union armies, planned to engage Lee's forces in Virginia until they were destroyed. North and South met and fought in



## Where have all the Trees gone?

This is part of the ongoing project to put the battlefield back to the look of 1863. With what the NPS has done so far you can get a really good perspective on what was happening - look out Mr. Sickles....

*Houck's Ridge - The Rear of Devil's Den. The 124th New York Infantry Monument facing the TriAngular Field. The 99th Pennsylvania Infantry Monument would be to your Right. This is part of the area of Smith's Guns*

*Devil's Den - This view is from the parking area in front of the Den... notice the complete lack of trees... the one tree you see could be a Witness Tree from the time of the battle. (They are saving as many of these old trees as possible.*



*Munshower's Field - This view is looking from the Wheatfield Road towards Segdwick Avenue. This is the crest of the hill with Little Round Top to your Right. Segdwick's Monument is to your left beyond the crest... A little more has now been added to the Sickles'/Meade discussion... was this good ground?*

an inconclusive three- day battle in the Wilderness. Lee inflicted more casualties on the Union forces than his own army incurred, but unlike Grant, he had no replacements.

### **May - 1864 The Battle of Spotsylvania**

General Grant continued to attack Lee. At Spotsylvania Court House, he fought for five days, vowing to fight all summer if necessary.

**May 4 - Day's Gap/Sand Mountain/Alabama**

**May 5 - Albemarle Sound**

**May 5/7 - Wilderness/Furnaces/Todd's Tavern**

**May 6/7 - Port Walthall Junction**

**May 7/13 - Rocky Face Ridge/Mill Creek/Dug Gap**

**May 8/21 - Spotsylvania Court House/Corbin's**

**Bridge**

**May 9 - Cloyd's Mountain**

**May 9 - Swift Creek/Arrowfield Church**

**May 10 - Chester Station**

**May 10 - Cove Mountain**

**May 11 - Yellow Tavern**

**May 12/16 - Proctor's Creek/Drewry's Bluff/Fort Darling**

**May 13/15 - Resaca**

**May 15 - New Market**

**May 16 - Mansura/Smith's Place/Marksville**

**May 17 - Adairsville**

**May 18 - Yellow Bayou/Norwood's Plantation**

### **May 20 Ware Bottom Church**

Confederate forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard attacked Butler's Bermuda Hundred line near Ware Bottom Church. About 10,000 troops were involved in this action.

After driving back Butler's advanced pickets, the Confederates constructed the Howlett Line, effectively bottling up the Federals at Bermuda Hundred. Confederate victories at Proctor's Creek and Ware Bottom Church enabled Beauregard to detach strong reinforcements for Lee's army in time for the fighting at Cold Harbor.

**May 23/26 - North Anna/Jericho Mill/Hanover Junction**

**May 24 - Wilson's Wharf/Fort Pocahontas**

**May 25/26 - New Hope Church**

**May 26/June 1 - Dallas/Pumpkinvine Creek**

**May 27 - Pickett's Mills/New Hope**

**May 28 - Haw's Shop/Enon Church**

**May 28/30 - Totopotomoy Creek/Shady Grove Road**

**May 30 - Old Church/Matadequin Creek**

**May 31/June 12 - Second Cold Harbor**

**May 1865**

**May 12/13 - Palmito Ranch/Palmito Hill Texas**

Union Col. Theodore H. Barrett dispatched an expedition to attack reported Rebel outposts and camps.

*americancivilwar.com*



116th Pennsylvania Infantry Monument at Gettysburg  
(Photo-Pennsylvania at Gettysburg 1904)

## One Hundred and Sixteenth Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment

Philadelphia in the Civil War 1861 - 1865  
Published 1913

Colonel DENNIS HEENAN to December 13th, 1862.  
Colonel ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND to June 6th, 1865.  
Total Enrollment, 1,660 Officers and Men.

THIS regiment was recruited in the summer of 1862, during which time it was in camp at Jones' Woods on the Lancaster Pike. The command was mustered in on September 1st, leaving the following day for Washington, where arms, the old style musket, and camp equipage were furnished. On the 6th the regiment moved to Rockville, Md. A month later, at Harper's Ferry, the "116th" was attached to Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish Brigade, Hancock's First Division, Second Corps.[1]

On the way to Fredericksburg in early November the Second Corps skirmished at Snicker's Gap and Charlestown, Va. Reporting to Major-Gen. Burnside, in front of Fredericksburg, the "116th" crossed the river to the attack on the 12th, and on the following morning participated in the historic assault upon Marye's Heights, in which the sacrifice of the regiment included Lieut. Christian Foltz, killed; Lieut. Robert B. Montgomery, fatally wounded; Major George H. Bardwell, Capt. S. G. Willauer, Lieut. Robert T. Maguire, Lieut. Garrett Nowlen and Capt. John O'Neill, wounded. The losses of the rank and file were twenty- three killed and fifty-three wounded.

At the battle of Chancellorsville a detail of one hundred men of the "116th" saved five guns of the 5th Maine Battery from between the lines, a gallant act which added much to the fame of the command.

On June 14th, 1863, the Second Corps began its two-hundred-mile march, ending at Gettysburg. The marching record of June 20th to Uniontown, Pa., was thirty-three miles. The "116th" reached Gettysburg late on the evening of July 1st, now rated as a battalion, taking position on Cemetery Ridge. Following the attack upon Sickles' front on the 2d, the "116th," which had been marched with the brigade to the ground in front of Little Round Top. advancing, met the enemy at close quarters and effected the capture of a large number of prisoners. That evening the battalion returned to its first position, which it occupied during the final Confederate charge on the 3d. The battalion

lost a total of thirty-seven killed, wounded and missing out of one hundred and sixty-five officers and men present.[2] On August 13th, 1863, the orders came that regimental status of the "116th" was to be restored. Major Mulholland and other officers were ordered to Philadelphia to secure recruits. During the period of Major Mulholland's absence the command devolved upon Senior Capt. Seneca Grubb Willauer.[3]

Incident to the gradual southward movement subsequent to Gettysburg the Second Corps, and especially the Irish Brigade, marched and fought through the autumn and early winter, its greatest achievement being participation in a rear-guard march of seventy-six miles in fifty-six hours, in the course of which it fought two battles in one day, respectively at Auburn and Bristoe Station, guarding the reserve artillery, the army baggage and capturing two colors, five guns and four hundred and fifty prisoners. After the trying Mine Run campaign, the battalion went into winter quarters. In February Capt. Garrett Nowlen became temporary commander. The regimental formation was restored on May 3d, 1864, when Major Mulholland, having secured his recruits, resumed command with the rank of colonel, ready to follow General Grant, the new head of the Army. Then followed the historic series of battles, beginning with the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and lesser combats, and then across the James River to the investment of Petersburg, leaving all along the trail the graves of comrades fallen in the awful carnage. Lieut.-Col. Richard C. Dale and Lieut. Henry Kiel were killed at Spotsylvania. The officers wounded included Col. Mulholland, Capts. Frank Leib, F. E. Crawford, Charles Coslett, and Lieuts. Louis Sacriste, Robert J. Alston, S. G. Vanderheyden, John C. Wright, Zadoc B. Springer and Joseph W. Yocum. Of the enlisted men fifty were killed, one hundred and twenty were wounded and thirty were missing.

In its first assault at Petersburg the "116th" carried the Confederate works at a loss of many killed, wounded and missing. At this time the regiment was detached from the Irish Brigade and became a part of the Fourth Brigade, then commanded by Gen. John R. Brooke.[4] The hardships and monotony of life in the trenches gave a welcome zest to the frequent battles on either side of the James River. In the course of the ten months occupied in the reduction of the Confederate citadel the regiment lost, among its numerous members slain, Capts. Garrett Nowlen, Samuel Taggart and Henry D. Price. The "116th" made its last fights in the four battles of the first week in April, 1865, and was not only witness of the scene at Appomattox, but first to receive the news of the surrender. After the Grand Review the remnant of the regiment arrived home and was mustered out on June 6th, 1865. Brevet Major-Gen. St. Clair A. Mulholland, riding at the head of his veterans, was the only original officer to be present in the line.

### Total Losses[5]

Killed or died from wounds	officers 10; men 141
Died from disease	officers 2; men 86
Wounded	officers 31; men 307
Captured or missing	officers 7; men 106[6]

### Battles

Charlestown, Snicker's Gap, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Falling Waters, Auburn, Bristoe Station, Mine Run, Morton's Ford, Wilderness, Todd's Tavern, Po River, Spotsylvania, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Pamunky River, Totopotomoy, Cold Harbor; assaults

continued on page 7

on Petersburg, Williams' Farm; Siege of Petersburg, Deep Bottom, Strawberry Plains, Reams' Station, Hatcher's Run, Dabney's Mills, Gravelly Run, Sunderland Station, Amelia Court House, Sailors' Creek, Farmville, Appomattox.

[1]The First Division of the Second Corps lost, in the course of the war, 2,287 killed, 11,724 wounded and 4,833 captured or missing—a total of 18,844, not including fatalities from sickness.

[2]Address of brevet Major-Gen. St. Clair A. Mulholland, Gettysburg, September 11th, 1889.

[3]Acting Major Seneca Grubb Willauer commanded the 6th Battalion from August 13th, 1863, to February 5th, 1864, when he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, U. S. A.

[4]Major-Gen. John R. Brooke, retired from the regular service in 1903, survives at the time this book is in course of publication, an honored member of the military order of the Loyal Legion.

[5]The figures relating to officers are taken from the Regimental History, brevet Maj.-Gen. St. Clair A. Mulholland. The record of losses in enlisted men are from the official records of the Adjutant General of the Army.

[6]Of those captured forty-five died in the Southern prisons.

## **St. Clair Mulholland's Gettysburg Report**

*IN CAMP, SANDY HOOK, MD.,  
July 17, 1863.*

*Capt. THEO. W. GREIG,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*SIR: In accordance with section 742, paragraph 36, page 107, Revised Army Regulations, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my command in the action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2 and 3:*

*After a long and fatiguing march, we arrived on the evening of the 1st instant within about 3 miles of Gettysburg, and by order of General Caldwell, our division commander, encamped for the night in a neighboring field. Shortly after daybreak on the morning of the 2d, in compliance with orders received, the brigade of which my regiment has the honor of being a part moved up to a field within sight of the enemy's pickets. Our division was ployed in mass in column of regiments, my regiment being placed in the front line. Here we stacked arms, and ordered the men to rest. We remained in this position during the forenoon of the 2d instant. Heavy firing was heard at intervals on our right during the day, although everything remained quiet in the vicinity of my command until about 3 p.m.*

*About this time firing commenced on our left, I think about three-fourths of a mile distant. The firing had continued about an hour when orders came for us to fall in. We at once took arms, and were marched by the left flank toward the scene of action. After marching nearly 1 mile, and the division being in line of battle, we advanced to support (I think) a portion of the Third Army Corps, which was then engaged. The brigade to which we are attached advanced in line of battle, left in front, gallantly led by Col. P. Kelly, of the Eighty-eighth New York Volunteers. As we advanced, portions of the Third Corps retired, passing through the intervals of our line. Having entered a dense woods, we began to ascend a hill, where large boulders of rocks impeded our progress, notwithstanding which we advanced in good order. We soon came within sight of the enemy, who occupied the crest of the hill, and who immediately opened fire at our approach. Our brigade returned the fire with good effect. After firing for about ten minutes, the order was given to advance, which the brigade did in excellent style, driving the enemy from their position, which we at once occupied. We took many prisoners at this point, hundreds of the enemy laying down their arms and passing to the rear. We found the position which our foes had occupied but a few moments before thickly strewn with the dead and wounded. Here we again opened fire, the enemy hav-*

*ing rallied to oppose our farther advance. After being engaged for about twenty minutes and the enemy having been re-enforced, the division began to retire in good order. At this time the division was completely outflanked by the enemy, who had formed a line facing the right flank of our brigade. This line was formed along the edge of a wheat-field, about a quarter of a mile in rear of our brigade. This field we had to cross to get to the rear. In doing so, we encountered the full sweep of the enemy's fire, which at this point was most destructive. Many of the division fell before this terrible fire.*

*After passing to the rear, I found Colonel Brooke, Fourth Brigade, forming the division in a field adjoining the Second Division hospital; he told me he had orders from General Caldwell to that effect. I then halted what remained of my command, and rendered all the assistance I could in gathering together members of the Second Brigade.*

*Shortly after dark we were again marched to the front, and placed in the same position that we had occupied in the morning. Here we lay on our arms all night, and were awakened at daybreak by the sound of the enemy's cannon. Major-General Hancock passed along early in the day, and moved our line a little forward, in order that we might have a better range and our fire be more effective, should the enemy attack us. We immediately commenced to intrench our new position, and by 11 a.m. had quite a formidable breastwork thrown up. All this forenoon we could see the enemy preparing to attack us. Several batteries were placed in position opposite our line, and everything indicated that an attack was intended.*

*About noon the attack commenced by a most terrific shelling of our lines by the enemy, but, thanks to our earthworks and the inaccurate aim of the gunners, none of my command were injured. After shelling our position for about two hours, the fire of the artillery somewhat slackened, and a heavy force of rebel infantry was seen advancing upon our works. At this moment our artillery, which up to this time had remained almost silent, opened with terrible effect upon the advancing lines, tearing great gaps in their ranks and strewing the field with dead and wounded. Notwithstanding the destructive fire under which they were placed, the enemy continued to advance with a degree of ardor, coolness, and bravery worthy of a better cause, until, reaching a ravine which ran parallel with our line, about midway between us and their artillery, they halted, being under cover and no longer exposed to our fire. They halted but to surrender. Finding, I presume, that their ranks were too much thinned to think of charging our works, knowing the heavy loss they would sustain in attempting to reach their own lines again, and thinking discretion the better part of valor, they laid down their arms and surrendered almost to a man. Perceiving the failure of their infantry to carry our position, the enemy again opened their batteries, but, after another hour's fire, withdrew, leaving us victors of the field.*

*During the day's fighting the heat was very great, and the men, being exposed and having neither shelter nor water, suffered intensely. Soon after sunset the same evening the rain commenced to descend in torrents, wetting every one, filling the rifle-pits, and making us most uncomfortable. But my command was ever hopeful, and bore the fatigue and suffering incidental to a great battle with the cheerfulness that ever characterizes the true soldier.*

*The sun rose on the morning of the 4th instant and found us victors of every part of the field. We remained in*

*continued on page 8*

the same position until the afternoon of this day, when my command, with the division, formed line, and marched to the village of Two Taverns, where we encamped for the night.

In closing my report, I cannot refrain from mentioning the cool and gallant bearing of my command. Of the officers it is almost useless for me to speak. Every one did his duty in a manner that excited my warmest admiration and gratitude. Were I to mention any one in particular it would be but showing injustice to the rest, as each one tried to excel the other in deeds of gallantry and daring. Of the enlisted men, I feel happy in mentioning the names of Color Sergt. Abraham T. Detweiler, Sergt. Thomas Detweiler, Company A, and Private Jefferson Carl, Company C, as having especially distinguished themselves in the action of the 2d instant.

Our casualties during the three days' continuance of the fight were 2 men killed, 12 wounded, and 1 officer (Capt. John Teed) and 7 enlisted men missing.

Respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant,

ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND,

Major, Comdg. 116th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Old Baldy  
Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia  
1805 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
215.735.8196  
Founded January 1977

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## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for Spring/Summer 2005

May 12, 2005 - Thursday

### **Steven Wright**

Irish Brigade author, Past President of the Old Baldy CWRT.

Topic: *Brevet General St. Clair Mulholland, 116th Pennsylvania Infantry*

June 9, 2005 - Thursday

### **J. Kevin Hensel**

Member of the Old Baldy CWRT, Extensive research on General George Gordon Meade.

Topic: *George Gordon Meade and the Bristoe Campaign*

July 14, 2005 - Thursday

### **Roger Arthur**

Author, Historian,

Topic: *Ambrose Burnside: Misunderstood or Incompetent.*

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM at the

Civil War Library and Underground Railroad Museum, 1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Questions to Mike Cavanaugh at 215.725.3602 or chief96pbi@juno.com

Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner between 5:30 & 6 P.M.

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