

Old Baldy

Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



November 11, 2010, The One Hundred and Forty-Ninth Year of the Civil War

Civil War Spies and Guerillas

Civil War Spies & Guerillas

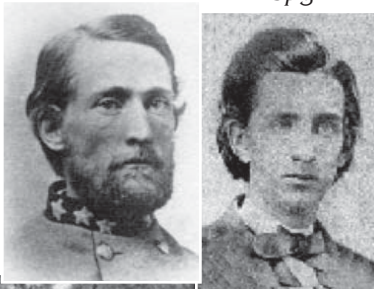
by Dr. Sydney Copel

Dr. Sidney Copel is a clinical psychologist who is now retired. He received his undergraduate and graduate training at Temple University. He was for many years the Administrator of the Psychological Clinic at the Devereux Foundation where he ran one of the biggest programs of its kind in the country. After leaving Devereux he went into private practice until his retirement in 1995.

Over the years Dr. Copel has published books in his field, lectured on mental health topics, and served as a consultant to schools, clinics, and police departments. He was for a time also a consultant in selection of player personnel for the Philadelphia Eagles, Denver Broncos, and Los Angeles Rams. He has been interested in the Civil War and reading about it since childhood.

John Mosby
- Guerilla

Sam Davis
- Spy



Join us at our next Old Baldy Civil War Round Table meeting as **Dr. Sidney Copel** discusses with us an interesting insite into the spies of the Revolution. That's **Thursday, November 11th** starting at **7:30PM** in the 2nd Floor Library of the **Union League** at Broad & Sansom Streets. As always, you are welcome to join us at 6:00 at Applebee's for a bite to eat before the meeting. It's just a block south of the Union League on 15th Street.



Alan Pinkerton - Secret Service

Steve Wright,
Program Chairman

Notes from the President...

November is upon us and the Sesquicentennial begins. Hope you all voted last Tuesday to protect the Union and not divide it, for many have perished to preserve that right for you. We will remember them on the day of our meeting (11-11). Come to the meeting with your reasons for being thankful this year. We thank you for being a part of our group. We have a great Round Table that provides a fine service to the Civil War community, be sure to come out and support it.

John Nagy gave us an informative presentation last month on Spycraft in the American Revolution. Those present enjoyed it. This month **Dr. Sidney Copel** will dazzle us with his charm, sharp wit and humor. Dr. Sid is always entertaining with his unique gift for storytelling. Bring a friend on the 11th.

A hello out to **Herb Kaufman** who returned from his trip but is teaching a class on Thursdays in November, we will miss him again. It was good to see Carol Ingald at Applebee's for dinner in October. Thanks to **Don** and **Hal Jespersen** for the great work they have done on the website. Check it out periodically to see what is new. Send Don your profile so it can be posted and we can all learn about what brought you to the study of the Civil War and how you pay for your adventures. If you want to write a review of a recent book you may have read, get it to Don.

With the 150th celebration getting into full swing there will be many events and happenings. Be sure to get out part take in them, learn and promote the Old Baldy Round Table. Afterwards be sure to share what you learned with us. There are still seats available for the National Archives Symposium, "The Civil War: Fresh Perspectives," on the 20th. Don't forget to visit Old Baldy at the GAR museum in the Ruan House on Griscom Street.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving with your families. Let's honor our veterans and pack it out for Dr. Sid on the 11th.

Join us for dinner at Applebee's if you can.

Rich Jankowski, President

The Old Baldy CWRT will meet at the Union League of Philadelphia at 7:30 PM, the second Thursday of the month. Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 PM, Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust. You're Welcome to Join Us!

Notice: Attire for Men at the Union League Jacket and tie would be preferred; otherwise collared shirts, long pants and jacket are recommended. For men and women, the following attire is never acceptable on the first or second floors of the League: jeans, denim wear, tee shirts, athletic wear, tank, halter, or jogging tops, shorts, baseball caps, sneakers, extremely casual or beach footwear. Current or historical military uniforms are appropriate.

Parking... A \$2 coupon (off of parking) is available at the Union League front desk (through the side door on Sansom Street)

Member Profile:

Each month we will try to provide a profile of each of the fine members of the Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable. Their Contributions, accomplishments and interests.

Steven James Wright

A native of Silver Bay, Minnesota, Steven James Wright developed a fascination with history by listening to his grandfather's stories of World War I and by exploring his father's vast library of Civil War books as a child. This interest led to his majoring in history in college at St. John's



University (B.A., Collegeville, MN - 1978) and the University of Minnesota-Duluth (M.A., Duluth, MN - 1981. He also received a M.L.I.S., Drexel University - 2003.) He worked for more than twenty-five years in the history field at such places as Gettysburg National Military Park as a seasonal Park Ranger, a full-time Park Ranger at Independence National Historical Park, and the Curator of Collections at the late Civil War Library and Museum in Philadelphia. In addition, he

has written two books and contributed to four others, and has had more than 300 articles and book reviews printed in such publications as The Surratt Courier, Blue and Gray, Civil War News, Gettysburg Magazine, Civil War Times, America's Civil War, to name but a few. A member of a number of historical and preservation associations, he has served more than five terms as President of Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia.

In addition to his interest in the Civil War, Wright's interests also include the American West and the Second World War, subjects which he continues to research and write about extensively. These interests have led him to travel widely, to remote areas of the American west and the South Pacific, such as the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi, which he has visited twice.

A former Librarian with the Free Library of Philadelphia, today Wright is the Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME Local 2187, District Council 47, which represents approximately 2,400 professional and technical employees who work for the City of Philadelphia. He lives in Philadelphia with his

wife, Irene, a Children's Librarian with the City of Philadelphia and two jealous cats. During his free time he enjoys competitive "cowboy" shooting with the Single-Action Shooting Society. His current research projects include the exploits of Henry "Billy the Kid" Antrim and the real story behind the escape at Stalag Luft III near Sagan, Germany (the "Great Escape").

Membership Report

We welcome new member **Samuel Lieberstein** of Cherry Hill, NJ to the ranks. Remember you can help the round table bring in new members by telling your friends about the great programs we present each month. I have extra copies of back newsletters. Drop me a line and I'll send you several, or send me a name and address of someone you think might be interested and I'll send them a copy. I always have extra copies at the meeting.

We encourage all our members to receive their newsletters by email. This saves us money that can be used to obtain quality speakers and make generous donations to battlefield and historic preservation. Remember donations to the round table are always welcome and will be put to good use.

We also have several members that we have no email address listed. Even if you want to receive your newsletter by USPS, having your email address in our system is good for notifications of last minute meeting changes and situations that need to be acted on right away. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email or to add your email address to our list, contact **Mike Cavanaugh** at chief96pbi@rcn.com or call **484.225.3150**.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

GOOD NEWS - World War II veteran and fellow member of the Old Baldy CWRT Craig Schoeller is doing fine after his heart operation. He is walking every day and is ready to begin post-op therapy. He has hopes to be able join us for the December meeting. All are looking forward to seeing you again Craig!

Espionage in the Civil War

Source: "Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War" Edited by Patricia L. Faust, Article by Edward G. Longacre. www.civilwarhome.com/espionage.htm

By the outbreak of the war, neither the Union nor the Confederacy had established a full-scale espionage system or a military intelligence network. The South, however, was already operating an embryonic spy ring out of Washington, D.C., set up late in 1860 or early in 1861 by Thomas Jordan. A former U.S. Army officer, now a Confederate colonel, Jordan foresaw the benefits of placing intelligence agents in the North's military and political nerve center.

By summer 1861, Jordan had turned the ring over to his most trusted operative, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a local widow of Southern birth. Mrs. Greenhow's high station in Washington society enabled her to secure intelligence of great value to the Confederacy. Much of it reportedly came

October 14th meeting

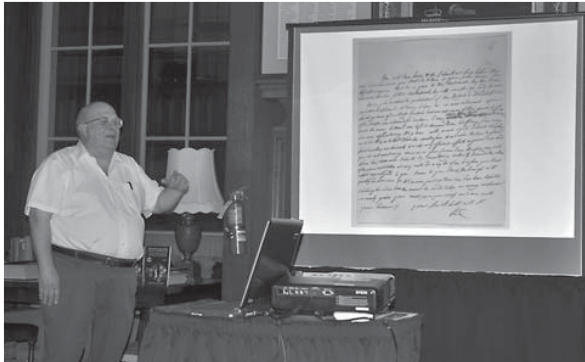
“Invisible ink:

Spycraft of the American Revolution”

John Nagy’s presentation on gathering and transmitting military information during the Revolutionary War was very intriguing. The sophistication of codes designed for use to conceal information in letters is still being used today. They used alphabet matrices, cut out masks placed over written groups of words and words themselves that have different meanings. John showed us how sophisticated intelligence information was transmitted in colonial times. John is greatly welcome to come back even though his presentations are of another time period.



John Nagy



**On the Road with Rich...
“America’s Attic”**

*Article, Photos
by Rich Jankowski*

At the end of August I took the family down to Washington to visit the Archives for the exhibit called “Discovering the Civil War.” It has been open since April and heads out of town on September 6th. It was Part One: Beginnings—Records of the circumstances and necessities of going to war. The National Archives prepared a major traveling exhibit featuring original records, facsimiles, and interactive screens that allow visitors to encounter unexpected people, places, and events from the tumultuous period in our nation’s history. Its different displays covered: “Breaking Apart,” “Raising Armies,” “Finding Leaders,” “We Were There,” “A Local Fight,” and “A Global War.” Although there were no actual documents on display, no photography was allowed.

I did not find the exhibit as informative as the Lincoln Exhibit the Library of Congress had for his Bicentennial. This could be because I am more read and knowledgeable on the War and its causes than the average citizen. My daughter commented that it was an attempt by the Archives



to let people know all the resources that are available, to encourage them to research and learn more about the war and the folks who were involved with it. The local seamstresses in Philadelphia were mentioned as was Matthew Brady’s photos, military orders, letters home and connections among the combatants. Remote events like Pilot Knob and the Confederate attack from Canada were presented. The exhibit hits the road for two years. Part Two:

“Consequences” opens November 10th.

After completing the exhibit, we went through the Public Vaults. If you have not visited this area you need to see it. It contains samples of the 8 billion pages of text, millions of photos, hundreds of thousands of reels of film that have been collected in the last 235 years. Everything from battlefield accounts and Congressional Hearings to satellite images and newspaper clippings are displayed. You can always discover something new. The Archives likes to call themselves “America’s Attic.”

An added bonus to our trip was the peaceful demonstration that was passing the front of the Archives as we waited for

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entrance. The "Reclaim the Dream" March commemorating the 47th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech was an impressive site for all to see. Witnessing living history is always a bonus.

After the Archives we walked up to the Smithsonian American Art Museum to see the "Telling Stories" exhibit on Norman Rockwell. It will run until January 2nd. It is from the collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. The refurbished courtyard was impressive. On the way to SAAM, we walked past a statue of Winfield Scott Hancock that is next to the Navy



Memorial. There are many great things to see in the Capital, much more lively than in Lincoln's day.



Today in Civil War History

Monday November 11, 1861 Brave Balloonist Breaks Barrier

In a manner of speaking the United States Air Force should be counted as having been created today, albeit in a joint military-private venture. Professor Thaddeus Lowe was possibly the best-known aerialist in America in these days, and tireless in his efforts to prove to Union officials that his aircraft could serve valuable military functions. Today, near Fort Monroe, the newly invented "balloon-boat" G. W. Parke Custis set to sea, towed by the Navy steamer Coeur de Lion. As Lowe wrote, he had "...on board competent assistant aeronauts, together with my new gas generating apparatus which, although used for the first time, worked admirably. Proceeded to make observations accompanied in my ascensions by Gen. Sickles and others. We had a fine view of the enemy's camp-fires... and saw the rebels constructing new batteries at Freestone Point."

Tuesday November 11, 1862 Confederate Coinage Carefully Confiscated

Corporal Barber of the 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry was a great letter-writer, and many of his wartime missives have been preserved. Today he wrote describing his unit's activities around Oxford, Mississippi: "We now kept shifting position and performing those uncertain movements so perplexing to a soldier... Restricted on our rations, all communications cut off...and surrounded by a relentless horde of rebel cavalry, our situation was anything but pleasant. The boys commenced an indiscriminate foraging with an avidity which knew no limits. In many places gold was found which the rebels had buried before leaving for the war to prevent its falling into the hands of the Yankees, but a little coaxing would induce the head darkey on the plantation to divulge its hiding place."

Wednesday November 11, 1863 Benjamin "Beast" Butler Bounces Back

Gen. Benjamin Butler, USA, was one of the more colorful, not to say controversial, figures of the War. Not much of a combat commander, he had been shifted into administration, particularly of occupied cities. During his tenure in command of New Orleans, he had infuriated so many that his picture was pasted in the bottom of chamber

pots. Finally he was replaced, not for irritating his subjects but for failing to sufficiently support the campaign up the Mississippi River. Today he got his new assignment, replacing Gen. John G. Foster in the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. He got off to a reasonably typical start, issuing an order forbidding the populace to harass citizens loyal to the Union with "opprobrious and threatening language." Women, for once, were not singled out.

Friday November 11, 1864 Salvador Sailors Squash Southern Spies

Panama, at this point a province of Columbia, was a common transshipment point for cargoes going from Atlantic to Pacific. One such vessel, the merchant steamer Salvador, departed for California with such a cargo today. As soon as she was clear of Columbian territorial waters, the USS Lancaster swooped in and boarded her. This was, interestingly, at the request of the Salvador's captain. He had warned the Navy before leaving that he had information that some of his passengers were not what they claimed, but he had no proof. Captain Henry K. Davenport had no such concerns: he boarded the ship and searched the passenger's baggage. In it he found a large stash of guns, ammunition, and a paper authorizing the bearer to seize a ship and convert it into a commerce raider. The passengers, led by Acting Ship's Master Thomas E. Hogg, Confederate States Navy, were taken off and arrested.

www.civilwarinteractive.com

Supporting the Troops: Soldiers' Right to Vote in Civil War Pennsylvania

By Jonathan W. White
Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine

Continued from the October Issue
of the Newsletter

Many soldiers also resented the judicial position Woodward had taken the year before. When news reached one Pennsylvania infantryman, Cyrus W Beamenderfer, that Curtin had won reelection, he wrote home, "Am glad to hear that Andy Curtin is in for governor of Pennsylvania again. Woodward and [Democratic Judge Walter Hoge] Lowrie made out that the soldiers had no right to vote for governor. [I]f they aint got no right to vote they aint got no right to fight."

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Beamenderfer wondered if Woodward might like to try joining the army. "Let Woodward come out and fight himself and see how he likes it," he wrote. "I will Bet he will Pull Back and say let them fight it out."

By 1863, many northerners had come to believe that it was unpatriotic to oppose allowing soldiers to vote. Support for soldier suffrage became a popular political cause, and Republicans seized the issue in 1863 and 1864.

The first step politicians needed to take was to amend the state constitution specifically to allow Pennsylvania soldiers to vote outside of their election districts. This was a lengthy process by which the state legislature had to pass an amendment in two successive sessions, which it did in 1863 and 1864, before the amendment could be submitted to the people for ratification. When the day for the referendum came in August 1864, the citizens of Pennsylvania overwhelmingly approved the amendment by a vote of 199,855 to 105,352.

Following ratification of the amendment, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania debated and passed a law to regulate setting up polls in the field. Alexander K. McClure (1828-1909), a prominent Republican legislator, lawyer, author, and newspaper editor and publisher, later recalled that the state legislature "had a most bitter struggle" in passing the law. "Partisan bitterness was then at what might be called high-water mark, and even legislators who, under ordinary conditions, would have been conservative and just in framing an election law, were driven by the intensity of partisan prejudice." Democrats opposed the law because they believed it would allow fraud to determine the outcome of elections. Once the ballot was taken to the field, they claimed, there would be no safeguards to prevent officers from ordering their subordinates to vote a certain way. Democrats also argued that soldiers in the field would be uninformed on the issues. One Democratic legislator opposed the bill because it did not guarantee free circulation of political documents among the troops. "No soldier-no man can vote intelligently unless he knows the principles and the issues at stake in the canvass." He further believed that Republicans cared only about "making a mere ballot machine of the soldier." Democratic legislator William A. Wallace (1827-1896), of Clearfield, Clearfield County, contended that Lincoln could use his power as commander-in-chief, if he has one half the brain attributed to him by his friends, [to] have himself elected from term to term during his natural life."

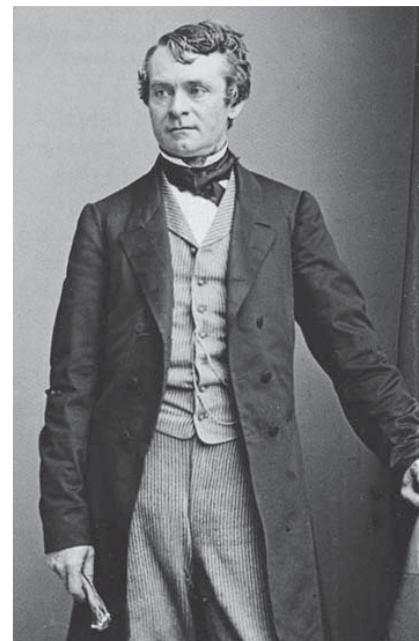
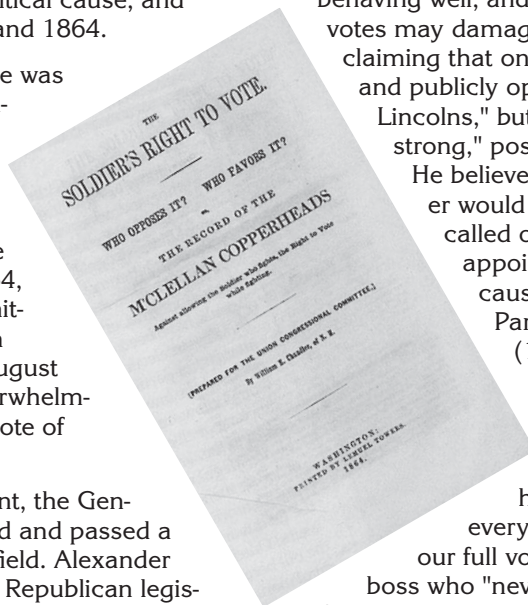
Regardless of any points made by the Democratic opposition, Republicans controlled the state legislature, and they were determined to adopt the measure. The law required soldiers to vote in company polls set up in the field, with most of the same procedures as if they were voting at home, and following an election the results would be sent back to the Commonwealth. The law also allowed the governor to appoint election commissioners to transport necessary materials to and from the soldiers, and to supervise the voting in the field. Curtin, a conservative Republican, feared that the law placed "the whole election into the hands of politicians, with little or nothing to restrain them in the perpetration of the most flagrant frauds." Believing

that if he only sent Republican commissioners he would "be connected with a fraudulent election," Curtin appointed both Democrats and Republicans to go to the field.

Governor Curtin's bipartisan choices unsettled many Republicans. One northern partisan informed U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward that "Gov. Curtin is not behaving well, and ... his action in the matter of soldiers votes may damage us." Another wrote to the governor claiming that one of his appointees "is not only openly and publicly opposed to both your administration and Lincolns," but that he also had taken an "open and strong," position against permitting soldiers to vote. He believed that keeping this election commissioner would "affect our vote very materially," and he called on Curtin to revoke the commission and appoint someone more loyal to the Republican cause. Even the chairman of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania, Simon Cameron (1799-1889), complained to President Lincoln about the commissioners Curtin had appointed. Cameron consequently "selected more than one hundred reliable men whose expenses we have paid out of our own fund, to visit every part of the Army in the field and secure our full vote." (A consummate political machine boss who "never forgot a friend or forgave an enemy," Cameron spent many years manipulating politics in Pennsylvania, mostly behind the scenes. Rampant corruption forced him to resign as Lincoln's secretary of war in early 1862, after which the president named him ambassador to Russia.) Democrats, on the other hand, were satisfied that Governor Curtin had decided to make bipartisan appointments. Although one Democrat still feared that fraud and coercion would plague the army vote, he was pleased that "Gov. Curtin has appointed very fair Commissioners for the army."

One of Governor Curtin's appointees, Jeremiah McKibben, a Democratic politician from Philadelphia, initially refused the appointment because he feared being arrested by Republican officers in the field. He was also concerned about Democratic prospects among the army, however. In a letter to General McClellan, McKibben complained that "things are not as they should be about the army vote," so he decided he better "go by "the front." McKibben proceeded to Washington and then to the field under the sanction of Pennsylvania's Republican governor.

Following the presidential election, complications arose about the ballots and

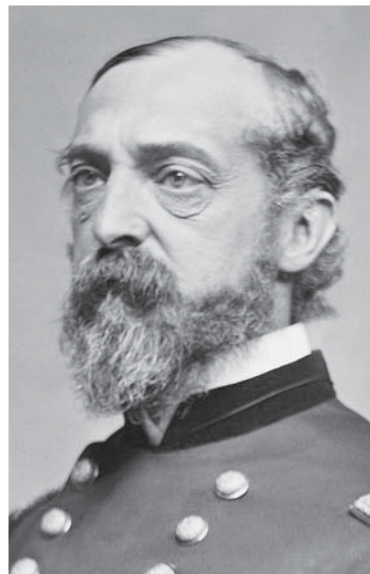


Governor Andrew Curtin

poll books McKibben had been distributing, and Colonel Theodore Lyman (1833-1897), a staff officer under General George Gordon Meade (1815-1872), described the affair. "A long-haired personage, fat and vulgar-looking, one of that class that invariably have objectionable finger-nails, came puffing over to General Meade's tent, with all the air of a boy who had discovered a mare's nest," recounted Lyman. The "Mr. Somebody from Philadelphia" informed General Meade that a Democratic election commissioner had been distributing Republican ballots with misspelled names of the Electoral College nominees. Meade countered that he saw no evidence. Give me proof," the general said, "and I'll arrest him." The frustrated Philadelphian angrily hurried off to find proof, "evidently thinking the Commanding General must be a Copperhead not to jump at the chance of arresting a Democrat." General Meade expressed mixed feelings over what to do, but eventually decided that he had to arrest McKibben. "I had no other course to pursue than to arrest the parties complained against, until an investigation could be had," he wrote home to his wife, Margaretta Sergeant Meade (1815-1886) in Philadelphia. "Today we have been examining the matter, and there appears to be no doubt that poll books were brought here and distributed, having names of Republican electors misspelled and some omitted. The Democrats declare it is only a typographical error ... whereas the Republicans charge that it is a grave and studied effort to cheat the soldiers of their vote."

Two other election commissioners from Pennsylvania were also arrested with McKibben, and all three were detained by the military. The War Department ordered them sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington to stand trial before a military tribunal. General Meade doubted that the War Department's order was the best solution to the problem. Because the commissioners were civilians, Meade thought that they should be tried in a civil court in their home state of Pennsylvania, pointing out that the Commonwealth's selection law gave "jurisdiction to the courts of the Commonwealth over all questions of fraud or illegality in relation to the voting of soldiers." Nevertheless, the War Department maintained its claim of jurisdiction.

Twenty-five individuals serving as guards escorted the three prisoners to Old Capitol Prison. McClure remembered hurrying to the White House to discuss the matter with the president. "I told him," McClure remembered, "that several Democrats had been persuaded reluctantly to accept these commissions with the full knowledge that they would perform no official duties beyond delivering election papers committed to their charge, and that they had been appointed by Governor Curtin solely to give some semblance of fairness to the elections in the field.," Lincoln called on the War Department for the records regarding the arrest and realized that the Democratic commissioners had delivered the same election materials, misspellings and all, as had the Republicans. According to McClure, Lincoln declared the arrests a "stupid blunder" and immediately ordered the prisoners' release. After returning home to Philadelphia, McKibben wrote to Eli Slifer (1818-1888), secretary of the Commonwealth in the Curtin administration, "heartily thanking you for your kindness in going to



George Gordon Meade

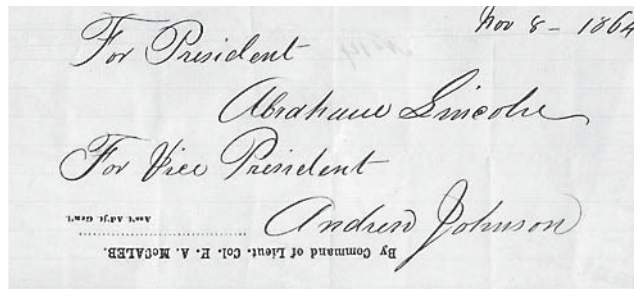
Washington on my behalf," as well as requesting the pay that was owed him. Despite the partisanship that led to the arrest or dismissal of the Democratic election commissioners, Republicans claimed to want fair elections. "I want to get all the votes I can of course," Lincoln told the Pennsylvania election commissioners, "but play fair, gentlemen, play fair. Leave the soldiers entirely free to vote as they think best." Lincoln probably believed that most soldiers would support his reelection, but his words may also

have been meant to placate the Democrats whom Curtin had appointed, many of whom most likely believed that the president would use his war powers to secure his own reelection. just two months before he was arrested, McKibben had written to General McClellan about the importance of the army vote and his fears that the Republicans might "perpetrate ... enormous frauds." Like many Democrats, McKibben believed that the Republicans had enfranchised soldiers simply to increase the number of ballots cast for Republican candidates.

Both Democrats and Republicans grew concerned that the other party would win the presidential election through illegality and fraud. Democrats believed that Republican officers would force their men to vote for Lincoln, while Republicans thought the Democrats would stuff the ballot boxes. Simon Cameron published a circular letter encouraging "all Union men, and all other persons who believe in fair dealing and honest voting" to protect the polls on election day, urging them "watch, guard, detect, and have arrested and brought to trial and punishment, all who may engage in any such villainous practice."

Meanwhile, as various elections approached, partisan passions ran high in the field. Soldiers felt strongly for their respective candidates and parties. "The soldiers here dont feel like letting the copperheads have it all their own way at the ballot box this Fall," wrote one soldier, W. R. Whitney, to Governor Curtin prior to the gubernatorial contest of 1863. Democratic soldiers, by contrast, responded harshly to critics of their candidates. "I Wil vote For George B McClering,," wrote Francis M. Elliott

to his sister, adding "thare is some Hear thinks that He is A trater if A man tells me that I Wil nock him don or kill my self bring to." And fights did break out. A member of the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers later recalled the heat of the 1864 presidential election: "Politics now began to attract the attention of the 51st more than did the enemy.," A



A hand written ballot

"rough and tumble" fistfight even broke out in the regiment between two lieutenants of differing political persuasions.

"As the combatants were not equal in size, the smaller one made up in 'spunk' and agility and it became a drawn battle" that "finally ended in the adjutant's office, by the upsetting of Com.-Sergt. Parker, who was sitting in there filling out a requisition for rations; the desk, table, trunks, valises, &c ., with the 'special orders' were scattered around quite freely."

Civil War politics was, to borrow the phrase of historian Joseph J. Ellis, a truly cacophonous affair. Neither Republicans nor Democrats believed that their political rivals constituted a legitimate opposition. In fact, Republicans often spoke of Democrats as traitors and an "enemy in the rear," while Democrats were known to deride Republican field commanders as "enemy officers.," Part of the stake in the soldier voting debate was to determine which party genuinely supported the troops in harm's way Republicans claimed to be the true allies of the soldiers in the field, in part, because of their support for soldier suffrage. One pamphlet, sarcastically entitled "Copperhead Love for the

Soldier," detailed how northern Democrats professed support for the troops but wanted to deprive them the right to vote.

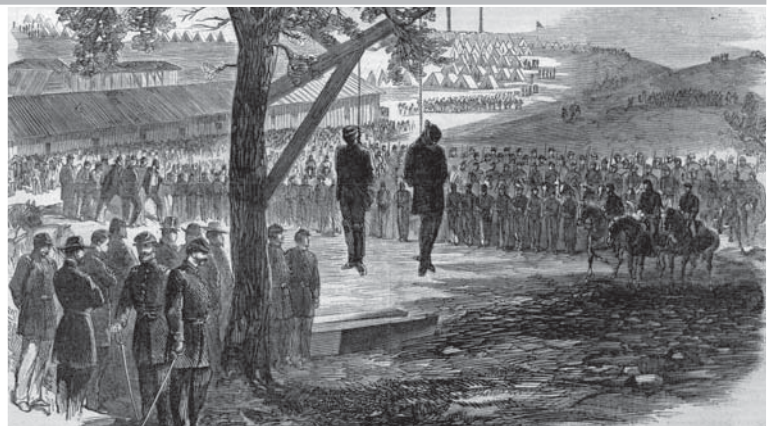
In the end, most soldiers were not convinced by what they believed were the Democrats' false avowals of support. Roughly 78 percent of the soldiers who voted in 1864 cast their ballots for Lincoln's reelection, and prior to the election they expressed bitter sentiments against the Democratic minority. One Pennsylvanian stationed in Tennessee believed the army would defeat "the Scoundrels that would Deprive them of the Right of Voting." Another stated he was "ready to fight the traitors on the Battlefield and at the B[allot] Box." By the traitors at the ballot box, he, of course, meant the Democrats. That so many soldiers cast their ballots for Lincoln suggests that most Union soldiers would not vote for a party that called their effort in the field a failure, no matter how much support for the troops that party professed.

from an infatuated Suitor, Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Through a ring of couriers that included a woman named Bettie Duval, Greenhow smuggled information about the southward-marching army under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell to Confederate troops in the vicinity of Virginia's Manassas Junction. There it was received by Colonel Jordan, now chief of staff to the local commander, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. The intelligence helped turn First Bull Run into a Confederate victory.

Two other intelligence networks in the Federal capital, both of later vintage, were supervised by cavalrymen turned spies, Capt. Thomas N. Conrad and Pvt. J. Franklin Stringfellow. These amazingly resourceful operatives were connected with the Confederacy's first organized secret-service bureau, formed in 1862 as a part of the CSA Signal Corps. The head of the bureau, Maj. William Norris, eventually coordinated the activities of dozens of espionage and counterespionage agents who operated along the "Secret Line," an underground link between Richmond and the Washington-Baltimore region. In time, Norris and his assistant, Capt. Charles Cawood, sought to extend this network of intelligence outlets well above the Mason-Dixon line—as far north as that great base of Confederate espionage operations, Canada. Arguably the most effective military intelligence establishment of the war, Norris's bureau directed all espionage activity along the Potomac River, supervised the passage of agents to and from enemy lines, and forwarded dispatches from the Confederate War and State departments to contacts abroad.

A second Confederate secret-service unit was organized early in 1864. A prototype commando outfit, it was attached to the Torpedo Bureau of Brig. Gen. Gabriel J. Rains, but was neither as large nor as well administered as Norris agency.

The Confederacy was also served by countless private operatives. Probably the most celebrated civilian spy was Belle Boyd, who risked her life to bring intelligence to Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson during his Shendoah Valley Campaign of 1862. Less heralded was James Harrison, an itinerant Richmond actor who late in 1863



Execution, By Hanging, of Two Rebel Spies, Williams and Peters, in The Army of the Cumberland, June 9, 1863.- [Sketched By Mr. James K. Magie]

rode to Gen. Robert E. Lee's Pennsylvania headquarters with word that the Army of the Potomac was about to enter the Keystone State in hot pursuit. The unexpected news permitted Lee to mass his scattered army prior to Gettysburg.

Confederate spies in uniform (known as "scouts" when wearing their own army's attire, and liable to summary execution if captured in enemy garb) included the cavalry raiders of the "Gray Ghost," John S. Mosby. Others served the equally daring Turner Ashby and the Marylander Harry Gilmor. Among other soldier-spies were the young Kentuckian Jerome Clarke and Sam Davis, the Tennessee farm boy who died a hero's death after refusing to reveal to his Union captors the identity of his raiding leader.

Despite the triumphs of individual spies, most large-scale Confederate espionage efforts failed. Carefully planned but ultimately unsuccessful projects included the Oct. 1864 raid on St. Albans, Vt.; the attempt the following month to burn large sections of New York City; and the Northwest Conspiracy.

The Union waited till the shooting started to take steps toward creating an espionage establishment. Its first secret-service bureau was set up in mid-1861 by Allan Pinkerton, founder of the famous Chicago detective agency. While serving Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan in the Department

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of the Ohio during the war's first summer, Pinkerton, acting alone, penetrated the Confederacy as far as Jackson, Miss., before returning north with information on Southern war preparations. Following McClellan to Washington, Pinkerton almost single handedly broke up Greenhow's spy ring. As military intelligence experts, however, Pinkerton and his band of agents were out of their depth. In 1862, as secret-service chief for McClellan's Army of the Potomac, Pinkerton sent his employer outlandish estimates of enemy strength and dispositions, hindering rather than facilitating McClellan's operations.

The war's first double agent, Timothy Webster, regularly penetrated Southern lines, gathering intelligence in such diverse locales as Baltimore, Louisville, and Memphis, and infiltrating the militant Baltimore society of Confederate sympathizers known as the Knights of Liberty. Webster's services ended in Apr. 1862, however, when a combination of events led to his arrest and execution in Richmond. One Union spy who made notable contributions throughout the war was Elizabeth Van Lew, a longtime resident of the Confederate capital. "Crazy Bett," as the eccentric Unionist was known to her neighbors, ran the largest and most successful spy ring concentrated in any city. Her team of operatives included a freed slave whom she placed as a servant in the Confederate White House to eavesdrop on Pres. Jefferson Davis and his visitors.

An equally infamous Union espionage leader was Brig. Gen. Lafayette C. Baker, chief of War Department detectives. As the bullyboy of Sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton, he shadowed, apprehended, interrogated, and imprisoned a multitude of Washingtonians, many on the merest suspicion of disloyalty. Though personally brave, Baker was a ruthless, unsavory character whose high-handed methods and unassailable power made him feared even by associates.

Union espionage work was advanced by dozens of lesser-known Northerners, in and out of uniform. Civilian spies and counterspies included, as in the South, numerous women—whose sex usually spared them the harsher consequences of their actions, if apprehended. One of the most resourceful was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who gained entrance to Confederate camps near Yorktown, Va., disguised as a black slave. Much less enterprising and successful was the actress Pauline Cushman, whose double-agent activities won her undeserved fame as the "Spy of the Cumberland." Male civilians who spied for the North included William A. Lloyd and his business associate, Thomas Boyd, who, as Southern transportation agents of long standing, were able to roam, more or less freely, to Richmond, Savannah, Chattanooga, and New Orleans—Lloyd all the while carrying his espionage contract, signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Union spies in uniform were more numerous. Probably the most noted was Maj. Henry Young of Rhode Island, whose 58-man band of scouts served Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan during the war's final year. In the Appomattox Campaign, the scouts tapped enemy telegraph wires and misdirected supply trains critically needed by Lee's army. Another effective operative in uniform was Col. George H. Sharpe, who in 1864–65 ran the highly efficient military information bureau attached to Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters. One of the most publicized espionage operations was conducted by civilian agent James J. Andrews in an ambitious but failed attempt to sabotage Confederate rail lines.

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1865 The Last Full Measure

The long awaited book, *New Jersey Goes to War: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans during the War* edited by Joe Bilby is now available for purchase at \$20. It can be acquired on line at <http://www.njcivilwar.com/Booksstore.htm>. The New Jersey Civil War 150th hat is available in adjustable version with velcro back strap for \$16.00 or a "Flex-Fit" elastic sweatband for \$20. Shipping is \$5 for priority mail with delivery confirmation. Shirts are also available for \$30.00.

Upcoming Events

November 20th 9-5:30 "The Civil War: Fresh Perspectives" at the National Archives. Information available at: <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/events/#civil-war> or call 877-444-6777.

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2010

November 11 - Thursday
"Civil War Spies & Guerillas."
By Dr. Sydney Copel

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM
in the 2nd Floor Library of the UNION LEAGUE,
Broad & Sansom Streets in Philadelphia.
Questions to Steve Wright at 267-258-5943 or
maqua824@aol.com

Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust
You're Welcome to Join Us!

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