

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

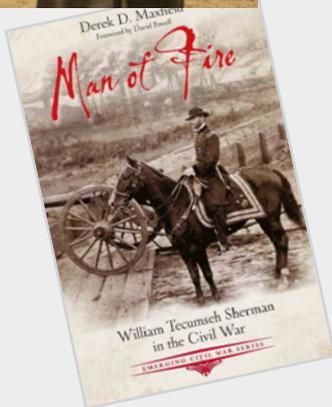
August 10, 2023

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

## “Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War”



Derek Maxfield



Man of Fire tells the story of a man who found himself in war—and that, in turn, secured him a place in history. Condemned for his barbarousness or hailed for his heroics, the life of this peculiar general is nonetheless compelling—and thoroughly American.

After leading his troops at the battle of Bull Run, the anxious brigadier general was sent West to Kentucky. Apprehensive over the situation in the Blue Grass State, suffering from stress, insomnia, and anxiety, Sherman begged to be relieved. Sent home to recover, the newspapers announced he was insane. Colleagues concluded he was “gone in the head.”

Instead, like a phoenix, he rose from the ashes to become a hero of the republic. Forging an identity in the fire of war, the unconventional general kindled a friendship with Ulysses S. Grant and proved to everyone at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Georgia, and in the Carolinas that while he was unorthodox, he was also brilliant and creative. More than that, he was eminently successful and played an important role in the Union’s victory.

Derek Maxfield is an associate professor of history at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York. He holds a BA in History from SUNY Cortland, an MA in History from Villanova University, and was a PhD candidate at the University of Buffalo, where he is ABD. In 2013, Maxfield was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities and, more recently, was awarded the 2019 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. When he is not engaged in academic pursuits, he is usually found working on genealogy with a cat in his lap.

**Meeting Notice**  
Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, August 10, at Camden County College William G. Rohrer Center 1889 Marlton Pike East Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
The program will also be simulcast on Zoom for the benefit of those members and friends who are unable to attend. Please email [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net) at least 24 hours prior to request Zoom access.

## Notes from the President

Welcome to August with the MLB season heating up, Flat Old Baldy on conference and ballpark tours and new members joining us on our journey of sharing Civil War history. Welcome to the new members **Thomas Radice** and **Mary Leith**. Our round table was well received and represented at the recent *Society of Women and the Civil War (SWCW)* conference in Carlisle. Our treasury is in good shape and the great presentations continue. Always invite those you know to check us out.

Last month **Randy Draiss** popped in on Zoom to share his information on Women at Gettysburg. All you



Rich Jankowski  
President, OBCWRT

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## OBCWRT Awards

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 presented to OBCWRT

American Battlefield Trust for 25 Year Service to the Trust presented to OBCWRT

Civil War Roundtable Congress Sustainability Challenge presented to OBCWRT

Kevin M. Hale Award for best Historical Newsletter in New Jersey (2017, 2022)

viewed it learned more about the contribution of women to this key event in the War. The slides Randy showed are available on our website. This month **Derick Maxfield** will visit from western New York to tell us about the "*Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman.*" As an Emerging Civil War contributor his perspective will be fresh and respectful. Encourage others to stop by the Rohrer Center or tune into Zoom for this event. Next month we will hear how the Crimean War influenced the Civil War.

This year OB CWRT served as the organizational partner for the SWCW conference. Six members attended and had a good time while strengthening our relationship. A full report will be in the September newsletter. In this edition are pictures of the members and the certificate of appreciation we received. Their next conference will be in July 2024 north of Atlanta. SWCW president **J. White** and **Scott Mingus** sent their wishes for continued success to our round table.

The *Williamsburg CW Trail sign campaign* is going very well. Plan now to attend the dedication on May 5, 2024. The Team is working on the details and will announce them soon. This was another great achievement for our round table. Be sure to get some *Bosco Friends Helping Friends* coupons to sell to family and neighbors for the October 18th event. It is our main fundraiser each year besides donations. Check with **Roger Schnaare** for your Old Baldy reusable blue bag. See the announcement in this newsletter about a video editor for our recordings. Paul will be making some of the process/procedure instructions available soon for review and action.

Meet us at the Kettle & Grill (Crispin Square Shopping Center) Marlton at 5:30 for a pre-meeting meal.

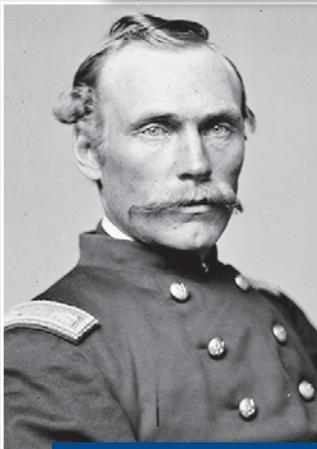
**Rich Jankowski, President**

## Colonel Addison W. Preston Uniform Dedication

By Frank Barletta,  
Treasurer, OBCWRT

Colonel Addison W. Preston Uniform Dedication at the Danville Historical Society Choate Sias House 121 Hill Street, Danville, VT

Saturday, August 5, 2023 At 2 Pm



Colonel, USA Addison W. Preston



Several months ago the Board voted to make an unusual donation to the Danville Historical Society of Danville, Vermont. You are probably wondering why our roundtable would made this contribution to a group in Vermont. This gift was made in the name of **Richard Willey Simpson**. Those of you who are unfamiliar with Richard should know he recently passed away, but more importantly, he was a leading figure in the Philadelphia Civil War community. Coincidentally, the real connection being his work as a living historian, with his portrayal of the Vermont Civil War Governor Frederick Holbrook. The Historical Society had a very specific goal. They were trying to raise enough funds to purchase the complete dress uniform collection and accoutrements of their local war hero Colonel Addison W. Preston. They just sent us a notice that they have been able to complete this acquisition and will be putting them on display for the first time at the Choate Sias House, a local historic building, on August 5th. From the accompanying pictures you can see that the uniform is very complete down to the sash, sword and shoes. We are very proud that we could help in this accomplishment, while meeting our goal for the furtherance of the education and preservation of the Civil War Era history. As always, this could only be accomplished through the great support of our loyal membership.

**Richard "Dick" Willey Simpson**, 88, of Lancaster, PA and Westmore, VT passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2022. Richard's summer family home (1959-2021) was "Brookadoon" on Willoughby Lake in Westmore, VT where all gathered. He was born on February 19, 1934 in Floral Park, NY to Carl Gilbert Simpson and Doris Griffith Simpson. Richard and his twin sister were born 2 lbs each, during a blizzard with no power. He went to Bay Shore High School in Long Island, New York (class of '52). He went on to receive his BA in



**Richard "Dick" Simpson**

Advertising (Graphic Design) from Pratt Institute (class of '58) and attended the University of Vermont, a member of Sigma Phi (V53). In 1962 Richard designed the UVM Ceremonial Mace as an Honorary Member of the class of 1927 for his parents. He was active in the Army Reserves with a Second Lieutenant commission serving from 1958-1965 in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Dick and his wife of 33 years, Deborah, had split their time between Lancaster, PA and Willoughby Lake in Westmore, VT where he was a sixth generation Vermonter and served as the town Historian giving lectures and history slide shows of the lake and town. He also reenacted as Frederick Holbrook, Governor of Vermont during Civil War time. His love of history led him to give lectures on the Civil War from Delaware to Maine to local societies, Civil War round tables, retirement communities and church groups. These lectures raised money for many different groups including the Save the Franklin Battlefield, a Charitable Organization in Tennessee. He was also an active member of dozens of Civil War organizations including the General Meade Society and Pamplin Historical Park.



**1st Vermont Cavalry Monument Gettysburg**

The **1st Vermont Cavalry Regiment** was a three years' cavalry regiment in the Union Army during the American Civil War. It served in the Eastern Theater from November 1861 to August 1865, in the Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac.

The regiment was mustered into Federal service on November 19, 1861, at Burlington, Vermont. Its first commander was Colonel Lemuel B. Platt, and the first lieutenant colonel was George Bradley Kellogg. Platt's appointment was an honor sometimes afforded to an individual who aided in raising and equipping a regiment; subsequent commanders included Jonas P. Holliday, Charles Henry Tompkins, Edward B. Sawyer, **Addison W. Preston**, William Wells, and Josiah Hall.



**Brigadier General Elon Farnsworth USA**

It was engaged in, or present at 76 engagements during the course of the war, from Mount Jackson on April 16, 1862, to Appomattox Court House, on April 9, 1865, including the 1862 and 1864 Shenandoah Valley campaigns, the Gettysburg Campaign, the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg, plus many skirmishes not connected to a particular campaign, such as the Skirmish at Miskel Farm.

The regiment most notably participated in Brigadier General Elon Farnsworth's unsuccessful attack on the Confederate right flank on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Major William Wells led a battalion in that attack, with Farnsworth by his side. Lieutenant Colonel Addison W. Preston commanded the regiment. The regiment's monument stands on the Slyder Field, near the site where Brigadier General Evander Law's brigade repelled the Union attack.



**Brigadier General Evander Law CSA**

The regiment lost during service: 112 killed and mortally wounded, 159 died in Confederate prisons, 7 died from accidents and 114 died by disease; total loss 392.

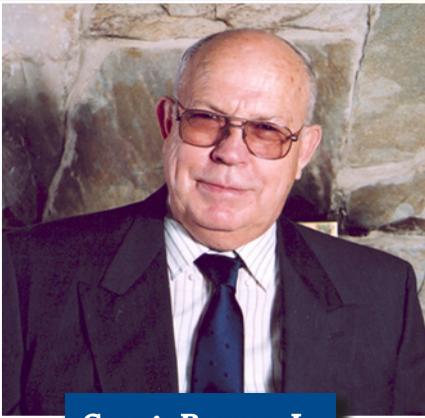
The regiment mustered out of service on August 9, 1865. The regiment's heritage continues to be celebrated to this day with a state legislative decree naming the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University, the Military College of Vermont, as members of the regiment. Members of the NUCC wear the crossed sabers on all of their uniforms and their insignia.

## **Member Profile - George Brewer, Jr.**

Dennisville, NJ has been home to retired sawmill owner George Brewer since he was nine years old. Founded in 1726, the area is known historically for shipbuilding and lumbering, and the Atlantic white cedar timber that is both standing and submerged in its swamplands. Early settlers used the swamp cedar for many purposes - shingles, flooring, furniture - and in George's hands almost 1,500 picnic tables.

George was born into a farming family in 1935 in Woodbury, NJ. Eighteen years later he graduated from Middle Township High School in Cape May County.

*by Kim Weaver  
Member, OBCWRT*



**George Brewer, Jr.**

His first job was as a carpenter. Between his junior and senior year in high school George and his father built a house. In 1958 George left carpentry and went to work in his dad's sawmill in Dennisville. They mined standing cedar from swampland they owned and milled it to fill custom orders. "The mill was no further advanced than one you could have found in the early 1900s." They became partners in both the mill and a small campground his father owned called Cedar Lake. George took over the businesses when his father retired in the 1960s.

George employed one person to help him fell the trees and haul the logs to his mill. The Brewer Sawmill supplied cedar planking for boat docks, duck and bird decoys, and for other purposes where it will be called on to resist rot and insects. Indeed, the mill provided the cedar to build some of the surf boats used by lifeguards on the East Coast for rescues. George built over 1,000 picnic tables for local campgrounds in the 1980s. "I appreciate a nice stand of cedar; it's a renewable source that has to be used."

In 1999 George shut down the sawmill and sold the campground. He recently developed a piece of wooded land he owns into a residential subdivision in Dennisville. He has been married to Joyce Brewer for 66 years and they have two children.

There is more to George's story than wetland muck and staggering screws in two-by-fours. His family is armed with knowledge of two of George's ancestors with ties to the Civil War era. The first is his great-grandmother's brother Josiah Franklin who served in the 12th NJ with training in Woodbury. The second is his great-grandfather William P. Schellenger of Clementon, NJ who, as a second class fireman aboard the USS Montauk on April 25, 1865, guarded the body of one John Wilkes Booth before and after his autopsy. Mr. Schellenger stood eight feet away from the carpenter's bench where Booth lay on the monitor. The ironclad was anchored in the Anacostia River off the Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

George, an Old Baldy member for 8 1/2 years, has visited Vicksburg National Military Park and the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia. He is a member of the General Meade Society and a 20-year member of The Civil War Roundtable of Cape May County, NJ.

**USS Montauk**



**The Booth Autopsy aboard the USS Montauk**

## Today in Civil War History

**1861 Saturday, August 10**

### **Trans Mississippi Theater**

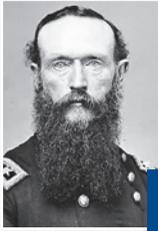
Lyon divides his command into two columns. One, under Sigel, is to flank the Confederate right and attack from the rear, while Lyon himself will lead a frontal attack with 4000 men. The Confederate force numbers between 15,000 and 20,000 men. In the battle, the largest of the year after Bull Run, things do not go well for the Union. Sigel is more of a political general than a fighting commander, and his force is repelled and driven from the field. Although Lyon's force beats off two over-whelming attacks from a position known as Bloody Ridge, the general himself is killed while at the head of the 1st Iowa Regiment. Command devolves upon Major Sturgis, who holds the position until it becomes clear that his alternatives are retreat or oblivion. Union losses are 223 killed, 721 wounded, and 291 missing, while Confederate losses are variously reported as between 265 and 421 killed, and between 800 and 1300 wounded. Although Wilson's Creek is a significant Confederate victory, McCulloch's army has received a severe mauling and is unable to pursue the retreating Union troops. The Union's loss is only heightened by the death of Brigadier-General Lyon, a fine leader who could well have risen to the very highest of Union commands had he survived.



**Brigadier General  
Nathaniel Lyon  
USA**



**Major General  
Franz Sigel  
USA**

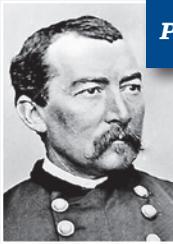


**Major General  
Frederick Steele  
USA**

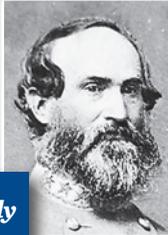
**1862 Sunday, August 10**

**Trans Mississippi Theater**

Four days of running fights commence in Missouri, with skirmishes taking place at Grand River, Lee's Ford, Chariton River, Walnut Creek, Compton Ferry, Switzler's Mills, and Yellow Creek. Far West In an action on the Neuces River, Texas loyalists are defeated by Confederate troops. Forty Union sympathizers are killed while eight Southern troops are killed and 14 wounded.



**Brigadier General  
Philip Henry Sheridan  
USA**



**Major General  
Jubal Anderson Early  
CSA**

**1863 Monday, August 10**

**Trans Mississippi Theater**

A Federal force commanded by General Frederick Steele departs Helena, Arkansas, to march on Little Rock.

**1864 Wednesday, August 10**

**Eastern Theater**

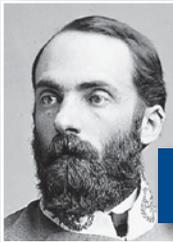
Sheridan marches his new command south from Harper's Ferry, while Early's Confederates move from Bunker Hill, West Virginia, to Winchester. The out numbered Early plans to follow Stonewall Jackson's example and maneuver rapidly to confuse the Federal commanders as to his real strength and intentions.

**Western Theater**

Joe Wheeler leads the Army of the Tennessee's cavalry in a raid on Sherman's lines of communication, heading into Northern Georgia. But Sherman has stockpiled supplies with his troops and Hood has left himself with few horsemen to reconnoiter around Atlanta itself.

**Naval Operations**

CSS Tallahassee's cruise begins well. The fast 500-ton raider takes seven prizes off Sandy Hook, New Jersey.



**Lieutenant General  
Joseph Wheeler  
CSA**

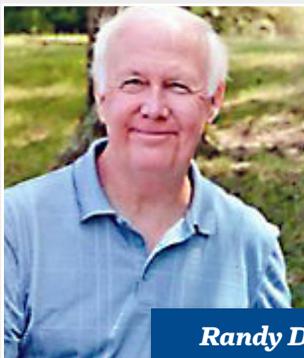
**CSS Tallahassee**



**Old Baldy's July Meeting Review  
"Women at Gettysburg"  
By Randy Drais**

**By Kathy Clark,  
Vice President,  
OBCWRT**

**There were many women who were part of Civil War campaigns, helped the men at camp or nursed the wounded and dying. There will never be a complete program of women at Gettysburg or any other battle site. Mr. Drais HONORS the women of Gettysburg and tells their STORY.**



**Randy Drais**

There is a beautiful monument to Elizabeth Thorn at the entrance to the Evergreen Cemetery. She looked tired and worn out and rightly so for between her father and herself hand dug 105 soldiers' bodies. She did all this work being seven months pregnant. Her baby was born soon after but was not a very heathy baby. The family survived the war taking care of the cemetery with their family and parents until they were no longer needed as caretakers. One note: at the base of the monument are mini balls for the work was tough and dangerous especially for civilians like Elizabeth and her father.

Marie Tepe also called "French Mary". She volunteered with the 114th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment as a Vivandiere. You would see Mary on the battlefield helping the wounded with a canteen of water or looking over the wounded. She got a bullet in her ankle which was not able to be removed. Mary spent the rest of her life with pain in her ankle that never went away.



On the battlefield you could always recognize her with the blue jacket and red pants. After the war she married Bernhard, a tailor, but Mary's heart was always with the wounded of either side of the war. She was awarded the Kearny Cross for her bravery.

Virginia "Ginnie" Wade and her sister Georgeanna (Wade) McClellan. Ginnie was at her sister's house for Georgeanna had just had a baby. Her two brothers, James, and William, enlisted in the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Ginnie was in the kitchen baking bread and a shot came through the house and killed Ginnie instantly. She was first civilian causality of the war.

Tillie Pierce, Mollie, and Sadie Shiver. Tillie's Mother was worried about the safety of her daughter and friends so sent them to Jacob Weikert 's farm. The farm turned into a field hospital for the wounded and dying. Tillie saw more battle scares then she would have if she had stayed home. Tillie wrote a wonderful book about her war time experiences which all should read. It was said that on the second day of the battle she gave spring water to General Grant. As a girl of 15, Tillie wrote the most detailed, civilian account of the battle.

Mrs. Mary Thompson's stone house that became General Lee's Headquarters. Mary had lived in the house for over 17 years on Seminary Ridge. On July 1, 1863, Robert E. Lee's staff wanted the house for Lee's headquarters. The Thompson house was also a field hospital, for the wounded and dying. Mary stayed at the house and helped with the soldiers at the hospital. When the war was over Mary came back to a shell of a house. All her linens were used for bandages, her carpet was used to bury the dead, and fence was used as firewood. Mary lived in the house until her death in 1873.

**Elizabeth Thorn**



**Lorinda Anna "Annie" Blair Etheridge (Vivandiere) Kearny Cross of Valor**

Lydia Leister's farm which was located on Taneytown Road at the Intersection with Hunt Avenue. This was a nine-acre farm which Meade took over for his headquarters. The farm was at the center of the Union lines which was perfect for Meade and the Army of the Potomac. After the war Lydia returned home to numerous bullet holes and seventeen dead horses in her yard. She worked hard to repair and replace and even added another nine acres to the farm.

Catherine Hedgen was a widow. She traveled to the Sherfy farm where there was heavy fighting on the second day around the "Peach Orchard" While she was outside in the yard a mini ball passed the fence struck the folds of her skirt. She picked it up to keep as a souvenir - maybe the first souvenir of the war?

Josephine Miller continually baked bread and took water to the wounded. She took care of the wounded while her house was riddled with bullets and sixteen dead bodies. She was told to leave but stayed and continued her bread baking. Josephine was the only women in the photo at the dedication of the monument. She had another photo of just her and her oven with her loaf of bread.

**Female Soldiers at the Battle of Gettysburg**

Mary Siezgle from New York was at the battle of Pickett's Charge. One confederate soldier died while storming the stone wall along Cemetery Ridge and another died at Field Military Hospital, Chester, Pennsylvania, and another had her leg amputated. Another Confederate woman, Molly Bell was sent to a Confederate prison then was released. She enlisted in the Confederate army as Tom Parker and Mary was Bob Morgan. No one is sure if they fought at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Anne/Annie/Anna Etheridge also called "Michigan Annie" was found on the first lines caring for the wounded. She enlisted in 1861 in the 2nd Michigan Infantry Regiment as a nurse and "Vivandiere". She transferred to the 3rd and 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. Anna was awarded the Kearny Cross on May 27, 1863. She served in 32 battles with her "overwhelming bravery". She is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Sophonria Bucklin wanted to be a nurse all her life. She became one of the first nurses to get to Gettysburg. She wrote that she was "thankful that I had been sent to aid". Writing that "like trees uprooted by a tornado", she had



**Randy, Old Baldy and Rich**



"grown familiar with death in every shape". Sophronia remained a nurse until the end of the war.

### **Mission of Mercy Despite Age or Appearance**

Cornelia Hancock wanted to be a nurse.

Dorothea Dix said she was too young, but Cornelia did not think about age when they saw all the wounded. Georgeanna Woolsey worked with her mother for three weeks near the Railroad station. She founded the Connecticut School of Nursing. Georgeanna sent wounded to Baltimore and Harrisburg Hospitals.

Lucinda Horn worked with the Confederate

Military units at Gettysburg. After the war was over sold pottery with her husband. Rose Quinn Rooney was a nurse, a cook, and laundress for Company K 14th Division. There were reports of her on the field under fire at the battle of First Bull Run. After the war was matron of a soldier's home in New Orleans. Lydia Hamilton Smith was housekeeper to Thaddeus Stevens. After the war borrowed a horse and wagon to get donations of clothes and food to the wounded.

### **The Daughters of Charity of Emmitsburg**

Sister Camilla O'Keefe: The sisters lived at the brick house on tollgate hill and St. Joseph's Rectory which was their military headquarters. Several sisters and Father Burlando came to Gettysburg to care for wounded. They moved the wounded to the churches and hotels of the city. The sisters nursed the sick and wounded, comforting and baptized the dying of both armies.

A Civil War romance with Arabella Griffith Barlow and General Francis Barlow. Her husband was wounded during the Battle of Antietam and at Gettysburg. The wounds were serious, and many did not think he would survive. Arabella thought otherwise and nursed her husband back to health. He went back into battle. Arabella at an early age was not so lucky for she died of typhus.

There are ladies that were at Gettysburg that we know and some we do not know at all. Mr. Draais gave us much information on many of the women of Gettysburg with his research. The research is continuing for Women of Gettysburg and know Mr. Draais will continue to give us more history. We look forward to all the new results. This was a very informative presentation.

### **Presenter's Book Winner - Mike Hoover**

**Raffle Book Winners - Dave Zia, Gabe Glisson, Mary Leith, John Daly, Gary DeSiver, Bob Russo Bill Hughes, Steve McMahon, Lou Gorman Sue DeSiver**



**Sisters of Charity Stain Glass Window**  
A stain glass window to honor the Sisters of Charity for their dedication to helping the wounded at Gettysburg.

## **"A Little Town with a Big Hospital"**

**By Don Wiles,  
Member, OBCWRT,  
Reference Material  
York County Heritage**

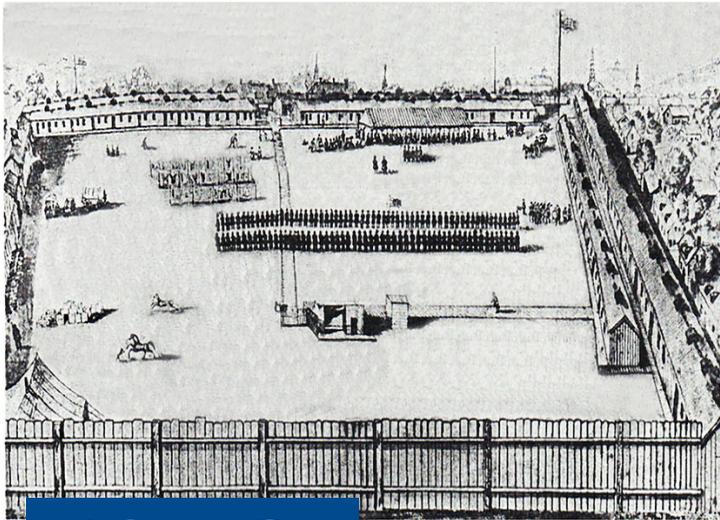
### **The York Hospital**

In May, 1861, some 6,000 troops had arrived in York, Pa., a city of 7000. The troops were actually stationed inside the town and filled it. The commissary was inadequate. Since there was no hospital citizens opened their homes to sick soldiers. That spring was cold and damp. Soldiers were sleeping on straw on cold ground, many suffered from rheumatism, colds, and fevers. The homes were soon filled so plans had to be made for a hospital.

The York women formed "The Soldiers' Aid Society." A large shed on the grounds of the Agricultural Society was fitted as a temporary hospital. The whole community, including children, scraped lint, rolled bandages, knitted socks, sewed garments, baked bread and prepared for the sick. In December, nine hundred more troops arrived and were quartered in school houses. The number of ill increased so that another temporary hospital was started in the Duke Street school building.

The barracks and stables of the York Army Post were located on the ten-acre tract, which had been deeded to the community by William Penn, known as the Penn Common. It was contemplated the barracks would be removed when the troops departed for the front. However, the officer sent to supervise the removal made a report favoring the site because of its convenience for railroad facilities and other advantages.

Continued on page 8



**United States Military  
York Hospital**

President Lincoln's Secretary of War, the Honorable Simon Cameron, approved the report and ordered the establishment of the U.S. Army Hospital at the York site.

Under Special Order dated July 6, 1862, Dr. Palmer was directed to "proceed to York, Penn." and relieve Brigade Surgeon C. W. Jones, in charge of the hospital "for the purpose of superintending the preliminary arrangements for the fitting up of the barracks at that place for Hospital purposes."

York Hospital became the largest and most complete military hospital in the United States. Some reports indicate that throughout the winter of 1862-63, the patient roster held fairly steady between 4500 and 5000.

The hospital had Dr. Henry Palmer as Surgeon in Charge with Assisting Surgeons Henry W. Smyser, E. F. Spaulding, George Byers, and Henry F. Bowen. The Medical Director was Major John Campbell.

Dr. Smyser had been "a one year Resident Assistant Surgeon in one of the Russian hospitals during the Crimean War." Dr. Palmer was given a staff of eleven men—two army surgeons, four contract surgeons, a clerk, a hospital steward, a commissary officer, a ward master, and a medical cadet.

***An Inspector's Report in part:***

"York General Hospital is located on the Northern Central Railroad connecting the Borough with Washington and Baltimore.

"The hospital buildings are frame, eight in number, one story high, together with 217 tents. They also used Washington Hall, a large four-story brick building in the town, for hospital wards. The hospital was really a small village with a post office, printing press, cabinet and carpenter shop, tin shop, bake house, kitchen, mess hall, matrons quarters, dispensary, library, chapel, examination, operating room, knapsack room, store room, reading room, wash room, dead house, laundry, water hydrants and sewerage systems, bathrooms, and in addition all of the offices, guard houses and military facilities.

"The wards were ventilated, heated in winter by 90 pot bellied coal fire stoves, lighted with kerosene oil lamps. There were boardwalks to water closet and sink accommodations.

"Although there was no fire engine or hose, from the abundance of water and men on duty at all hours, day and night, and the low height of buildings, it was thought that if a fire should start it could be quickly suppressed.

"The wards were whitewashed. Crayon sketches, pictures, and flags adorned the walls. Flowers and vines bloomed in many casement windows."

Sixteen thousand patients entered the hospital while Dr. Palmer was in charge. The average number of deaths was less than 2%. Records were carefully kept.

Soldiers incapable of field duty acted as nurses and clerks. There was a Chief Matron with nine assistants and twenty-eight other women helping with the work.

There was every effort by the York citizens to make the hospital a pleasant place for the boys. Citizens furnished luxuries, comforts, and bouquets by the hundreds. Concerts and lectures were given on weekdays. Plays and entertainments were staged by the young ladies of the community from time to time. A school was set up in the west end of the Chapel and a Yale graduate was headmaster. Many of the boys had left school to join the army and eagerly availed themselves of that opportunity to study. English, German, and bookkeeping were taught.

The library included a complete set of Shakespeare, "Barnes Notes on the



**Surgeon 7th Wisconsin, USA  
Henry**



**United States  
Military York Hospital  
Site Today**



**Hospital Buildings**  
Ward  
Gazebo  
Chapel

New Testament" and "Napoleon and his Marshalls."

The Cartridge Box, the York Hospital weekly newspaper, was first published March 5, 1864, edited and printed by the soldiers under the supervision of Dr. Henry Palmer.

The subject of use of profane language was discussed frequently in The Cartridge Box. A pledge was even published—"We, the undersigned (Attendants and Patients) of the U.S.A. Hospital, York, Pa., 6th Ward, 1st Room, believe that the habit of using either intoxicating liquor or profane language is a great sin against our Creator and degrading to ourselves; Resolved that we will do all in our power to suppress these evils. . . ."

The "mess hall" was something to be proud of. A large table seated 500 men. Down the center of the tables ran a "miniature railway," operated by ropes and pulleys to carry trays of hot food, from one end to the other.

The menu for one week shows the following variety:

- Monday: Mutton Pot Pie
- Tuesday: Pork and Beans
- Wednesday: Fresh Vegetable Soup
- Thursday: Mutton Pot Pie
- Friday: Boiled Cabbage & Potatoes
- Saturday: Irish Stew
- Sunday: Roast Beef & Mashed Potatoes

**Peninsula Campaign**

Within two weeks of opening, the hospital received two hundred wounded from the fiasco of the Peninsula Campaign. They were transported by boat to Washington, thence by train to York.

**Antietam Creek**

It was reported that General McClellan's 90,000 Union troops met General Lee's rebel army of about half that size at Antietam Creek, just a few miles from Hagerstown, Maryland, in September 1862, in one of the bloodiest single-day's battle of the entire war. It surged around a cornfield. On a golden autumn Sabbath morning three mile lines had faced each other with guns and when the shooting was over the losses were put at 12,000 men on each side.

Even though the Hospital at York was filled, room was always made for more. Men were brought directly by train from the Antietam battlefield. As the train pulled into the York siding, men were waiting with litters to carry the wounded to the Hospital. An observer reported "the wounds were horrible and blood ran from the floors of the cars on which the men lay." Many were dead on arrival; the majority were in need of surgery.

When the hospital would hold no more and construction of emergency shelters began at once. The Odd Fellows Hall, the large four-story building at the corner of George and King Streets, was turned into a hospital. Everyone lent a hand including the ambulatory soldier patients. Dr. Palmer and his assistants worked around the clock without rest for more than two days, aided by volunteer physicians and surgeons from York, Lancaster and Harrisburg.

Throughout the winter of 1862-63, the patient roster held fairly steady between 4,500 and 5,000.

**York's Capture**

In mid June, 1863, York was again threatened as about 13,000 rebel raiders under General Jubal Early, one of the ablest of the Confederate Generals, advanced on York intent upon capture of the government stores and to take the convalescents prisoners.

The York Hospital was considered an unsafe place for the wounded and sick, so it was decided to move those who could be safely transported, with Dr. Alexander R. Blair, one of the contract surgeons on Dr. Palmer's staff, in charge of the "fugitive hospital" with its 78 patients.

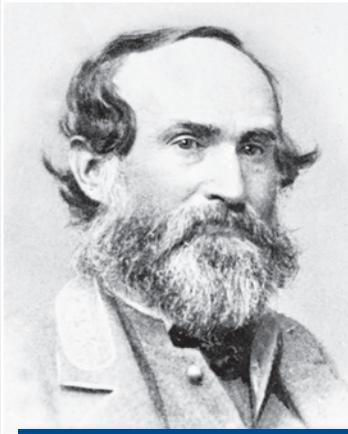
They, together with the medical and commissary supplies, crossed the



**York Railway Station**



**Odd Fellows Hall**  
Then and Now



**Major General, CSA  
Jubal Anderson Early**



**Colonel, CSA  
Harry Ward Gilmore**



**Soldier's Circle  
Prospect Hill Cemetery  
York**  
**The burial location of the  
Union soldiers who died  
while at the York hospital,  
162 from 16 States**

Susquehanna River to Columbia, Pennsylvania where they were quartered in the new Columbia School building.

Dr. Palmer remained in York with five men too ill to move. Since the hospital was a military post, Dr. Palmer, as commander, armed the ambulatory convalescents, and together with a few others from the post and some citizens, gathered as a defensive force and marched out to make a stand at the Wrightsville end of the Susquehanna River bridge.

General Jubal Early's Raiders were under the command of Colonel Harry Gilmour. They were delayed from early morning until about 5 p.m., when a decision was made to withdraw the defense force which then pulled back into town. The rebels, intent on capturing the hospital stores and Union supplies, entered the city.

In the meantime Dr. Henry Palmer had taken special steps to remove the governmental stores and hospital supplies, shipping them in two railroad cars, to a place of safety, known only to him, on the Lancaster County side of the Susquehanna River out of the reach of the rebels, foiling plans for capture.

The Hospital stores of this hospital were shipped from York because of the rebel invasion to Columbia, Pa., and from there they were forwarded by the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., apparently without a guard and without authority, to a point between Coatsville and Downingtown. They remained there several days.

Dr. Palmer had directed the hiding of surplus guns, ammunition and weapons under the wooden sidewalks and the breaking of many guns to prevent their use by the rebels. A wagon-load of rifles he attempted to remove without horses. While the concealing efforts were still going on, Gordon's brigade marched into town. The wagon loaded with rifles rolled down a hill to an outhouse, where it was found, intact, after the enemy's departure.

During the York occupation, a rebel major took over the hospital with its few remaining supplies. The Confederate Major ordered Dr. Palmer to remove his coat and epaulettes. The doctor replied—"Never—except when ordered by a superior officer." The officer left without the coat and epaulettes. .

Dr. Palmer and his patients were captured and made prisoners of war as the Confederates took possession of the town and the hospital. After remaining a few days the rebels marched on to Gettysburg with Dr. Palmer and the captured military personnel as their prisoners. York was calm for a few days after the rebels left. Then the three-day battle of Gettysburg commenced. During the intensity of the battle, Dr. Palmer successfully made his escape, just four days after his capture, resuming his command at the York Post and again taking charge of the hospital. '

### **Gettysburg**

Shortly refugees and wounded began pouring into the hospital from the Gettysburg battlefield and soon filled it. Tents were hastily erected in the open spaces between the frame hospital ward buildings on all four sides of the Penn Commons, as trainload after trainload of wounded arrived. Every day, for weeks, additional trains of wounded men came in from Gettysburg. Dr. Palmer was engulfed in the tremendous task of caring for the wounded. The majority of the wounded sent on to York were the "extremities" cases; soldiers with shattered arms, legs, feet or hands, and many of them were post-amputee patients.

Many of the fallen Confederates, including some who had marched through York as an invading army only a week earlier, were cared for by Dr. Palmer who had shortly before been their prisoner.

After the capture of York Dr. Palmer requisitioned: "1 ambulance, 1 set harness complete, 2 mules, 1 curry comb, 1 brush"—reason—"having nothing to transport the sick except an open wagon nearly worn out and the present team being in almost constant use hauling supplies." There were copies of many dispatches on very thin tissue paper from and to Dr. Palmer and

various officers, such as: "I am sending 20 Hospital attendants first train tomorrow."

July 5, 1863 Dr. Mickley, Klinepeters Tavern, York "You will keep your men together and await my orders. Have one man mounted constantly at the Telegraph office to carry dispatches to Columbia or where-ever necessary." By command of Maj. Gen'l Couch at Harrisburg. July 6, 1863 to Surgeon C. C. Cox, Medical Purveyor, Baltimore "Can you supply immediately three hundred iron bedsteads and three hundred hair mattresses." J. Simpson, Medical Director "Can you furnish some medical men for this place, Surgeon King wishes information." "I have ordered mounted men to stop all the time at your office, to carry dispatches—if any come from General Meade or elsewhere on army matters, give the message to the mounted men—Direct him where to carry it and what to do with it so as to facilitate the transmission."

"Open Hospital ready for 500 wounded immediately—should be ready for more in 3 days--will go to Gettysburg on the 1st train—and wait your orders there. Can you detail any assistant surgeons for the place."

July 7, 1863 Hanover Junction

"Our road is opened through to York. We can van wounded soldiers to York as soon as the order is received to do so—it will take about 4 hours to van them from Gettysburg to York." S.S.B.

"Send all (400) hospital suits without delay. . . . If not the hospital suits from Columbia send teams for them at once. Wounded will arrive to night." A hundred and fifty "bedsteads in good condition" were sent.

"Ten stretchers" sent to meet the first train. An additional doctor was hired at \$80.00 per month. Additional medicines were apparently allotted to hospitals on the basis of a percentage of the monthly pay.

Dr. Palmer put in numerous requisitions for sizeable quantities of blouses, shoes, stockings, trousers and bed socks "for gratuitous issue to soldiers from the battle of Gettysburg for those who lost their clothing during that engagement and who are now in the hospital." Another requisition was for 700 bed socks as he pointed out "our present beds are hair mattresses which have been in constant use for 15 months and are nearly worn out."

Dr. Palmer had some one hundred thirty photographs of surgical cases taken. Photographs of thirteen cases of gunshot fractures of the femur he transmitted to the Surgeon General Crane who appreciated the manner in which they were executed. The Surgeon General forwarded them to the Smithsonian Institution to be exhibited to the members of the National Academy of Science.

#### **Another Threatened Attack on York**

On July 10, 1864, Dr. Palmer received a telegram stating that "A cavalry force is reported five miles out on the York road." Rebel Colonel Harry Ward Gilmore made a devastating raid into Maryland and Pennsylvania and threatened to inflict considerable damage in and about York, hoping to capture the town.

Dr. Palmer, in charge of the York post, again appreciated the necessity for prompt action and the importance of protecting the railways.

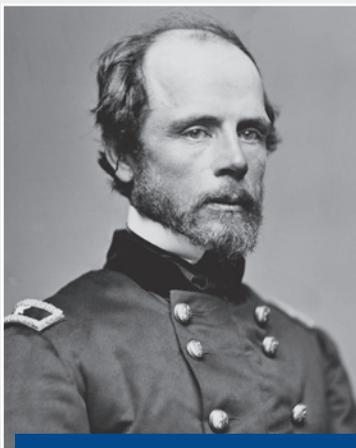
There were found among the doctor's possessions numerous cryptic thin tissue paper bits of intelligence and secret messages, locations of rebels, progress of trains, strengthening of pickets, etc.

He again organized and armed his convalescents together with a force of several hundred citizens. With those and a few regular troops he proceeded into Maryland to protect the roads and hold the rebels in check.

Reports indicated that these moves proved to be eminently successful so that Dr. Palmer was commended by Major General Couch as Commander of the Department, for his wisdom and promptness, his judgment and decision, for his quick action, his energy and his courage, which saved a large amount of property from destruction. Apparently he secured for the government certain important military advantages as well as frustrating the designs of the rebels.



**The burial location of five unknown Confederate soldiers who died while at the York hospital Prospect Hill Cemetery York**



**Major General, USA Darius Nash Couch**



**Superintendent of Hospital Nurses Dorothea Lynde Dix**



**Flag lowering by Confederates during the capture of York**



**Mary "Mammy" Ruggles Grave in Prospect Hill Cemetery, York**

Over the four years that the York Hospital was in operation in excess of 14,000 patients were cared for. Of those, 7500 were returned to active duty; 3700 were given furloughs, 1100 were discharged, 1300 were transferred, and the death rate was low, only 193 patients died.

**Some addition Information...**

**Brigade Surgeon Dr. Henry Palmer**

He was mustered in as the Surgeon for the 7th Wisconsin Infantry in the Army of the Potomac. On April 14, 1862, Lincoln commissioned Dr. Henry Palmer Brigade Surgeon of the "Iron Brigade".

Miss Dorothea Lynde Dix, who was appointed Superintendent of Hospital Nurses by a Special Act of Congress, inspected the York Hospital. She pronounced it **"as conducted by Surgeon Palmer, the best in the United States."** Some attributed the doctor's "strong and cool nerves" to his ability to care for over fourteen thousand sick and wounded under all sorts of pressures and conditions. Dr. Palmer received commendations for his able management of the York Hospital in a Special Act of Congress.

**Saves the Hospital Flag**

Mary "Mammy" Ruggles a domestic who worked in the home of David Small. Yorkers would see "Mammy" traveling to the Military York Hospital, with her homemade bread, rolls, cakes and pies and perform her duties for the wounded.

Upon the Confederates entering York in June 1863, nurses reportedly took down the hospital flag and had wrapped it around Mammy's body under her hoop skirt and then she walked several block past hundreds of Confederate soldiers to hide it safely till she reached her son's home near the Cordus Creek. The flag was hidden there till the Confederates might leave. She did get the chance to returned the flag to the Hospital. The Hospital flag was then raised in the center of town to replace the one the Confederates took down.

**Location Unknown**

Kittie Palmer the 5-year-old daughter of Dr. Henry Palmer, surgeon in charge of the U.S. Army General York Hospital. He was to save many soldiers from death, but was unable to save his daughter following three week of serious illness. Her words were "Papa do cure my headache it makes me feel cross, and I don't like to be cross," She died November 28, 1863. She was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, with the idea of taking her home to Janesville, Wisconsin. One story has it that when they returned to take her home, they could not find her grave, weather true or not Kittie still lays in Prospect Hill in an unknown location with no grave marker.

## **"An Artillery Officer's Greatest Triumph"**

**By Joe Wilson,  
Member, OBCWRT,**

Some boys dream small. Others conjure up goals seemingly unattainable. One small boy born in 1834 kept dreaming despite the numerous obstacles placed in front of him. Not even the cruel hand of a Civil War derailed the aspirations of the future geologist. From an early age young John's curiosity in the natural world consumed every waking hour not spent farming the homestead in the absence of his minister father.

The boy's father, Reverend Joseph Powell, preached the good book around Wisconsin to all who would listen. Reverend Powell hoped his son would follow the same path in carrying the Bible's message to far flung communities. But his oldest son preferred probing the mountains and rivers near his home to unlock the geological wonders of the planet. A pursuit not favored by the elder Powell.

With the father being gone much of the time preaching, John Wesley Powell shouldered most of the farm work. Any free time not spent tending to the chores found the young explorer hiking the back country studying the intricate workings of the universe. Heavenly inspiration often comes in a variety of ways.

Shortly after turning 18 years old, the young man secured a position as a school teacher while at the same time enrolling and then dropping out of several colleges. Lessons in higher education leaned more toward theory and theology and less toward the hands on science that consumed John Powell. Classrooms under the celestial stars provided more of an opportunity for a developing naturalist.

In the 1850's adventure gripped Powell. An intense hunger to learn about geology led to a hike across the entire state of Wisconsin. Later, a specimen collecting trip carried the adventurer by boat down the entire Mississippi River from Minnesota to the mouth at the Gulf of Mexico. Powell believed that a hundred years in the Halls of Academia could never provide such an education.

Only the American Civil War brought a halt to his scientific exploration. The bombing of Fort Sumter in April of 1861 changed everything. Like many other soldiers, the war nearly wrecked all his plans. But unlike other soldiers, Powell's fierce determination and tenacious spirit reigned supreme.

In the prime of his life, twenty seven year old John Wesley Powell enlisted in the 20th Illinois Infantry on May 8, 1861. Being an ardent Unionist, the decision to serve came easy. Before the year was out he was promptly transferred to the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery and was promoted to Captain.

Life changed drastically in 1862 for Powell. Early in the year good fortune blessed him when he married his sweetheart, Emma Dean. But good fortune can be fleeting. In April of the same year in southern Tennessee, the Union Army under General Ulysses S. Grant, gathered on the banks of the Tennessee River near an old church locals called Shiloh.

Without warning a large Confederate Army attacked in what became one of the deadliest battles of the war. Over 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing in the two day battle. Counted among the wounded was Captain Powell. While preparing to signal his crew to fire, his raised right arm caught a musket ball that shattered the arm. Lifted onto his horse clutching his bloody arm, the captain went to the rear assisted by a medic. In a few days the arm would be amputated at the elbow and buried somewhere near the Shiloh Battlefield.

For most soldiers the war would've been over. Not for the gritty one armed Powell. His fighting continued under Grant and Sherman at places like Vicksburg and Atlanta. Before the close of the war he attained the rank of Major. All who knew him referred to him as "The Major" for the rest of his life.

Putting the horrors of the Civil War behind him, in 1866 the self-taught naturalist landed a professorship of geology at Illinois Wesleyan College. The duration of the term proved to be short. One year later the Illinois State Normal University hosted a museum on campus. A job coveted by any geologist. The museum's new curator was John Wesley Powell.

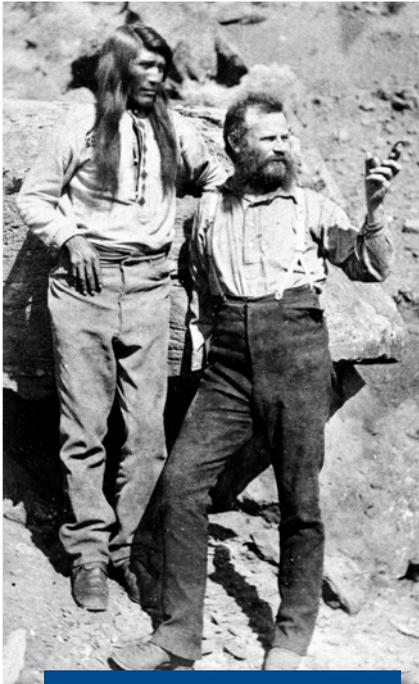
From his position as curator he found encouragement to launch several expeditions to collect specimens. The most celebrated of his trips involved leading a group from the museum to scale the rugged and monstrous Pike's Peak in Colorado. The towering mountain reached 14,000 feet into the clouds. A joyful Powell was back in his element in the mountains. It was on the journey climbing Pike's Peak that the inspired Major conceived of an idea for more ambitious and certainly challenging expedition.



Major, USA  
John Wesley Powell



Grand Canyon, Colorado River



**Powell with a Paiute Indian**

Powell suggested an expedition that any man with two arms might find suicidal. The Major proposed traversing the entire length of the wild and unexplored Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in wooden boats. Family and friends thought him mad. Not even Native Americans attempted to negotiate the remote stretches in the canyon. The starting point would be the Green River in Wyoming that flowed into the Colorado River. Powell's enthusiasm at being the first to navigate the entire Colorado River took hold and never let go. All talk to the contrary fell on deaf ears. Even his wife couldn't stop the dangerous scheme. Not one to be easily deterred, he began planning immediately despite the resistance.

Only the hardest of men volunteered to be part of the historic expedition. In all, nine men accompanied Powell. Former Civil War soldiers, trappers, and outright adventurers constituted the group. With the crew set, the Major set out for Washington looking to secure help in financing the excursion. In Washington, Powell received no money but succeeded in having the Secretary of War issue an order to all the western army posts to allow him to draw whatever supplies he needed. Many colleges in Illinois also contributed to the undertaking. A good deal of the money came out of Powell's own pocket. Meanwhile, construction of the four boats had begun in Chicago. The Union Pacific Railroad aided the trip by transporting the finished boats to Wyoming at no cost.

On May 24th, 1869, the ten men pushed their four boats into the swift current of the Green River for a voyage into the unknown. With the American flag flapping in the stiff breeze from Powell's lead boat, the flotilla led by a one armed Civil War hero drifted down the river and into the history books. Much like the exploits of pioneers before them, Powell and his crew had no way of ascertaining the degree of danger that awaited. The Major knew he'd face rapids and waterfalls but didn't know the depth or swiftness of either. Nor did he know the number obstacles.

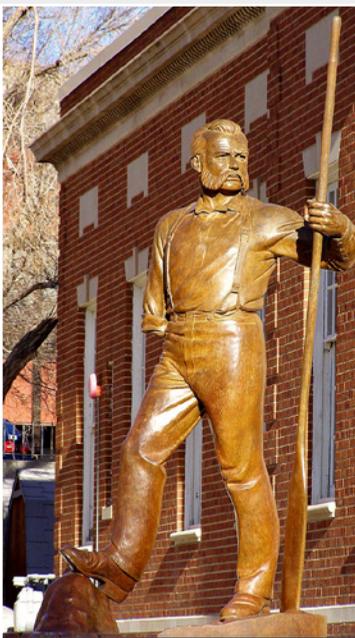
The dangers expected certainly materialized maybe more so than Powell could imagine. Only two weeks into the journey one of the 21 foot oak boats shattered into pieces after being drawn over a boulder strewn waterfall. The three men managed to survive, but the precious cargo lost included rifles, clothing, and food. Shortly after the disaster, one of the three decided he had enough and hiked out of the Canyon. Now down to nine men, the three remaining boats pushed forward.

A multitude of dangers greeted the voyagers around every bend of the canyon. After two months of punishing rapids and treacherous waterfalls, another three men had their fill of exploring. They attempted to hike out of the canyon, but were never seen or heard from again. Historians believe Paiute Indians killed all three men. Powell then abandoned his damaged lead boat. The last six resilient men shoved off in the surviving two boats unwilling to abandon their objective.

Upon rounding a bend the small crew spotted three men and a boy fishing. The two battered boats pulled ashore for the last time on August 30th. The fishing party seemed surprised at the sight of six half-starved men shabbily dressed in tattered and torn clothing emerging from the remote canyon. A fine fish dinner nourished the weary and hungry travelers. Their triumphant odyssey finally ended.

Powell guided the expedition for 98 days and covered 1000 miles of death defying rapids along the mighty Colorado River. And all before the present day dams likely slowed the speed of the river. The Civil War hero and geologist had made his mark exploring the canyon he aptly named the "Grand Canyon." The expedition ranks in magnitude with the hazardous Corps of Discovery journey undertaken by Lewis and Clark in 1804. Powell died in 1902 at 68 years old and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Today's vacationers visiting the Grand Canyon gazing down at the Colorado River from a distance hardly feel the force of the river that carved the canyon. Even today, the raging and powerful river remains



**Monument of Powell, Sweetwater County Museum. WY**



1969 Stamp

fraught with peril. Yet, nearly 154 years ago, the courageous Major John Wesley Powell entered the intimidating and uncharted river to be the "First Thru The Canyon."

**And all with only one arm!**

*Joseph F. Wilson is a member of the Old Baldy CWRT and General Meade Society. Lectures include Andersonville Prison and The Pennsylvania Reserves.*

*YouTube channel - "Joseph F. Wilson." Contact [joef21@aol.com](mailto:joef21@aol.com)*

## "Shiloh... at Last"

*By Jim Heenehan,  
Member, OBCWRT,*

In July, some friends and I drove out to western Tennessee to visit Shiloh and its nearby Civil War sites. We first planned this trip for April 2020 but, of course, COVID put everything on hold for three years. In fact, I was supposed to go to Shiloh in 2016 with my friend Dave, a General Greene reenactor from Ohio. However, for various reasons, we had to postpone our trip and, sadly, Dave died of melanoma the following year. In certain ways, our journey to Shiloh was a way for me to reconnect with Dave.

It was a fun road trip with my friends Bob S, Bob C, Jack and Greg. Two days out and two days back, with three days of Civil War touring. We started with Fort Donelson and its river batteries, which pulverized Flag Officer Foote's four ironclads attempting to reprise their earlier Fort Henry success (1). We also visited the Dover Hotel, where General Buckner surrendered to General Grant. Some inspired Dover citizens saved the hotel for posterity in 1927.

After leaving Fort Donelson, we headed south to Shiloh. Our motel was in Savannah, not far from the historic Cherry Mansion where Grant was staying when the battle erupted. While the house is still a private residence, we saw the mansion from the street and walked down the bluff to the Tennessee River crossing.

Upon reaching the battlefield, we decided against following the Park Service Tour route, which links stops by location, and tried to trace the stops chronologically over the battle's two days. While we had to work around some one-way roads, we did OK, even if we saw some things a little out of order. Having my old Blue & Gray Shiloh magazines with me proved very helpful.

We started with the reconstructed Shiloh Church (basically, a log cabin), and walked some of Sherman's line. We got a better view of its strength from Rhea Field, where an opening in the woods allowed us to see the ridge behind Shiloh Creek with a cannon marking the spot of Waterhouse's Battery, which caused the Rebs much damage. Indeed, this line fell only when the Union left was outflanked.

Continuing a little further down the road, we came to the Fraley Field stop, where Major Powell's 250-man scouting party sent out by Colonel Peabody discovered the advancing Rebel columns at 5:15 am on April 6, 1862 (2). Peabody is one of the battle's heroes as he sent out his patrol in violation of orders and was initially reprimanded by his division commander, General Prentiss. However, his reconnaissance gave the Federals two hours warning to form their battle lines. But for Peabody, the Confederate attack may well have succeeded.

We later visited Colonel Peabody's impressive monument marking the spot where he was killed that morning. It is similar to that of General Albert Sydney Johnston, which we saw soon thereafter, along with the nearby ravine to which he was taken after being mortally wounded (3).

Other sites visited include Sarah Bell's Cotton Field, southeast of the Hornet's Nest, anchoring the Union line that Johnston's attack eventually broke (and scene of heavy Day 2 fighting) (4); the "Sunken Road," in the



(1) Fort Henry



(2) Fraley Field



(3) Johnston's Monument

Hornet's Nest (5); Grant's Last Line on a ridge overlooking the Dill Branch (6), and Pittsburgh Landing on the high bluff adjoining the Tennessee River (7).



(4) Sarah Bell Coton Field

Our second day at Shiloh was devoted to the battle's Day 2 fighting. And while some stops do cover Day 2, the Park's focus is on Day 1. There was nothing marking General Lew Wallace's flanking maneuvers that Timothy Smith believes were key to outflanking successive Confederate lines on Day 2. Still, we did drive over to Ben Howell Field where Wallace launched his second such attack.

One second-day monument we did see was that of the 9th Indiana in Wicker field (8). While Union forces briefly contested this position on Day 1, its significance was on Day 2 when General "Bull" Nelson's division attacked the Confederates in the woods along the southern edge of the field. Sergeant Ambrose Bierce led a 9th Indiana scouting party into the field, an experience he recounts in "What I Saw at Shiloh." This and later Union attacks proved unsuccessful, as were the Confederate counterattacks. Basically, frontal attacks across open fields at Shiloh did not work unless supported by a flank attack.

One of Bierce's most famous stories is "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge." While the story is set in Alabama, the real Owl Creek is at Shiloh, forming the battlefield's western boundary. As we were leaving Shiloh, our last stop was to visit this small stream.



(5) Sunken Road/Hornets Nest

As it was only 12:30 pm, we headed over to Corinth MS, the prize for which Shiloh was fought. As we pulled into the parking lot, a train went by recreating the importance of this critical 1862 railroad junction. After the Visitor's Center, we toured the hilltop location of the Union fort which repulsed General Earl Van Dorn's October 1862 attack.

A fun trip and my first visit to the western battlefields. I sent Dave's widow a Shiloh postcard and will send her a photo of me next to one of Shiloh's Ohio monuments -

*my tribute to her late husband and my late friend. RIP Dave.*



(6) Grant's Last Line



(7) Pittsburgh Landing



(8) Ninth Indiana/Wicker Field

### Footnotes to Shiloh

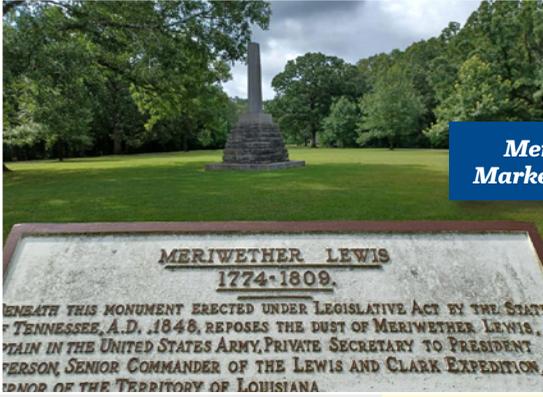
Here is a photo of my friend Dave in his General Greene attire, including his beloved meerschaum pipe, and his wife Helara. We were in Gettysburg for the 2014 Remembrance Day ceremonies. Dave was also a Rutherford B. Hayes reenactor and the morning after the Remembrance Day parade, we went to a diner for breakfast where Dave ran into another Rutherford B. Hayes guy. And for 10 minutes, I listened to them exchange Rutherford B. Hayes trivia - something I never thought I would experience in this life.



Dave and Helara at Gettysburg

I met Dave on a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides weekend seminar and we became good friends. Dave came back to Gettysburg on an annual basis and we would always get together.

One other footnote to our Shiloh trip. When we were coming back from Shiloh, we drove up the historic Natchez Trace Parkway up to Nashville, and suddenly came across a sign saying the Meriwether Lewis burial site was just off the road. Here is a photo of the obelisk marking Lewis' burial site. Nearby is a recreation of the log cabin he stayed in the night



**Meriwether Lewis  
Marker and Monument**

he is believed to have committed suicide. He apparently was dealing with a lot. Years ago, I read his and Clark's journals of their trip. Glad I could pay my respects to Lewis.- **Jim**

**"Shiloh... Gettysburg Connection"**

**Lieutenant Nesbitt Baugher**

Company B, 45th Illinois Infantry

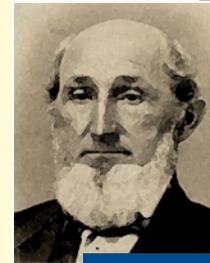
Died May 16, 1862. First soldier from the town of Gettysburg to be killed in the Civil War. His father, Henry Louis Baugher, delivered the Benediction at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery November 19, 1863 not far from this grave.



**Henry Lewis Baugher Grave  
in Evergreen Cemetery,  
Gettysburg**

**Henry Louis Baugher**

President of Pennsylvania College and also gave the Benediction at the Dedication of the National Cemetery (Lincoln's Gettysburg Address) on November 19, 1863.



**Nesbitt Baugher Grave  
in Evergreen Cemetery,  
Gettysburg**



**45th Illinois Marker  
Shiloh Battlefield**

**45th Illinois Infantry  
Marker**

The marker to the 45th Illinois Regiment is located in the Shiloh, Tennessee Battlefield.

This is the area were Lieutenant Nesbitt Baugher was killed.



**"Old Baldy attends the SWCW 2023  
conference in Carlisle."**

Six members of Old Baldy CWRT attend the 2023 SWCW Conference enjoying fellowship and learning about Women in Government during the War. The events were held at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center and Comfort Inn and Suites.

The round table serve as the Organizational Partner for the conference. This included promoting the event, volunteering to assist attendees and displaying Old Baldy materials.

OB CWRT was awarded this certificate of appreciation for these efforts. A more detailed description of the event



**Kim Weaver, Janet Whaley, Kathy Clark,  
Rich Jankowski, Frank Barletta,  
and J. White**



**The Society  
for Women  
and the  
Civil War**

**"Recognizing  
Women's  
Efforts,  
1861-1865"**

Continued from page 17 - "Women at Gettysburg"

will be in a future newsletter.

**Thank you to SWCW for welcoming OB CWRT.**



## “Englishman’s View of Confederate Soldiers”

CWTI, June 1962

### ‘Such an army as ours can never be whipped’

*In 1863, London, Smith, Elder and Co. published a book titled *Battlefields of the South, From Bull Run to Fredericksburg*, written by an anonymous “English combatant,” serving as an infantry lieutenant with the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The author is not specific where he lived or where he joined the Southern army but hints that it may have been in Alabama. At any rate he had resided in the South long enough before enlisting to have absorbed typical Southern views toward slavery.*

*The author appears to have gone first to Corinth, Miss. and thence to Virginia by rail through Chattanooga. Being involved in the fighting, this Englishman did not have the opportunity that De Chanal had to move about freely and become acquainted with high-ranking officers. It is not clear from the context whether the Englishman still served in the Confederate Army when his book was published. Because of his occasional use of the past tense, it appears that he may have resumed civilian life. Excerpts from his book follow:*

Young men of refined habits, inhabitants of cities, have made the best of soldiers; while strange as it may seem, those bred in the country, and accustomed to woods and fields, have frequented the hospitals far more than any others. This can only be accounted for by the thoughtfulness, neatness, and scrupulous cleanliness of the one, compared with the carelessness and thoughtlessness of the other. But chief cause of all our sickness has arisen from the lack of good, well-cooked food, regularly changed and diversified. What kind of bread can you expect boys to make who have never seen the process, and are not furnished with proper ingredients or utensils for rendering it wholesome? For several months it was common practice to make up flour into “slapjacks” or fritters which were nothing more than a thin mixture of flour and water fried in a sea of bacon grease.

There was no effort to dig wells and get pure water. Generals never thought of digging wells. There was no provision for cooking by unit. The men were issued flour in bulk. There were no pots or pans. The men had to cook the dough in the ashes of their fires or on a stick. The rank and file are sociably superior, in a majority of cases, to those who command them . . . I think our officers have not shown sufficient interest or solicitude for the comfort and well-being of the men.

I have my sword, a blanket, haversack, canteen, and a change of

underclothing thrust in a light knapsack, and let everything else go; for our wagons are always far off—you never can find what you put in them. As we are continually moving about, I find my load sufficiently heavy without adding to it. When ordered to march, I am at the head of my company, heavily laden as any; the boy [Negro] makes a fire when the halt is sounded, and throwing myself down on my blanket, I share rations with some “mess” or other, and am ready to move or fight at the moment’s warning. As for thinking of toilet and appearance, or a full supply of pots and pans for cooking—it is all nonsense. Our wagons are scarcely sufficient to carry tents, ammunition, and flour. We are lightly armed, lightly fed, march rapidly, fight frequently, and so that We beat the enemy, and barely get enough to sustain life, we ought to be contented. Such an army as ours can never be whipped—generals and privates are all lean animals, little else but bone and muscle, reduced to proper fighting weight, and all the better for not being encumbered with baggage and extras.



*Numerous contemporary accounts tell of Confederate divisions marching through cities and towns, especially during the 1863 invasion of the North, their bands playing “Dixie” or “My Maryland.” Our English friend apparently did not admire the musicianship of the Confederate bands, and was not happy over their monotonous repertoire. Perhaps he remembered that the tune of “My Maryland” was the German song “Tannenbaum.” Here is what he says:*

The Confederates had few bands; most men did not want to serve in a band. There are the customary drums and fifes, and the regulation tunes for reveille, roast beef, tattoo, and every necessary call; but in walking through the camps at any of those times, we hear all kinds of drumming. And as for rival fifers! They seem to be in an intense screeching agony, whenever called upon, and know no tune except “Dixie” or the doleful and eternal “My Maryland.”



## **The General Meade Society of Philadelphia**

### **Greetings Everyone:**

You are invited to join the General Meade Society for our annual trek to Citizens Bank Park to see our **Phillies** in action. Our game is on Tuesday evening, August 29, 2023, and Our Nine will take on the **Los Angeles Angels**.

Game time is 6:40 PM and we have 35 tickets available.

We are in the First Level again - the Right Field bleachers Section 104 (Harper Valley!!)

Unfortunately, there will not be a Buy One Get One night for a while. The tickets will be \$34 each with a discount of \$4, down from the regular price of \$38. For those who wish to join us, let me know how many seats you would like by e-mail reply, at [turkeytk@aol.com](mailto:turkeytk@aol.com), or you may reach me on my cell 215-350-2754.

We would love to have you!

If you are so inclined, you can make a check out to TOM KEARNEY for the number of seats x \$34.00 and mail to:

Tom Kearney - 303 Forest Ave - Ambler, PA 19002

## Help Wanted:

Volunteer to edit Zoom mp4 recordings. Edit for duration, add Intro and Outro text. 1 hour per month. Must have access to video editing software (Adobe Premiere or similar). Please contact Dave Gilson if interested. [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto:dgilson404@gmail.com)



### New Members

Thomas Radice  
Mary Leith

### Members with Old Baldy



FOB and  
Phil Sesock



FOB and  
Jean White

### Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2023

September 14, 2023 - Thursday  
Brett Gibbons

“The Influence of the Crimean War  
on the American Civil War”

October 12, 2023 - Thursday  
Carole Adrienne

“Healing a Divided Nation: How the American Civil  
War Revolutionized Western Medicine”

November 9, 2023 - Thursday  
Chuck Veit

“Monitor’s Unknown Mission:  
The Navy Raid on the Petersburg Bridges”

Questions to  
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - [dgilson404@gmail.com](mailto:dgilson404@gmail.com)

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