



Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

July 11, 2024

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

“Unceasing Fury; Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863”



Scott L. Mingus Sr.



After Gettysburg, it was the Civil War’s largest battle, but until recently, little of consequence had been written about Chickamauga. You can count on one hand the number of authors who have tackled Chickamauga in any real depth, and most of their works cover the entire battle. Left unmined and mostly forgotten are the experiences of specific brigades, regiments, and state-affiliated troops. Scott Mingus and Joseph Owen’s *Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18–20, 1863*, is the first full-length book to examine in detail the role of troops from the Lone Star State.

Texas troops fought in almost every major sector of the sprawling Chickamauga battlefield, from the first attacks on September 18 on the bridges spanning the creek to the final attack on Snodgrass Hill on September 20. Fortunately, many of the survivors left vivid descriptions of battle action, the anguish of losing friends, the pain and loneliness of being so far away from home, and their often-colorful opinions of their generals.

Scott Mingus, a scientist and consultant in the global pulp & paper industry, holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the Paper Science & Engineering program at Miami University. He has written 19 Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography Confederate General William “Extra Billy” Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Award for Confederate history. He has also written articles for many publications including Gettysburg Magazine.

Meeting Notice

Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday, July 11, Free and open to the public. In-person meeting at Camden County College, William G. Rohrer Center, 1889 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, and simulcast on Zoom.

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

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

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Notes from the President

Welcome to all Old Baldy members in the room and on zoom. I hope your family had a fun and patriotic 4th of July. We remember how the delegates in Independence Hall worked diligently and with fear as they decided on writing a document declaring our independence. They feared for their lives but kept the resolve to make our country an independent group of states. With the sounds and colors of fireworks, friendly barbecues, and family gatherings we celebrated the 4th of July 2024.

Our Old Baldy picnic is coming together with the help of **Mike Bassett** and **Ed Komczyk** to finalize a site and will talk more about it our meeting. **Paul** will announce more about the plans. The 50th Anniversary of Old Baldy is also getting help from **Frank Barletta**, **Mike Bassett**, and **Ed Komczyk** to find a

OBCWRT Awards

Silver
Transparency
2024

Candid.

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

Civil War Roundtable Congress
The Wallace L. Rueckel
Innovation Award
presented to OBCWRT (2022)

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

Civil War Roundtable Congress
Sustainability Challenge
presented to OBCWRT
(2023)

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

By Kim Weaver,
Member,
OBCWRT



James Morris

Continued from page 1 - "President's Notes"

restaurant for our anniversary dinner. **Frank Barletta** is looking into getting a speaker for the event. Our website continues to improve as **Dave Gilson**, **Peter Wood**, and **Hal Jespersen** keep working on it. It is a slow process taking baby steps at times but with the dedication of these men they are getting the job done. At the same time the roundtable will be looking for a new intern in September to continue to help with this huge project.

Please note the write up from **Dave Gilson** on the Alligator Project in the newsletter. This was brought to our attention by **Chuck Veit**, a good friend of Old Baldy, who has already written in one of his many books about *Brutus de Villeroi* the engineer and inventor of the Alligator submarine. Please take note of the article and explore the website.

We are giving out Boscov's coupons for sale. Please take some coupons to sell to friends, relatives, and family or give them as gifts. Just ask **Frank** for the coupons for he is ready to give you as many as you would like to sell.

Keep cool! Our summer has just begun, and we are already feeling high temps and lots of humidity.

Looking forward to seeing many members in person and on zoom at our meeting on the 11th. Hope you will stop by the Kettle and Grille to get to know our presenter and members before the meeting.

Kathy Clark acting president

Member Profile - James Morris

In section 29 of the Beaufort National Cemetery in SC is a burial plot that holds the 160 year-old remains of a Tioga County, NY native. Chas. Sharp U.S.C.T. reads the marble headstone. "Charles Sharp was my great-great-grandfather," says Old Baldy member Jim Morris, whose ancestors go back to the early settlers of New England. "He fought in the Civil War as a private in the 26th NY Colored Infantry."

Private Sharp's regiment organized on Rikers Island on February 27, 1864 and transferred out a month later, going first to Annapolis, Maryland then to the Beaufort area, arriving at the end of April. The 26th endured hard marching in the Lowcountry's suffocating summer swelter amid malarial mosquitoes and snake-infested swamps. Infection and disease were rampant over the course of the Civil War—30,000 black soldiers died of one or the other, according to the National Archives. Private Sharp was one casualty. "He died of sickness on September 28, 1864 (aged 35-36). I learned about him through my cousins and while I worked on my family tree."

Jim did not know about his ancestor when he and his Boy Scout troop camped on the Gettysburg Battlefield in 1964. "This got me interested in the Civil War." The trip acted as a catalyst for Jim's special interest in Civil War artillery and the Army of the Potomac campaigns.

Jim's life began on December 22, 1948 in Mount Ephraim, NJ. He lived there until he was married. After high school graduation in 1967 Jim studied at Camden Community College. "But I found out I didn't like accounting." So it was off to the NJ National Guard where he served for six years in the artillery out of Cherry Hill. He retired 14 years ago after working as a machinist at the Eagle Point Refinery in Westville. "I worked there for 39 years until it was shut down." He enjoys doing woodworking, small projects, gardening, reading history books and serves on several committees at the 55+ community where he lives.

Because of shift work Jim could not make more than a few Old Baldy meetings in Philadelphia during the 80s. "When I heard Old Baldy was at Camden County Community College I came back to Old Baldy." He has been a loyal member for 10 years.

Jim lives in Glassboro, NJ with his wife Karen. They have been married for

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54 years and have three children (Diana, Laurie and Paul, all married), four granddaughters and two grandsons.

Since 1994, Ed and his wife of 41 years, Regina, have called Rockbridge County, Virginia home. They have three children and six grandkids. Playing guitar, mandolin, and tin whistle, and hiking, biking, and kayaking share space on Ed's impressive list of hobbies.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Thursday, July 11

Eastern Theater

Rosecrans defeats Pegram's Confederates at the Battle of Rich Mountain in western Virginia. In the most costly battle of the war to date the defeated Confederate casualties total 300, including 60 killed, 140 wounded, and 100 taken prisoner. The cost to the Union is much lighter, with 11 lives lost and 35 other casualties. Meanwhile, a second Union force is in action nearby under General Morris. Attacking Laurel Mountain, Morris forces General Robert S. Garnett's Confederates to retreat toward the Cheat River valley.

1862 Friday, July 11

The North

General Halleck, an efficient if unimaginative administrator, is appointed general-in-chief of the Federal Armies. It will be some days, however, before he can arrive from the Western Theater to take up his post.

Eastern Theater

Three Confederates are killed in a skirmish at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Western Theater

Morgan's raiders attack Lebanon, south of Frankfort. The town is defended by less than 100 soldiers, who are unable to prevent the destruction of a large Federal supply depot.

Trans-Mississippi

The guerrilla war in Missouri continues, with 10 Federals and six rebels killed in an action at Pleasant Hill.

1863 Saturday, July 11

Eastern Theater

Meade begins to organize the Army of the Potomac to attack Lee's positions before the Confederates can withdraw across the Potomac.

1864 Monday, July 11

Eastern Theater

The fast marching in the oppressive heat reduces Early's strength to some 8000 men. They arrive in front of the Federal fortifications in the early afternoon. Early has 40 cannon with him but nothing heavier than a 12-pounder Napoleon. The Washington defenses are now reinforced by two regular divisions; with invalids, short-term men, and raw recruits, the number of men defending the capital reaches 20,000. That night Early plans an assault, but then learns of the reinforcements and orders a retreat.

Battle of Williamsburg Diorama... May 15, 1862

By Jim Heenehan,
Member,
OBCWRT



Photo 1 Map.

Inspired by Old Baldy's recent tour of the Williamsburg battlefield, I made a diorama of the battle after we got back, which is pictured here. Included for orientation is Private Robert Sneden's contemporary map of the battle with Fort Magruder dominating the junction of the Hampton and Yorktown Roads (**Photo 1**). The Bloody Ravine is to the left of the Hampton Road, while Hancock's brigade of Smith's division is on the far right (Peck's brigade of Couch's division is not in my diorama as it does not appear until later).

Photo 2 is my diorama of the start of the battle. Major Wainwright posted artillery in the cornfields near the Yorktown Road to try and silence the guns of Fort Magruder on the far ridge (see **Photo 3**).

Photo 4 shows General Hooker directing his division with Grover's brigade supporting the artillery, while the Excelsior and New Jersey brigades are in the Bloody Ravine to sidestep Fort Magruder. Here they are counter-attacked by 3 rebel brigades (**Photo 5**) ordered forward by General Longstreet with A.P. Hill and Pickett's brigades in support (**Photo 6**). The rebel assault will push back the Union defenders before General Kearney's division arrives to stabilize the Union line.

Photo 7 shows General Hancock and his brigade setting off on a 2-mile march that will capture 2 unoccupied redoubts on the Confederate left. After repulsing Confederate counterattacks, Hancock's brigade forces Longstreet to retreat (Longstreet was planning to pull back, anyway, as this was just a delaying action). Hancock earns his nickname "The Superb" for this action.

The Hancock, Hooker, Longstreet, and A.P. Hill figures are the actual generals. Most of Fort Magruder is made from reissued breastworks based on those from the December 1960 Marx Civil War playset. Two dozen of the soldiers are original figures from that 1960 set (*a Christmas present from mom for my brother and me*).



Photo 2 Start of the battle.



Photo 3 Silenceing the guns.



Photo 4 Hooker directing.

Photo 5 Confederate Attack.



Photo 6 Longstreet, Hill, Pickett.



Photo 7 "The Superb".

Old Baldy's June Meeting Review

"Letters to Lizzie: The Story of Sixteen Men in the Civil War and the One Woman Who Connected Them All"

By James M. Scythes

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



James M. Scythes.

**Raffle Book Winners -
Martin (Marty) Wilensky
Dave Gilson
Gabe Glison**

Lizzie Brick was a sixteen-year-old girl who lived in Hurffville, New Jersey. She was born to William and Anne Brick on January 3, 1845. Religion was very important to the Brick family for Lizzie attended Sunday School at the second Bethel Church built in 1840, and then attended the third Bethel Church built in 1883. The third building was the last of the church's built, as the first and second church were destroyed by fire in 1770 and again in 1840. It was Thomas Hurff who built the first Bethel Church in 1770 along with 65 dwellings which became the town of Hurffville, New Jersey.

Lizzie attended Bordentown Female College while many of her male friends were going off to war. She decided to start corresponding to the men to keep them informed of what was going on in Hurffville. Lizzie also informed them of what was happening to their friends who were in different regiments. I guess you might say this was a very early form of social media for the friends fighting in the war. She was trying to make the connection between the lives of the friends at home in Hurffville and those who chose to become Civil War soldiers. There was a sum of 124 letters found with 3 written by Lizzie.

Lizzie wrote to her uncle, two of her cousins, along with friends from church and bible study. Letter writing along with talking to people was the only way to communicate during Lizzie's time. Letter writing for soldiers were very hard to read with spelling mistakes and grammar errors. Sometimes their train of thought was something the reader could not understand. If a soldier could not read or write, he would get another soldier to write the letter for him. Over 18,000 letters in a day passed through the Union Army with soldiers writing about a wide range of topics.

Lizzie corresponded with sixteen Hurffville friends with a few relationships that developed during this time. In some ways the men who wrote to Lizzie would confess many things to her including that at times they had "been bad boys". In some ways Lizzie took the role of therapist to the men who wanted her forgiveness. Many were members of Bethel Church like Issac Clark, Company A of NJ, the first to march into the war. Lizzie wrote a number of letters to Issac along with Issac writing back at least twelve letters to her. He stayed in his company for the entire time of the war. Issac was popular with the women and even Lizzie enjoyed flirting with him.

Jacob M. Park lived with Lizzie's family and worked on the family farm. Some thought he was in love with Lizzie. He would say he had dreams of her while sleeping. Then when he woke up, she was not there, and he started crying. The last letter he wrote was in 1864 which suggested that Lizzie and Jacob before the war had stolen a kiss in the granary. She sent him a photo of her, and he kept it in his pocket near his heart. Although after the war he married someone else.

Lizzie wrote to her cousin Edward L. Brick who were like brother and sister since they lived next door to each other. Sometimes Edward was bossy with Lizzie with his letter writing although they did have an interesting relationship. He seemed to have some romantic feelings for her and was opposed to her relationship with John who became her future husband. When Edward became injured, he was admitted to a hospital in Newark with a sprained ankle for nine months. Lizzie did not like the women he was associating with in the hospital. He then told her he was not a Christian anymore which stopped their correspondence for a month. By 1864 he found religion again and they continued to correspond.

The letters in this collection are from many soldiers who talked about the battles and aftermath, religion, but some hid their real feeling and would not

describe what they saw. The soldiers, in some cases, never talked about the war again once they were home with their family and friends. They ask their relatives and friends to pray for them. They were frustrated with the progress of the war and were disappointed as the war dragged on. They expressed their feeling for the traders that decided to run away from the Union Army saying they should be hanged. The Union soldiers could not interact with the south and did not like the attitude of the Confederate women. They called them "she devils" and were glad to get back to New Jersey and to their family.

Some of the soldiers after the war did not come home like Issac who transferred to California in 1870, he went to San Francisco in 1880. Some soldiers experienced health problems after the war as well. William Carr from the 10th NJ died a few weeks after ending the war. Most filed for pensions for many could not work after the war. Life was never going to be the same for hundreds of soldiers that finally came home to their family.

Lizzie married John and had three children. John was a construction manager of the new Bethel Church. They lived in Hurffville until 1895, then moved to Atlantic City and then Ventnor. John passed away and Lizzie moved with her daughter Annie. Lizzie continued to have a network of men who thought about her and her spiritual guidance. She died on October 25, 1919. John and Lizzie were both laid to rest in the Bethel Church cemetery.

The letters and photos that were found would have been lost in today's history. We text and email or are in the cloud and all that would disappear forever. The fear is that history would be lost so that we will not find anyone in today's life with letters to pass onto the next generation. It was a huge surprise and a blessing that our author, Professor Scythes found all these letters to Lizzie.

Finding Lizzie's letters and then having the opportunity to hear some of the stories was a very special presentation for Old Baldy members. We are very fortunate to have James Scythes visit us for a second time with another interesting topic. We thank you for your presentation and look forward to another book in the future.

"Those White Roses"

By Mrs. C. E. McKAY
*Stories of
Hospital and Camp
1876*

In the Army of the Potomac

The first battle of Fredericksburg was fought in December, 1862. Wounded men in great numbers were brought to Washington. Many of the churches and Government buildings in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria were turned into hospitals, and new hospitals were established in the environs of the city. Who that saw the Patent Office at that time will ever forget its great halls and corridors filled with rows of pale-faced sufferers, while there again the gloom was relieved by the presence of faithful, true-hearted women.

Having spent December and a part of January in desultory work and visits in these hospitals, my steps were led to the Army of the Potomac. It was difficult at that time for non-combatants of either sex to obtain passes to the front, but after much delay and intercession I succeeded. My pass, from the War Department, was dated January 12th, 1863, and gave me permission to go to the Army of the Potomac with supplies for sick and wounded. I was accompanied and assisted during my first month in the field-hospitals by my friend, Miss Harriet Sharpless, of Pennsylvania, whose good work for the soldiers there and in other places is too well known to need any mention of mine. We went by steamboat to Aquia Creek, and thence by rail to Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannock.

All along the river for miles stretched the white camps of our army, in their winter-quarters; but among them all I sought out those of the First Division, Third Corps, then the Third Brigade, and Seventeenth Maine regiment,

because in the latter were a brother and several other friends, by whose request I had come to this new field of labor. A tent belonging to Major West, who was absent at the time, was appropriated to our use. Colonel Roberts, of Portland, was in command of the regiment at that time, and from him and the surgeon, Dr. Wiggin, and the other officers, we received a cordial welcome, and the best of such accommodations as their camp afforded, and here we were speedily initiated into camp-life and work in field hospitals.

Hitherto the sick and wounded of the army of the Potomac had been sent to the Washington hospitals, but the experiment of field-hospitals was now to be tried, and that of the First Division Third Corps -General D. B. Birney's was just being established. The establishment of a field-hospital consisted in pitching a number of tents in a row or rows, according to the number of patients, bringing the latter from their own more narrow quarters in their little shelter tents, and laying them on the army blankets, which had been spread on the ground. Then men from the ranks were detailed as attendants, and for such nursing as soldiers could give.

A favorable position had been chosen for our division hospital. It was on high ground, and near a house which furnished lodgings for medical officers and lady nurses. It commanded a fine view of Fredericksburg, on the opposite side of the Rappahannock, and near at hand were the Lacy house and Phillip's house, the latter of which we regretted to see flames not long after our arrival. General Lee's army was encamped on the hills around Fredericksburg. The river being narrow, the soldiers of the two armies, picketed along the opposite banks, could easily exchange words, and sometimes in riding along the river in my ambulance I would stop and listen to their questions and replies.

On our first visit to the hospital, we found men in burning fevers, or with rheumatism, dysentery, or frozen limbs, lying on the ground, with no nourishment but the common soldier's ration of hardtack and coffee, or, as a special luxury, beans baked with pork. Here, indeed, was need enough of work and supplies. The hospital could afford us nothing in the way of cooking utensils. We were welcome, however, to the use of the large kitchen fire-place in the house where we lodged, and an obliging colored woman, who was faithfully serving her old master, the owner of the house, kindly lent for our use a little iron boiler. In this, with the help of a few simple utensils we had brought from Washington, and the tin cans which had contained preserved fruit and meats, we were soon able to prepare puddings of corn-starch and farina, gruel, tea, chocolate, soup, beef-tea, and wine jelly, which, with good bread and butter, and our canned fruit, were a great help to our sick soldiers. By degrees our hospital improved, and assumed a comfortable, even cheerful appearance. The doctors were pleased with our efforts, and gave us every facility in their power.

General Birney, at our request, sent large details of men into the woods to cut poles for bunks, until all our patients were raised from the ground, and placed on beds of straw, covered with blankets. This was indeed a step in the right direction, and none who were at that time inmates of our hospital, can ever forget Mrs. Birney's visits, her untiring efforts for the comfort or 'the men:' and the cheer and encouragement that her sweet presence and generous gifts afforded. It was also through General Birney's kindness that I was after a while furnished with a nice cooking-stove, which was brought up from Aquia Creek, and installed in its place with great rejoicing, Mrs. Birney assisting at the important ceremony. Large quantities of supplies were furnished by the Sanitary Commission, valuable boxes were sent from friends at the North, and also from friends of the Birneys, in Philadelphia, and our special diet table soon showed an extensive variety.

In the spring the army was re-organized, camps were changed, and our division, with its hospital, was removed to Potomac Creek, four or five miles from Falmouth "After the men's wounds were attended to, we went round giving them clean clothes ; had basins, and soap, and towels; and followed these with socks, slippers, shirts, drawers, and those coveted dressing gowns. Such pride as they felt in them ! —

With the first of May comes the battle of Chancellorsville.

"The Bloody Flag of Fort Pillow"

***By Frank Morre
Women of the War
1867***



Fort Pillow

***With the "General"...
Ed Bearss at Fort Pillow
in April 2006... in a rain
storm!... Don Wiles***

It is always a treat to be on a tour with Ed... this time it was walking (almost crawling) up a hill through the woods... in the rain... in the mud... slipping and falling... and then over a swinging bridge and into what is left of Fort Pillow... and then standing in the rain and listening to Ed tell the history of the battle... in his magical way... in a Tee shirt, baseball cap and baton... while we are all in rain gear... these are just some of the things that we will do over this crazy addiction...

Ed and the Civil War...



Dark and damning was the act performed by the fierce partisan leader of rebels on the 14th of April, 1864. The names of Fort Pillow and Andersonville stand out in lurid relief from the stormy background of a great civil war, and stamp with perpetual infamy the authors of these great crimes against humanity'.

Fort Pillow is a strong fieldwork, erected under the superintendence of Polk, and afterwards of Beauregard, on the east bank of the Mississippi River, about fifty miles above Memphis. It was designed as one of the defenses of the Upper Mississippi Valley, and in the spring of 1862 was virtually evacuated by the rebels, in consequence of the Union victories at Donelson and Shiloh, the effect of which was to flank all the rebel positions north of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and concentrate all the forces of that department at Corinth, in front of Grant.

For two years the fort had remained quietly in possession of the Union forces ; but in the winter and spring of 1864 the rebel partisan leader and cavalry general, Forrest, led a force of some six or seven thousand into West Tennessee.

For some time he had his headquarters at Jackson, recruiting and remounting his force. This was always "with him a favorite ranging ground. Before the war he had lived at Memphis and on the river, following the cognate and equally infamous branches of business, negro-trading and river gambling. He was the last and most revolting specimen of that style of man which is the combined effect of a roving border life and of slavery—a man of powerful frame and unflinching nerve, insensible to fatigue, incapable alike of fear or of tenderness, an unequalled horseman, a fatal shot, a successful speculator, and a lucky gambler.

To such a man the opportunity afforded by the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1861 was unlimited. A fierce champion of slavery, a desperado, and a ruffian, war had charms for him far beyond the milder horrors of the slave-yard and the smaller risks of the gaming-table. He plunged into the seething gulf of civil strife with a joy that only the bold and the depraved can know, and by a series of almost unbroken successes, rose from a private to the highest position which it was possible for a cavalry officer to hold.

The men he had drawn around him were similar to him in depravity, only not equal in strength and capacity for command.

Such was the general, and such the force, that, on the morning of the 14th of April, appeared before Fort Pillow. Soon after daylight the fight began. The garrison consisted of not quite six hundred, about two thirds of whom were negroes, and one half the balance were loyal southerners, or, as the rebels contemptuously called them, "home-made Yankees." Major Booth, of the Sixth United States heavy artillery, was in command.

About nine o'clock in the morning, while at the breastwork and directing the battle, Major Booth received a ball direct through the heart, and fell dead. There was continuous firing all day, but no charges, and the number of the garrison who fell was not over twenty.

About three in the afternoon Forrest sent a flag of truce, by which hostilities were suspended for near an hour. The demand which was sent with the truce was for unconditional surrender. Major Bradford, upon whom the command had devolved after Major Booth fell, replied that he could not surrender unconditionally. Forrest replied that he would give him twenty minutes to leave the fort or surrender.

Meantime the rebel force had been advanced furtively so as now to surround the works on three sides ; and the lines awaiting the order for assault were but a few feet from the parapet when the twenty minutes last given by Forrest expired.



At this moment three thousand fierce ruffians sprang forward, and, raising the hideous cry of "No quarter," climbed over the parapet, and rushed upon the garrison. There was no more fighting, properly speaking. On the river side there was a steep bluff, that rose directly from the water, and the whole garrison rushed down this hill towards the river, many plunging into the stream. Then followed a relentless and indiscriminate butchery of all ages, both sexes, and without reference to rank or color.

The heart sickens, and we turn away in loathing from the horrid recital. Of the negro troops hardly one escaped. They were shot down like hogs. They were stabbed and beaten when wounded. The saber was often plunged into the hole made by the pistol ball. Some were pinned to the ground and burned. Some were buried alive. Turn we now from this fearful scene of butchery to another that followed a few days after, by no means cheerful, but relieved by the play of nobler sentiments, and by the presence and heroic words of a brave, though heart-broken woman.

We enter Fort Pickering, situated on a high bluff, that for miles commands a view of the mighty river that rolls, broad, turbid, and swift, below. The ramparts all around bristle with heavy guns. A regiment of United States Artillery is drawn up in perfect order. Every face is sober. A high and firm resolve is burning in many a dark eye. Six paces in front of the line are standing fourteen strong-built, hardy-looking, brave-hearted men. They have no commander. "What wreck of war is this? What waif floating on the stormy ocean of civil strife? We shall see in a moment. A lady, clad in the deepest mourning, steps forward in front of these fourteen survivors. The silence is now full of solemnity and deep emotion. Many a brave face shows, by the quivering lip and the moistening eye, how the sight of that bereaved woman affects them; for she is the widow of Major Booth, and these fourteen are all that are left alive of the battalion he commanded at Fort Pillow.

In her hand she bears a regimental flag, torn with balls, stained With smoke, and clotted with human blood. Amid a silence that is broken only the hoarse roar of the river chafing against the banks below, she commences to address them in a voice low and sometimes broken with the heavings of her mighty sorrow, but whose slightest cadence reaches their hearts.

"Boys," she says, "I have just come from a visit to the hospital at Mound City. There I saw your comrades wounded at the bloody struggle at Fort Pillow. There I found this flag—you recognize it. One of your comrades saved it from the insulting touch of traitors at Fort Pillow. I have given to my country all I had to give—my husband. Such a gift! Yet I have freely given him for freedom and my country. Next my husband's cold remains, the dearest object left me in the world is this flag—the flag that once waved in proud defiance over the works of Fort Pillow. Soldiers, this flag I give you, knowing that you will ever remember the last words of my noble husband—'Never surrender the flag to traitors.'"

Colonel Jackson received from her hand the war-worn and blood-stained flag. He called upon the regiment to receive it as such a gift ought to be received. Then he and the whole line fell upon their knees, and solemnly appealing to the God of battles, each one swore to avenge their brave and fallen comrades, and never, "never to surrender the flag to traitors."

The scene was one the memory of which can never pass from before the eyes of those who witnessed it. It was no holiday presentation, no crowning of a May-Queen. There stood the widow of their former commander, fresh from the grave of her hero-husband. Above them waved the old flag, enriched by a thousand memories, and now consecrated by the baptism of blood, while beside the spot where they stood rolled the grand continental river, whose waters a few day's before had been reddened with the blood of their comrades.

While that river rolls thus grandly to the far-off ocean shall the deed of savage bloodshed that was enacted on its banks be perpetuated in the memory of men, and stamp infamy upon the name of the ruffian chief who thus dishonored our common nature.

**Senate Resolution presented
to Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable
for the dedication
of the Williamsburg "Jersey Boys" Civil War Trails Marker**



THE SENATE

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

SENATE RESOLUTION

By Senator TIVER

WHEREAS, Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia is being recognized upon the dedication of a significant Civil War Trail Sign in Williamsburg, Virginia, on May 5, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of New Jersey is pleased to honor and salute Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia upon this auspicious occasion and commend its steadfast efforts upholding its invaluable mission, which have precipitated this important development in the preservation of Civil War-era sites for the benefit of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, The historical marker will detail the early Civil War battle that occurred at that location on May 5, 1862, and the immeasurable contributions made by the Third Brigade, known as The Jersey Brigade, which was comprised of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry; and,

WHEREAS, The leaders and members of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia, which is more than one-hundred-fifty strong and includes devoted individuals from nine states—the majority residing in South Jersey—are especially appreciated for their unwavering commitment to the installation, maintenance, and mapping of the interpretive signs along the historic Civil War Trail sites and for ensuring that the brave soldiers from New Jersey are memorialized for posterity; and,

WHEREAS, Within all spheres, the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia has established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for the New Jersey Senate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia and to affirm its notable endeavors in furtherance of an astute, engaged, and informed citizenry; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

That this House hereby commends the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia, pays tribute to its meritorious record of service and faithful allegiance, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success and vigor in the years to come; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, be transmitted to Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia.



Nicholas P. Scutari
President of the Senate

Attest:

Linda Metzger
Secretary of the Senate



Join the Hunt for the Alligator Junior

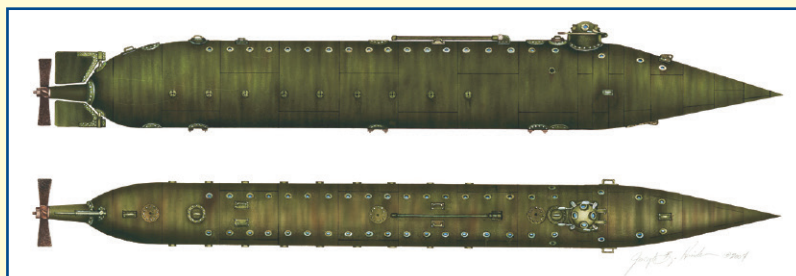
The prototype Civil War submarine abandoned in Rancocas Creek.

www.navyandmarine.org

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

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

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



The Original Alligator Submarine



**Battleship New Jersey
in Dry Dock**



**Frank Barletta helps to steady
the front of the ship.**



**While Ed Komczyk helps to
steady the rear of the ship**

Continued on page 12



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



Independence Hall

HOMEcoming 250

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

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



COMING HOME TO THE BIRTHPLACE

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

THE NAVY & MARINES...

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

THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR THEIR 250TH CELEBRATION

- Independence Hall
- Congress Hall
- The site of the original and recreated Tun Tavern
- The Navy Yard
- The Navy's Most Famous Cruiser and Most Decorated Battleship
- Philadelphia's Historic Museums
- Revolutionary Churches where the Founding Heroes of the Navy and Marines Rest



US Navy ROTC Midshipmen, 2021



"The President's Own" United States Marine Band



The Battleship New Jersey, the Navy's Most Decorated Battleship, fought in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East

SPECTACULAR DISPLAYS OF NAVY & MARINE CORPS HISTORY

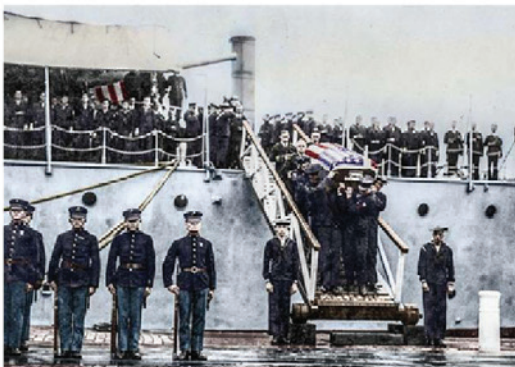
The celebration will include historical, replica, and active-duty ships representing the Navy from the Revolution to today, including ships important to the Marine Corps, in the greatest display of naval history ever. The celebration also will feature aviation displays by the Blue Angels, historic and current Navy and Marine aircraft, and Marine vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. The Marines will demonstrate their landing craft and equipment, and the Navy SEALs and Leap Frogs Parachute Team will participate. Philadelphia Museums will showcase the rich history of the Navy and Marine Corps from the inception of our nation to the present day.



The Submarine Becuna served in WWII and the Cold War



F4U Corsair of USMC



The Marines of the Olympia saved the casket of the Unknown Soldier



Blue Angels



The USS Providence escorted the Marines' 1st amphibious mission

ATTENDING ACTIVE & HISTORICAL SHIPS

- Battleship New Jersey
- Cruiser Olympia
- Submarine Becuna
- Tall Ship Providence Replica
- USS Monitor Replica
- Washington's Crossing Durham Boat
- Wasp-Class Amphibious Assault Ship
- Arleigh Burke-Class Destroyer
- Freedom/Independence Littoral Combat Ship
- Spearhead-Class Expeditionary Fast Transport

INVITED SHIPS

- Brig Niagara
- Ticonderoga-Class Cruiser
- San Antonio-Class Amphibious Transport Dock
- Virginia-Class Attack Submarine
- USCG Cutter

ATTENDING & INVITED NAVY & MARINE AVIATION

- Blue Angels (Attending)
- F/A-18 Hornets/Super Hornet
- F-35B/C Lightning II
- AV-8B Harrier II
- C-130/KC-130 Super Hercules
- V-22/MV-22 Osprey
- P-3 Orion
- P-8 Poseidon
- E-2 Hawkeye
- T-45 Goshawk
- T-34 Mentor
- F4F/FM Wildcat
- F4U/FG Corsair
- F6F Hellcat
- F8F Bearcat
- TBF/TBM Avenger
- SBD Dauntless
- SB2C Helldiver
- PBV Catalina
- AH-1Z Viper
- CH-53 Super/King Stallion
- SH-60 Seahawk
- UH-1 Iroquois

New Jersey Civil War Map

We are in the process of reviewing/editing the NJ Civil War map. Please send your suggestions for these edits to Anita Schwartz at SchwartzAA@aol.com. The next time we have the map printed, edits will be included. Thank you. Anita

JOIN US

Homecoming 250's Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration will be the grand opening event of the Semiquincentennial and will be its largest event honoring the military and veterans, attracting visitors from across the nation. This event will remind us what unites us, reconnect Americans with those who serve, educate our youth, and commemorate those who bravely fought for us all.

To bring this monumental festival to life, we invite you to contribute through sponsoring and supporting this spectacular national event.

Your support will help...

- Shine an early spotlight on the birthplace of our Nation to launch the Semiquincentennial celebration.
- Ensure that this event becomes a memorable and meaningful tribute to the Navy, Marines, and veterans who have selflessly served our country.
- Provide a captivating journey through U.S. history with compelling visual displays, highlighting the pivotal role our military has played in defending our world.

To learn more, visit www.Homecoming250.org

USMC Ball



Tun Tavern (U.S. Naval History & Heritage Command)



U.S. Navy Band, 2019

General Mede Society at the Phillies game on August 27, 2024.

Phillies/ Houston Astros at 6:40 pm

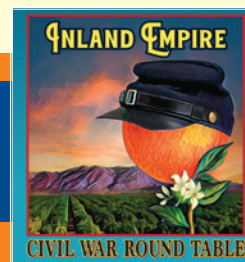
First Level / Left Field Bleachers \$ 40.00

Make check out to Tom Kearney, 303 Forest Avenue, Amber, PA 19002

Turkeytk@aol.com

215-350-2754

Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events



***Wednesday, July 24, 6:15pm – 7:15pm, In-Person and Zoom at 6:15 p.m.
C.E.O. Eric Jacobson; Battle of Franklin Trust. "The Battle of Franklin."
This program will be presented in the Contemporary Club. This is a Zoom
Webinar; the link is below.***

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

***The 2024 Conference
on Women
and the Civil War
Women in the Western Theater
July 26 - 28 Atlanta, Georgia***



***Please join us for our biggest conference
yet -- more speakers and more site
visits --all for the same price as 2023.
Just \$325 for Members!***

**SWCW Conference 2024 Registration - Society for Women and the Civil War
Registration Deadline is July 1**

Saturday - July 27
Field Trip
Atlanta History Center
Roswell Mills
The Southern Museum of Civil War and
Locomotive History
Kennesaw Mountain National Military Park
Dinner Banquet
Civil War Trivia Contest
Exhibits, Silent Auction, and Dessert

Sunday - July 28
Peggy Rhodes and the Underground
Railroad
for Mennonites and Dunkers
Karl W. Rhodes
Black Women's Property Ownership in
Maryland
During the Period 1861-1865
Damita Drayton Green
Evangelist Amanda Berry Smith
Rev. Dr. Ruby Brown-Thomas
Conference Farewell

**Please contact us for information
Society for Women and the Civil War
PO Box 3117
Gettysburg PA 17325
For speediest response, send email to SWCW1865@gmail.com
Please include your email address
www.swcw.org**

Contact Information of the Acting Leaders

Kathy Clark 856-866-0924 Klynn522@comcast.net
Mike Bassett 856-334-5856 mikebassett609@gmail.com
Amy Hummel amymhummel@gmail.com



New Members

*Jacqueline & Jerrold Poslusny
Williamsburg, VA 23185*



*Jim Morris getting his
10-year membership pin*

*FOB welcomes member
Bill Miller
from Williamsburg, VA*



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

**Saturday, October 12 (Rain Date October 13):
Mullica Hill Fall Festival**

**Late October: Glassboro Civil War Weekend
Tuesday, December 31:
Meade's Birthday at Laurel Hill**

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

Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2024

**August 8, 2024 - Thursday
Alexander Rossino**

**"Calamity at Frederic: Robert E. Lee, Special Orders No. 191,
and Confederate Misfortune on the Road to Antietam"**

**September 12, 2024 - Thursday
Tom Scurria**

"Gabriel's Graduation Trip - Virginia Battlefield Tour"

**October 10, 2024 - Thursday
Allen Thompson**

**"In the Shadow of the Round Tops: Longstreet's
Countermarch, Johnston's Reconnaissance, and the
Enduring Battles for the Memory of July 2, 1863"**

Questions to

Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - dgilson404@gmail.com

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Camden County College

William G. Rohrer Center

1889 Marlton Pike East

Cherry Hill, NJ

oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Founded January 1977

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Treasurer: Frank Barletta

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Jim Countryman

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net