

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

May 8, 2025

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

“A Near Death Experience: The Battle of Stones River, a Turning Point in the War”



Walt Lafty



The Battle of Stones River in Tennessee was the last battle of 1862 and the first of 1863. It was one of the best defensive battles fought during the civil war, and saw many heroics, on both sides, ending in a Union strategic win. The battle is number one in percentage of casualties to troops engaged, slightly higher than the battle of Gettysburg. Months after the battle, President Lincoln said that “...had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over”. It can be considered one of the most important political turning points of the war.

Walt Lafty has been active in various Civil War groups for almost twenty years. Currently those include the Delaware Valley CWRT where he is a board member as well as a member of the preservation committee; and he is also an active member of the Old Baldy CWRT. In addition, Walt is a volunteer and research administrator at the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia. He is also a member of Baker-Fisher Camp 101 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Hatboro PA, where he serves as the camp secretary, and he is also a member of the General Meade Society.

Meeting Notice

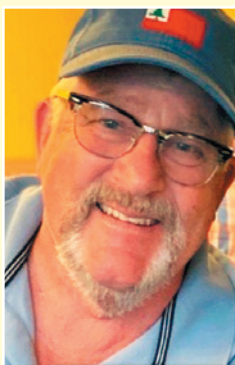
Please note:

This program will be presented on Zoom only.

We will not gather at the Rohrer Center, and will also not have a pre-meeting dinner at the diner.

Watch for the usual meeting reminders and Zoom links in your email. We will return to the Rohrer Center in June

Notes from the President



Paul Prentiss
President, OBCWRT

Wow - May is upon us, the weather has turned warm and hopefully folks are ready to travel about. Our first outside activity is scheduled for Saturday May 25 at the Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA. The **Memorial Day Observance at Hancock's Mausoleum** will take place at 10:30 AM. If you want more information, please contact **Bill Holdsworth**, bholdsworth2@gmail.com (484-344-1671). If you plan to attend any Memorial Day activities please make arrangements with **Frank Barletta**, Frank.Barletta@comcast.net to take Flat Old Baldy along to help spread the Old Baldy message.

If you attend any activities happening near and far, please share your adventures on our Facebook page. **SPECIAL CHANGES for May, June, and July meetings.** We will not gather at the Rohrer Center nor have a pre-meeting dinner this month due to Graduation Week activities. We will return to the Rohrer Center in June, but

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this meeting will have an early start to accommodate special recognition of this year's *Michael A Cavanaugh Book Award* author. The June meeting will start promptly at 7 PM. In July we are meeting on ZOOM again.

Our meeting on July 10th will start at 3pm EDT to accommodate our speaker **Dr. Alys Beverton**, Senior Lecturer in American History at Oxford University, UK. Please make note of this on your calendars. As mentioned above, we are meeting on ZOOM this month. Our own **Walt Lafty** is presenting "*A Near Death Experience: The Battle of Stones River, a Turning Point in the War.*" Not only was it one of the best defensive battles fought during the civil war, but it can also be considered one of the most important political turning points.

Thanks to all who have submitted your membership dues. These dues allow us to promote our mission of education and preservation of Civil War History.

Last month **Ron Kirkwood** was to present "*Tell Mother Not to Worry: Soldier Stories from Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm.*" I understand due to a technical problem with Zoom he could not complete his presentation... Ron has done extensive research of records, letters, and diaries of those present at the hospitals on Spangler land during and after the battle. Don't worry though his presentation has been rescheduled for January 2026.

With our 50th anniversary just 19 months away, please let vice-president **Cal Kinsel**, francal@comcast.net, know if you are interested in working with the planning committee. Preliminary plans to find a venue for a lunch event in the April-May 2027 period are in the works. Last but very important, please contact **Frank Barletta**, Frank.Barletta@comcast.net if you are interested joining the Boscov Coupon committee. This is our big **Boscov Friends Helping Friends (FHF)** Fund Raiser where we sell an extremely popular money-saving coupon to our friends and family and at the entrance of local Boscov stores.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom this month.

Paul Prentiss, President

Member Profile - Dr. Ray Klein

Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member



Dr. Ray Klein

In early 2020 Dr. Ray Klein and Flat Old Baldy boarded a plane in New Jersey and flew some 8,800 miles to Siem Reap, Cambodia. Their destination was the ancient stone city of Angkor, the capital city of the powerful and wealthy Khmer Empire from the 9th to 15th century, and one of the most important archeological sites in Southeast Asia. Stretching some 100,000 acres, including forested areas and newly discovered suburbs, is the Angkor Archaeological Park that is home to the magnificent remains of the kingdom's different capitals and scores of temples in various states of disrepair. The crown jewel is Angkor Wat, a 400-acre Buddhist temple complex built in the 12th century and recognized as the largest religious structure in the world. This very temple was Ray's ultimate destination. "I'm interested in the history of Southeast Asia. It is a very convoluted history of continuous war and conquest and great periods of construction. Cambodians are very friendly. The food, culture, and history are amazing. I have been to over 90 countries and this was one of my favorites."

Ray was born and raised in Philadelphia and attended Central High School, the number two public high school in the state. After his 1968 graduation he began his academic journey toward becoming a board-certified OB-GYN and a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Ray says he became an OB-GYN because the usual result was a happy recovered patient. "I simply wanted to help people, and I liked working with my hands. My father was a tailor, so I decided to go into the field of surgery."

Ray knows his good character is his calling card. Several essential character

traits that Ray finds in all of his favorite historical figures from the Civil War are resolve, sincerity, and a strong sense of responsibility. George Washington possessed all three and more. "George Washington resigned after the war, refusing to be "king." He was a learned officer, a gentleman, and a man of his word. He sought a better life for the people of this new nation without any desire for individual power, in my opinion." Generals Grant and Hancock on the Union side, and Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet on the Confederate side "all seemed to have an understanding of the war's effects on the human condition. They seemed to be religious and caring, and all seemed to recognize the inevitable destruction and death. The strategy of the generals was key to winning battles." Ray read Tzu's "The Art of War" to help him better understand some of the Civil War battles; read Grant's personal memoirs; and has watched a host of historical films and documentaries.

A fact of the Civil War that Ray finds fascinating is that families were torn apart because of divided loyalties between the Union and Confederacy, that brothers would sooner fight and kill their brothers rather than seek to compromise their beliefs on slavery and central power. "Both sides were feeling good on their chosen side. The Civil War was a horrible episode in American history."

Old Baldy CWRT welcomed Ray, a quasi-handyman, as a member five years ago after a meeting invitation from Frank Barletta. A resident of Marlton, NJ, Ray has been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Wednesday, May 8

The North

Major Robert Anderson, whose command at Fort Sumter has made his name known throughout the Union, has been given the task of raising volunteers for the Union from the borderline states.

1861 Thursday, May 8

Eastern Theater

Robert H. Milroy commands a column from Frémont's Mountain Department, which advances along the slopes of the Shenandoah Mountains toward the Confederate positions in the valley. At the town of McDowell he is attacked by Jackson, and in spite of being reinforced by a small unit under Robert C. Schenck, is forced to retreat. The Federal's loss is not as high as that of the Confederates: 28 killed and 225 wounded, compared with over 100 rebels killed and twice as many wounded. At the end of the day the Federal force is fleeing toward Franklin, pursued by Jackson's command, but the Confederates will give up the chase after a couple of days and return to the valley.

Western Theater

Skirmishing continues around Corinth, Mississippi. There is an action at Glendale, near the town.

1863 Friday, May 8

Eastern Theater

Stonewall Jackson's condition worsens. His arm was amputated on May 2 after he was wounded in error by troops from North Carolina during the battle of Chancellorsville. With his iron constitution. Jackson was expected to make a full recovery, but infection sets in. Attended by his wife and devoted friends, the general drifts in and out of consciousness.

1864 Sunday, May 8

Eastern Theater

General Richard H. Anderson, commanding Longstreet's corps in his absence, gets his men on the road four hours earlier than Lee ordered. His enterprise enables the Confederates to beat Warren's Union V Corps in a race for the Spotsylvania Cross Roads. Marching through the night, Anderson's corps is soon in action, rescuing Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry from an unequal contest against Warren's infantry. Heavy fighting continues until after dark, but Grant's attempt to get between Lee and Richmond has failed. The Confederates entrench themselves with customary skill and repel a series of Federal attacks.

Western Theater

Sherman continues his efforts to bypass Johnston's defenses. McPherson's corps enters Snake Creek Gap to turn the Confederate left.

1865 Monday, May 8

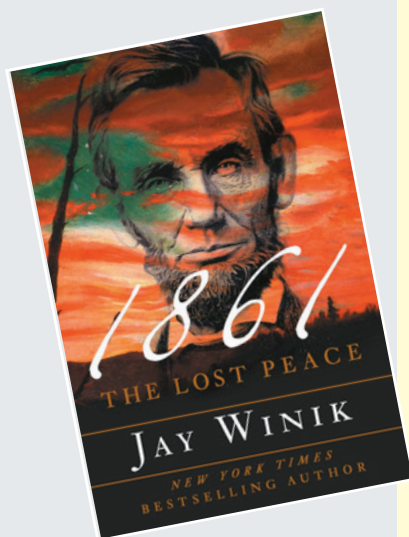
Western Theater

The Confederate soldiers under the command of General Richard Taylor come in to be paroled in Mississippi and Alabama. In the bitter fratricidal conflict in Missouri, there is another skirmish at Readsville.

American Civil War Books

(to be published May 2025)

Compiled by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member



1861: The Lost Peace

by Jay Winik/Grand Central Publishing

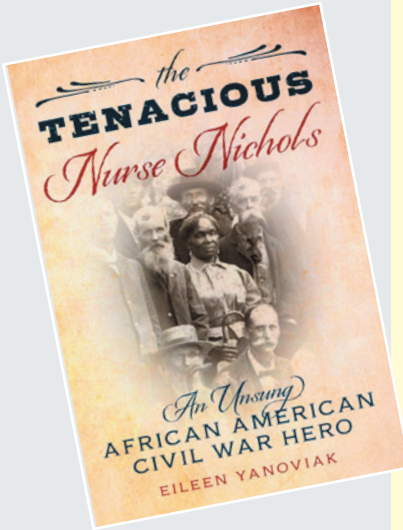
From an award-winning historian and New York Times bestselling author, a gripping, fly-on-the-wall account of the weeks leading up to Abraham Lincoln's decision to go to war against the Confederacy.

Through Jay Winik's singular reporting and storytelling, readers will learn about the extraordinary Washington Peace Conference at the Willard Hotel to avert cataclysmic war. They will observe the irascible and farsighted Senator JJ Crittenden, the tireless moderate seeking a middle way to peace. Lincoln himself called Crittenden "a great man" even as Lincoln jostled with him. Readers will glimpse inside Lincoln's cabinet—the finest in history—which rivaled the executive in its authority, a fact too often forgotten, and witness a parade of statesmen frenetically grasping for peace rather than the spectacle of a young nation slowly choking itself to death.

The Tenacious Nurse Nichols: An Unsung African American Civil War Hero

by Eileen Yanoviak/Lyons Press

There are only two known images of Lucy Higgs Nichols, a Civil War nurse who escaped enslavement to join the Indiana 23rd Regiment. In one captivating photograph dated to 1898, the elderly Lucy is the sole female and the only person of color. She stands stately in the middle of a large group of war veterans at a reunion that she diligently attended every year. Some of these soldiers were from the Indiana 23rd Regiment, the men whom she nursed and with whom she marched and fought. These soldiers fiercely advocated for her Civil War nurse's pension in the 1890s. Her story is remarkable—a journey from enslavement in Tennessee, to freedom and service among the ranks of the Union Army, and finally to independence and



national recognition from the press, the Grand Army of the Republic, and even Congress. Despite harrowing obstacles and unimaginable pain, Lucy achieved notoriety, nobility, and self-sufficiency in a post-Civil War era that often denied Black Americans and women justice and opportunity.

Rebels at the Gates: The Confederacy's Final Gamble and the Battle to Save Washington

by Robert P. Watson/Rowman and Littlefield Publishers

Lee Besieged: Grant's Second Petersburg Offensive June 18-July 1, 1864

by John Horn/Savas Beatie

Glorious Courage: The Life of Confederate John Pelham in the Army of Northern Virginia

by Sarah Kay Bierle/Savas Beatie

The Overland Campaign for Richmond: Grant vs Lee 1864

by Bradley M. Gottfried/Casemate

Late to the Fight: Union Soldier Combat Performance from the Wilderness to the Fall of Petersburg

by Alexandre F. Caillot and T. Michael Parrish/LSU Press

Reluctant Participants: Animals and the American Civil War

by Charles Poland/BookBaby

Decisions at Forts Henry and Donelson: The Twenty One Critical Decisions That Defined the Battles

by Hank Koopman/University of Tennessee Press

Strong Men of the Regiment Sobbed Like Children: John Reynolds' I Corps at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863

by John Michael Priest/Savas Beatie

The National Tribune Remembers the Atlantic Campaign: Battles, Skirmishes, Marches, and Camp Life as Recalled by the Union Veterans Themselves

by Stephen Davis/Savas Beatie

Becoming Lunsford Lane: The Lives of an American Aeneas

By Craig Thompson Friend/The University of North Carolina Press

Saltgrass Prairie Saga: A German American Family in Texas

by Jim Burnett/Texas A&M University Press

Hero of Fort Sumter: The Extraordinary Life of Robert Anderson

by Wesley Moody/University of Oklahoma Press

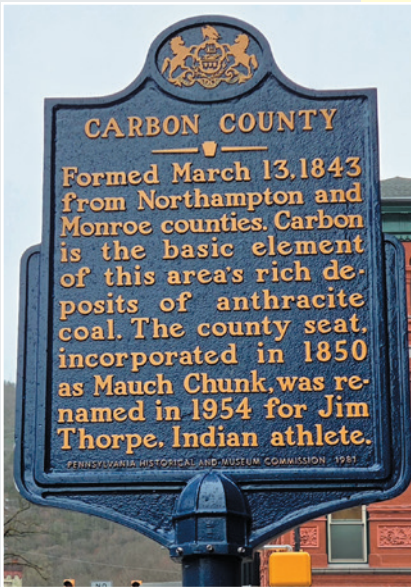
**The 2025 Membership Dues
are now past due but it's never too late to pay them.**

Our 2025 dues remain the same, \$25.00 Individual Membership and \$35.00 Family Membership. Remember they can now be paid online. Just visit our Web Page, click on, "Membership" on the top bar, which will take you to the next page. Choose a payment method, visa, etc., and click "Buy Now". This will take you to the submission page, complete form and click on, "Pay Now". Done!

As always, if you prefer to pay by check, bring it to any meeting or send to: OBCWRT c/o Paul Prentiss 16 Heather Drive, Marlton, NJ, 08053. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 856-745-8336 or pprentissfamily@gmail.com

Pocono Town Involved in Civil War Effort

by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member



What did I know about the Pennsylvania town of Jim Thorpe before I recently arrived there for a weekend visit? Two things: it was located in the Pocono Mountains and it was named in honor of the famous Native American athlete. So imagine my surprise when I was near the town square and saw a monument stamped Appomattox, 1865! What follows is a series of photos and stories about my experience.

Jim Thorpe, Pa.

Founded in 1818 and originally known as Mauch Chunk (a Leni-Lanape Indian name meaning “sleeping bear”), Jim Thorpe is a historic Victorian town nestled in Lehigh Gorge in Carbon County. Its roots stretch back to the early 19th century when Josiah White, the founder of the town, discovered how to effectively use anthracite coal as an energy source. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was created (its large building still stands) and began mining operations in the surrounding hills. Innovative techniques were used to transport the coal, including dams, locks and canals along the Lehigh River as well as a Switchback Gravity Railroad, which is known as one of the oldest “roller coasters” in the world. The town of Jim Thorpe certainly has a history of wealth, including industrialist millionaires whose legacies are still seen in the opulence of its Victorian mansions.

Civil War history

One of the mountains overlooking the town of Jim Thorpe is Flagstaff Mountain. Once a lookout for the Lenape Indians, it is 1,600 feet above sea level and almost 1,000 feet above the town. The mountain got its name at the start of the Civil War when a group of patriotic Unionists flew the American flag from the top of a dead hemlock tree on its summit.

The Northern Liberties was a small settlement nestled in a wide hillside gully north of Jim Thorpe and it was where canalmen and switchback workers lived. Shortly after the Confederates attacked Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, fifty-six men from the fifty families living in The Liberties enlisted to fight for the Union cause. It was for this reason that the settlement received its name. On Memorial Day 1922, a crowd of several hundred people gathered to pay tribute to the little village, its fifty-five deceased Civil War veterans and, at the time, the only village veteran then living. Today, only a huge boulder with a bronze plate listing the names of the 56 men offers evidence that the village was once inhabited. (Historians record that approximately 2,000 of Carbon County's men served with the Northern forces during the Civil War.)



Inscription on the Northern Liberties monument:

This monument marks the site of the Northern Liberties, from this village of fifty families, fifty-six men enlisted for the defense of the Union in the War of 1861-1865.

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Carbon County Soldiers and Sailors Monument:

The monument was dedicated in 1886 and honors veterans of the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and with an addition of a World War II honor roll plaque.

The 6'3" soldier standing at parade rest on top was dressed in the uniform of the Union Army. Planned as early as 1873, six companies vied for the design. The contract went to Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, which supplied numerous Union and Confederate Civil War monuments to other states. The Carbon County monument was made of "white bronze" (actually bluish-gray and pure zinc) while the base was made from "artificial stone," as concrete was sometimes called during that era. Over the years, deterioration of the original cement base became a problem and it was resurfaced with a stone facade.



Southern face:
To all the brave defenders of the Union from the County of Carbon. **Appomattox, 1865**



Eastern face:
On fame's eternal camping ground their silent tents were spread, and glory guards with solemn round the bivouac of the dead. **Mexico, 1847**



Western face:
Erected under the Auspices of Chapman Post No. 61, G.A.R., 1886 **Yorktown, 1781**



Northern face:
Wilderness, Hampton Roads, Antietam, Gettysburg. **New Orleans, 1815**

The Inn at Jim Thorpe:

Situated in the heart of Jim Thorpe's National Register Historic District. Many dignitaries including General Ulysses S. Grant and "Buffalo Bill" Cody stayed here.

1833 - Cornelius Connor built the White Swan hotel

1849 - Connor rebuilt the hotel after the great fire of 1849; renamed it the New American Hotel

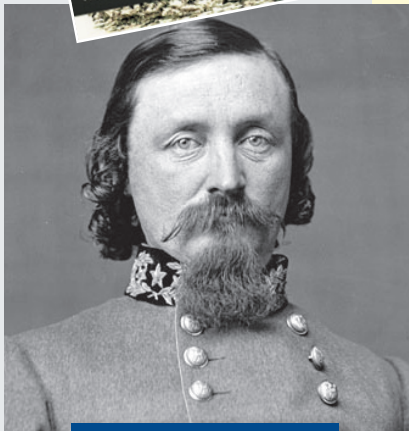
1988 - John Drury bought the hotel, restored it, and renamed it The Inn at Jim Thorpe



Pickett's Men

"Pickett's Men at Gettysburg"

Pickett's Men
1870
by Walter Harrison
Inspector General
Pickett's Division



**Major General
George Pickett**



**Pickett's Division
Marker
Gettysburg**

The regular order of march on that day happened to be: Kemper's Brigade first; Garnett's second; and Armistead's last. Starting out, from our night's bivouac, near the stone bridge on the road between Cashtown and Gettysburg, just a little before daylight, these brigades moved to the right and south-east of this road, and by a valley whose mouth opens just opposite the Cemetery Hill and center of the enemy's position, we reached on line of battle ground, concealed from the line of the enemy by a range of hills which runs parallel to Cemetery Ridge and nearly equal distant between the two opposing forces. In this valley a halt was made, and the usual inspection of arms and loading for action perfected. The number of muskets was four thousand four hundred and eighty-one; and the aggregate effective strength, about forty-seven hundred, rank and file.

Our line of battle was then formed, immediately facing the enemy. Coming into line from column, right in front, Kemper's Brigade held the right, Garnett's on his left, and Armistead's, for which there was not room in extended line of battle, was formed immediately in rear of the others. Fences and other obstructions in front of the line were cleared away, and the command only waited the orders of the commander-in-chief to move forward. This formation was entirely effected by about seven o'clock in the morning, and screened from the observation of the enemy by the intervening high ground. On the left of Pickett's three brigades was Heth's Division, then commanded by Brig.-Gen. Pettigrew, Gen. Heth having been wounded in the first day's fight; and somewhat to the left and rear of Heth's, was formed Fender's Division, commanded by Brig.-Gen. Trimble. The disposition of troops being thus made, the order of attack was to have been thus carried out.

Pickett's three brigades were to advance right into the very teeth of the enemy, storming his position on the cemetery heights, bristling with artillery and infantry; and the other two divisions were to move simultaneously in support, charging in second and third lines of battle.

Wilcox's Brigade, which had been engaged with the enemy the evening before, and was then lying about two hundred yards in front of our line, was to join in with Heth's Division as it passed.

The strength of position of the enemy was frightful to look at. I had an opportunity of examining it carefully, before the attack was made, which few others had, and in this way.

The left of Garnett's Brigade overlapped a little the right of Pettigrew's in the line of battle front, thus preventing Armistead's Brigade from coming up in the continuation of the first line. While forming this line, Gen. Armistead asked me to inquire of Gen. Pickett whether he wished him to push out, and form line in front of the right of Heth's Division, or to hold his position in rear for the present. Brave old Armistead was very tenacious of place to the front. Not seeing Gen. Pickett immediately, and anxious to satisfy Gen. Armistead, I rode up to Gen. Longstreet, whom I saw with Gen. Lee, on top of the ridge in front of us, making a close reconnaissance of the enemy's position, and addressed Gen. Armistead's question to him. The great "war-horse" of the army, or as he was more familiarly called, "Old Peter," seemed to be in anything but a pleasant humor at the prospect "over the hill;" for he snorted out, rather sharply, I thought: "Gen. Pickett will attend to that, sir." Then, as I was going off-thinking perhaps, in his usual kind-heartedness, that he had unnecessarily snubbed a poor sub.-he said: "Never mind, colonel, you can tell Gen. Armistead to remain where he is for the present, and he can make up his distance when the advance is made." And this, as is well known, Armistead nobly did. My little trespass on military etiquette, if it brought with it a fair reproof, was the means of my obtaining a first and comprehensive view of the

position of the enemy, and truly it was no cheering prospect.

His troops seemed to be heavily massed right on our only point of attack. Holding an advanced front, almost inaccessible in the natural difficulties of the ground, first by a line of skirmishers, almost as heavy as a single line of battle, in the lower ground; then the steep acclivity of the "Ridge" covered with two tiers of artillery, and two lines of infantry supports. These had to be passed over before reaching the crest of the heights where his heavy reserves of infantry were massed in double column.

A loose stone-fence or wall, common in the country, ran along the side of this ridge, offering cover and protection to his infantry, while a common rail-fence running through the bottom land, presented an obstacle to the advance of our men. From the crest of the hill, where our men first became exposed to the direct fire, down the descent, and up to the enemy's front must have been, I should think, half a mile, at least, of entirely open and exposed ground. Over this terrible space, within canister and shrapnel range, it would be necessary for our brave and devoted boys to go, before striking the foe at anything like close quarters. Ah! it looked-even in that morning's light, before a deadly shot had been fired, before a drop of blood had spotted that green meadow, which was so soon to be soaked with bloody carnage-like an open guest pens for slaughter, a passage to the valley of death; and the attacking force, like a truly "forlorn hope" on an extensive scale. But Gen. Lee's confidence in the men he had reserved for this desperate work, the well-proved metal of these veterans of many a hardly-won field under his own eye, doubtless had satisfied him, even at that early day, that "Pickett's Men" could and would "carry anything they are put against."

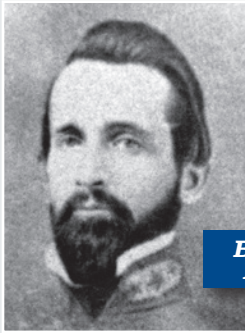
The day was clear and bright. Nature, at least, was all smiling, as she will smile, spite of the existing or pretending woes of mortals; although her elements had already been well shaken by two days of desultory fighting, yet the serenity of this morn betokened little of the fierce conflict of passions, and deadly strife between men who should have been brethren in some common cause, as they were children of a common country. This inauspicious calm but preceded the most terrible storm of battle. After the formation of the lines of battle on the Confederate side, the whole forenoon was pressed in comparative inactivity. The Federal line showed its teeth in grim silence, awaiting, like a tiger in his lair, the approach of his enemy, still strengthening and concentrating all of hill forces for the death-grapple.

The Confederates were cheerful, but anxious at the delay. They were restless to be "up, and at 'em;" eager to have what they knew was inevitably before them commenced and ended. Both sides felt that this was to be a combat Saccharine; that the heavy skirmishing was over, and the moment of the grand action well-nigh arrived. The great question of that campaign, perhaps of the whole war, was hanging on the next few hours. Success or defeat to either side would be an almost final blow given and received. Not only the superior officers, but the subordinates and the men felt this; and the attacking party, at least, buoyant in their self-confidence, and appreciating the stent necessity of success, were impatient of restraint. It is said, that to the condemned, in going to execution, the moments fly. To the good soldier, about going into action, I am sure the moments linger. Let us not dare say, that with him, either individually or collectively, it is that mythical "love of fighting," poetical, but fabulous ; but rather, that it is the nervous anxiety to solve the great issue as speedily as possible, without stopping to count the cost. The Macbeth principle-"Twere well it were done quickly," holds quite as good in heroic action as in crime.

Thus then the tried men selected for this desperate assault, waited in ador-cooling inactivity, to rush boldly into victory or into death. Unhappily, none saw the first; but few escaped the last.

At one o'clock, P. M., a single gun from our side broke the stillness which had endured for hours: another gun! It was the preconcerted signal for more than a hundred pieces of artillery to belch forth their charges upon the lines of the enemy.

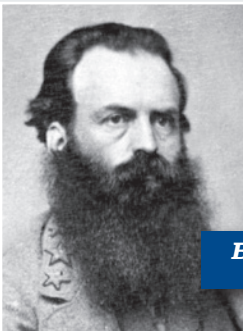
There is, or was, on the crest of the slope, and about two hundred yards in front



**Brigadier General
Richard Garnett**



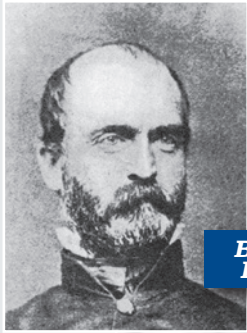
**Garnett's Brigade
Marker**



**Brigadier General
James Kemper**



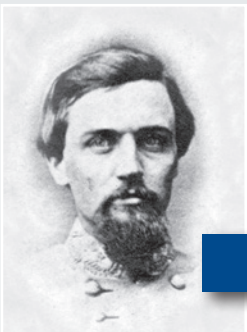
**Kemper's Brigade
Marker**



**Brigadier General
Lewis Armistead**



**Armistead's Brigade
Marker**



**Major
James Dearing**



**Dearing's Artillery
Marker**

of our line of battle, a certain peach orchard, which has been often mentioned in accounts of the battle of Gettysburg ; and attached to that peach orchard was a house, with a well of the coldest, hardest water that ever sprung out of lime stone rock. I never shall forget that water. Whether it is the now celebrated "Gettysburg water," which is said to cure every ailment that human flesh and blood and bones and intestines cherish for the detriment of us poor sinners, I know not; but I shall, know, if ever I taste the abominable bottled stuff. It was so hard, you could hardly drink it, by itself; and it would hardly amalgamate with Chambersburg whiskey. Perhaps if the whiskey had been of a darker color, we might have got up a miscegenation. I was sitting in this peach-orchard, with Gen. Garnett and Gen. Wilcox, first trying a piece of cold mutton which Gen. Wilcox had produced, then trying to drink the hard water; and then accomplishing without much difficulty a little pull at the Chambersburg whiskey, only to prevent the water from freezing my whole internal economy, and petrifying my heart of hearts, when this first signal-gun broke mysteriously upon the long tedium of the day. Having been previously informed of the signal, I told Gen. Garnett that we had better be getting back to our line, as the work was about to commence in earnest.

We had scarcely got to our horses, that were about twenty yards down the hill, when the enemy replied with interest to our artillery salute. Such a tornado of projectiles it has seldom been the fortune or misfortune of any one to see. The atmosphere was broken by the rushing solid shot, and shrieking shell; the sky, just now so bright, was at the same moment lurid with flame and murky with smoke. The sun in his noontide ray was obscured by clouds of sulphurous mist, eclipsing his light, and shadowing the earth as with a funeral pall; while through this sable panoply, ever descending and wrapping this field of blood in the darkness of death, shot the fiery fuses, like wild meteors of a heavenly wrath; hurtled the discordantly screaming shell, bearing mangled death and mutilation in its most horrible form.

The enemy had the exact range of our line of battle, and just overshooting the artillery opposed to them, as usual, their shot and shell told with effect upon the infantry, exposed as they were without cover of any sort. Here was a situation more trying than the quiet inactivity of the morning. Many of the men, and several valuable officers were killed or disabled long before a movement was ordered: but the line remained steadily fixed. Our artillery continued to pour in a telling response for about two hours, when the enemy's batteries slackened their fire. Then the order for the infantry charge was given, and the men sprung to their feet with a shout of delight.

Gen. Pickett led his brigades straight on the enemy's front; Kemper and Garnett front, and Armistead, getting up into line at a run, on Garnett's left. The three brigades moved across this field of death and glory all steadily as a battalion forward in line of battle upon drill. The three brigade commanders were conspicuously in front of their commands, leading and cheering them on. The enemy again opened fresh batteries, at short range, which had been reserved for this moment, and their infantry from behind their sheltered position poured a destructive fire of musketry right into the faces of the men as they rushed up to their breastworks. The fire of a battery, or one or two guns from the Round Top also enfiladed our line of advance. But there was no such thing as resisting successfully this first assault. These Virginia boys knew nothing of repulse.

Like a narrow wedge driven into a solid column of oak, they soon broke through the outer barriers of resistance, crushed the inner riud of defense, and penetrated even to the heart. They touched the vital point, they made the life-blood flow. They stretched out a hand to grasp a victory at that moment; but, alas! the blood red hand was not sufficiently strong. It was fierce to seize, but too feeble to retain. The nerve and spirit to strike was there; but the force to hold was impotent. Where then should have been Corse and Jenkins? Oh! for those four thousand veteran and brave Virginians and South Carolinians, led on by the tough old bull-terrier Corse, and the gallant, ardent Jenkins!

With them we might have held on to the grip. Two lines of guns had been already taken, two lines of infantry had been driven back, or run over in this headlong assault; but the enemy still had a dense body of reserve. The critical

moment for support had arrived to this little band of so-far victors. Another wedge must be driven in, another sledge-hammer mauling given to this one, or the sturdy oak, once riven, would close in and crush it. At last, checked in front, hemmed-in on all sides, this devoted forty-five hundred, this very

"forlorn hope," must succumb at once, or fight its way back over this desperately conquered ground. Stubborn holding on was death; a forced retreat was equally death or destruction. Where then were their supports? where were those two lines that were to follow up this glorious burst of valor? Another, alas!—the second and third places had been too hot for them. They could not come up in the face of that withering storm. They did not reach the first line of the enemy. Midway they wavered, and from midway they fell back in disorder. Every effort was made to rally them, but to no purpose.

And thus this day's fight, so brilliantly begun for the Confederates, so important in the history of the war, so crushing in its effects to the whole army of Northern Virginia, was ended. Yes, practically ended.. For the rest was but the getting out of a bad scrape in the best manner possible; and there was no best about it.

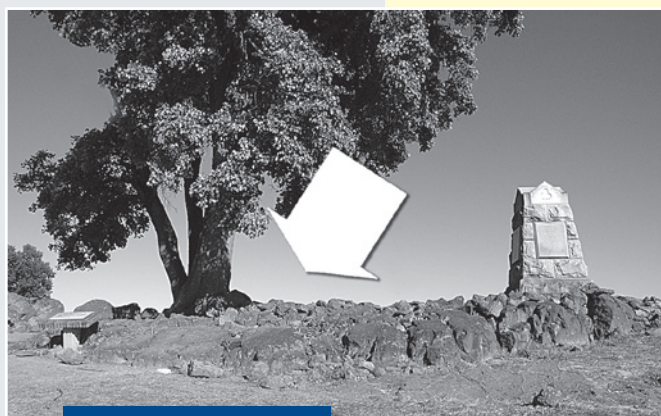
Let it be understood that it is far from my purpose to cast unqualified censure upon those troops who failed to secure for us so much as had been hardly and gloriously won; much less is this designed as a glorification of one set of troops at the expense of another. I am recording the final discomfiture of Pickett's Men at Gettysburg, after their well-known charge-and I state simply the fact, that these other troops were ordered to support them, which, I believe, it is quite as well known they did not. These troops had behaved most gallantly on other occasions, and have done so since. They had been already seriously engaged on the two days previous, and had lost many valuable officers, in whom the men had confidence and were accustomed to follow. Gen. Heth had been wounded, and the command of his division had fallen upon Brig. Gen. Pettigrew, a most gallant and competent commander, but comparatively

unknown out of his own brigade—which was an untried one at best. In like manner, Gen. Pender being mortally wounded, his division was for the time commanded by Brig. Gen. Trimble, a gallant and excellent officer, who lost a leg and was taken prisoner in this very day's fight. These two divisions then, much reduced in strength, going into a third day's fight without their accustomed officers, commanders, or regimental and company, labored under every disadvantage. A part from all other causes, however, this direct assault of the heights of Cemetery Ridge, was quite enough in itself to turn the stomach of many a brave man.

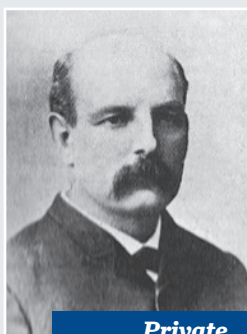
But to return to Pickett's Men, from this digression made in simple justice to their intended allies. Failing this support, and unable to stand the pressure from the front and upon both Ranks, they had got too far in to make anything like a successful retreat. The overwhelming force of the enemy now having in reality no one else to contend with, soon closed in from every point upon the insignificant few, and poured in a direct as well as cross-fires upon them. Their attention to this part of the work was little distracted by any further hostile demonstrations, for it was only a duty of destruction or capture on the one side, and *saue qui peut* on the other. As may be readily inferred, this was the point at which our loss was most severe. In the attack it was heavy, but unheeded; in the retreat it became terrible. Several batteries of the enemy again opened, especially the one from the Round Top, which had enfiladed us throughout. Hundreds were slain in attempting to recross the plain, who had escaped the thickest of the melee; and the major part of the command were too far advanced to escape capture. The scattered few who succeeded in regaining the original line of the morning, were mostly without arms, wounded, and exhausted. An effort was made by Gen. Lee to rally the remnant for a renewed attack, but there could scarcely a good-sized regiment have been collected, and no field officer to command it.



Copse of Trees



The Angle



**Private
Robert Tyler Jones**

**Grandson of President
John Tyler**

Private Robert Tyler Jones of the 53rd Virginia Infantry regiment picked up the regiment's colors after several color bearers were shot down. He followed General Armistead to the stone wall before he was shot and wounded. He survived the war.

**Union Regiments that
defended the "Angle"**



71st Pennsylvania



72nd Pennsylvania



69th Pennsylvania



106th Pennsylvania



The enemy did not attempt to follow up this discomfiture. Although successfully repulsing us, he had been too much harassed to desire any more fighting. Our dead and wounded lay between the lines, and the enemy's sharp-shooters fired upon our litter-bearers whenever an attempt was made to bring off the wounded. Many were brought in after dark, but we were still in ignorance of the actual fate and condition of the great majority of our officers and men until many days after. The sun that had risen so brightly upon our confident hopes, buoyant in anticipation of victory, set in sullen, angry sadness upon that field of carnage, where our bravest and best lay weltering in their gore and glory; where our cup of bitterness was filled to the overflowing, and where our resources were so crippled, that we never—no, never recovered from the blow. The whole army occupied its position the greater portion of the next day, July 4th, and on the evening of that day commenced its retreat towards the Potomac. Our general loss must have been heavy, though by no means proportionate to Pickett's command.

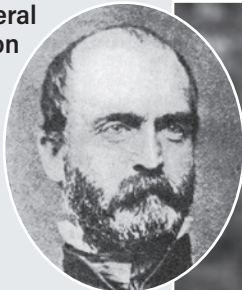
Performing the melancholy duty of ascertaining the probable loss and present effective strength of the division, on the morning of July 4th, we could not report an aggregate of one thousand muskets; and this after returning to the ranks and arming all of the cooks and ambulance men. There were not even company officers and non-commissioned officers enough left to make formal morning reports. The exact number of killed, wounded, and missing, as subsequently ascertained, however, amounted to three thousand three hundred and ninety three, just about three-fourths of the force carried into action. What of these were killed and what wounded, of course it was at that time impossible to know. Brig. Gen. Garnett was killed instantly, falling dead from his horse. He had not dismounted during the action. Indeed he was unable to walk, from the effects of an accidental injury received some two weeks previous; and even until the day of battle, had been unable to ride on horseback, but had been traveling with the troops in an ambulance. He was really in no condition, physically, to have been upon the battle-field, but it was impossible to dissuade him from leading his brigade on that glorious day. Thus he voluntarily met a noble soldier's and a hero's death. Brig. Gen. Armistead was mortally wounded at the head of his command after having planted his flag upon the strong position of the enemy. He fell into their hands, where he soon after died of his wounds, receiving every kindly attention at the hands of his former companions-in-arms of the United States Army. Brig. Gen. Kemper was also desperately wounded, but was brought off the field, and to our hospital, where he was subsequently taken prisoner and sent to the hospital at Gettysburg. He was supposed to be mortally wounded, but after a long time recovered, and was exchanged. The fate of these two last-named officers was for a long time in doubt with us. Poor Armistead, than whom a better, braver soul never ascended to heaven, breathed his last at Gettysburg; while it pleased a Divine Providence, almost against all hope, to preserve Kemper for further service in a cause he supported so well. While in his precarious condition he was readily exchanged for Brig. Gen. Graham, taken prisoner by us at Gettysburg. This was the fate of the Brigade Commanders. Of the

colonels of regiments, seven were killed on the field: Hodges, Edmonds, Magruder, Williams, Patton, Allen, and Owens, and one, Stuart, was mortally wounded. Three lieut. cols. were killed: Calcott, Wade, and Ellis. Five colonels, Hunton, Terry, Garnett, Mayo, and Aylett were wounded; and three lieut. cols., commanding regiments, Carrington, Otey, and Richardson were wounded. In fine, of the whole complement of field officers in fifteen regiments, one only escaped unhurt.

This was Lieut. Col. Joseph C. Cabell, who was afterwards killed in the battle of Drewry's Farm, May 6, 1864. The loss of company officers was quite equal in proportion. Thus were these three brigades deprived at one fell swoop of the very dower of their officers and men; a loss never to be fully repaired. For more

**Wounding Site of
Brigadier General Lewis Armistead CSA**
The spot where Armistead fell after crossing the stone wall. He was taken to a field hospital at the George Spangler farm. He lived two more days and was buried on the Spangler farm and was later moved to the Old Saint Paul's Cemetery in Baltimore

Brigadier General
Lewis Addison
Armistead
CV



**Friend To Friend
(Masonic Memorial)**

On July 3, 1863 Brigadier General Lewis Armistead led his Virginians in the great charge against the Union Line on Cemetery Ridge. Armistead was

wounded when he breeched the wall and coming to his aid was Captain Henry Bingham. A masonic greeting was passed by each man.

Armistead is shown giving his watch with the Masonic emblem on his watch fob and asking Bingham to give it to his long time friend Major General Winfield Hancock who was also wounded by this time.

Location: National Cemetery Annex



Captain
Henry Harrison
Bingham
USAMHI



reasons therefore than one, this terrible repulse at Gettysburg was the most crushing blow, and in fact the grand turning-point of the war. Apply, even in diminished ratio, this fearful loss of the best material to the other commands of the army of Northern Virginia, and you at once reach the downhill of resistance.

Not that this descent to Avernus, was easy; for we had yet to attain the Stygian shades of subjugation by a most rugged path.

To Be Continued in the next Issue



***Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire
Upcoming events***

***Monday, May 19, 6:30 P.M. Pacific Time Zoom,
Gordon Gidlund, will be presenting
Shakespeare in the Civil War***

***Discover references to Shakespeare's plays and sonnets
that appeared in newspaper cartoons, soldiers' letters
home, and politicians' speeches—especially those of
Abraham Lincoln himself, who was a big fan of the Bard.***

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



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

2025 Summer Conference

Honoring the Life & Scholarship of the Late Dr. Peter S. Carmichael

June 13 – 18, 2025



Experience an unforgettable conference filled with lectures, tours, and discussions led by some of the nation's leading Civil War scholars, as we celebrate the life, scholarship and passion of the late Dr. Peter S. Carmichael. Delve into thought-provoking topics that were so dear to Pete, such as *The Culture of the Common Soldier*, *Gender and Honor in the Old South*, *The Civil War and Public History*, and *Robert E. Lee in History and Memory*.

Featured Speakers and Tour Guides:

Gary Gallagher / Kent Masterson Brown / Carol Reardon / Harold Holzer / Caroline Janney / Aaron Sheehan-Dean / Joseph Glatthaar / Scott Hartwig / Jennifer Murray

Featured Battlefield Tours with Special Meaning to Pete:

- *Indianans at Gettysburg*
- *The Battle for the Common Soldier*
- *Gettysburg: Why They Fought, How They Fought*

Additional Conference Topics & Tours:

- *Archival Documents from Gettysburg*
- *The Generalship & Post-War Life of James Longstreet*
- *The Battle of Perryville*
- *Archaeological Discoveries from Little Round Top*
- *The Creation of Civil War Memory*
- *Emancipation & Early Reconstruction in the South*
- *An Exploration of Gary Gallagher's Favorite Sites at Gettysburg*
- *Whirlwind in the Wheatfield*
- *Florida and the Floridians at Gettysburg*
- *An Army War College Approach to Understanding Gettysburg*



GETTYSBURG
FOUNDATION

Exclusive Evening Experience:

Thanks to the Gettysburg Foundation, attendees will enjoy a special evening visit to the historic George Spangler Farm on Saturday, June 14.

The 2025 CWI conference will also offer special workshops & tours designed for K-12 educators, in addition to the popular small-group "lunch-in" and "dine-in" discussions with CWI faculty.

The 2025 CWI conference has something for everyone, from longtime students to those new to the Civil War!

REGISTER TODAY!

CWRT Members receive 15% off of their conference registration. Use code PAR!

Questions? Contact us at:

www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2025-cwi-conference

2025 Savas Beatie Antietam / Gettysburg Meetup Have you heard...

Plans are underway for this year's 2025 Savas Beatie Meetup.

JOIN US

September 5-7, 2025

Gettysburg,
with a side day trip to Antietam!



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

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 Calling Card



The monthly e-newsletter of the
Society for Women and the Civil War

<http://www.swcw.org>

Woman of the Month

Kady Brownell
vivandiere



The 2025 Conference on Women and the Civil War

Our 25th Conference, *Women in the West*, will be held July 25 - 27, 2025 at Tapatio Springs Resort in Boerne, Texas.

We are proud to announce our co-sponsor for this event:
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program (CHAPS)

CHAPS.UTRGV

Conference Registration and Resort Reservations are opening soon!

Please watch your inboxes for the announcement.

Submissions Requested

The Calling Card accepts notices of the achievements of our members; activities of the Civil War & Women's History communities; and essays for our Woman of the Month column.

Send your submissions to swcw1865@gmail.com with *Calling Card* in the subject field.
(Submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity.)

The Calling Card is distributed on the 15th of each month, and our deadline for same-month submissions is the 10th.

Editor: DeAnne Blanton, SWCW Board Member and President Emerita



***FOB Welcomes
New Members
and
Awards***



***Mike Bassett
10-year pin***



***Mary Wible
Philadelphia***

**Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT
Speakers and Activities
for 2025**

June 12, 2025 - Thursday

Steven Stotelmyer

**“From Frederick to Sharpsburg: People, Places,
and Events of the Maryland Campaign
Before Antietam”**

July 10, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

Dr. Alys Beverton

**“Exceptionalism in Crisis: Faction, Anarchy, and Mexico in
the US Imagination during the Civil War Era”**

August 14, 2025 - Thursday

Walt Lafty & Mary Wible

**Philadelphia's Grand Army of the Republic
Museum and Artifacts**

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

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