

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

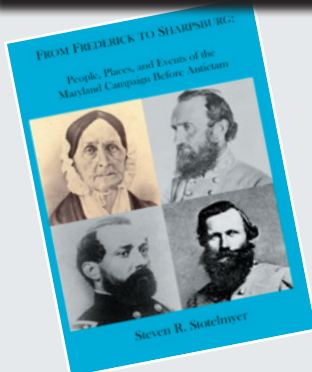
June 12, 2025

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

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



Steven R. Stotemyer



The Battle of Antietam stands out as the single bloodiest day's combat in American history. More people were killed or injured on September 17, 1862, than any other day in our nation's entire history. With 23,000 casualties it is understandable that this single event tends to take the spotlight in the Maryland Campaign of 1862. However, Robert E. Lee did not begin crossing the Potomac on September 4, 1862, just so he could fight at Sharpsburg 13 days later with his back to that same river. From Frederick to Sharpsburg sheds light on some of the other participants and events long obscured in the shadow cast by America's bloodiest day.

Steven R. Stotemyer is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Frostburg State College and a Master of Arts from Hood College in Frederick. He is a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League, a non-profit land trust which helped preserve some of the South Mountain Battlefield. This led to the publication of *The Bivouacs of the Dead: The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain* (Toomey Press, 1992). In 2019 Stotemyer authored *Too Useful To Sacrifice, Reconsidering George B. McClellan's Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam* (Savas Beatie, 2019). Currently, Steve is a National Park Service Volunteer as well as a NPS Certified Antietam and South Mountain Battlefield Tour Guide.

### Notes from the President

I hope you all had a very nice Memorial Day. This note was written prior to the weekend because Old Baldy, along with Susan and me, are flying across the pond to London. FOB wanted to accompany us on our trip to Merry Olde England, Ireland and Scotland. He promises to take lots of pictures and show them on our Facebook page. The Memorial Day Observances at Hancock's Mausoleum at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA went well. Read more about it in the newsletter. If you want to take Flat Old Baldy along on any of your trips to help spread the Old Baldy message, please contact **Frank Barletta@comcast.net** to get FOB. He loves to travel and has quite a following on Facebook. If you attend any activities happening near and far,

### Meeting Notice

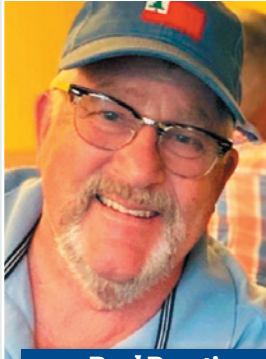
Join us at 7:00 PM  
on Thursday, June 12,  
Free and open to the public. In-person  
meeting at Camden County College,  
William G. Rohrer Center,  
1889 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill, NJ  
08003, and simulcast on Zoom.

Premeeting at Kettle and Grill 5:00 PM

"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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**Paul Prentiss**  
**President, OBCWRT**

please share your adventures on our Facebook page. **SPECIAL CHANGES** for the June and July meetings. We return to the Rohrer Center this month, but this meeting will have an early start to accommodate the special recognition of this year's Michael A Cavanaugh Book Award author. The June meeting starts promptly at 7 PM and we have a special gift for those participants with grandchildren. **Steven Stotelmyer** will present "*From Frederick to Sharpsburg: People, Places, and Events of the Maryland Campaign Before Antietam.*" The Battle of Antietam stands out as the single bloodiest day's combat in American history. More people were killed or injured on September 17, 1862, than any other day in our nation's entire history. Speaking of Antietam, The General Meade Society has invited Old Baldy members to accompany them on a 3-day tour to the battlefield and nearby sites in mid-October. I'll have more information at the June meeting. In July we are meeting on ZOOM again. Our meeting on the 10th will start early at 3pm EDT to accommodate our speaker **Dr. Alys Beverton**, Senior Lecturer in American History at Oxford University, UK. Please note this on your calendars. A big thanks to our own **Walt Lafty** for a great job presenting "*A Near Death Experience: The Battle of Stones River, a Turning Point in the War*" in May. Giving details on one of the best defensive battles fought during the civil war, Walt presented considerable information on why this battle was considered one of the most important political turning points in the war. Thanks to all who have submitted your membership dues, a few are still trickling in so it's never too late and of course it's important because these dues allow us to promote our mission of education and preservation of Civil War History. With our 50th anniversary just 18 months away, please let vice-president **Cal Kinsel**, [francal@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 at the Rohrer Center on the 12th prior to 7 PM. If you can, please join us at the Kettle & Grille, 230 N Maple Ave, Marlton at 5 PM for some pre-meeting banter.*

**Paul Prentiss, President**

## **Member Profile - Nancy Bowker**

**Kim Weaver**  
**OBCWRT Member**



**Nancy Bowker**

**"I am honored to be a member of Old Baldy and their mission to open the windows of history." —Nancy Bowker, 30-year member**

Nancy Bowker's introduction to the American Civil War was provided by her dad, James Souder, who was a professional artist and book illustrator. For fun he liked to paint whatever stoked his imagination, from historic battles to camp scenes, landscapes or a giant frog appearing out of a spaceship. "So he always took my sister, Melinda, my brother Tim and myself to art and history museums and reenactments."

Nancy's personal interest in the Civil War was triggered when working on a biography of famous horseman John S. Rarey. Rarey was a nineteenth-century horse tamer and briefly a horse inspector for the Union. He was present at the Battle of Fredericksburg and went up in Professor Lowe's balloon. "I researched the battle to be able to write about it," says Nancy, the author of three horse books, "and was hooked by the drama, heroism and tragedy of the soldiers and their horses." Nancy points out that the Cavalry horses possessed great wisdom, "like Old Baldy's never give up attitude, despite being wounded several times. I had a Mustang mare, and she had been taken off the range like Baldy. Her life was totally upended. Yet she did her best to adjust to people and captivity and eventually become so loving. And I think the actions of the Cavalry, which was crucial to the success of the Union, are generally



neglected."

When Nancy and her dad visited the Civil War Library and Museum on Pine Street in Philadelphia (closed in 2008), and she saw Old Baldy's actual head in the case, "I was astonished. A real face that was actually there on so many battlefields. He saw President Lincoln, General Grant and of course General Meade! He is truly a national treasure. I love that our Round Table honors him by using his name." And the rest of the artifacts? "Whew, what a collection! Each room was chock full of fascinating things, even the wanted poster for John Wilkes Booth. I'm sure a lot of ghosts lingered there."

Museums are some of Nancy's favorite places to visit, especially when they are located in a beautiful old grist mill like The Brandywine Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pa. She says the galleries are well lit and filled with the unique and intriguing artwork of N.C. Wyeth, his son Andrew, and grandson Jamie. She also loves the Philadelphia Museum of Art. "A treasure trove, and so is the GAR Civil War Museum in Philadelphia."

From the GAR Museum drive roughly 10 miles east and you will arrive in Riverside, N.J., Nancy's birthplace. She was raised in nearby Riverton and graduated in 1974 from Palmyra High School. Not yet reaching the end of her studies, Nancy went to Burlington County College in Pemberton and received an associate degree in journalism. She wrote freelance articles for a local history column for the Burlington County Times and wrote several articles for equine magazines. Nancy, a bookseller at Barnes & Noble in Moorestown, has three books to her credit: "The Wild Horse: An Adopter's Manual" co-authored with Barbara Eustis-Cross; "John Rarey: Horse Tamer" published in London; and "New Horse Handbook" published by Sterling in New York.

Today, Nancy lives in Eastampton, N.J. She and her husband Russ have been married for 45 years. They like to spend time with their daughter Jessica and her husband Mike and their outrageously cute cats and a dog. Nancy has two ex-harness racehorses Gwen and Ted, and is still mourning the loss of her beloved Yankee Slammer, another ex-harness who passed away last year after working in the rural community for years pulling a buggy.

Nancy's memberships: The General Meade Society of Philadelphia, the American Battlefield Trust, the Author's Guild, Equine Advocates.

## ***Today in Civil War History***

***1861 Wednesday, June 12***

### ***Trans-Mississippi***

Governor Jackson makes a proclamation in Jefferson City, Missouri, claiming he had tried to compromise with the "invaders," and calling for 50,000 volunteers to fight the Union forces. General Sigel is sent toward Springfield to ward off McCulloch's force.

***1861 Thursday, June 12***

### ***Eastern Theater***

Stonewall Jackson crosses the South Fork of the Shenandoah, where he rests for three days before beginning the march back to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Richmond. With a force never exceeding 20,000 men. Jackson has neutralized at least 60,000 Federal troops under McDowell, Frémont, and Banks. His actions mean that the defenders of Richmond can concentrate on the task of beating off McClellan without having to worry about a second Union attack from the North.

A further blow to Federal morale is dealt by flamboyant Brigadier-General J.E.B. Stuart, who takes a force of cavalry and horse artillery on a reconnaissance mission that will in four days take him right around the Army of the Potomac.

### **Trans-Mississippi**

A detachment of Federal cavalry meets a Confederate force at Waddell's Farm, near Village Creek in Arkansas.

## **1863 Friday, June 12**

### **The North**

Rumors of another Southern invasion fly around communities north of the Potomac. Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania calls out the State Militia and requests assistance from New York State. Response to the creation of a militia corps is dismal, and refugees trickle northward to escape the fighting. Pennsylvania is denied Federal aid but New York supplies 26 regiments of State Guard from June 15 to July 3. Eastern Theater Ewell's 23,000 men and 20 artillery batteries take 18 hours to pass through the defile of Chester Gap, but the move remains undetected by the Union cavalry. A reinforced Federal division sits unperturbed at Winchester. Its commander, Major General Robert H. Milroy, refuses to withdraw to Harper's Ferry, believing he is opposed by only a couple of cavalry brigades.

## **1864 Sunday, June 12**

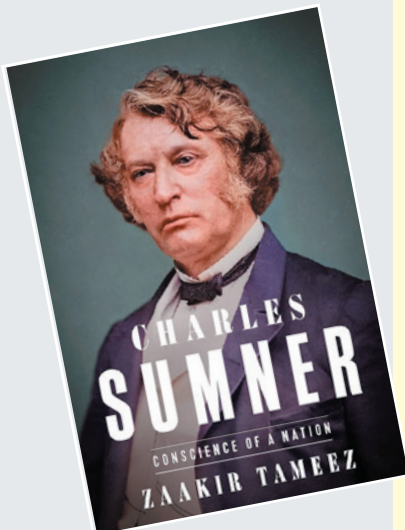
### **Eastern Theater**

Sheridan attacks Hampton's cavalry again at Trevilian Station. The Confederates are now well entrenched and the assault is driven off. Learning also that Jubal Early's corps had been detached from the Army of Northern Virginia and is now marching on Lynchburg, Sheridan abandons his attempt to join Hunter. He has lost 1007 of his 8000 men but Confederate losses are similar. The Army of the Potomac pulls out of the lines of Cold Harbor. Several days of pains-taking preparation pay off. Using newly constructed roads and a 700-yard pontoon bridge over the James River, Grant's men file over to the south bank. One corps travels down the Pamunkey and York rivers to be shipped back up the James. Warren's corps remains at Cold Harbor to keep the Confederates busy. Western Theater Still leading 300 prisoners taken yesterday at Cynthiana, Morgan's raiders are attacked and defeated by 1500 Federals under General Burbridge. Morgan flees towards Abingdon, Virginia.

# **American Civil War Books**

*(to be released June 2025)*

Compiled by Kim Weaver  
OBCWRT Member



## **Charles Sumner: Conscience of a Nation**

**by Zaakir Tameez/Henry Holt and Co.**

Charles Sumner is mainly known as the abolitionist statesman who suffered a brutal caning on the Senate floor by the proslavery congressman Preston Brooks in 1856. This violent episode has obscured Sumner's status as the most passionate champion of equal rights and multiracial democracy of his time. A friend of Alexis de Tocqueville, an ally of Frederick Douglass, and an adviser to Abraham Lincoln, Sumner helped the Union win the Civil War and ordain the Emancipation Proclamation, the Thirteenth Amendment, the Freedmen's Bureau, and the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

In a comprehensive but fast-paced narrative, Zaakir Tameez presents Sumner as one of America's forgotten founding fathers, a constitutional visionary who helped to rewrite the post-Civil War Constitution and give birth to modern civil rights law. He argues that Sumner was a gay man who battled with love and heartbreak at a time when homosexuality wasn't well understood or accepted. And he explores Sumner's critical partnerships with

the nation's first generation of Black lawyers and civil rights leaders, whose legal contributions to Reconstruction have been overlooked for far too long.

An extraordinary achievement of historical and constitutional scholarship, Charles Sumner brings back to life one of America's most inspiring statesmen, whose formidable ideas remain relevant to a nation still divided over questions of race, democracy, and constitutional law.

## ***Lincoln's Lady Spymaster: The Untold Story of the Abolitionist Southern Belle Who Helped Win the Civil War***

**by Gerri Willis/Harper**

In this gripping Civil War history, Gerri Willis charts the making of a spymaster genius. Right in the heart of the Confederate capital, Elizabeth Van Lew played the society lady while building a secret espionage network of slaves, Unionists, and prisoners of war.

It would cost her almost everything. Flouting society's expectations for women, Elizabeth infiltrated prisons and defied public opinion. She met assassins, socialites, escape artists, and cross-dressing spies. From grave robbery to a bold voyage across enemy lines, Elizabeth's escapades only grew more daring. But it paid off. By the war's end, she had agents in both the Confederate War Department and the Richmond White House, and her couriers provided General Ulysses S. Grant with crucial, daily intelligence for his final assault.

With extensive and fresh research, Gerri Willis uncovers the Southern abolitionist heroine that the Lost Cause buried—an unbelievable tale of one woman's courage, resistance, and liberation. Heartfelt, thrilling, and inspiring, Lincoln's Lady Spymaster restores a forgotten hero to her rightful place as an American icon.

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

**by John Horn/Savas Beatie**

## ***The Weather Gods Curse the Gettysburg Campaign (Civil War Series)***

**by Jeffrey J. Harding and Jon M. Nese/The History Press**

## ***Encyclopedia of Union Generals: The Definitive Guide to the 588 Leaders of the North's War Efforts***

**by Samuel W. Mitcham Jr./Regnery History**

## ***Gettysburg in Color: Volume 3: Sacred Ground, 1863-1938***

**by Patrick Brennan and Dylan Brennan/Savas Beatie**

## ***American Civil War Amphibious Tactics (Elite, 262)***

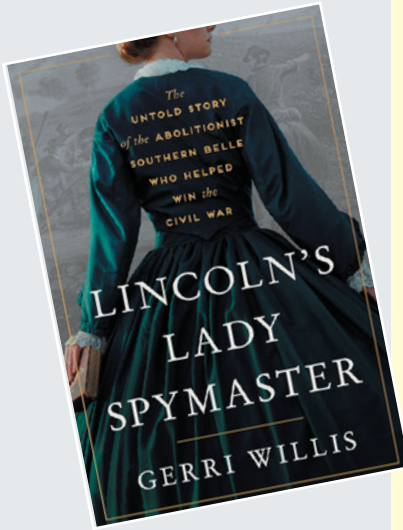
**by Ron Field and Steve Noon/Osprey Publishing**

## ***The Civil War***

**by Jeremy Black/St. Augustines Press**

## ***West Virginia's War: The Civil War in Documents***

**by William Kerrigan/Ohio University Press**



### **Some Civil War Trivia**

The White Horse: His Name? Where is he at in this photo? What is the significance of this horse? Who is the Philadelphian connected with and why?... No prize... Just checking our knowledge...

Send your answer to Don Wiles at [cwwiles@comcast.net](mailto:cwwiles@comcast.net) answer next month.

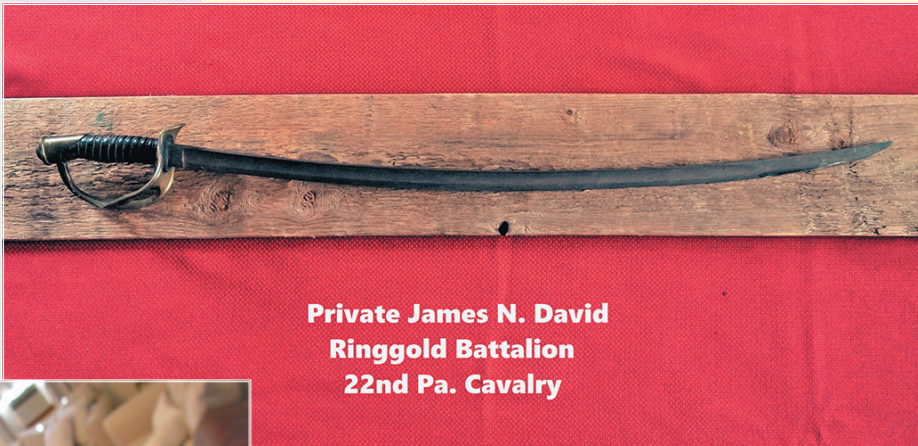


# Historic Sword Returns To The Battlefield

by Joe Wilson  
OBCWRT Member

On September 19, 1864, at the Third Battle of Winchester, General Philip Sheridan ordered a staggering 6000 cavalry troopers to storm the works of General Jubal Early's Confederate position. Sheridan's massive cavalry attack holds the distinction of being the most spectacular charge of mounted troops unleashed in the entire war.

One of the swords advancing in the dramatic attack resides in my personal collection. The identified saber belonged to Trooper James N. David from the small town of Highhouse in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, just south of Pittsburgh. James David enlisted at the age of 20 in the Beallsville Cavalry in September of 1862. He first rode with the Ringgold Battalion before mounting up in 1864 with the 22nd Pa. Cavalry in General William Averell's Division.



**Private James N. David**  
**Ringgold Battalion**  
**22nd Pa. Cavalry**

Now, in May of 2025, Trooper David's historic sword is going back to the scene of the bloody fighting at Winchester for an evocative rendezvous with its past glory. Having owned the saber for some time, it was finally time to take the relic on a return trip back to the battlefield where Trooper David held this same sword high above his head 162 years ago while racing at a full

gallop to crush Early's line. Despite the exploding artillery shells and musketry, the stampede of horsemen went forward. Thankfully, James survived the battle and the war.

Because he had his name stamped on the hilt, I was able to get his records from the National Archives in Washington. Military records and a regimental book, "The History of the Ringgold Battalion and the 22nd Cavalry," detail his every movement during the Civil War. Armed with so much information, it's as if I'm riding right alongside of him on my own horse in all his campaigns and battles of the war. He handled the saber, while I wielded a pen taking notes.

From the time of his enlistment, the sword dangled from the horse of Trooper David as he rode his mount in many skirmishes and battles throughout the mountains of West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. This time around, it's riding in peacetime comfortably resting in the backseat of my air conditioned SUV for a return to the field of the grand assault.

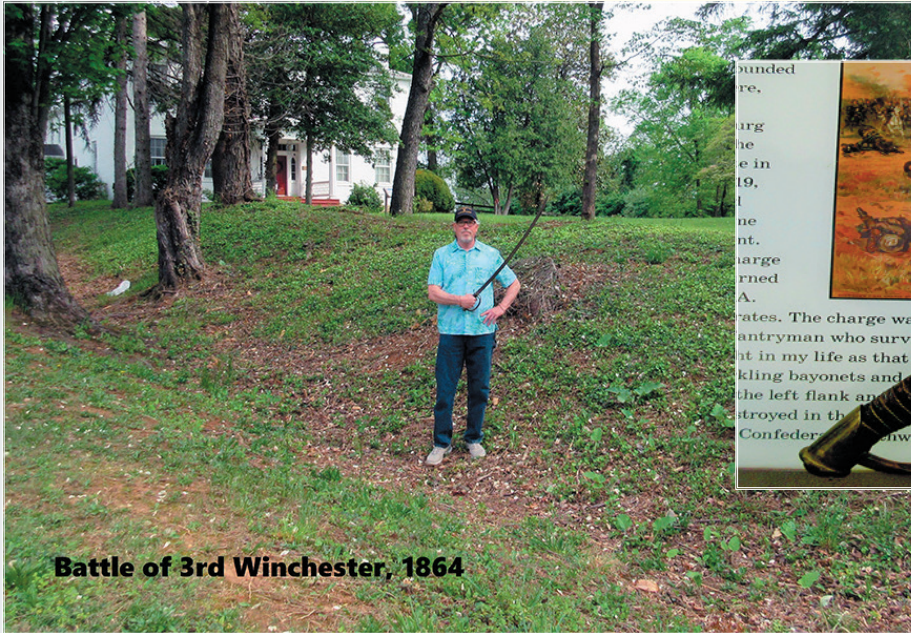
David served with the Ringgold Battalion in 1862 and 1863. Being assigned to the Ringgold Battalion under General Benjamin Kelly's Railroad Division, (8th Corps) their duties included protecting the B+O Railroad and dealing with bushwhackers in West Virginia. All in West Virginia held the Ringgolds in high esteem, including Confederates. In the rugged mountains of West Virginia, the battalion dealt with Confederate cavalry and Partisan Rangers from New Creek down to Romney. In 1864, the Ringgolds joined another battalion to form the 22nd Pa. Cavalry for more action as part of Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign.

I rolled up to the Winchester Battlefield Visitor Center after spending the morning walking the town of Harper's Ferry, which is a satisfying experience



*Continued on page 7*





**Battle of 3rd Winchester, 1864**



of its own. The volunteer manning the Winchester center was quite excited about the sword. So was I. The friendly volunteer gave me direc-

tions to that part of the field where the charge took place. Being on the exact ground of the assault certainly stoked my imagination.

Once on the soil where the sword saw service, I took it out and held it high just as Trooper David did 162 years ago in battle. My imagination kicked into high gear traversing the ground of the racing horse soldiers. I marched on with the sword pointing skyward leading Judy, my single trooper, who likely viewed it all with a bit of amusement, but followed anyway. A cavalry regiment of two went forward with a saber that no longer glistened in the sun. Patina now replaced the shine. The blade had come full circle.

Sheridan's order came toward the end of the battle that had been a stalemate to that point. Once in formation, the onslaught began. Bugles sounded and

the thundering of horse's hoofs shook the earth as thousands of soldiers raised their swords in anger racing for Early's left flank. The swords flashed in the sun with a multitude of flags flapping in the wind while rumbling down the turnpike. Five cavalry brigades of 6000 horsemen screaming like wild banshees crashed into Early's defensive line. The brigades consisted of Generals Devin, Custer, Lowell, Powell, and Schoonmaker.

Not surprisingly, the Confederate line collapsed under the charge. Infantry cheered their mounted brethren coming to the rescue. The battle came to a swift end.

Sheridan ordered the cavalry to continue the pursuit. Early fled through the town for the safety of Fisher's Hill. Sheridan's report stated that he sent Early "whirling thru Winchester." The Union victory was sealed.

Even Confederates later mentioned in diaries that it was a magnificent scene. One Confederate in the trenches who survived the attack stated, "I never saw such a sight in my life as the tremendous force, the flying banners, sparkling bayonets, and flashing sabers moving upon the left flank and rear of our army."



**Battle of Winchester  
Sept. 19, 1864**





Fort Mill Ridge, Romney, WV

Normally, it isn't possible to keep 6000 horses in formation due to creeks, ravines, trees, and fences. Winchester seemed to offer open ground to allow the unusual movement of five brigades galloping down the pike from Stephenson's Depot. No defensive line could have withstood such a blitz of troopers.

With daylight fading, Judy and I retired from the field back to our bivouac at Camp Quality Inn. The day couldn't have been better. Roaming the battlefield in early May with lots of sunshine marked the beginning of traveling season. In the morning, it was off to Romney, West Virginia, with the sword in tow to explore more familiar territory where James David and his sword rode with the Ringgold Battalion.

According to local historians, Romney changed hands at least 40 times during the war. One of the more interesting Civil War sites in Romney is the Fort Mill Ridge constructed high atop the ridge.

The well positioned fort overlooking the Mechanicsburg Gap prevented any troops from advancing on Romney through the gap. Encircling the fort are some of the best preserved trenches of the war. A Civil War Trails sign marks the entrance to the steep road to the top of the summit.

In 1863, Colonel Jacob Campbell, commanding the 54th Pa. Regiment, enhanced the pits that Confederates started in 1861. The Ringgold Battalion served with Colonel Campbell's Brigade in the Confederate infested towns, valleys, and mountains of Hampshire and Hardy County. The brigade included the 1st West Virginia Infantry and the West Virginia Artillery, Battery E.

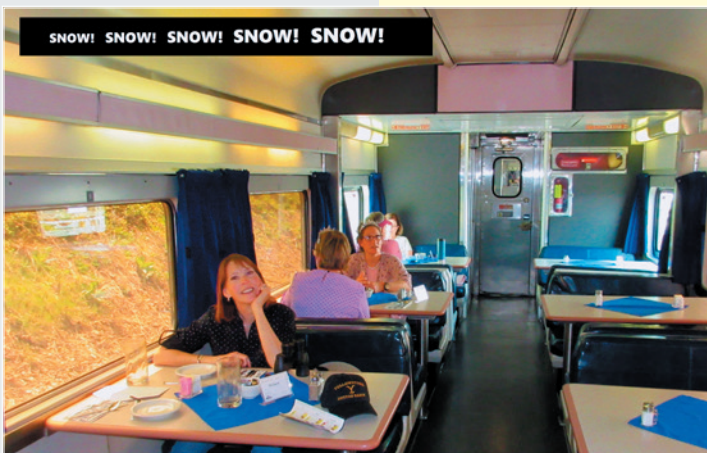
While in Romney, the trip wouldn't be complete without a trip back in time on the Potomac Eagle Rail excursion along the South Potomac River. The narrator included many references to Romney's Civil War past. For those looking to eat, the old dining cars serving up an optional dinner. Judy and I had the crusted halibut. Our booth in the retro dinner car seemed right out of White Christmas.

Many history buffs know a lot about Virginia's Civil War history. But West Virginia, the state born in 1863, is often overlooked. But if you have a relic sword that served in the rugged mountains of West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, it is mandatory research and most satisfying. You learn all you can about the history of the weapon's trek through the war while riding along with the fertile ground of your imagination providing the backdrop.

I like to think I escorted the sword back to its familiar haunts. In reality, I just followed the old warrior. I brought the sword back to the battlefields. Trooper James N. David carried it into the history books!



Rampart - Fort Mill Ridge



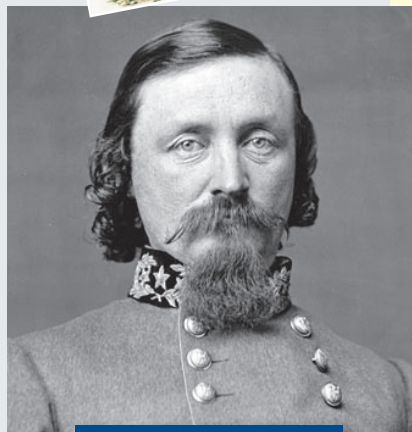
*Joseph F. Wilson is a member of Old Baldy CWRT and The General Meade Society. The writer lectures on Civil War topics and is the writer and producer of the documentary "Civil War Prisons - An American Tragedy" available on Amazon. YouTube channel - "Joseph F. Wilson." Contact - JoeF21@aol.com*



# Pickett's Men

## "Pickett's Men at Gettysburg"

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



**Major General  
George Pickett**

### *Continued from last Issue*

That 4th of July lowered grimly upon our shattered hopes and broken fortunes. Sad and disheartened, we turned our backs upon our unburied dead and mutilated living, uncared for by the hands, but truly mourned in the hearts, of the surviving few. Gen. Lee sent more than one flag of truce for the privilege of looking after his dead and wounded lying on the battle-field, but it was denied him. Evidently, Gen. Meade was not in a conciliatory or cheelful state of mind, upon his negative victory. It proved subsequently that he was as little in mind for more fighting at that moment, as his distinguished adversary. I venture to say that though the brow of either chieftain was crowned with laurel, the countenance of neither was "wreathed in smiles" on that sad morning. If Lee, in his bruised condition, was forced to go, Meade was in no condition to press him.

I do not mean to borrow from general history the doubtful statistics of losses or gains at Gettysburg. Our loss was more than sufficient to be atoned for by any amount of honor and glory. If Pickett's Division were not for the time being reduced to the proportions of a mere "Corporal's Guard," it was at once degraded to the position of "Provost Guard" of the army of Northern Virginia; doubtless a post of honor we had merited from being so badly mauled. Thirty-four hundred prisoners of war, including some two hundred officers, from a Brig.-Gen. to a Brvt. Second Lieut.-together with the descriptive rolls and paroles of about twenty-five hundred more, taken on the previous days and released, were turned over to me on the morning of July 4th, with instructions that the remnant of the division was to guard them in safety through the enemy's country, and across the Potomac. Gen. Pickett was assigned to the temporary command of Hood's Division, Gen. Hood being wounded; but at Pickett's request this transfer was not carried out. The number of prisoners was increased to upwards of four thousand before arriving at Williamsport. These prisoners were all sanguine of being retaken by their own army within a few days; but, this hope long deferred, and the prospect of a long march before them, induced the officers to ask for paroles. Having obtained the sanction of Gen. Lee, I paroled nearly all of them at a place called Monterey Springs, and gave them safeguards to return, they binding themselves in the parole, that if it were not duly recognized by their Government, to render themselves prisoners of war at Richmond. But this arrangement was not carried out. Not being permitted to release them at this point, I was required to march them on with the rest of the prisoners. During the day, a Col. Tilden, I think of a Maine regiment, who was probably the ranking officer and spokesman of them, applied to me to cancel their paroles, as the main object in getting them was to avoid a long and fatiguing march. This I immediately agreed to, as in good faith I felt bound to do, and the paroles were destroyed.

Thus we moved on with all of our prisoners to Williamsport, where we found the Potomac so much swollen, that it was impossible to cross them over to the Virginia side for several days. Here, I was directed to transfer our "charge of honor" to Gen. Imboden, who was to escort them to Staunton. If it were with any reluctance individually that the Inspector-General was forced to part with this agreeable company, it was only with joy that Pickett's Men gave them up, and embraced the chance of getting once more to the front, with their more favored companions-in-arms. Here too, Gen. Pickett had the gratification of receiving for his command the following explanatory and complimentary note from the General commanding the army, whose special commendation was as valuable as it was rare:

HEADQUARTERS, A. N. VA., JULY 9, 1863.

GENERAL: Your letter of the 8th has been received. It was with reluctance that I imposed upon your gallant division the duty of carrying prisoners to Staunton. I regretted to assign them to such service as well as to separate them from the army, though temporarily, with which they have been so long and efficiently associated. Though small in numbers, their worth is not diminished, and I had supposed that the division itself would be both to part from its comrades, at a time when the presence of every man is so essential. . . .

No one grieves more than I do at the loss suffered by your noble division in the recent conflict, or honors it more for its bravery and gallantry. It will afford me hereafter satisfaction, when an opportunity occurs, to do all in my power to recruit its diminished ranks, and to reorganize it in the most efficient manner.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE, General.

Major-Gen. G. E. PICKETT, commanding, etc., etc. Forwarded through Lieut.-Gen. Longstreet.

C. MARSHALL, Major and A. D. C.

This letter was published to the division in general orders, and received with heartfelt satisfaction. The troops were devoted to Gen. Lee in weal or woe, and always felt that his sympathy and his praise would secure to them the respect and esteem of the world.

The army after holding the enemy in check at Hagerstown for several days, crossed the Potomac into Virginia at "Falling Water," passed through Martinsburg, and went into camp at Bunker Hill. At this point, about July 15th, Brig.-Gen. Corse reported his brigade at Winchester and ready to rejoin the division.

As the army was moving to the south side of the Blue Ridge, and the enemy had already occupied, with their cavalry, both of the mountain passes, Snicker's and Ashby's Gaps, instead of ordering Gen. Corse up to the division, he was directed by Gen. Pickett to push on, with his brigade and a battery of artillery sent to him for that purpose, to secure the passes at Manassas and Chester Gaps, which he accomplished, after some heavy skirmishing, thus affording a safe passage for the army into Eastern Virginia. This was valuable service; and although this brigade had been deprived of participation in the Pennsylvania campaign, it had been already doing good service in guarding the railroads and bridges in front of Richmond.

From Bunker Hill I was dispatched to Richmond, in advance of the army, to collect and return to the division all of the exchanged prisoners and convalescent men belonging to it. But it is well known that at this time there were no exchanges made; and from this cause, the three brigades so lamentably cut up at Gettysburg remained much reduced in numbers for a long time. In this condition the division was moved to the neighborhood of Richmond early in September for the purpose of recruiting its strength. It was here divided by order of the War Department. Kemper's Brigade, commanded by Col W; R. Terry (soon after Brig.-Gen. of this brigade), and Garnett's, commanded by Brig.-Gen. Eppa Hunton, were stationed at Chaffin's Farm, below Richmond; Armistead's (then commanded by Brig.-Gen. S. M. Barton) and Corse's sent to Petersburg. Subsequently Terry's Brigade was moved to Hanover Junction, and Corse's went to Tennessee with Longstreet's Corps. At this time Gen. Pickett was assigned to the command of the Department of North Carolina. Barton's Brigade was sent to Kinston, N. C. Although the brigades were thus separated, and for the time being reported to different general commanders, the division still retained its organization, but was never again engaged as a consolidated command until it rejoined the army of Northern Virginia, on the North Anna River, in May, 1864.

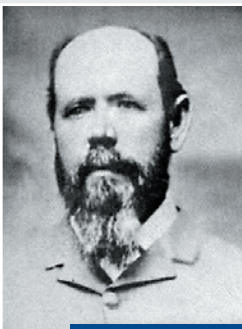
Corse's, Terry's, and Barton's Brigades participated in the battle at Drewry's Farm, May 16, 1864, acting separately, and each behaving with distinguished gallantry,



**Brigadier General  
Eppa Hunton**



**Brigadier General  
Seth Maxwell Barton**



**Brigadier General  
William R. Terry**



# Memorial Day at Montgomery Cemetery

by **Bill Holdsworth**  
**Rich Jankowski**  
**OBCWRT Members**



**Hancock Tomb**  
**Montgomery Cemetery**  
**Norristown, PA**

It was a chilly and windy Memorial Day at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA, but the event was outstanding with a good turnout of citizens. The program was different this year with reenactors speaking about the more notable Civil War burials in the cemetery. Walt Lafty gave an excellent talk on Gen Samuel K. Zook. In attendance was Mrs. Helen Shireman, a direct descendant of Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft, at 86, still comes out every year and travels from Adams County, PA. The new executive director of the Montgomery Historical Society, Dr. David Young, oversaw his first Memorial Day event. The Baker Fisher Camp 101, SUVCW, Norristown Royal Arch Chapter #349, and various scouting groups participated in the event.

The round table was represented by seven members. All were grateful for the lovely wreath Debbie Holdsworth made again this year. Thank you to Bill Holdsworth for his three decades of keeping the Old Baldy CWRT tradition going. Present were Mary Wible, Bill and Debbie Holdsworth, Dave Gilson, Harry Jenkins and Walt Lafty. Be sure to read the story of the connection of the Hancock tomb and the OB CWRT on the website. It goes back to the mid-1970s. Plan on attending next year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for this great OB tradition.



**Dr. David Young**  
**Montgomery Historical**  
**Society**



**Bill Holdsworth**  
**Mrs. Helen Shireman**



**Civil War Reenactors**



**Walt Lafty**



**Old Baldy Members**  
**Rich Jankowski, Dave Gilson**



**Old Baldy Members**  
**Mary Wible, Rich Jankowski,**  
**Debbie Holdsworth, Dave Gilson,**  
**Bill Holdsworth, Harry Jenkins**



**Old Baldy Members**  
**Debbie Holdsworth, Walt Lafty,**  
**Harry Jenkins, Bill Holdsworth**



# Ladies' Aid Society of Philadelphia

## Woman's Work in the Civil War

1867

by L.P. Brockett, MD

Mrs. Mary Vaughan



Philadelphia Ladies Aid Society

One of the first societies formed by ladies to aid and care for the sick and wounded soldiers, was the one whose name we have placed at the head of this sketch. The Aid Society of Cleveland, and we believe one in Boston claim a date five or six days earlier, but no others. The ladies who composed it met on the 26th of April, 1861, and organized themselves as a society to labor for the welfare of the soldiers whether in sickness or health. They continued their labors with unabated zeal until the close of the war rendered them unnecessary. The officers of the society were Mrs. Joel Jones, President; Mrs. John Harris, Secretary; and Mrs. Stephen Colwell, Treasurer. Mrs. Jones is the

widow of the late Hon. Joel Jones, a distinguished jurist of Philadelphia, and subsequently for several years President of Girard College. A quiet, self-possessed and dignified lady, she yet possessed an earnestly patriotic spirit, and decided business abilities. Of Mrs. Harris, one of the most faithful and persevering laborers for the soldiers in the field, throughout the war, we have spoken at length elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Colwell, the wife of Hon. Stephen Colwell, a man of rare philosophic mind and comprehensive views, who had acquired a reputation alike by his writings, and his earnest practical benevolence, was a woman every way worthy of her husband.

It was early determined to allow Mrs. Harris to follow the promptings of her benevolent heart and go to the field, while her colleagues should attend to the work of raising supplies and money at home, and furnishing her with the stores she required for her own distribution and that of the zealous workers who were

associated with her. The members of the society were connected with twenty different churches of several denominations, and while all had reference to the spiritual as well as physical welfare of the soldier, yet there was nothing sectarian or denominational in its work. From the fact that its meetings were held and its goods packed in the basement and vestry of Dr. Boardman's Church, it was sometimes called the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society, but the name, if intended to imply that its character was denominational, was unjust. As early as October, 1861, the pastors of twelve churches in Philadelphia united in an appeal to all into whose hands the circular might fall, to contribute to this society and to form auxiliaries to it, on the ground of its efficiency, its economical management, and its unsectarian character.

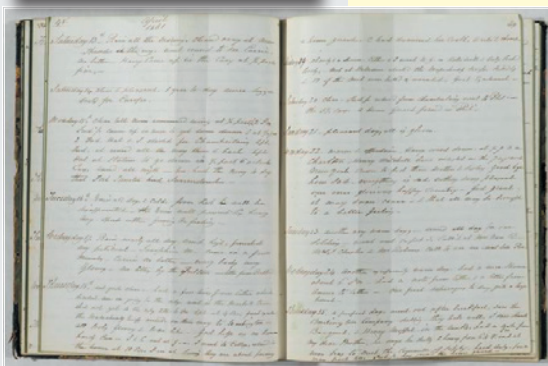
The society, with but moderate receipts as compared with those of the great organizations, accomplished a great amount of good. Not a few of the most earnest and noble workers in the field were at one time or another the distributors of its supplies, and thus in some sense, its agents. Among these we

may name besides Mrs. Harris, Mrs. M. M. Husband, Mrs. Mary W. Lee, Miss M. M. C. Hall, Miss Cornelia Hancock, Miss Anna M. Ross, Miss Nellie Chase, of Nashville, Miss Hetty K. Painter, Mrs. Z. Denham, Miss Pinkham, Miss Biddle, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Waterman, and others. The work intended by the society, and which its agents attempted to perform was a religious as well as a physical one; hospital supplies were to be dispensed, and the sick and dying soldier carefully nursed; but it was also a part of its duty to point the sinner to Christ, to warn and reprove the erring, and to bring religious consolation and support to the sick and dying; the Bible, the Testament, and the tract were as truly a part of its supplies as the clothing it distributed so liberally, or the delicacies it provided to tempt the appetite of the sick. Mrs. Harris established

prayer-meetings wherever it was possible in the camps or at the field hospitals, and several of the other ladies followed her example.

In her first report, Mrs. Harris said:—"In addition to the dispensing of hospital supplies, the sick of two hundred and three regiments have been personally

## Mrs. Joel Jones' Diary





visited. Hundreds of letters, bearing last messages of love to dear ones at home, have been written for sick and dying soldiers. We have thrown something of home light and love around the rude couches of at least five hundred of our noble citizen soldiers, who sleep their last sleep along the Potomac.

"We have been permitted to take the place of mothers and sisters, wiping the chill dew of death from the noble brow, and breathing words of Jesus into the ear upon which all other sounds fell unheeded. The gentle pressure of the hand has carried the dying one to the old homestead, and, as it often happened, by a merciful illusion, the dying soldier has thought the face upon which his last look rested, was that of a precious mother, sister, or other cherished one. One, a German, in broken accents, whispered: 'How good you have come, Eliza; Jesus is always near me;' then, wrestling with that mysterious power, death, slept in Jesus. Again, a gentle lad of seventeen summers, wistfully then joyfully exclaimed: 'I knew she would come to her boy,' went down comforted into the dark valley. Others, many others still, have thrown a lifetime of trustful love into the last look, sighing out life with 'Mother, dear mother!'"

"It has been our highest aim, whilst ministering to the temporal well-being of our loved and valued soldiers, to turn their thoughts and affections heavenward. We are permitted to hope that not a few have, through the blessed influence of religious tracts, soldiers' pocket books, soldiers' Bibles, and, above all, the Holy Scriptures distributed by us, been led 'to cast anchor upon that which is within the veil, whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus.'"

The society did not attempt, and wisely, to compete with the great commissions in their work. It could not supply an entire army or throw upon the shoulders of its hard-working voluntary agents the care of the sick and wounded of a great battle. Its field of operations was rather here and there a field hospital, the care of the sick and wounded of a single division, or at most of a small army corps, when not engaged in any great battles; the providing for some hundreds of refugees, the care of some of the freedmen, and the assistance of the families of the soldiers.

Whatever it undertook to do it did well. Its semi-annual reports consisted largely of letters from its absent secretary, letters full of pathos and simple eloquence, and these widely circulated, produced a deep impression, and stirred the sympathies of those who read, to more abundant contributions.

As an instance of the spirit which actuated the members of this society we state the following incident of which we were personally cognizant; one of the officers of the society soon after the commencement of the war had contributed so largely to its funds that she felt that only by some self-denial could she give more. Considering for a time where the retrenchment should begin, she said to the members of her family; "these soldiers who have gone to fight our battles have been willing to hazard their lives for us, and we certainly cannot do too much for them. Now, I propose, if you all consent, to devote a daily sum to the relief of the army while the war lasts, and that we all go without some accustomed luxury to procure that sum. Suppose we dispense with our dessert during the war?" Her family consented, and the cost of the dessert was duly paid over to the society as an additional donation throughout the war.

The society received and expended during the four years ending April 30, 1865, twenty-four thousand dollars in money, beside five hundred and fifty dollars for soldiers' families, and seven hundred dollars with accumulated interest for aiding disabled soldiers to reach their homes. The supplies distributed were worth not far from one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, aside from those sent directly to Mrs. Harris from individuals and societies, which were estimated at fully two hundred thousand dollars.

In this connection it may be well to say something of two other associations of ladies in Philadelphia for aiding the soldiers, which remained independent of the Sanitary or Christian Commissions through the war, and which accomplished much good.

The Penn Relief Association was organized early in 1862, first by the Hicksite Friends, to demonstrate the falsity of the commonly received report that the "Friends," being opposed to war, would not do anything for the sick and wounded. Many of the "Orthodox Friends" afterwards joined it, as well as considerable numbers from other denominations, and it proved itself a very efficient body. Mrs. Rachel S. Evans was its President, and Miss Anna P. Little and Miss Elizabeth Newport its active and hard-working Secretaries, and Miss Little doubtless expressed the feeling which actuated all its members in a letter in which she said that "while loyal men were suffering, loyal women must work to alleviate their sufferings." The "Penn Relief" collected supplies to an amount exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which were almost wholly sent to the "front," and distributed by such judicious and skilful hands as Mrs. Husband, Mrs. Hetty K. Painter, Mrs. Mary W. Lee, and Mrs. Anna Carver.

**Continued next Issue**



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

***Monday, June 16, 6:15 P.M. Pacific Time Zoom,  
D. Scott Hartwig, historian and author, will  
discuss his book***

***"I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of  
Antietam and the End of the  
Maryland Campaign."***

***For Zoom links, and regional Round Table program times  
& locations, go to:  
[inlandempirecwrt.org](http://inlandempirecwrt.org) and [socalcwrt.org](http://socalcwrt.org).***

## **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](http://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](mailto: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**



**Nancy Bowker  
30-year pin**

### **OBCWRT Awards**



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

**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)**

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

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

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

**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**

**September 11, 2025 - Thursday**

**Elizabeth Varon**

**Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South**

**October 9, 2025 - Thursday**

**Alex Rossino**

**Lee's Army in Maryland: A New Perspective on the Campaign  
of September 1862**

**November 13, 2025 - Thursday**

**Ellen Alford**

**Abolition and the Underground RR in South Jersey**

**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**

**President - Paul Prentiss**

**Vice President - Calvin Kinsel**

**Secretary - Anita Schwartz**

**Treasurer: TBD**

**Director - Alex Glisson**

**Director - James Heenehan**

**Director - Barney Yetter**

**Past President - Dr. Rich Jankowski, Jr.**

**Programs: Dave Gilson**

**Membership: Amy and Dan Hummel**

**Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net**

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

**Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)**

**FaceBook: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@oldbaldycivilwarroundtable86/videos>**