



Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

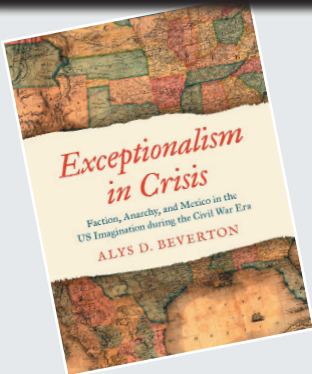
July 10, 2025

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

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



Dr. Alys Beverton



Before 1861, US Americans could confidently claim to belong to the New World's "exceptional" republic, unlike other self-governing nations in the Western Hemisphere such as Mexico, which struggled with political violence and unrest. Americans used such comparisons to show themselves and the world that democracy in the United States was working as designed.

The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 exploded this illusion by showing that the United States was in fact not immune to domestic political instability. Joining a growing community of historians who study the war in a global context, Alys D. Beverton examines Mexico's place in the US imagination during the Civil War and postbellum period. Beverton reveals how pro- and antiwar Confederates and Unionists alike used Mexico's long history of political strife to alternately justify and oppose the Civil War and, after 1865, various policies aimed at reuniting the states. Both sides used Mexico as a cautionary tale of how easily a nation, even the so-called exceptional United States, could slip into anarchy in the tumultuous nineteenth century.

Alys D. Beverton is senior lecturer in American history at Oxford Brookes University, in Oxford, United Kingdom. Dr. Beverton has a BA in American Studies and an MPhil in American History and Literature, both from the University of Sussex. She completed her PhD in History at University College London in 2018. She worked in various teaching roles at UCL, Queen Mary University of London, and Cardiff University before joining Oxford Brookes in 2019.

Zoom Meeting Only Notice

Zoom Meeting Only
Join us at 3:00 PM
on Thursday, July, 10

"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.

Notes from the President

How quickly the months are passing! We are now in July with half the year gone. SPECIAL NOTE: On Thursday the 10th we are meeting on ZOOM, but our meeting will start at 3pm EDT to accommodate our speaker Dr. Alys Beverton, Senior Lecturer in American History at Oxford University, UK. She will be presenting "Exceptionalism in Crisis: Faction, Anarchy, and Mexico in the US Imagination during the Civil War Era".

We return to the Rohrer Center in August, and the meeting will start at the regular time of 7:15 PM.

President's Notes Page 1
Member Profile Page 2
Today in Civil War History Page 3
Civil War Books Page 4
Florena Budwin 5
BMI at Gettysburg Page 7
The White Horse Page 11
Ladies Aid Society Page 12
Events Page 12
Awards Page 16
Meeting/Speaker Schedule Page 16



Paul Prentiss
President, OBCWRT

Two major items need to be brought to your attention. The Board regretfully accepted **Barney Yetter's** resignation from the Executive Board last month. Barney felt personal time restraints precluded him from devoting the time necessary for the position. That brings up another major item. The Executive Board has not been able to recruit enough volunteers to replace vacancies opened by members stepping down from various positions. To that end, we are at a crossroad and need to change direction if we don't get volunteers. The Executive Board will be meeting on July 17th to determine and vote on reducing member services. Under discussion are to eliminate: Zoom meetings, group e-mailing announcements, book raffles, physical newsletter mailing, participating in History Fairs and other public events, MAC Book award, Advisory Group, celebrating member anniversaries and OB Store sales. Also, we are still looking for three volunteers to fill critical positions. We need people to volunteer as **Treasurer, Zoom Coordinator and Programs coordinator**. We are making one more general appeal for volunteers prior to the General meeting on the 10th. This is **YOUR** organization so **PLEASE** read the email and strongly consider contributing your time to keep the activities going.

Right now, **Calvin Kinsel**, our vice president, is acting as temporary Treasurer. All checks for dues, Boscov Friends Helping Friends coupons, donations, etc. should be sent to Calvin Kinsel 142 Mimosa Drive Sewell, NJ 08080.

On the brighter side, the GEN Meade Society has graciously invited our members to join them on an exciting General Meade in Maryland & Pennsylvania 1862-1863" excursion over the Columbus Day weekend. Their trips fill up fast so send in your deposit ASAP. See the newsletter for preliminary information. Did you know that we have three "Travelling" Flat Old Baldy's that you can take along on any of your trips? FOB loves to travel and has quite a following on Facebook so please help spread the Old Baldy message so contact Frank.Barletta@comcast.net to get FOB as a traveling companion. If you attend any activities happening near and far, please share your adventures on our Facebook page. Just contact **Kevin Sekula ksekula2002@yahoo.com** with your pictures and writeup. With our 50th anniversary just 18 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. Our big Boscov Friends Helping Friends (FHF) Fund Raiser has started. We are selling the extremely popular money-saving coupon for \$5 to our friends and family and at the entrance of local Boscov stores. Please contact **Frank Barletta, Frank.Barletta@comcast.net** if you are interested assisting the Boscov Coupon Fundraiser or to get coupons.

Member Profile - Deane Smith

by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member



Deane Smith

Deane Smith appreciates the art of good conversation. Sharing thoughts and ideas in a healthy way that allows for intellectual stimulation and personal enrichment. In the city of Philadelphia is the 120-year-old Franklin Inn Club, where over good food and wine Deane and his fellow Inmates (as the members call themselves) discuss current events and explore new ideas; hear prominent speakers; and exchange their opinions on the arts, science, law, and politics. Past guest speakers have included Kermit Roosevelt, law professor and great-great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt and David Brooks, NYT Op-Ed columnist. Deane enjoys the camaraderie. **"It's a very interesting club, a place to have interesting conversations. It forces me to think about a topic in a different way."**

Deane was born and raised in Philadelphia. He went to Central High School (class of 1967), and also to technical school at Temple Tech and Spring Garden College to take courses as part of a tool and die

apprenticeship. From Drexel University Evening College in 1991 he was awarded a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

"I began my career as a tool and die maker, later becoming a project engineer, still later becoming a safety engineer." Deane worked for various area firms, the longest time with Campbell Soup Company in Camden, N.J. After working in safety for the Herman Goldner Company of Philadelphia he began his own company, South Jersey Safety, which provided safety services for various Philadelphia area manufacturers, construction firms, schools, and attorneys. After more than 15 years of self-employment, Deane retired and closed the business.

Deane and his wife, Marilyn Rittenhouse, enjoy travel vacations. As retirees they spent a month camping in Glacier National Park, about two weeks in Hawaii, and two weeks in Spain. Before retiring they vacationed in many of our national parks, the Canadian Rockies, toured Italian cities, China, Paris, and Greece.

As you can see, Deane tends toward a busy schedule and physical activity. His favorite hobby is exercise, which includes swimming at the Y, yoga, and walking/hiking. He enjoys making home improvements; reading; and studying conversational Spanish. "I'm far from proficient." But he is getting better at understanding what people are saying.

For his children, Cameron and Alison, Deane has been working on a special project: writing the biographies of his mother and father, two very special people he wants his family to know. "I admire my parents for their values, acts of compassion, respect for people, and love for their family and our country's ideals, which they demonstrated throughout their lives."

In terms of historical figures, Deane admires Abraham Lincoln, George C. Marshall, and Franklin Roosevelt, all of whom he feels focused, each in their own way, on improving people's lives and personal freedom. In addition to anything about Abraham Lincoln, Deane particularly enjoys learning about the experiences and perspectives of the people of that historical era who did not achieve fame or whose role is less known. (Deane came to Old Baldy CWRT five years ago after Bob Russo suggested he might enjoy our discussion forum for Civil War era topics.)

Deane and Marilyn have been married for 45 years and live in Moorestown, N.J. They have four grandchildren and spend time almost every week with them.

Gold
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2024

Candid.

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)

Today in Civil War History

1861 Wednesday, July 10

The North

President Lincoln, in an attempt to keep Kentucky out of the Confederacy, sends a letter to Simon Bolivar Buckner stating that Union troops will not enter the state. Buckner, personally against secession, is Kentucky's inspector general of militia.

Eastern Theater

In western Virginia McClellan sends a force under the command of General William B. Rosecrans toward the Confederates at Rich Mountain. Among the units Rosecrans has at his dispersal are the 8th, 10th, and 13th Indiana, and the 19th Ohio regiments.

Trans-Mississippi

In a battle at Monroe Station, Missouri, troops from the 16th Illinois Regiment, the 3rd Indiana Regiment, and the Hannibal Home Guards defeat a Confederate force for the loss of three men. Confederate casualties total four killed, 20 wounded, and 75 prisoners.

1861 Thursday, July 10

Eastern Theater

Eastern Theater General Pope, in command of the Federal Army of Virginia, announces that he will deal harshly with Confederate sympathizers in the Shenandoah Valley.

1863 Friday, July 10

Eastern Theater

There are several minor actions as the Army of the Potomac regains contact with Lee's Confederates, now concentrated around Williamsport, Maryland. Confederate wounded are shipped over the river, along with some 4000 Union prisoners taken at Gettysburg.

1864 Sunday, July 10

Eastern Theater

Early's Confederates march another 20 miles in blistering summer heat. There has been no rain for several weeks and the troops are enveloped in clouds of dust, but at least they all have shoes now. They camp at Rockville on the Georgetown Pike.

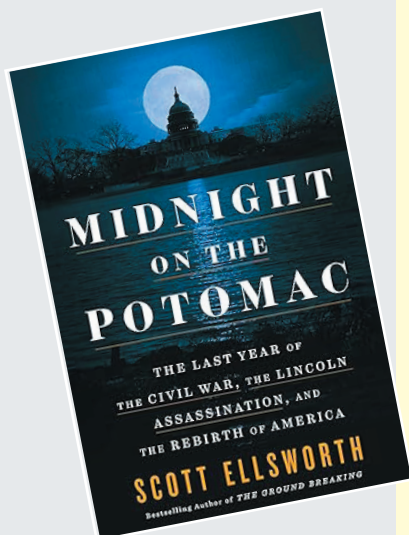
Western Theater

Sherman plans to invest Atlanta rather than attempt an assault. He sends Lovell Harrison Rousseau with 2500 cavalry from Decatur, Alabama, to raid the railroad between Columbus, Georgia, and Montgomery, Alabama.

American Civil War Books

(to be released July 2025)

Compiled by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member

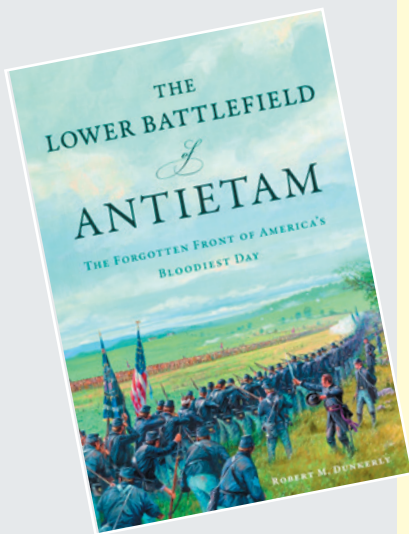


Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America

by Scott Ellsworth/Dutton

Told with a page-turning pace, New York Times bestselling author and historian Scott Ellsworth has written the most compelling new book about the Civil War in years. Focusing on the last, desperate months of the war, when the outcome was far from certain, *Midnight on the Potomac* is a story of titanic battles, political upheaval, and the long-forgotten Confederate terror war against the loyal citizens of the North. Taking us behind the scenes in the White House, along the battlefronts in Virginia, and into the conspiracies of spies and secret agents, Lincoln walks these pages, as do Grant and Sherman. But so do common soldiers, runaway slaves, and an unknown but intrepid female war correspondent named Lois Adams. Rarely, if ever, has a book about the Civil War featured such a rich and diverse cast of characters.

Midnight on the Potomac will also shatter some long-held myths. For more than a century and a half, the Lincoln assassination has been portrayed as the sole brainchild of a disgruntled, pro-South actor. But based on both obscure contemporary accounts and decades of long-ignored scholarship, Ellsworth reveals that for nearly one year before the tragic events at Ford's Theatre, John Wilkes Booth had been working closely with agents of the Confederate Secret Service. And the real Booth is far from the one we've long been presented with.



The Lower Battlefield of Antietam: The Forgotten Front of America's Bloodiest Day (Civil War Series)

by Robert M. Dunkerly/The History Press

While Antietam remains one of the most famous engagements of the Civil War, history largely overlooks the lower end of the battlefield. Only here did the Confederates use Antietam Creek as a barrier, so it was the only place where Union troops had to force their way across. Here the Union army waged its final attack, and the Confederates launched their last counterattack led by A.P. Hill's division. It might as well have been a different battle entirely from the more famed northern field.

Using dozens of journals, diaries, newspaper accounts and reports, author Robert M. Dunkerly examines the action in detail and explores the gradual preservation of this oft-neglected portion of America's bloodiest battle.

The Invincible Twelfth: The 12th South Carolina Infantry of the Gregg-McGowan Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia

by Benjamin L. Cwayna/Savas Beatie

Conflict and Controversy in the Confederate High Command: Davis, Johnston, Hood and the Atlantic Campaign of 1864

by Dennis B. Conklin II/Savas Beatie

Unconditional Surrender: Ulysses S. Grant in the Civil War

by Curt Fields/Savas Beatie

David Davis, Abraham Lincoln's Favorite Judge

by Raymond J. McKoski/University of Illinois Press

Landscapes of Freedom: Restoring the History of Emancipation and Citizenship in Yorktown, Virginia 1861-1940

by Rebecca Capobianco Toy/University of South Carolina Press

Florena Budwin Florence National Cemetery

**by Rich Jankowski
OBCWRT Member
and
Dean Holt**

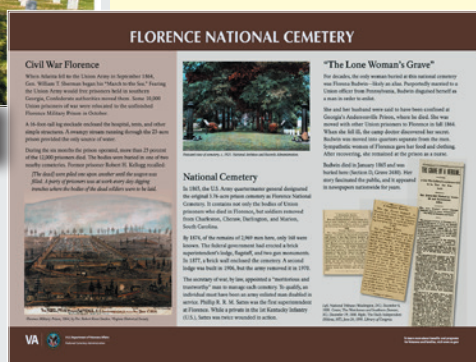


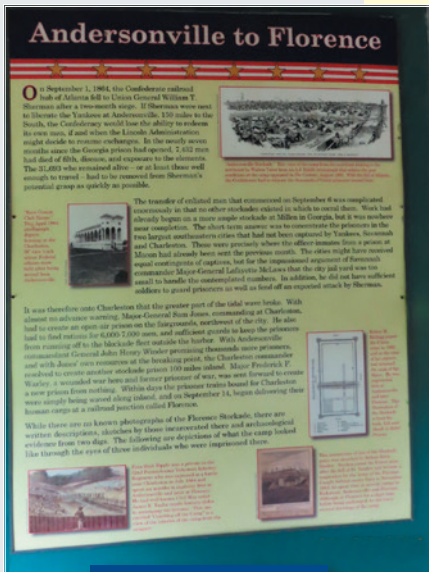
Florence National Cemetery

This article was prompted by Rich on a trip to Florence, South Carolina to the National Cemetery there. It has the distinction of having the first and maybe only Civil War Female Soldier buried in a National Cemetery. It has become one of those Civil War mysteries of the War.

To start out her husband had enlisted with a Pennsylvania Regiment. He was rumored to be a Captain of Artillery. There has been no record of him in Pennsylvania's records with that name. She said she had enlisted as a man to follow her husband (she was around 20 years old). They were both captured at the same time in around February 1864 near Charleston, SC, They were confined at the Confederacy's most brutal prisoner of war concentration camp, Andersonville, shortly after it was created. Some reports state that her husband died at Andersonville by a prison guard or by the group of prisoners (Raiders). However, Budwin herself stated that her husband died in battle, after which she was captured. It has become very difficult to find information in any records do to their names. It has recently become a random list of spellings and pronunciations of their names...

A soldier who saw her there (Samuel Elliott, 7th





**Andersonville
to Florence story**



The Trenches Area



**Florena Budwin
Section D
Grave No. 2480**

Penn Reserves) described her as "a woman rather above the medium height, sunburnt, with long, unkempt hair. Her clothing consisted of a rough gray shirt, a pair of worn-out army trousers, and what was once a military cap." She remained at Andersonville until it was threatened by Union forces, and was then transferred to the Florence Stockade in Florence, South Carolina in the fall.

There are no records giving her date of birth, date or place of her enlistment in the Union Army.

Rations were meager and medical supplies scarce. Florena Budwin fell ill. During a routine medical examination the camp physician found that one of his patients was a woman. Mrs. Budwin was moved to separate quarters and given food and clothing by the sympathetic women of Florence. When she recovered she told a most remarkable story of how she had donned a Federal uniform to serve at the side of her husband, and how he had been killed and she captured.

After Florena grew strong she stayed at the prison as a nurse. Her devotion to her husband was bestowed on the hundreds of soldiers who were suffering from the lack of food and medicine. A few months later she fell sick a second time and did not recover. Florena Budwin, as she is listed on the Army rolls, was buried with full military honors, the first female service member to be buried in a National Cemetery.

No tents or shelter of any kind were furnished to the prisoners. The early arrivals from Charleston cut down trees which had been left standing inside the compound. They used the wood for firewood and to build huts for shelter. The 5th Georgia Regiment, which had guarded the camp at Charleston, was transferred to Florence for the same purpose. In addition, there were several battalions of conscripts or reserves stationed there for guard duty. These battalions were made up mostly of old men and young boys.

On two occasions, the U.S. Sanitary Commission sent supplies to the prison camp. The first shipment contained clothing, food, blankets, and items considered comforts for the sick. The second shipment included a large quantity of new fine quality sheets. Since there were no beds to put them on, the principal surgeon decided to trade them to the local farmers for sweet potatoes. When this notice was posted, it is reported that ladies young and old flocked in from all the surrounding communities to make the exchange.

Scurvy was prevalent throughout the camp and the sweet potatoes were considered important in treating it.

Prisoners began to arrive so fast from Andersonville and Charleston that it was impossible to keep accurate records. There were 500 soldiers buried in Florence whose names were known but whose graves cannot be identified. It was reported that the people of Florence knew a record of prisoner deaths was kept, but despite considerable searching, it was never found.

When a contingent of prisoners arrived from Andersonville they found that many of the earlier arrivals had already taken an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and joined the Southern army. They were told that many more had indicated their intention to do the same. Outside the prison stockade was a camp occupied by those prisoners who had transferred allegiance. Their fellow prisoners did not find it too difficult to understand their decision since they were ragged, half-starved, and facing death in the stockade.

Disease and deprivation took a large toll among the prisoners. It was said at the time that "diarrhea and scurvy carried off from twenty to fifty a day." On October 12, 1864, there were 800 sick in the hospital. A wealthy plantation owner, Dr. James H. Jarrott, allowed the dead to be buried in trenches on a portion of his property near the camp. Dr. Jarrott owned many slaves and worked them on his plantation, but he was believed to be a Union sympathizer.

The first interment is believed to have been made on September 17, 1864. Original interments were made in two separate burial grounds, one containing 416 remains and the other approximately 2,322 remains. Interments in the larger burial ground were made in 16 trenches. In 1865, the

larger burial ground was designated a national cemetery, and the remains from the smaller burial ground were reinterred therein. Remains were disinterred from Darlington, Cheraw, the Marion Districts, and the Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston and reinterred here. The wooden headboards marking the trenches were replaced by 2,167 marble "unknown" headstones six inches square and set approximately six inches apart. In 1955, all but 5 of these markers were replaced with 32 upright marble headstones, set at each end of the trenches.

Interment in the Florence SC National Cemetery									
To—The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.									
NAME		RANK	COMPANY	REGIMENT OR VESSEL		DIVISION, IF WORLD WAR SOLDIER			
Budwin, Florena		Wife of	Capt Budwin	Number	State	Army			
DATE OF DEATH		DATE OF INTERMENT		GRAVE MARK		REMARKS			
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Section	Grave No.	Date of discharge and number of Pension Certificate, Discharge, etc.	
Jan.	25	1865				D	2480	Originally buried Florence SC NY 3910146	
<p>REPLACEMENT</p> <p>Stone erected by elements of the 4th S. I. Regt. 4/26/54-55</p> <p>Shipping point for headstones: See Instructions on Reverse Side</p> <p>61001004288</p> <p>Georgia-Walker Co. TATE, GEORGIA DEC 13 1864</p> <p>Superintendent.</p>									

**Florena Budwin
Interment Card
Section D
Grave No. 2480**

One of the five known interments in the trenches is Florena Budwin. She was buried in the prison cemetery on January 25, 1865. Her headstone is set in Section D, Grave 2480. Heroism takes many forms and certainly Florena Budwin was a heroine, though who she really was and exactly what she did may never be fully known. One thing is certain, she was given a hero's burial in the Florence National Cemetery. The simple headstone engraved with her name, date of death, and number 2480 holds a mystery which will probably never be solved.

There are no records in the National Archives to verify this story, except the burial register entry. In the Roll of Honor, Volume XIX, page 222, the data reads: "Baduine, Florence, date of death, January 23, 1865."

In the report of the inspector of national cemeteries dated May 14, 1870, Brevet Colonel Oscar A. Mack reports that "The Union prisoners of war confined at Florence were treated with decency and humanity, in striking contrast to the shameful barbarities practiced at Andersonville and Salisbury, and consequently the ratio of deaths is very small compared with the mortality at those places."

Florence National Cemetery was expanded in 1942, and again in 1984, to a total of 10.4 acres. It now occupies land on both sides of National Cemetery Road. As of September 30, 1990, there is a total of 5,592 interments in the cemetery. The cemetery is projected to close for initial interments in 1998.

Photos: Rich Jankowski, Jeremy Ellis

BMI in the Gettysburg Campaign

**Don Wiles
Member OBCWRT**



**Colonel, USA
George H. Sharpe**

Bureau of Military Information - Army of the Potomac

Scouts and Spies were used by both armies during the Gettysburg Campaign to gain military information on both armies. The Army of the Potomac had a special unit - Bureau of Military Information (BMI). It used about 70 Soldiers and Civilians to gather information on the Army of Northern Virginia. The Army of Northern Virginia used it's cavalry to get most of the intelligence on the Army of the Potomac. Most of their spies and scouts came from those

Officers of the BMI: Sharpe, Babcock, Unknown and McEntee

**Colonel
George Henry Sharpe**

John C. Babcock

**Lieutenant Colonel
John McEntee**





Photos showing some of the Scouts and Spies of the BMI



Railroad employees, civilian Telegraphers and Signal Corps soldiers were also used as sources of information for the AOP



units. Lee also used northern newspapers as a source of information. Both armies used interrogation of captured soldiers, deserters, local citizens and refugees (Contraband) as well as captured military documents as sources.

In the Gettysburg Campaign, Hooker and Meade used the BMI as the main source of military information on the ANV. This unit supplied most of the military information that helped Hooker and Meade know where Lee was most of the time and were able to keep him away from Washington and aided in stopping the invasion of the North at Gettysburg.

A list of some of the BMI military and civilian Scouts and Spies for the AOP

? Weaver
Alexander Lloyd
Alexander Myers
Anson B. Carney
Benjamin F. McCord
Bertram Trenis
Charley Wright (Negro)
D. G. Otto
Dabney Walker
Daniel Cole
Daniel Plew
Ebenezer McGee
Ed Hopkins
Edward A. Carney
Edwin P. Hopkins
Ernest Yager

George Smith
Henry W. Dodd
Howard Skinner
Isaac E. Moore
Isaac Silver
J. Robinson
J. R. Kinney
Jack Lyon
James W. Greenwood
John McEntee
John Sigfouse
Joseph Maddox
Joseph Snyder
Lewis Battle
Luther A. Rose
Martin E. Hogan

Michael Graham
Milton W. Cline
Mordecai P. Hunnicutt
Paul A. Oliver
F. T. Scott
Samuel Steel Blair
Phillip Carney
Professor H. Winchester
Stephen W. Pomeroy
Ten Eyck H. Fonda
Thomas McCammon
Thomas O. Harter
William H. Boyd
William Logan
William H. Protzman
Yaller Carney

Bureau of Military Information - AOP - Local Gettysburg Area

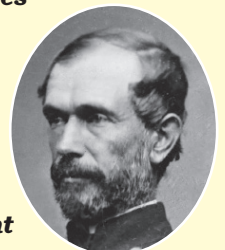
The leader who set up and operated the Gettysburg group of scouts and spies



Gettysburg Group
David McConaughy
Thomas D. Carson
Robert G. McCreary
John Howard Wert

Captain
David McConaughy

The leader who set up and operated the Uniontown group of scouts and spies



Uniontown Group
Samuel D. Oliphant

Captain
Samuel Duncan Oliphant

**The two men who set up and operated
the Chambersburg group of scouts
and spies**

**Judge
Francis M. Kimmell**



Alexander Kelly McClure



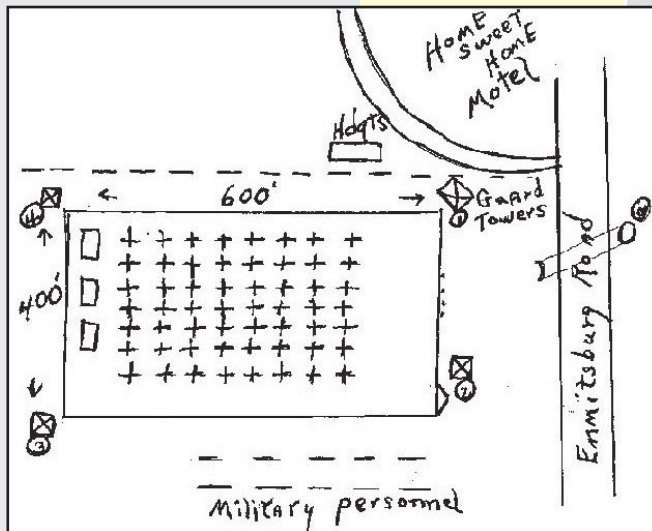
Chambersburg Group

**Judge Francis M. Kimmell
Alexander Kelly McClure
J. Porter Brown
T. J. Grimeson
Jacob Hoke
Anthony Hollar**

**Shearer Houser
Benjamin S. Huber
J. R. Kinney
Mr. McKinney
T. T. Mahon
Sellers Montgomery**

**Captain William J. Palmer
Stephen W. Pomeroy
John A. Seiders
Colonel Thomas A. Scott
William Bender Wilson**

**Sketch of
Prisoner of War Camp
World War Two**



Camp Sharpe - Gettysburg

World War Two Prisoner of War Camp Site

Camp Sharpe was extended to include a POW facility along the Emmitsburg Road in July 1944. There were about 400 German prisoners in camp. The prisoners were put to work on farms in the area. There were two escapes but the prisoners were recaptured in a few days. The camp was enlarged in July 1945 and another 350 prisoners were added. All of the prisoners had left by April 1946.

The Prisoner Of War Camps Located in or Near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, During World War Two 1944-1946

The United States War Department was granted permission by the National Park Service to locate a prisoner of war camp on the battlefield west of the High Water Mark, immediately south of the Home Sweet Home Motel on the Emmitsburg Road in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

On May 31, 1944, fifty war prisoners from Camp George G. Meade, Maryland, under guard of U. S. Army troops led by Captain L. C. Thomas, began placing poles for the stockade to surround the camp. The fifty German prisoners were housed temporarily in the National Guard Armory on Confederate Avenue. They were joined by an additional one hundred prisoners within three day of the initial arrivals; with another three hundred fifty prisoners arriving one week later. (There were eventually close to five hundred German prisoners of war and approximately ninety guards located at the tent camp on the edge of the borough.) The camp was ready for occupancy by June 20, 1944, and a contingency of four hundred twenty-five prisoners began working in the pea harvest on that date.

Any farmer, fruit grower or packing plant company in need of help made application to the local employment service in Gettysburg. Mr. E. A. Crouse was the chairman of the service at that time. It was his responsibility to coordinate the contracts with the local farmers and industries with the military. The original group of prisoners were assigned to fourteen canneries, both fruit and vegetable; three orchards, seventeen farms, one stone quarry and one fertilizer and hide plant. Prisoners were transported and guarded by military police, to the various locations in Littlestown, Biglerville, Hanover,

Chambersburg, Middletown and Emmitsburg. The prevailing wages paid by the employers were \$1.00 per hour with ten cents per hour credited to the prisoners' accounts. (The United States Government cleared \$138,000 on this one camp from June 8 through November 1, 1944.) The prisoners were not paid in cash, but were given coupons which they could spend in the camp post exchange.

After the vegetable season, the prisoners were employed to pick cherries. The government had contracted all of the Pennsylvania orchards and although cherries were gathered by the ton, none was available to civilians as all of the crops were used for the military services. The prisoners ate as they picked and naturally liked this work much better than picking peas or beans.

In the Fall of 1944, Pennsylvania had a bountiful apple crop. The prisoners and the guards would come from the orchards with pockets full of apples. By the time the apple harvest ended, there were prisoner of war work camps all along the eastern seaboard. Eventually as the harvest season ended, the number of prisoners in the tent camp had diminished to two hundred. These men were moved to Camp Sharp, just off Confederate Avenue, on November 15, 1944. The camp on the Emmitsburg Road was strictly a tent camp, so it was necessary to move to warmer quarters with the approaching cold weather. The prisoners were cutting pulp wood and helping to clear underbrush.

Camp Sharp dated to World War I and was notable as the location of General Dwight Eisenhower's assignment with a tank corps during the First World War. The barracks were used during the nineteen thirties to house Conservation Corps members and eventually was used to house German prisoners of war. (Little evidence of the camp remains on the site at the present time, but it is used as a tenting area to house and stable participants in re-enactment held on the battlefield.)

There were some serious problems inherent to this type of military establishment. One prisoner hanged himself while the group was working at the Adams Apple Products Corporation in Aspers. Whether the suicide was a result of harassment by the other prisoners or homesickness or fear of the future, no one knew. Two prisoners escaped from the tent camp and evaded capture for eight days, but they traveled only thirty miles during that time because they were not sure where they were nor where they were going. Once or twice the prisoners attempted to "strike," but their problems were very quickly resolved, aided in part by the fact that Captain Thomas could speak and understand German. This ability also proved to be helpful in identifying the SS prisoners who tried to intimidate the other men. (These "hardcore" soldiers were separated from the camp as quickly as possible in order to protect the conscripts who had surrendered as soon as they had the opportunity.) The prisoners were all treated fairly under the terms of the Geneva Convention - most of the prisoners were very familiar with the terms of the convention and were prompt in calling the guards' attention to any deviations from the rules.

The local citizens provided opportunities for the U. S. Army soldiers who were assigned at the camp. (The guard detail was not one of the most exciting assignments for these soldiers. Dean W. E. Tilberg was the chairman of the local USO for Adams County. When the camp was moved to Camp Sharp, the USO offered recreational facilities - ping pong tables, pool tables, reading materials, movies. The USO and the American Red Cross were very generous in providing equipment, supplies, and entertainment for the guards. Camp Sharp was closed in January, 1945, when the demand for labor has diminished.

Early in 1945, another former Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, located in the Mischeaux State Park between Chambersburg and Carlisle, was enclosed in a stockade and newly captured German prisoners of war were transported to the camp. All of the prisoners were brought to the camp after dark on blacked-out trains to maintain the secrecy of the camp's location. The purpose of the camp at Pine Grove Furnace was to obtain information from the prisoners concerning troop movements, gun placements, submarine pen locations. Other than the army personnel and the military intelligence personnel, no outsiders were allowed in the area. Approximately 25,000

prisoners passed through the camp. As certain officers and scientists were identified, they were immediately isolated and sent to special barracks for further questioning. Some of the scientists were sent to Whit Sands, New Mexico, to work on the atomic and hydrogen bombs. Some of these men ultimately became American citizens.

After the war ended in Europe, the German prisoners who were in the camp were returned to New York City and were eventually returned to Germany. A lesser known fact is that the camp at Pine Grove Furnace was then used to house Japanese prisoners of war. On June 15, 1945, approximately two hundred Japanese were assigned to the camp. Very few of these prisoners ever became with the army personnel. They were hard workers and assigned to any job to keep busy. They beautified the camp - painting the lanes for the paths; cutting the grass by hand; planting flowers in the compound. The Japanese were all very eager to go home, even though they could be disgraced for having surrendered. These prisoners were also interrogated and then processed to other camps, but there were significantly fewer Japanese who passed through the camp. At the end of the war in the Pacific, the remaining prisoners were sent to Seattle, Washington, to await transportation to Japan. They were all amazed to see Major Thomas there to accompany them. There were approximately 1600 Japanese on the Sea Devil for the eighteen day trip to Japan. Major Thomas was appalled to see these men loaded onto barges and then simply set ashore when they did reach land - they just climbed the banks and disappeared.

Civil War Trivia - The White Horse



**"Old Bill"
Scene at the
Schuylkill Arsenal**

***Two Days of War: A
Gettysburg Narrative
1905
by Henry E. Tremain***

On the afternoon of July 2, 1863, General Meade reacting to a report that indicated that General Sickles' III Corps, assigned to a position on the left flank of the Army of the Potomac along Cemetery Ridge onto Little Round Top, was out of position, caused Meade to call for his trusted war horse 'Old Baldy' to be brought to him, so that he could ride out to the area of contention, and view the lines for himself. Old Baldy was, however, not ready for immediate use, at which knowledge, General Pleasonton, the Cavalry commander,

then serving at Meade's HQ offered his own horse to Meade to use, since he was saddled and waiting. This horse is reported to be named 'Bill'.

General Meade mounted 'Bill' quickly and proceeded to ride out to the new line of Sickles' Corps to meet the III Corps commander and iron out any expected difficulties. The following episode was observed by a staff officer of Sickles: Major Henry Tremain, who wrote of the incident in his memoirs in 1905:

"Suddenly, a little to the north of where we (Sickles and staff) were standing (thought to be near the Peach Orchard), a small body of horsemen appeared to my surprise on our open field ... and at a place of all others most tempting to the enemy's guns...Rapidly approaching us the group proved to be General Meade and a portion of his staff.

General Sickles rode towards them, and I followed closely, necessarily hearing the brief, because interrupted, colloquy that ensued.

General Sickles saluted with a polite observation. General Meade said: 'General Sickles, I am afraid you are too far out.' General Sickles responded: 'I will withdraw if you wish, sir.' General Meade replied: 'I think it is too late. The enemy will not allow you. If you need more artillery, call on the artillery reserve.'

"Bang!" a single gun sounded.

'The V Corps and a division of Hancock will support you.'

His last sentence was caught with difficulty. It was interrupted. It came out in jerks, in sections; between the acts, to speak literally. The conference was not

concluded. No more at the moment was possible to be heard. The conversation could not be continued. Neither the noise nor any destruction had arrested it. Attracted by the group, it was a shot at them from a battery...The great ball went high and harmlessly struck the ground beyond. But the whizzing missile had frightened the charger of General Meade into an uncontrollable frenzy. He reared, he plunged. He could not be quieted. Nothing was possible to be done with such a beast except to let him run; and run he would, and run he did. The staff straggled after him; and so General Meade, against his own will, as I then believed and afterwards ascertained to be the fact, was apparently ingloriously and involuntarily carried from the front at the formal opening of the furious engagement of July 2, 1863.

In relating this incident to General Pleasonton, the cavalry corps commander then tarrying at Head-quarters, he told me that there was a simple explanation of the horse feature of this affair. General Meade has sent for his own horse and was impatient at the delay in bringing it to him. He had ordered it instantly. Pleasonton, who was standing near, said: 'Take my horse, General. He is right here.' With minds preoccupied in battle neither general stopped to "talk horse". General Pleasonton never thought to caution General Meade not to use his curb rein. The men of the old regular army habitually used the curb. This was General Meade's habit. This animal was bridled with a peculiar curb, which, as Pleasonton narrates, he seldom, if ever, used on this horse, reining him only by the snaffle. So it was probable that at his initial fright from the passing missile this horse suddenly felt an involuntary twitch of the curb (he was not accustomed to feel a curb bit) as the rider (Meade) may have carelessly seized his rein, and so the spirited animal made off with him.

There was no particular harm done by or to anybody in the whole affair, as far as I ever learned. But, it has always remained with me as a regretful thought that fifteen minutes longer of the presence that afternoon of the army commander near the lines, and upon the topography, which concerned the operations of the III Corps, might have made a great difference in the performances that day."

Ladies' Aid Society of Philadelphia

Continued from Last Issue

***Woman's Work in the
Civil War
1867
by L.P.Brockett, MD
Mrs. Mary Vaughan***

"The Soldiers' Aid Association," was organized on the 28th of July, 1862, mainly through the efforts of Mrs. Mary A. Brady, a lady of West Philadelphia, herself a native of Ireland, but the wife of an English lawyer, who had made his home in Philadelphia, in 1849. Mrs. Brady was elected President of the Association, and the first labors of herself and her associates were expended on the Satterlee Hospital, one of those vast institutions created by the Medical Department of the Government, which had over three thousand beds, each during those dark and dreary days occupied by some poor sufferer.

In this great hospital these ladies found, for a time, full employment for the hearts and hands of the Committees who, on their designated days of the week, ministered to these thousands of sick and wounded men, and from the depôt of supplies which the Association had established at the hospital, prepared and distributed fruits, food skilfully prepared, and articles of hospital clothing, of which the men were greatly in need. Those cheering ministrations, reading and singing to the men, writing letters for them, and the dressing and applying of cooling lotions to the hot and inflamed wounds were not forgotten by these tender and kind-hearted women.

But Mrs. Brady looked forward to work in other fields, and the exertion of a wider influence, and though for months, she and her associates felt that the present duty must first be done, she desired to go to the front, and there minister to the wounded before they had endured all the agony of the long journey to the hospital in the city. The patients of the Satterlee Hospital were provided with an ample dinner on the day of the National Thanksgiving, by the



Philadelphia Ladies Aid Society

Association, and as they were now diminishing in numbers, and the Auxiliary Societies, which had sprung up throughout the State, had poured in abundant supplies, Mrs. Brady felt that the time had come when she could consistently enter upon the work nearest her heart. In the winter of 1863, she visited Washington, and the hospitals and camps which were scattered around the city, at distances of from five to twenty miles. Here she found multitudes of sick and wounded, all suffering from cold, from hunger, or from inattention. "Camp Misery," with its twelve thousand convalescents, in a condition of intense wretchedness moved her sympathies, and led her to do what she could for them. She returned home at the beginning of April, and her preparations for another journey were hardly made, before the battles of Chancellorsville and its vicinity occurred.

Here at the great field hospital of Sedgwick's (Sixth) Corps, she commenced in earnest her labors in the care of the wounded directly from the field. For five weeks she worked with an energy and zeal which were the admiration of all who saw her, and then as Lee advanced toward Pennsylvania, she returned home for a few days of rest.

Then came Gettysburg, with its three days of terrible slaughter, and Mrs. Brady was again at her work day and night, furnishing soft food to the severely wounded, cooling drinks to the thirsty and fever-stricken, soothing pain, encouraging the men to heroic endurance of their sufferings, everywhere an angel of comfort, a blessed and healing presence. More than a month was spent in these labors, and at their close Mrs. Brady returned to her work in the Hospitals at Philadelphia, and to preparation for the autumn and winter campaigns. When early in January, General Meade made his Mine Run Campaign, Mrs. Brady had again gone to the front, and was exposed to great vicissitudes of weather, and was for a considerable time in peril from the enemy's fire. Her exertions and exposures at this time brought on disease of the heart, and her physician forbade her going to the front again. She however made all the preparations she could for the coming campaign, and hoped, though vainly, that she might be permitted again to enter upon the work she loved. When the great battles of May, 1864, were fought, the dreadful slaughter which accompanied them, so disquieted her, that it aggravated her disease, and on the 27th of May, she died, greatly mourned by all who knew her worth, and her devotion to the national cause.

The Association continued its work till the close of the war. The amount of its disbursements, we have not been able to ascertain.

Events

GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY FALL EXCURSION

"General Meade in Maryland & Pennsylvania 1862-1863"

The GEN Meade Society has graciously invited our members to join them on an exciting excursion over the Columbus Day weekend. The trip includes deluxe motor coach, driver tip; free parking; snacks & beverages on board; tours of the Wheatland Estate in Lancaster PA, lunch at the Lancaster Brewing Company, wreath laying at Lancaster Cemetery for Gen. Reynolds; a stop in Frederick, Maryland; on board guide on Sunday visiting Monocacy, South Mountain and Antietam battlefields, Saturday night Pizza Party, and Sunday dinner, Two night accommodations at the Comfort Inn and Suites, Hagerstown MD (breakfast included).

Price TBD, check our website -- www.gemeralmeadesociety.org for updates.

A \$50.00 per person deposit required to register.

Send checks to : Gen. Meade Society, PO Box 394, Abington, PA 19001,
and include your contact info

forget not his deeds...





The Volunteer Center of South Jersey and Jersey Cares are hosting a School Supply Drive to support under-resourced children in acquiring the necessary supplies to succeed academically.

If you would bridge the gap, the Items ACCEPTED for the School Supply Drive include:

Visa or Amazon Gift Cards
Backpacks (may be new OR gently used)
NEW 1, 3, and 5 Subject Notebooks
NEW Composition Notebooks
NEW 2-Pocket Folders
NEW Pencil Cases
NEW #2 Pencils
NEW Pencil Sharpeners
NEW Erasers
NEW Pens
NEW Hi-lighters
NEW Crayons, Washable Markers, and Colored Pencils
NEW Calculators
NEW Child Safety Scissors
NEW Glue
NEW Rulers (12")
NEW Headphones

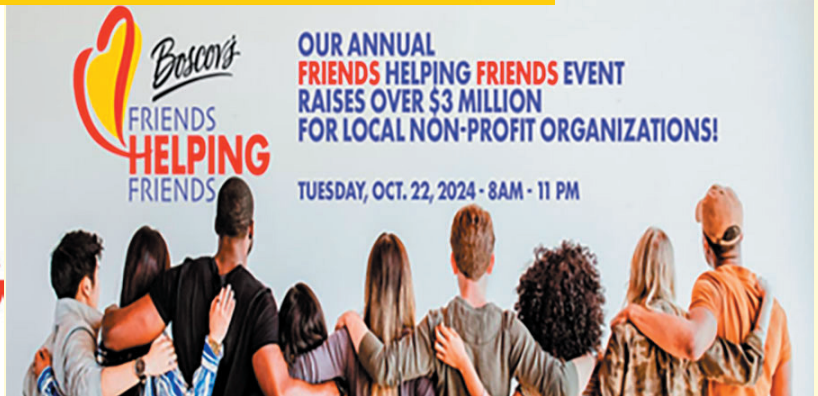
If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the August 14th meeting at the Rohrer Center in Cherry Hill. They will be collected and given to the Volunteer Center to be distributed. Thank you for your generosity.

Find more information at

<https://www.jerseycares.org/School-Supply-Drive>



 **ONE DAY ONLY** 
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND 2025



West Jersey Chapter of the
National Railway Historical Society
Monday, July 28-7:30 – 9:30pm
Virtual via Zoom
WJC member Don Lee will present
"Railroads in the Civil War."

The American Civil War has been described as the world's first railroad war and New Jersey railroads did their part to support the war effort.

This meeting will be virtual only via Zoom, with a registration link provided below. Guests are always welcome. All participants will be muted during the presentation.

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/NPDmPPVnSxKsPSZWfHloGA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Created by: wjnrhs@gmail.com

Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events

***Monday, July 21, Presentation Time 6:30 and
Zoom Time 6:15 P.M. Pacific Time
Matt Borders, Park Ranger and Author.***

"General Lew Wallace: Confidence of Courage"

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





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

New Members

*Craig Bird
Norristown, PA 19403*

*Sandy Kenny
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003*



***Walt Lafty
10-year pin***

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

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
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Founded January 1977

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