



Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

September 11, 2025

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

Erik Mollenhauer on: "Red Bank Battlefield and the Promise of America."

The October 22, 1777, battle at Fort Mercer (aka Red Bank) New Jersey is rather overlooked in both NJ and national Revolutionary War history. The Red Bank Battlefield Historical Park in National Park, NJ is looking to increase its visibility by partnering with the American

Battlefield Trust to improve the park's interpretation signage and overall exposure.

Erik Mollenhauer and Old Baldy member Ed Komczyk are involved in a

campaign to improve the interpretation and increase the recognition of the battlefield. This was the site of one of the fiercest and bloodiest small battles of the war and the only battle the Americans won during the entire Philadelphia campaign. The battle occurred shortly after the American victory at Saratoga. Ft. Mercer never received proper recognition since no well-known commanders were

involved on the battlefield. Erik and Ed's group hopes to rectify this situation and gain the support of the American Battlefield Trust and the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners.

Erik Mollenhauer's early career began as a secondary science teacher. During that time he received state and national teaching awards, including one from the White House. In 1990, Erik became a teacher trainer and program developer. Among his projects, he developed a program that took teachers to Russia and eight other countries. In 2001, he developed a project that brought the monarch butterfly story to schools across the U.S. and Canada.

Erik has presented talks on a wide variety of topics including "Secrets of the Night Sky", "The Hidden Life of Streams", "Fossil Legends of Indigenous America" and more. His latest project is a deep dive into the history of Gloucester County's Red Bank Battlefield. The truth of what happened there on Oct 22, 1777 is bigger, more surprising and inspiring than almost anyone knows.

Meeting Notice

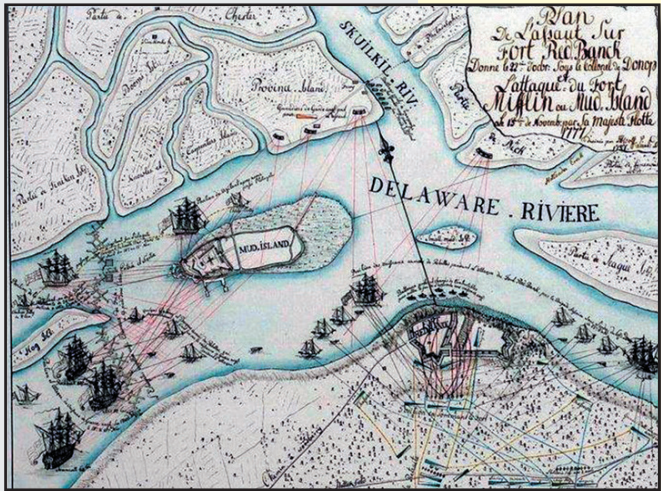
Join us at 7:15 PM on Thursday,
September 11th

*Please note: We will be meeting at the
Rohrer Center. and simulcast on Zoom.*

*And will also gather for the pre-meeting
dinner at the Kettle & Grill at 5:30 PM*

*If you are not already receiving Old Baldy
communications, email
oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net at least 24hrs
prior to request the Zoom link for the
program.*

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



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Notes from the President



Paul Prentiss
President, OBCWRT

Welcome to September. Just where has the summer gone? Did you enjoy a little vacation, take some time to relax and enjoy the long Labor Day Weekend? I hope so. OB has been busy traveling the country, getting his picture taken and seeing the sites. We have a busy few months ahead with activities for everyone starting with the **Picnic on September 13th, Stratford Centennial Celebration on September 28th, Civil War History Weekend at the West Jersey Depot in Glassboro October 25th, Major Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony at City Hall on October 3rd and Boscov's Friends Helping Friends coupon sales.** Please read the e-mails and newsletter for more information. We are meeting at the Rohrer Center this month to hear **Erik Mollenhauer** discuss the Red Bank Battlefield Project. The meeting will start at the regular time of 7:15 PM. For those who like socializing and sharing a meal together, a group of us meet at the *Kettle and Grill*, 230 N Maple Ave, Marlton around 5:30PM prior to the meeting. Please join us!

Save the date! Our picnic is Saturday 13-Sep from 11-4 PM at the Red Bank Battlefield Park located along the Delaware River in National Park, Gloucester County, NJ. Looking from the parking lot towards the right, we have the pavilion closest to the river. I hope you saw the e-mail asking for food and volunteers. We also need volunteers to assist with the set-up and clean-up so please contact me at

856-745-8336 or prentissfamily@gmail.com.

As mentioned last month, Old Baldy won the *2025 Matthew Borowick Marketing Award*. Mat will join us for dinner on Thursday November 13th and make the award presentation at our regular meeting. Randy Acorcey is overseeing our Zoom programs, but we still require a Zoom meeting coordinator to assist Randy with meetings and setup. We still need a person to volunteer as Treasurer as Cal, our vice president, is acting in that capacity.

Wrapping up, I have two more items. First, our *50th anniversary celebration* is less than 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 are to have the lunch event at the Adelphia Restaurant. Second, we are in the middle of our big *Boscov Friends Helping Friends (FHF) Fund Raiser* so please pick up some coupons at the meeting on Thursday to sell to our friends and family. Volunteers are also needed to sell the extremely popular money-saving coupon for \$5 at the entrance of local Boscov stores. Please contact Frank Barletta to get the coupons and/or volunteer at

Frank.Barletta@comcast.net

I hope to see you in person on Thursday the 11th. I'm recuperating from bypass surgery and pretty feeling good. I hope to feel well enough to attend in person. The summer is not quite finished yet, so continue to enjoy the fine weather Mother Nature is providing.

Paul Prentiss, President

Member Profile - J. White

by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member

J. White is a Department of the Army Civilian Intelligence officer and a retired US Army Military Intelligence officer. A sixth-generation US Army officer, she has spent her professional career serving in unconventional warfare and special operations. She was the first woman to attend the German Army's Infantry School and the first woman to perform a US Army Special Forces mission in combat. She has served as an on-the-ground advisor for Middle Eastern military forces in combat, as a military attaché in East Africa during conflict, and as a trainer for Southeast Asian military forces. She pioneered the analytical field of information operations in guerrilla warfare.



J. White

J. White is the president of the Society for Women and the Civil War and editor of its quarterly scholarly journal. She is the founding director of the country's largest Civil War civilian reenactor unit and is also a member of a Pennsylvania-based infantry reenactor unit. She is a member of the Company of Military Historians, the Single Action Shooting Society, several organizations focused upon 18th and 19th century technology, and several combat veteran organizations, including the Special Forces Association. She has served as an advisor for SF history and Civil War medical history to US Army museums, and as a member of the board of the only still-standing CSA military receiving hospital.

J. White has special interests in the role of women herbalists supporting the CSA military medical service and is an avid hearth and open-fire cook. She led the project to restore and re-equip the only known extant Civil War medicine wagon (mobile apothecary). She is the proud descendant of Civil War combat veterans and nurses, including both USA and CSA POWs. She is active in competitive shooting sports with antique weapons, an avid collector and user of antique tools. She has been a strong supporter of OB CWRT even before becoming a member, offering feedback to the Administration.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Wednesday, September 11

The North

The North President Lincoln, worried about the effects of Frémont's slave and property confiscations in Missouri, orders the general to modify his proclamation in order to bring it into line with the Congressional Confiscation Act. To emphasize his desires, Lincoln sends Judge Joseph Holt to St Louis to urge Frémont toward moderation.

Eastern Theater

Floyd's Confederate troops retreat from Carnifax Ferry in the night, destroying bridges behind them. This effectively blocks any Union pursuit. Floyd continues on to Meadow Bridge. Meanwhile, at Cheat Mountain, Lee mounts a surprise attack on Reynolds, sending Jackson to attack the position on Cheat Mountain Summit, and personally leading the assault on the other main Union position at Elkwater. However, heavy rain makes the already difficult terrain almost impossible to cross, and the Federal troops hold off the Confederate attack.. Lee pulls back to join with Floyd at Meadow Bridge, leaving Jackson at Cheat Mountain to hold Reynolds.

1861 Thursday, September 11

Eastern Theater

Having halted overnight near Boonsboro and narrowly avoided capture by Federal Cavalry in the town the previous' evening, Jackson leads his troops to Williamsport, ford the Potomac and then head for Martinsburg to drive the Federal garrison there into the trap at Harper's Ferry.

Western Theater

Without consulting General Bragg, President Davis appoints Van Dorn to command the Confederate Armies fighting in Mississippi. Van Dorn receives his orders by telegraph, but Price, ignorant of the change of command, is already marching on Iuka, Missouri, intent on striking into Tennessee.

1863 Friday, September 11

Western Theater

Bragg learns he is to be reinforced by Longstreet's men who are changing trains and rail lines every few hours as they are shuttled over the chaotic Southern rail network. With no trusted force of scouts such as Lee used in the

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)

Candid
Gold Transparency Award
presented to OBCWRT
(2024)

Matthew Borowick
Marketing Award
presented to OBCWRT
(2025)

Compiled by Kim Weaver
OBCWRT Member

east, Bragg relies solely on his cavalry for reconnaissance. But although his horsemen are superb, the Federal cavalry screen has infantry support which cannot be brushed aside. Bragg orders the fiery General Leonidas Polk to attack, but nothing happens.

1864 Sunday, September 11

Western Theater

A 10-day truce begins at Atlanta to allow the citizens to depart in obedience to Sherman's ruthless order.

Far West

Groups of Indians fighting for the Union, the Confederacy, and each other are engaged in a series of minor actions in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. Federal troops depart Fort Rice, Dakota Territory, to relieve an emigrant train.

1865, Month of September

Trans-Mississippi

The Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Osages, Seminoles, Senacas, Shawnees, and Quapaws sign a treaty of loyalty to the United States and renounce their previous commitment to the Confederacy. Far West Not until September 11 did Brigadier-General Connor discover the fate of his other two columns. Beset by hit-and-run guerrilla attacks and weakened by scurvy which swept the ranks as rations ran low, their progress had been far slower than planned. The weather worsened, the first storms of the fall sweeping across the badlands and killing half their horses and mules in a single night. With the Indians still hovering around, they finally unite at Fort Connor on September 24.

Far West

By the end of the summer it was obvious that the army's operations on the frontier were an expensive failure. In addition to Connor's three columns, other forces had marched up the Missouri, along the Arkansas against the southern plains tribes, and a small force had scouted up the Republican River. Over 6000 troops had campaigned all summer at enormous cost, and they had killed fewer than 100 Indians. Morale among the soldiers was very low indeed; one of Connor's columns was only engaged on the march at gunpoint, while cavalry from Kansas were near the end of their enlistment and saw no reason to go fighting Indians now. Many of the volunteers were "Galvanized Yankees"—Confederate prisoners of war who had agreed to fight on the frontier rather than languish in jail. Planning for operations was frustrated as regiment after regiment came west, only to muster out within months or even weeks.

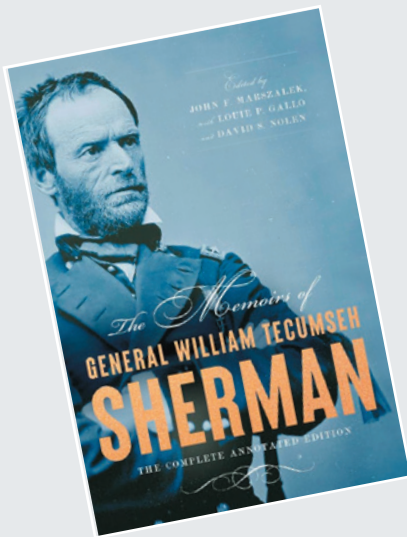
American Civil War Books

(to be released September 2025)

The Memoirs of General William Tecumseh Sherman: The Complete Annotated Edition

by William T. Sherman, Louie P. Gallo et al./Belknap Press

William Tecumseh Sherman's memoirs were a sensation when first published in 1875, as Americans grappled with the aftermath of the Civil War and its emerging place in collective memory. Today, Sherman's account remains arguably the most significant work of Civil War military history after that of his friend and commanding general Ulysses S. Grant.



In blunt terms, Sherman chronicles his military life and leadership from the First Battle of Bull Run to the Battle of Shiloh and the Atlanta and Vicksburg Campaigns. Most notably, he gives a detailed account of his notorious March to the Sea, which instituted a new and uniquely destructive type of warfare that would include civilians in the conflict between armies ever after. Along the way, he provides candid and often unsparing commentary on his fellow officers, subordinates, and adversaries. These assessments created immediate and lasting controversy, so much so that Sherman published a second edition with extensive appendixes responding to the outcry.

This newly annotated volume, featuring an introduction by leading Civil War historian John F. Marszalek, presents Sherman's life and legacy for today's audience. Detailed notes shed light on his editorial process, while contextualizing individuals, places, and events that loomed large for nineteenth-century readers but have since become obscure. Reintroducing a classic work of American military history, this edition brings to life a remarkable figure whose leadership continues to be debated today.

Recollections of the Civil War: The life of a soldier in the Ohio 2nd Volunteer Cavalry, 1861-1865

**by William H. H. Polhamus,
Frederick E. Leickly et al./Pathbinder Publishing LLC**

Did you ever have a hero you never met? After discovering his great-grandfather's recollections and poems about his time in the Civil War, Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH, strongly considers William Henry Harrison Polhamus in that category. In this volume, Leickly pays homage to a most unique writer in the style of the late 1800s who shares his courage, escapades and dedication to his comrades and his country.

It took Leickly quite some time to locate the manuscript he had heard about, finally finding it at The Ohio State University Library, Thompson Library Special Collections. It was typed on onion-skin paper with turquoise ink, and it was beginning to look like something more than 100 years old. The stories herein are by and about a soldier during war, lacking the usual blood and guts but taking on an attitude of honor on purpose. The stories always have Polhamus as the hero or the one in charge of the situation. With the sagas tending to be somewhat surreal, Leickly was obliged to verify as many as possible.

A member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Leickly painstakingly researched everything his ancestor wrote and added his own commentary to explain to readers what could be verified and what could not.

Cassius Marcellus Clay: The Life of an Antislavery Slaveholder and the Paradox of American Reform

by Anne E. Marshall/The University of North Carolina Press

Radical of Radicals: Austin Blair: Civil War Governor-In His Own Words

by Jack Dempsey/Mission Point Press

John Fremont's 100 Days: Clashes and Convictions in Civil War Missouri

by Gregory Wolk/Missouri Historical Society Press

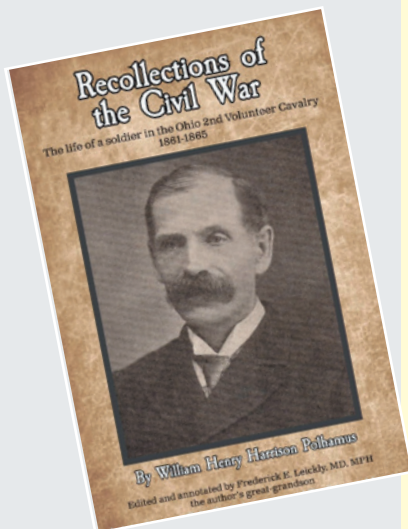
Moses Jacob Ezekiel: Jewish, Confederate, Expatriate Sculptor

by Samantha Baskind/Penn State University Press

If I Can Get Home This Fall: A Story of Love, Loss, and a Cause in the Civil War

by Tyler Alexander/Potomac Books

A Little Piece of Hell at Gettysburg: The Attack and Defense of the Rose Farm, July 2-3, 1863



by Scott T. Fink/Savas Beatie

***The Road Was Full of Thorns:
Running Toward Freedom in the American Civil War***

by Tom Zoellner/The New Press

Unreconstructed:

***Slavery and Emancipation on Louisiana's Red River,
1820-1880***

by Carin Peller-Semmens (Author), T. Michael Parrish
(Series Editor)/LSU Press

***The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea:
Essays on the American Civil War, Volume 3***

by Theodore P. Savas (Editor), Stephen Davis (Editor)/Savas Beatie

Three Speeches that Saved the Union:

Clay, Calhoun, and Webster, and the Crisis of 1850

by Peter Charles Hoffer/NYU Press

Honey Springs, Oklahoma:

Historical Archaeology of a Civil War Battlefield

by William B. Lees/Texas A&M University Press

Gothic and Strange True Tales of the Civil War

by Keven McQueen/America Through Time

After the Fire: Richmond in Defeat

by Nelson D. Lankford/University of Virginia Press

A Hot Trip to Monocacy, Antietam & Crampton's Gap

by Jim Heenehan
OBCWRT Member



**Monocacy - Confederate
Guns Open the Battle;**



Monocacy - Thomas Barn

In late June, some friends of mine and I drove down to Frederick, MD, to visit Antietam and other Civil War sites. Due to recent travels, this would be my 5th consecutive weekend in a different bed (my wife and I got back from 2 weeks in England on June 3 & I drove up to CT on June 13 for my 55th HS reunion). We got down to Frederick by 4pm on Friday, June 20, and briefly visited the battlefield of Monocacy which was only a couple of miles from our hotel.

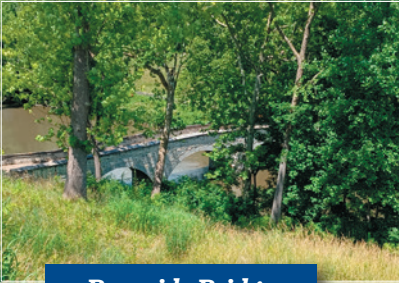
The battlefield straddles the Monocacy River and includes the Best Farm, which served as the headquarters of Generals Lee, Jackson & Longstreet from September 6-9 during the 1862 Maryland campaign, and where federal soldiers may have discovered Lee's Special Orders 191 detailing the sub-division of his army.

But on July 9, 1864, General Lew Wallace (of later Ben Hur fame), positioned 6,000 troops on the high ground east of the Monocacy River, as a roadblock to Jubal Early's 15,000 veterans who were advancing on a nearly undefended Washington DC. Wallace knew he could not defeat Early but he had to buy 24 hours to give Union reinforcements time to arrive by ship to DC from Petersburg.

Our first stop featured some cannon marking the Confederate lines facing the Union position on the high ground to the east at the start of the battle. Early decided against a direct assault and sent a flanking force to the right, crossing the Monocacy River and coming up the hill at the Worthington Farm which they captured after a brief setback. The fighting then shifted to the Thomas Farm on the far left of Wallace's line. The Union troops occupied the higher ground to the left of the barn opposing the



**Antietam – Dunker Church
& West Woods**



Burnside Bridge



**Crampton's Gap -
War Correspondents' Arch**

Confederates attacking up slope. The fighting was fierce as the Rebels took the house & barn, lost them, and finally re-took them for good.

This forced Wallace to retreat. Yet he had done his job. His defeat bought enough time for reinforcements to reach DC. The capital was now safe. Monocacy is a very interesting battlefield and I hope to return to explore it in more depth someday.

After a fun dinner at Magoo's Irish Pub & Eatery (next door to America's oldest and largest ginkgo tree), we got up Saturday to drive to Antietam. Unfortunately, this day ushered in the summer's first major heat wave, hitting 95 degrees along with intense humidity. After we got to Antietam, we walked from the Visitors Center to the Dunker Church and West Woods. After a brief visit to the church, we did the West Woods walking tour that took us down to the "wounded lion" (15 MA) on the far edge of the woods and eventually back up to the corner of the Cornfield along the Hagerstown Turnpike. After a short stop at the Philadelphia Brigade monument, we hiked back to the Visitors Center and its AC. That did it for our walking tours. We saw the rest of the battlefield by auto tour with stops at the Sunken Road and Burnside Bridge. We did stroll down to the bridge where we saw the about 30 people tubing down Antietam Creek. These were probably the smartest people at the battlefield that day.

That night we had a great dinner at the Bavarian Inn. And Sunday morning we drove back to South Mountain to visit Crampton's Gap – one of the 3 passes over South Mountain the Union fought and captured on September 14, 1862, paving the way for the battle of Antietam 3 days later. Crampton's Gap was especially important as its capture would hopefully lead to the rescue of the Union garrison at Harper's Ferry. The pass was defended by just 2,100 men under General Howell Cobb against General William Franklin's 12,800-man VI Corps. Franklin's attack was tentative but when it finally got rolling, cleared the pass of Confederates – but not in time to save their comrades at Harper's Ferry. We drove up to the Confederate last stand further up the hill which is marked by the War Correspondents' Arch. As Sunday was even hotter than Saturday – 97 – we decided to return to Frederick to visit the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in the comfort of the museum's AC. And a very good museum it is, highlighting many of the innovations of Dr. Letterman and other exhibits. We even went over to the Barbara Fritchie House. And after one final dinner in Frederick, we came home Monday. On Tuesday, Philly hit 100 for the first time in 13 years. While we would have preferred cooler temperatures, it was still fun a fun visit with old friends – and the heat is now part of the Trip Lore. I've been to Antietam many times, but thanks to the heat, this visit will always stand out.

Call for Volunteers!! September 28th, Stratford NJ

We need a coordinator and volunteers to setup, man and take down the OBCWRT information display table at the Stratford Centennial Celebration at 2 W Vassar Ave, Stratford, NJ 08084. Stratford is celebrating 100 years of community, history and home time pride. This is a wonderful opportunity for OBCWRT to tell our story, meet new friends and even recruit a few new members. Please consider volunteering to help.

The event will take place from 11 AM until 4 PM on Sunday September 28th. Rich and Anita will be in attendance but are manning tables for other organizations. Please contact Rich 856-427-6966 or Anita 856-842-7049 for more information. Cal 609-865-2973 has the storage room key to access the items you need to set up.



After the Confederates under Lee had forced the Union army to assume position on the north side of the Rappahannock, their best plan apparently was to assume a tactical offensive.

A purely defensive attitude cannot be maintained indefinitely with any prospect of ultimate success; and while the actual invasion of Pennsylvania was probably ill-advised, a campaign that would force the Union army to withdraw behind the Potomac was justified by the soundest military judgment.

Hence, Lee commenced to dispose his troops in accordance with his plans. The route North lay either up the Shenandoah Valley or east of the Blue Ridge. He had reorganized his army into three corps, commanded respectively by Longstreet, Hill and Ewell; and on the 31st of May these Corps contained 88,754 men, of whom 68,352 were ready for duty.'

The Pennsylvania Invasion: History of the Bucktails

by O. R. Howard Thomson
History of the Bucktails
1906



A typical "Bucktail"

To oppose him Hooker had but some 80,000 men; the diminution being largely caused by the mustering out of soldiers enlisted for short terms.

During the Gettysburg campaign the Union forces were organized in seven corps, and as there was not very much difference in the total numerical strength of the contending armies, it should be borne in mind that a Confederate corps had slightly over double the strength of a Union corps; a Confederate division slightly over double the strength of a Union division, etc.

Lee sent Ewell's corps up the Shenandoah Valley while Longstreet's corps moved up east of the Blue Ridge, Hill's division being retained, at first, near Fredericksburg, Ewell ousted the Union troops under General Milroy from Winchester, June 15th; crossed the Potomac June 19th, two of his divisions reaching Chambersburg on the 23rd. Longstreet, who had fallen back behind the Shenandoah, crossed the Potomac at Williamsport on June 24th, and Hill crossed at Shepherdstown on the same date. The invasion was a reality.

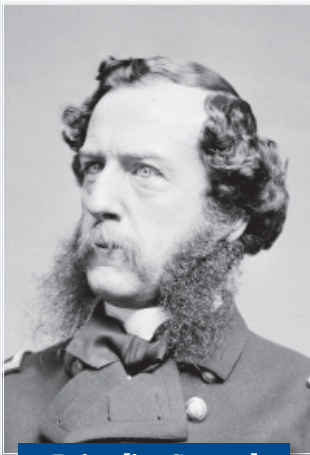
Hooker appears to have been satisfied at the beginning of the campaign to move parallel with the line of Lee's advance, with the idea of striking at his communications with Richmond when a favorable opportunity should present itself. His various corps he therefore ordered to converge upon Frederick.

In Pennsylvania the situation created a condition bordering upon panic. Carlisle was occupied' and Harrisburg menaced.* The Governor called for militia and preparations were made to resist an attack on the State capital.

The Bucktails lying at Washington, with the other regiments of their division, heard with mingled astonishment and indignation, the reports that left no doubt that it was the intention of the enemy to invade their native State. They importuned their officers to lead them to defend their homes, and one of the regiments' presented a formal petition to that effect to their Brigade Commander. If the men were anxious to be led, Corps Commanders were anxious to make use of their services; General Reynolds, commanding the First corps, and General Meade, commanding the Fifth corps, having both made efforts to obtain the division. Ultimately orders were issued, directing the First and Third brigades* to report to General Meade.

Leaving camp on the afternoon of June 25th, they marched towards Leesburg,' and on the 27th crossed the Potomac, joining the Fifth corps at Frederick on the 28th ; but, before they reached that city they received information that General Meade had succeeded General Hooker in command, and that General George Sykes had succeeded General Meade in command of the Fifth corps. The division organization was as follows:

Third Division, Fifth Army Corps.
Brig.-Gen. Samuel W. Crawford.



**Brigadier General
Samuel W. Crawford**



**Brigadier General
Samuel W. Crawford
Monument**



**Fifth Corps
Third Division**

First Brigade.	Third Brigade.
Col. William McCandless	Colonel Joseph W. Fisher.
1st Penna. Reserves	5th Penna. Reserves
2nd Penna. Reserves	9th Penna. Reserves
6th Penna. Reserves	10th Penna. Reserves
13th Penna. Reserves	11th Penna. Reserves
(Bucktails) 12th Penna. Reserves	
Artillery.	
1st New York Light Battery C.	
1st Ohio Light Battery L.	
5th United States, Battery D.	
5th United States, Battery I."	

At this time the regiment assumed, for the first time, the Blue Maltese Cross, the badge of the Third division of the Fifth corps of the Army of the Potomac, nor did it relinquish it until, its term of service expired, it was mustered out.

General Meade, on assuming command of the army, lost no time in attempting reorganization, but put the army in motion. The Bucktails marched on the 29th some distance beyond Frederick ; crossed the Monocacy ; and on the 30th advanced to Uniontown. On July 1st the march was resumed to the Pennsylvania line, where a halt was made. At dark ammunition was distributed and the regiment ordered to move at the double quick. Stopping at Cherry Hill, early on the morning of the 2nd, they were ordered to Gettysburg, reaching the rear of the battle-field about noon.' While on this march Captain Welch, of Company K, was so severely troubled with the wound that he had received while Lieutenant at Antietam, that he was forced to leave the regiment, being shortly after transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. Exceedingly popular with the men in his company, they saw him depart with regret. Lieutenant Bard then became the ranking officer of the company, and continued so until it was mustered out.

The battle of Gettysburg commenced on July 1st; and as the division of Pennsylvania Reserves was ordered into action at a critical moment on the second day, it is necessary to survey roughly the condition of the field at the time they moved forward.

In the majority of great battles the bulk of the troops on each side are concentrated both for the attack and the defense before the action commences ; but Gettysburg may be described as a battle which commenced at the moment that the vanguard of the Union forces came into contact with two of the enemy's brigades.

Neither can the ground be said to have been selected, in the true sense of the word, by either side. Meade knew that the Confederates were converging on Gettysburg and therefore he sent Reynolds forward. Lee had ordered his columns to advance towards that point. The temper of both forces precluded retreat, hence collision was inevitable. The moment that the two advances met fighting commenced. General Reynolds, strong in the confidence placed in him by his commander, did not hesitate; with wonderful intuition he recognized the line that should be held by the Union army against the invaders and gave instructions for the placing of General Howard's corps on Cemetery Ridge. Thus to a former commander of the brigade to which the Bucktails were attached is due the seizure of the position which made possible the repulse of the Confederates.' With the first day's fight this narrative has nothing to do. It was fought to the northwest and west of the town; the troops as they arrived being hastily thrown into action. By the ensuing morning the major portion of both armies had reached the field and been assigned to their positions.'

The woods to the west and northwest of the town had been seized by the Confederates, who had also occupied the town itself; but the Union army placed along Cemetery Ridge stood at bay across the path of the enemy.

This ridge of hills or heights runs southward from Gettysburg, terminating in two hills called respectively Little Round Top and Round Top: a valley intervening between the southern side of Cemetery Ridge and northern side



143rd Pennsylvania



149th Pennsylvania



150th Pennsylvania



of Little Round Top, and another between the southern side of Little Round Top and northern side of Round Top. The northern end of the ridge is close to the town of Gettysburg, but bends back, in the form of a horseshoe, terminating in a hill known as Gulp's Hill. A mile to the west is a ridge, known as Seminary Ridge, running generally parallel to Cemetery Ridge and the Round Tops, and along this ridge the Confederate army was posted, a portion of their force, however, being so disposed as to cover that portion of Cemetery Ridge which curves back and terminates in Gulp's Hill. Hence it will be seen that the opposing armies, for the most part, faced each other on parallel ridges, the Confederate line being extended sufficiently to cover the flank of the Union right and also to threaten the left. In fact, it was a flanking movement on the left that gave to the two brigades of Pennsylvania Reserves the opportunity to render such important service to their country.

In forming the Union line of battle, Sickles' corps, the Third, had been instructed to take position on the left of Hancock, and on the same general line, which would draw it along the prolongation of Cemetery Ridge towards Round Top. At this point, however, the ridge is not very defined. The Emmetsburg road runs down the valley between Cemetery and Seminary Ridges, being elevated on an intermediate crest.

Sickles, keeping his right in touch with Hancock's, threw his line along this crest, while to prevent leaving his left in the air, he refused it; throwing it back through low ground towards Round Top, thus exposing to the enemy a salient which if carried would place the entire army in jeopardy. To make matters worse neither Round Top nor Little Round Top had been occupied, their importance not having been recognized at that time.

Looking west, from the summit of Little Round Top, is the precipitous side of the hill itself, rocky and wooded. At the base the ground resembles a marsh, through which, from north to south, runs Plum Run. A little way beyond Plum Run the ground slopes up to a wheat field, the front of which is partially protected by a stone wall; beyond this wheat field is a wooded ridge, and beyond this ridge is a peach orchard. On each side of the wheat field are woods, the woods on the left reaching nearly to the base of Round Top, and in the gap thus formed, between the woods and Round Top, is a rocky formation known as "Devil's Den."

The Confederate right was held by Hood, who was instructed to assail Sickles' left. Establishing his flank in Devil's Den, Hood at about 4 o'clock pressed forward, his left extending to the Peach Orchard. The fighting was terrific, but Sickles' position was untenable and he was driven back. By this time, however, the First division of the Fifth corps, under General Barnes, had reached the field and was advancing to reinforce Sickles. General Warren, who happened to be at that moment upon Little Round Top, immediately realized the importance of securing the possession of the hill, and upon his own authority detached Vincent's brigade to hold it. By incredible exertion Hazlett's battery was also drawn to the summit.

The Confederates' had by this time, however, broken through the flank and were running up the front slope eager to seize the advantage point, and a savage combat ensued. Though failing to secure the height. Hood hung on to a position in the Devil's Den. The Confederates then attacked the peach orchard desperately, and the Union line, faultily placed, gave way near the apex of the salient. In an attempt to stem the Confederate tide, Barnes' division was sent to the assistance of the disrupted Fifth corps.

Following that Caldwell's division of Hancock's corps moved forward only to suffer heavy loss. Then Ayres' division of two brigades of United States regulars went in, meeting with momentary success till completely flanked they lost 50 per cent., killed and wounded, as they fought their way back. At this moment General Crawford was ordered to charge with his division of Pennsylvania Reserves. The division consisted of but two brigades, the First and the Third; and of these two the Third had been ordered to the left of Barnes' division, though the Eleventh regiment united itself to and fought with, the First brigade. The men had marched the greater portion of the night and had been forced to resume the march during the morning. Passing up the road, frequently referred to as the "Wheat-field road," they moved to

the front.

The column was formed with the first line composed of the Sixth, First and Eleventh, and the second line of the Bucktails and Second, the second line being massed on the first.

The moment was a critical one. The enemy swarmed in front of the Union line, between the wheat field and Little Round Top. Confused masses of troops came tearing up the rocky incline seeking safety, and the men at the battery on the crest made preparations to spike their guns. If the rebels should effect lodgment on Little Round Top, the Union position was lost. And rebel uniforms were everywhere mounting the heights.

A change in the line to repel a threatened attack on the left, caused the brigade to straighten out into a line of five regiments, and threw the Bucktails to the extreme left, so that their path lay through the battery, whose men, encouraged both by their presence and promises of assistance, stuck to their guns.

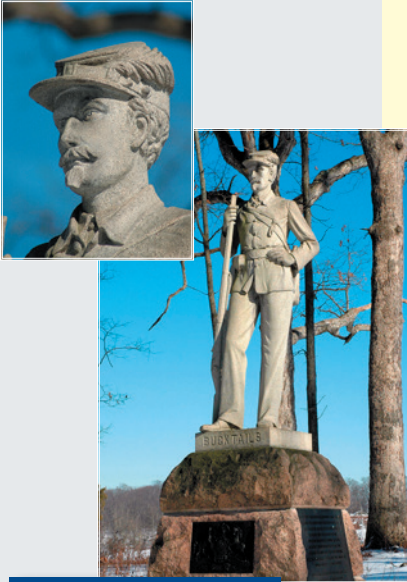
Seizing the flag of the First regiment, whose color bearer had been shot down. General Crawford rushed to the front, shouting, "Forward Reserves I" Two volleys, well directed, were poured into the enemy, before, with a cheer, the line charged forward at a run. In the front line of the Bucktails, Colonel Taylor, on foot, urged his men forward, while Lieutenant-Colonel Niles and Adjutant Hartshome seemed to be everywhere. Backward, down the slope, the men pushed their opponents.

At the foot of the hill Lieutenant-Colonel Niles fell wounded in the hip, but the line kept advancing. Over Plum Run and its marshy borders they forced the Confederates. Then up the slope towards the wheat field. At the stone wall, the enemy made a short stand, but the impetuosity of the Bucktails was not to be denied, and in a few moments the Confederates were flying through the wheat field towards the woods at its farther side.

A few of the men leaped the wall in pursuit, but Colonel Taylor, waving his sword, kept in front of all till he disappeared in the woods in front and to the left.

The stone wall marked the limit of their intended advance, and, taking advantage of the protection it afforded, the men prepared to hold the ground they had wrested from the enemy. Numerous prisoners had been captured, but they had been sent to the rear. The wall, which runs along the front of the wheatfield, crosses the road which runs west from Little Round Top, and though the other regiments of the Reserves were on the right of the road, the Bucktails were upon its left.

The advance had been made with such rapidity that before reaching the wall many men had become separated from their own companies and now fought in whatever command they found themselves. Captain Kinsey, of Company C, upon reaching the stone wall, had ordered his men to take advantage of its cover. Then he devoted his attention to keeping in check the fire upon his left, proceeding from Devil's Den. The strength and rapidity of his fire was such that but few of the enemy advanced into the open. Lieutenant Kratzer, who was everywhere on the field, shortly after approached Kinsey, and told him that Colonel Taylor had sent him to see where he was and what he was doing. Kinsey replied that what he was doing was obvious; that he thought he could prevent the enemy advancing; but, that without assistance he could do nothing more, though if Kratzer could obtain the Colonel's permission to bring up his Company K, to his assistance, he thought he could rout the Confederates out of the rocks. As Lieutenant Kratzer left, a shell from the rear passed over the heads of Company C. One of the men said, "Captain, that means us." The Captain replied, "No, that is one of our own shells, and is meant for those fellows in the rocks." A moment later another shell came, taking off the arm of a Company B boy. The boy sprang up, crying, "I won't die, I won't die." Then for a moment, he ran in a circle, the blood spurting from the stump, before he dropped dead. The same shell also killed a man from Company I, hit the wall throwing part of it up in the air, and wounded seven or eight men. Captain Kinsey's right arm and left wrist were cut, and the fingers of his left hand torn and lacerated, forcing



13th Pennsylvania



him a few moments later to retire to the hospital in the rear.

When Company K reached the wall, it was augmented by perhaps a dozen stragglers from various companies, among whom was Captain Mack, of Company E. Hardly had cover been taken when the vigorous fire from the enemy, posted both in Devil's Den and the woods, upon their left flank, attracted the attention of the officers. Captain Mack, noticing Corporal Brookins, of Company G, near him, ordered him to look into the woods to see what was there. It was a dangerous proceeding, but Mack, Brookins and Private Davis, of Company G, started forward. Moving both beyond the left end of the wall, and a short distance to the front of it, they ran into a line of the enemy of such strength as to make them seek instant cover. Mack and Brookins behind a tree, Davis behind a rock. At this moment Lieutenant Kratzer, accompanied by Private Hall, of Company K, came up. With but two or three guns amongst them, to attack would have been madness. The little party, sheltering themselves as best they could, were debating what to do, when Colonel Taylor, with Lieutenant Ward, came tearing forward. "Why don't you fire?" he asked, eager as ever to lead an assault.

Upon being informed that the party was too weak to warrant an attack, he said he would order up more men immediately. His men, fearful for his safety, called to him to take cover. But the warning came too late, for as he spoke a rebel took aim at him. Brookins threw his gun to his shoulder, but the weapon missed fire. Without a word, the Colonel dropped into Kratzer's arms, a bullet hole in his breast.

To save his body from the rebels, the men carried it back towards the wall. Lieutenant Ludlow, of Company E, who had come up, helping, Davis remained behind his rock and Captain Mack covered the retreating party with savage shots at the enemy. The men with the body had not proceeded far before the man who had shot the Colonel dropped Davis, who called to them to come back for him. First, however, they must finish their present task. At the wall members of Company H relieved the little party of the body and carried it back to the Field Hospital. Remembering Davis, lying wounded behind the rock. Captain Mack, Brookins and the rest determined to make an effort to bring him within the lines. Whether it was a tribute to their daring, or not, the men were not fired upon while on this errand of mercy, but the man they rescued died the next day.

With Colonel Taylor dead and Lieutenant-Colonel Niles wounded, Major Hartshorne was called upon once again to command the regiment. The orders were not to advance beyond the stone wall/but the firing on the left was so annoying that he was tempted to order an attempt made to capture the Den. It was, however, rapidly growing dark, and the companies were ordered to shelter themselves behind the wall as best they might, and obtain what rest was possible before morning should bring with it a renewal of the conflict.

Early the next day Major Hartshorne, alive to the fact that the rebels posted in Devil's Den were in position to throw an enfilading fire into his men, ordered a small body forward to reconnoiter. "Are you going to let those fellows pick us off?" "Some of you get in there," was his comment. Those who caught the glitter of his eye did not hesitate but moved forward. After the skirmishers had advanced Hartshorne ordered Captains Frank Bell and John Wolfe to take their companies to their support, their instructions being to attack and develop the strength of the enemy.

The vicinity of Devil's Den was admirably suited to the tactics employed by the Bucktails, as cover both of rocks and trees abounded. Possessing Sharps rifles, they were able to reload, when necessary, without exposing any portions of their bodies, an advantage not possessed by their opponents. Utilizing this advantage to the utmost, they poured in a hot fire. The fire in return immediately became severe, and as they crept nearer, of an intensity that plainly showed that the enemy was far too strong numerically to be routed by the small force sent against them. The Bucktails, therefore, stayed behind cover, devoting themselves to picking off their antagonists whenever chances offered. At this game they entirely outclassed the Confederates, who, quickly realizing that their numbers were being steadily depleted



**Colonel
Charles Frederick Taylor**



Taylor Monument



**Original Monument
Location**

without their opponents suffering a compensating loss, left their protection and charged. To stand against such numbers would have been farcical, so the two companies beat a hasty retreat and succeeded in rejoining the other companies of the regiment behind the stone wall. In this retreat Captain Bell was so severely wounded in the leg that the injured limb was afterwards amputated.

About noon, Lieutenant Kratzer, with Company K, made another attempt to clear the Den of the Confederates. Deploying his men as skirmishers, he charged forward at a run.

When but a few feet separated them from their antagonists, the Confederates springing from their cover, greeted them with a murderous fire, while an officer called on Kratzer to surrender. The answer was a revolver shot. The Confederate returned the shot, and Kratzer, firing again, though wounded in the elbow, killed him. Both parties now took cover ; but shortly after as the Confederates were preparing to make a general assault on the Union position. Major Hartshorne recalled the company.

With the attack on the Union left that had been finally repulsed on the afternoon of the 2nd, by the charge of the Pennsylvania Reserves, the Confederate attack upon that end of the line ceased. An attack was then inaugurated against the Union right both during the afternoon of the 2nd and the morning of the 3rd; but by 11 o'clock on the latter day the effort was proven to be futile. Lee then decided to assault the center. Preparatory to launching his columns, he shelled the position he intended to assail. From 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock his one hundred and fifteen guns engaged in a contest with the eighty guns that opposed them.

General Hunt, who had charge of the Union artillery, realizing that a charge was to follow, then ordered his guns to cease firing, gradually, in order to make the enemy believe that he had succeeded in silencing them. As soon as the artillery became quiet Lee ordered the charge. Pickett's division, supported on the left by Pettigrew's brigade, numbering probably 15,000 men, moved forward as regularly as though on dress parade, to attack the left center.

As the column reached the plain the Union artillery re-opened, but any gaps made were instantly refilled. Two hundred yards away from the Union line, Pettigrew's brigade, upon being heavily assailed, broke, leaving 2,000 prisoners and 15 flags with Hay's division. Still Pickett's division advanced steadily and with such power that it penetrated the Union line.

Continue Next Issue

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.generalmeadesociety.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...





For thousands of children across New Jersey, the Halloween traditions of costumes, candy and trick-or-treating are anything but magical. For these children, Halloween costumes often don't make the list of essentials in the family budget. Halloween carnivals, trick-or-treating and the possibility of being your favorite super hero - even for a night - all disappear when you don't have a costume. Help Jersey Cares bring imaginations and magic to life for children living in New Jersey by collecting new and gently used Halloween costumes.

Items ACCEPTED for the Halloween Costume Drive Include:

- New or gently used/washed costumes (ages 0-14)
- Halloween masks
- Costume accessories (wands, wings, capes, etc.)
- Unused Halloween face make-up
- Candy pails or treat bags

If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the September 11th 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 [Jersey Cares | Halloween Costume Drive](#)

IF DONATING GENTLY USED ITEMS, PLEASE BE SURE TO WASH BEFORE DONATING.



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



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.

Our Sister Round Table Inland Empire Upcoming events

**Sunday, September 21, Presentation Time 6:30 and
Zoom Time 2:00 P.M. Pacific Time
Empire CWRT Member Stephen Matthews
will present "I am a S. O. B., Son of Both"**

**Monday, September 15, Presentation Time 6:30 and Zoom
Time 2:00 P.M. Pacific Time
Author and Historian, Kevin Pawlak will present "John
Pope's Decision making in the Second Manassas Campaign."**

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





**FOB Welcomes
Award and Visits from
afar...**



**Karl Pusch and Buddy
10-year pin**



**Roseann Bacha-Garza
from CHAPS
Gets a visit from FOB in
Texas**

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2025 - 2026

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

December 11, 2025 - Thursday

General Membership Meeting and Social Night

January 8, 2026 - Thursday

Tell Mother Not to Worry:

Soldier Stories from Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm

Questions to

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Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

Camden County College

William G. Rohrer Center

1889 Marlton Pike East

Cherry Hill, NJ

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