

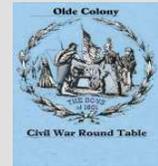
“...if I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home.”

Gen. George McClellan on the eve of the battle of Antietam, Sept. 1862

September, 2012

Our next Meeting – Thursday, September 20, 2012 edition 18, No.1

## THE OLDE COLONY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



# THE CAMPAIGN!

Reporting the latest Occurrences from Both the Front and the Rear.

<http://www.occwrt.org>

### OUR NEXT MEETING:

September 20, 2012



### *Remembering The Battle of the Crater: Kevin M. Levin*

The Battle of the Crater is known as one of the Civil War's bloodiest struggles—a Union loss with combined casualties of 5,000, many of whom were members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) under Union Brigadier General Edward Ferrero. The battle was a violent clash of forces as Confederate soldiers fought for the first time against African American soldiers. After the Union lost the battle, these black soldiers were captured and subject both to extensive abuse and the threat of being returned to slavery in the South. Yet, despite their heroism and sacrifice, these men are often overlooked in public memory of the war.

Kevin M. Levin's published writings have appeared in numerous publications, including The Atlantic, New York Times, The History Teacher, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Southern Historian, and Virginia at War, 1865. He is also the writer of a well-known blog, entitled

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### THE CAMPAIGN!

A publication of the  
Olde Colony Civil War Round Table  
Headquarters: Dedham, Massachusetts  
Editor Emeritus – David Kenney  
Current Editor  
gengibbon@comcast.net

OCCWRT Monthly Meetings (except June/July/August and the October Jubilee Dinner) are regularly held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 7:30 PM (except December—2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) at the Endicott Estate, Dedham.

Civil War Memory (cwmemory.com/). He lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

### Jubilee !

The Olde Colony Civil War Round Table of Dedham is preparing for its Annual Jubilee Dinner on October 18, 2012. Our speaker this year is Wayne Motts. Wayne is currently the CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. For the past 24 years Wayne has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. Wayne was the Former Executive Director of the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg, PA.



The premier event of the year!

The price of the ticket includes a full three course meal, displays, speakers, awards, and the keynote address by one of the foremost authorities on Civil War History

## **OLDE COLONY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ANNUAL JUBILEE DINNER**

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2012

LOCATION: LOMBARDO'S,  
RANDOLPH, MA

SPEAKER: WAYNE MOTTS,  
NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

COST: \$35.00

TICKET ORDER FORM

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TICKET REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
OCTOBER 6, 2012

**\* CIVIL WAR ARTIFACTS EXHIBITS**  
**\* RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE PRESERVATION FUND**

The raffle traditionally has been so large that almost everyone who attends is ensured a prize. The raffle is made possible by generous donations from businesses,

communities, and individuals who have interest in preserving our Civil War Heritage. **In every edition of the newsletter, we express our appreciation to the:**

## FRIENDS OF OLDE COLONY

**These are the folks who donate the many gifts the OCCWRT raffles off at the Annual Jubilee Dinner. Please patronize them to show them your appreciation.**

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- The J. Inman Gallery [www.jinmangallery.com](http://www.jinmangallery.com)  
135 Belmont St., South Easton, Ma. 02375
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- Kent State University Press [www.upress.kent.edu](http://www.upress.kent.edu)  
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- Morningside Press [www.morningsidebook.com](http://www.morningsidebook.com)  
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## THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PRESIDENT



I recently returned from Bull Run/Manassas as part of the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table's "Four Days in May" battlefield tour. It was my second trip with this group and as with the first trip to Gettysburg two years ago, it was fantastic; an outstanding experience put on by Greater

Boston.

We covered both the battle of Bull Run and the battle of Second Bull Run. I like to summarize what I took back with me.

### **Manassas/Bull Run July 21, 1861:**

General P.G.T. Beauregard heads the Confederate army and General Irvin McDowell leads the Union forces.

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson makes a strong stand at Henry House Hill. Confederate forces start driving back Federals when General Joe Johnston's troops arrive on the field.

**At a crucial moment, Captain J.B. Ricketts' Union battery mistakes blue-clad Virginians for Union troops and is overrun.**

Union troops start retreating in an orderly fashion, but turns into a panic as returning spectators block the road back to Washington and after a shell hits an army supply wagon, it further blocks the road. Inexperience officers can't control the panic troops.

The aftermath caused Congress to initiate the Military Review Board.

The battle showed the Union that it wasn't going to be a short war.

Later McClellan replaces McDowell to organize, train, and discipline the troops to be a fighting force.

The stone bridge was rebuilt in 1896.

### **Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) August 28 to 30, 1862:**

General Robert E. Lee continues his plan to invade the north. General John Pope leads the Union army.

Previously on August 26<sup>th</sup>, General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson destroys Pope's supplies at Manassas Junction.

August 28<sup>th</sup>: Jackson attacks Union forces marching pass the Brawner farm. Pope's forces of General Franz Sigel and General Friz John Porter unite to attack Jackson the next

morning. Pope believes he has cornered Jackson and that he's in retreat. Pope is not concerned with Lee and Longstreet coming down the thoroughfare gap. Longstreet had 25,000 fresh troops in reserve. The warnings of Reynolds, Porter, Sigel, and others lent on deaf ears.

August 29<sup>th</sup>: Pope attacks Jackson, but Jackson's men hold along the unfinished railroad. Longstreet comes on to the field late in the afternoon.

August 30<sup>th</sup>: Longstreet starts with an artillery barrage followed by overwhelming the Federals on their left flank. The Federals try to hold Henry House Hill, but Longstreet begins a strong attack on their right flank. Longstreet takes Henry House Hill; Pope's army is crushed. General Philip Kearney is killed. At 8pm Pope orders a retreat to Centreville. An orderly retreat prevents the destruction of his army. It is a Confederate victory. This victory allows Lee to move into Maryland. Can Lee now win a major battle on Union soil? Antietam will come in September.

Aftermath: Pope blames General George McClellan for moving too slow (overly cautious as usual) in supporting his troops. Later Porter is court marshaled for failing to follow orders on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Porter argues he couldn't launch the attack on Jackson, because he had Longstreet on his right flank. He is later exonerated.

See you all in September,  
Rich

ps: I love those freestanding snake fences; aka, worm fences.

### **U.S. Postal Service Civil War Commemorative Stamps**

For those interested, the second series is available. They feature the scenes of Antietam and New Orleans. They cost \$5.40 for 12 Forever first-class stamps.

Rich

## **Picnic! Our Last Meeting! Barbara Berenson Walking Tours of Civil War Boston June 23, 2011**

While no Civil War battles were fought in Massachusetts, Boston was at the vanguard of the run up to the war. Boston has many places where there were fiery speeches, jailhouse breaks, anti-slavery riots, recruitment centers and segregated churches rich in the heritage of Civil War.

A founder of the Civil War walking tour of Boston, Barbara Berenson authored the full color, 64-page book published by the Freedom Trail Foundation. The book includes four themed walks with detailed maps that take you through neighborhoods of downtown Boston.



Over 20 members of the Olde Colony Round Table enjoyed a private tour with Mrs. Berenson. Highlights of the tour included the Shaw Memorial, the Park Street Church, the site of the Old Boston Music Hall, the Louisa May Alcott house, among many other memorable sites. The tour ended at the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument, where a box lunch was provided. All members are encouraged to explore Civil War Boston. Each site is explained in the well illustrated book by Ms. Berenson. This project can be supported by the purchase of the book, which can be found at the Freedom Trail bookstore.



### 2012-2013 Schedule of Events

Date	Mini Bit # 1	Minibit # 2	Main Speaker
Sep 20, 2012	Peter McDonough	“7 Score and 10 years ago” Joe Scalia Civil War Jeopardy Prizes to be awarded Kevin Levin “The Crater”	
Oct	Jubilee		
Nov 15, 2012	Peter McDonough	“7 Score and 10 years ago” Dana Zaiser“Pvt George Foster Robinson Rev Bob Macfarlane“A Visit from Gen Chamberlain ”	
Dec 13, 2012	Peter McDonough	“7 Score and 10 years ago” Brian Murphy“A Civil War Christmas” “20 minute dialogues” (3)	
Jan 17, 2012	Peter McDonough	7 Score and 10 years ago Gail Dugan“Barns of the Shenandoah Valley Brian Matthew Jordan“When Billy Came Marching Home: Union Veterans	
Feb 21, 2012	Peter McDonough	“7 Score and 10 years ago minibit TBA Jay Schmidt“Ft. Warren- Untold Stories	
Mar 21, 2013	Peter McDonough	7 Score and 10 years ago minibit TBA Col (ret) Kevin Weddle, PH.D. “Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral- Samuel DuPont	
Apr 18, 2013	Peter McDonough	7 Score and 10 years ago minibit TBA main speaker TBA	

May 16, 2013 Peter McDonough  
minibit TBA  
Mark Mello“Picketts Charge”

### *Reminders:*

Volunteers are needed! Members are urged to come forward to participate in the group, and contribute to our Civil War heritage. **Please consider presenting a mini bit.** Don’t hesitate to contact program chair Jack Kavanagh with ideas for speakers and presentations.

After much debate, it was determined that the meetings will continue at the same time. There has been no change. **Meetings will begin at 7:30 PM.**

September 20 minibit: Member Jack Scalia will be hosting a Civil War trivia contest, modeled after the Jeopardy tv show. **There will be prizes!**



### “7 score and 10 years from then.... Then it is “1862”

*By Peter J. McDonough*

**Put yourself back in time and picture the following! June 1862:**

It is the beginning of June and Pres. Lincoln has no answer for his Command Problems. McClellan is still tentative and crying for more men on the Peninsula.. Out West, Halleck, after replacing Grant, lacks the stamina and nerve to attack Corinth. In the Valley, Banks, McDowell, and Fremont, have failed to trap Jackson, although they have twice the forces. In the South, the only bright spot is that Richmond has not yet fallen. Tennessee is gone along with New Orleans as is most of the Mississippi River. Much of the South’s east coast is in Union hands.

**Jun. 4, Wed.** - The evacuation of Fort Pillow is completed, opening the road to Memphis. Much cotton is destroyed by the planters to prevent it from falling into Union hands. In the Valley, Jackson is racing towards Harrisonburg to escape the closing Federal net..... His legend is growing daily. On the Peninsula, The Battle of Seven Pines has ended Lee has been put in charge and is trying to make sense of the confusing

situation..... He decides to withdraw..... He has suffered over 6,000 new casualties.

**Jun 6, Fri.** - The city of Memphis falls to Union forces. An intense naval battle goes on below the city. Few Confederate ships escape. ....The Mississippi is now open all the way to Vicksburg.

In a skirmish in the Valley, Conf. Cavalry leader, Col. Turner Ashby is killed in a rear guard action as Jackson is being pursued.

**Jun. 12, Thu.** - At 2 a.m. Confed. Gen Jeb Stuart with 1,200 troops, begins his four-day ride completely around the Army of the Potomac. It is a great embarrassment to Gen. McClellan.

**Jun 19, Thu.** - President Lincoln signs into law, legislation that prohibits slavery in the Territories of the United States.

**Jun 20, Fri.** - Commander Semmes of the CSS Alabama is in England getting the raider outfitted for sea. There is a problem getting the guns on board because of the strict prohibition by the British Parliament.

**Jun 25, Wed.** - The Seven Day's Battle begins today as Gen McClellan orders his left flank to advance.

**Jun 26, Thu.** - The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the battle begins with sharp fighting around Mechanicsville. The Federals fall back to a strong position around Gaines Mills, and the Confederate attack stalls. During the night, the Federals again withdraw to a strong prepared defensive positions around Gaines Mills. McClellan asks Washington for more troops.

**Jun 27, Fri.** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> day sees the Confederates attacking , and getting a severe drubbing. Jackson has not yet reached the Peninsula from the Valley. The Union forces retreat back to the James River.

**Jun 28, Sat.** - On the 4<sup>th</sup> day it is fairly quiet.

McClellan is retreating; Lee is reorganizing for another attack; McClellan sends a telegram to Lincoln saying the battle was lost because his force was too small; and he blames President Lincoln for the failure.

**Jun 29, Sun.** - The 5<sup>th</sup> day of the battle sees the Confederates attacking the retreating Federal columns.

**Jun 30, Mon.** - The 6<sup>th</sup> day, Lee tries to attack McClellan across a swamp. McClellan successfully counters the attack. By nightfall, McClellan has drawn his lines around Malvern Hill.

**Jul. 1, Tue.** - The seventh day of the Seven Days' Battle sees Gen. Lee attack the entrenched Federals at Malvern Hill. He is late in starting the attack and his artillery is no match for the Union Artillery. He tries several assaults. All fail. It is one of Lee's costliest mistakes of the war. Naval gunboats were providing direct support to the Federals during the Confederate attacks. A reporter describes the action. "About 5

o'clock in the afternoon, the gunboats Galena, Aroostook, and Jacob Bell opened fire from Turkey Island Bend, in the James River, with shot and shell from their immense guns. The previous roar of field artillery seemed as faint as the rattle of musketry in comparison with these monsters of ordnance that literally shook the water and strained the air..... They fired about three times a minute, frequently a broadside at a time, and the immense hull of the Galena careened as she delivered her complement of iron and flame. The fire went on....making music to the ears of our tired men....{Confederate} ranks seemed slow to close up when the naval thunder had them torn apart....." The South suffers 25% more casualties than the North; but it is the North that retreats from the field.

**Jul 2, Wed.** - On the James River in Virginia, McClellan orders a retreat from Malvern Hill to Harrison's Landing. The gunboats will be used to protect the flanks.

In Washington, President Lincoln signs the Morrill Act, which provides for the states to receive 30,000 acres of land for each senator and representative as an endowment for proposed agricultural and mechanical schools. This is the beginning of the land grant universities.

**July. 3, Thu.** - McClellan is safely entrenched at Harrison's Landing protected by the land and gunboat artillery. Lee probes the line for an opening to exploit. On both sides finger pointing begins, as nearly everyone is looking for a scapegoat. McClellan chooses Lincoln and Congress as they did not give him sufficient troops.

**July 4, Fri** - The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is carried on with great enthusiasm in the North.....Our Pvt. Day Co. B, of the 25<sup>th</sup> Mass. writes, "The 4<sup>th</sup> was celebrated with salutes from the forts, batteries, and gunboats, morning, noon, and night. There were gala times in Camp Oliver last night. A huge bonfire was set from a pyramid of 75 barrels of resin; and when well on fire it lighted up the camp in grand style." In contrast, the 4<sup>th</sup> is not celebrated in the South.

**July 6, Sun.** - In Richmond, it is reported that "thousands of fathers, brothers, mothers, and sisters of the wounded from the 7 Days Battle, are arriving

in the city to attend their suffering relations, and to recover the remains of those who were slain. The South had suffered 20,000 casualties.

**July 7, Mon.** - President Lincoln is on board the USS Ariel on his way to Harrison's Landing to meet with Gen. McClellan. Several matters need to be discussed with "Little Mac" not the least of which is the idea that he thinks he should be advising the President on political as well as military matters.

**July 10, Thu.** - Along the James River, continual Confederate concern about gunboats was noted by a British Army Observer, who wrote that he "noted with some interest the superstitious dread of gunboats which possessed the Southern soldiers. These vessels, on several occasions, had been the means of saving the Federal armies." **July 14, Mon.** - Well the worst finally happens in the Northern Navy. Congress passes an act stating, "the spirit ration in the Navy of the United States shall forever cease, and no distilled spiritous liquors shall be admitted on board vessels of war, except as medical stores..... there shall be allowed and paid to each person in the Navy now entitled to the ration, five cents per day in commutation and lieu thereof, which shall be in addition to their regular pay.

**July 21, Mon.** - Confederate raiders are continually busy burning bridges around Nashville on the road to Chattanooga.

**July 24, Thu.** - Admiral Farragut's river fleet departed the area around Vicksburg today for Baton Rouge and New Orleans leaving 5 gunboats to guard the river. The falling water level, his saltwater ships requiring a deeper draft, and his sick crews necessitates the move.

**July 29, Tue.** - A woman is accused of being a Confederate spy is captured near Warrenton, Va. By the Federals. Belle Boyd is accused of being a spy and a mail courier, and sent to the Old Capital Prison in Washington. She will be released on August 28<sup>th</sup> for lack of evidence, and return to her chosen work with zeal. **Aug. 1, Fri.** - President Davis is upset about supposed actions against civilians and the arming of Negroes in the North. He is concerned about John Pope's actions in the Manassas area and

the arming of slaves in the parts of South Carolina under Union control.

**Aug 2, Sat.** - A minor bureaucratic breakthrough occurs when Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director for the Army of the Potomac has his plans approved for the establishment of the Army Ambulance Corps. In effect, it transfers the control of ambulances from the Quartermaster Corps. To the Medical Director, and permits the ambulances to carry medical supplies. This innovation is to have major impact on the treatment and care of the wounded in future battles

**Aug 4, Mon** - After over a year of trial and error, Lincoln tells the military to get rid of the deadwood officers and incompetents, and make an effort to promote more worthy officers.

In New Orleans, Gen Butler begins his version of a social program by collecting a total of \$341,916 from local "Secessionists" for the benefit of the poor in the city.

President Lincoln is offered two Negro regiments from Indiana for the Union Army which he declines, suggesting they be used as laborers. **Aug 26, Tue.** - Today, Lee and Pope begin a battle which will come to be known as the Second Battle of Bull Run [or Second Manassas.] Pope is waiting for support to arrive from McClellan; and he doesn't know where Lee or General Jackson is.

**Aug 27, Wed.** - Pope is outflanked by Jackson; Longstreet is arriving on the field to support Jackson; and Pope is in big trouble but doesn't realize it. Lincoln has no communication with Pope in the field.

**Aug 28, Thu.** - Pope continues to be bested by Lee, Longstreet, and Jackson at Bull Run.

The female spy, Belle Boyd, is released from the Old Capital Prison in Washington for lack of evidence.

**Aug 29, Fri.** - At Manassas, Pope continues to be confused. The fighting continues throughout the day. In the evening, the fighting quiets down. Washington is finally aware of the situation, and is urging McClellan to send support. McClellan has a strong dislike for Pope and drags his feet. Many believe that Little Mac's ego will not stand having to play second fiddle to anyone, let alone Pope.

In Washington, Lincoln is cut off from all telegraphic communication and is pacing the floor with worry.

**Aug 30, Sat.** - At Manassas, Pope believing the Confederates have retreated attacks Jackson's lines; and finds that he is then

attacked by Longstreet who rolls up Pope's army, sending them into retreat towards Centreville.

Lee wins the battle; but does not destroy the Union Army on the field Selected Excerpts from "The Civil War Years," "The Civil War Almanac," "The Living Lincoln," and "The Every Day Life of Abraham Lincoln."

As Summarized by: Pete McDonough