

# THE STONEWALL

April 2000

## This Month's Event

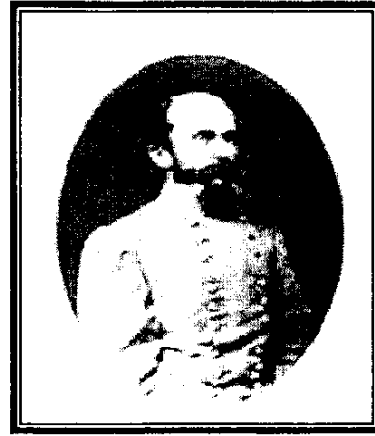
Richard S. Ewell : A Soldier's Life (Civil War America)

Presented by the author: Don Phanz, NPS

When: Thursday, April 13, 2000, 7:30 PM

Where: Centerville Regional Library

Known as Stonewall Jackson's "Right Arm," Lieutenant General Ewell was Stonewall's ablest division commander. Eccentric and irritable, Ewell was also an aggressive and capable field commander. Following the death of their fabled commander during the Chancellorsville campaign, Ewell succeeded to command of the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps. Historically blamed for the Confederate defeats at Gettysburg (sharing the blame with James Longstreet) and later at Petersburg, Ewell's role in Confederate military history is more objectively analyzed in Don Phanz's highly praised new biography.



Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell, CSA

## Featured Article

**An Often Ignored Confederate Hero – William T. Wofford** By Robert W. Ford

"One of the most daring of men" is what Dr. Gerald J. Smith, in his book by that title, called Confederate General William Tatum Wofford. Serving as the Colonel of the 18th Georgia Infantry Regiment and later as a Brigade Commander in Longstreet's Corps, before ending his Civil War service as Commander of the Military district of Northern Georgia. Wofford, a 24-year old lawyer from Cass County, Georgia, began his military service in August 1847, during the Mexican War, when he was appointed by the Governor as captain and ordered to raise a company of mounted volunteers that became Company E, first Battalion, Georgia Mounted Volunteers. The Battalion was sent to join Zachary Taylor at Vera Cruz, Mexico. Wofford and his men saw action only twice. In November he led his cavalrymen in an attack of the "Castilian Lancers." When an enemy soldier killed one of his men, Wofford grabbed the lance from the Castilian and killed him with it. After the treaty was signed, Mexican guerrillas ambushed Wofford's company at the village of Matersordera. Though outnumbered, Wofford led his men to safety with only five of his men killed. In February 1850, the Georgia House of Representatives passed a resolution expressing the gratitude of the State for his valiant service in the Mexican War. His service in Mexico was

## "Minie" News Bullets

- We are building a database of member email addresses. Please pass on your email addresses to Scott Cason (cason6@hotmail.com).
- **Executive Committee Meeting:** 9:15 PM after the April monthly meeting at the Lone Star Steakhouse in Centerville
- **Gettysburg Staff Ride:** Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> Contact Kevin Anasatas (kpa1@erols.com). Look for details in the following pages
- **Orange & Alexandria Railroad Tour:** Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact John McAnaw (703) 978-3371. Look for details in the following pages
- **Next Month's Meeting: Ed. Bearss**  
His Subject: The Atlanta Campaign  
Thursday, May 11, 7:30 PM at the Centerville Public Library

Visit the Virtual Bull Run Civil War Roundtable on the Web:

<http://www.geocities.com/bullruncwrt/>

(Featured Article, Cont.) only a small prelude to what awaited him. Back in civilian life Wofford became active in politics and was elected a delegate to the national Democratic Party convention of 1860. Back home, he grew concerned over the talk of secession, which he opposed. He and my great grandfather, John Perley Ford, canvassed Cass County against secession and Wofford was elected a delegate to Georgia's secession convention. Wofford voted against the Ordinance of Secession, but after it passed, signed it as a loyal Georgian. He offered his services to the State and was appointed Colonel of the First Regiment, Fourth Brigade, Georgia State Volunteers. The Regiment was sent to Richmond in August 1861 where it was mustered in the Army of the Confederate States of America and re-designated the 18th Georgia Infantry Regiment. From there they were sent to Dumfries to join the Brigade that would later be called the "Flower of Lee's Army" - Hood's famed Texas Brigade.



**New Monthly Web Feature  
"The War in Northern Virginia"**



*"Let us raise the debt on a little  
Southern Church."  
A Debt of Gratitude Repaid*

## The Budget

### BRCWRT Quarterly Financial Report

Balance as of 2/28/00:	3,512.00
Outstanding Checks	-100.00
Outstanding Deposits	-377.00
Cash on hand	40.00
<b>Balance 3/31/2000</b>	<b>\$3,829.00</b>

## Preservation News

### BATTLEFIELD MAULERS BEWARE! ANNIE IS BAAACK!

The indomitable Annie Snyder has recovered sufficiently from her long illness to enter the fray to save the Stone House Intersection, located in the heart of the Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP). Although still confined to a wheelchair, she has already fired off letters to the media and concerned organizations protesting planned construction at the Stone House Intersection.

As most of you know, Annie Snyder successfully led the nation-wide preservation effort during the period 1985-1988 to incorporate the 540 plus acre William Center Tract into the MNBP. This integral part of the battlefield is also known as the Stuart's Hill Tract. She was also instrumental in keeping Disney from constructing a huge "theme park" back in 1995 vicinity Haymarket

Annie is a tough, former Marine who will not compromise her commitment to the preservation of the MNBP under any circumstances. She is a refreshing (and reassuring) beacon of integrity in an era where political correctness, double-speak, and bureaucratic timidity are the norm. And woe to the individuals who shade the truth when dealing with her. Needless to state, we in the BRCWRT are proud to have Annie as our only Life Member. And, we pray that her health continues to improve.

## Preservation (Cont.)

### UPDATE ON THE STONE HOUSE INTERSECTION CONTROVERSY

Per my request, I recently received a signed copy of the final Environmental Assessment (EA) concerning U.S. Highway 29/Route 234 Intersection "Safety Improvements". The signatories on cited document are Terry R. Carlstrom, Capital Region Director, National Park Service, and Allen W. Burden (sp.), Federal Highway Administrator. They signed on 16 March 2000 and 21 March 2000, respectively.

According to the cover sheet, the 30-day reviewing period will end 15 April 2000. Thus, comments should be submitted not later than that date to Superintendent Robert K. Sutton, Manassas National Battlefield Park, 12521 Lee Highway, Manassas, Virginia 20109; Telephone Number: (703) 754-1871; FAX Number: (703) 754-1107. Copies of this EA can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office. The cover sheet lists Karen Cucurullo as the Point of Contact for further information.

Paragraph Two of the cited cover Sheet begins with the comment that:

**"The purpose of this project is to enhance travel safety for motorists and pedestrians through the intersection of U.S. Route 29 and Route 234."**

I do not believe any informed individual believes that the real purpose of the project described above is "travel safety". The "real" purpose of the project is to increase vehicular throughput capacity at the intersection. Simply put, the leadership of the National Park Service, after years of documented opposition, caved in to the demands of the concerned U.S. Congressman whose turf includes the MNBP.

It is truly a sad day in our history when the heart of a premier Civil War battlefield (and a National treasure) is offered as a sacrifice on the altar of regional special interests. By all means, however, do not give up the fight. The battle is far from over. I urge you to provide comments on the EA to the Superintendent NLT 15 April. Please also write to your U.S. Senators and Representative in the House; Virginia Governor Gilmore and Attorney General Earley; as well as to area newspapers.

In closing, permit me to again remind the reader that, back in 1988, the U.S. Congress explicitly stated that plans should be prepared to re-route all through traffic on U.S. Highway 29 and Route 234 around the MNBP. Yet, 12 years later, nothing meaningful has been done by concerned politicians and government agencies to meet the expressed sense of Congress. This is inexcusable. Mark my words--if the proposed construction plans for the Stone House Intersection ever becomes a reality, expect more of the same in the near future. Eventually the letters MNBP will be changed to MCBP - Manassas County Battlefield Playground.

### LEE'S BOYHOOD HOME UPDATE

Many readers are aware of the recent, secret sale of General Robert E. Lee's boyhood home by the Lee-Jackson Foundation to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kingston.

The April 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Washington Post contained an article on General Lee's house by staff writer Ann O'Hanlon. She stated that the Kingston's "...agreed to sell the house back to the Lee-Jackson Foundation or another group that would restore and reopen it to the public." Ms. O'Hanlon went on to state that the counsel for State Attorney General Mark Early confirmed on April 3<sup>rd</sup> that the Lee boyhood home would be returned to public use.

Late on April 4<sup>th</sup>, I was told by and informed source that some of Ms. O'Hanlon's comments were "premature." Negotiations are still underway among concerned parties. An estimated date for closure of these negotiations is unknown.

Thus our effort to obtain signed petitions will continue until the preservation of General Lee's boyhood home and its access to the public is guaranteed. Remember, It ain't over yet!

### **BRCWRT SPONSOR:**

*The American Military University*  
[www.amunet.edu/cw.asp](http://www.amunet.edu/cw.asp)  
Check out the Civil War Studies  
Graduate Degree

## SCIEDULED GUEST SPEAKERS

**May-Ed Bearss**  
Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

**Jun-John McAnaw**  
Petersburg, 1864

**Jul-Bill Miller**  
McClellan's Siege of Yorktown

**Aug-Alan Tischler**  
Civil War Drawings of A. W. Waud

**Sep-Joe Harsh**  
General' Lee's Strategy in the Maryland  
Campaign

**Oct-Robert K. Krick**  
Stonewall Jackson Biography

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## Upcoming Historical Tours

### Gettysburg

**Saturday April 15, 2000**  
McPherson's Ridge, Oak Ridge, Culp's  
Hill, and East Cemetery Hill

**Stop #1: McPherson's Ridge**  
**9:30-11:25**  
Strategic/Operational Overview-Bill Carritte  
Buford's Cav. Fight \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_  
Cutler's Brigade (147th NY)-Kevin Anastas  
Iron Brigade/Death of Reynolds-Scott Cason  
Fight at the R/R Cut-Scott Cason

**Stop #2: Oak Hill**  
**11:25-11:55**  
Rodes' Attack \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_

**Stop #3: Baxter's Position/Oak Ridge Tower**  
**11:55-12:25**  
Defeat of Iverson's Brigade \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_

## Historical Tours (Cont.)

**Stop #4: Lunch-12:25-1:40**  
Gettysbrew Pub & Brewery

**Stop #5 Spangler's Spring/Culp's Hill-**  
**1:40-3:25**  
66th OH \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_  
Johnson's Division Attacks \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_  
27th IN (Spangler's Spring) \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_

**Stop #6: Steven's Knoll**  
**3:25-4:00**  
Overview of E. Cemetery Hill Attack-Jim Myer

**Stop #7: 75th OH Monument**  
**4:00-4:30**  
Hays/Avery Attack-Jim Myer/John McAnaw

**For More Details and Maps Contact you Tour  
Sponsor: Kevin Anastas ([kpa1@erols.com](mailto:kpa1@erols.com)).**

<p><b>Each Stop will include:</b> Battle Summary/Analysis Terrain Orientation Human Interest Story Discussion Issue</p>
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**The Orange and Alexandria Railroad**  
**(from Springfield to Union Mills)**  
Saturday April 29, 2000  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tour Details:

- Assembly Time: 7:50 am
- Assembly Point-The McDonalds in University Mall (Rt. 123 and Braddock Rd.) in Fairfax, just south of the George Mason Campus.
- Lunch Stop-VFW "Blue and Gray" Post Home, Fairfax Station (bring own food)
- Dress and Equipment: Dress for hiking and bring along water
- Need More Details? Sign up sheet and maps available at the April meeting -or- Contact John McAnaw (703) 978-3371