

THE STONEWALL

September, 2000

This Month's Event

General Lee's Strategy in the Maryland Campaign

Presented by Joe Harsh
Where: Centreville Public Library
When: 7:30 pm, September 15th, 2000



Eppa Hunton: Virginia Citizen-Soldier (Part 2)

By Scott Cason

Based on the article *Eppa Hunton-Teacher, Attorney, Military Leader, Congressman, Senator* and research compiled by David Purschwitz of The Manassas Museum)

Eppa Hunton's war service began with First Manassas. He was credited in the Prince William Times with having secured the Rebel army's left flank by picketing Sudley Ford on the eve of the battle. The writer of the article argued that it was the timely alert by sentries of the 8th Virginia posted at the Ford, which along with Joe Johnston's timely arrival on the field, saved General Beauregard's inexperienced army.

As any student of Civil War history knows, it was disease and not bullets that killed the lion's share of combatants. Throughout the war, Hunton suffered from a case Phlebitis that repeatedly left him hospitalized, and often subjected him to the horrors of Civil War era surgery. On several occasions, General Longstreet ordered him to Lynchburg hospitals. However, when he saw that a battle was eminent, he usually disregarded the wishes of his physician and his corps commander by discharging himself so that he could rejoin his regiment for crucial engagements. Unable to ride due a horse due to one bout of Phelebitis, he arrived on the battlefield at Ball's Bluff in less than glamorous fashion. Like Longstreet at Antietam, Hunton led his

regiment to victory while fending off repeated Union assaults from his supply wagon command post.

No stranger to enemy fire, Hunton survived a severe battlefield wounding at Gettysburg and a near miss later in the war. During Pickett's charge, he was shot through the leg by a Minie ball that also entered the body of his horse. The faithful steed lived long enough to bear him away from the battlefield. In a later engagement, he survived a firefight in which his uniform was pierced by three Minie balls and his scabbard was twisted by a piece of shrapnel.

With the death of General Garnett at Gettysburg, Hunton became a brigadier and assumed command of his old brigade of Virginians. General Hunton led this brigade until April 6, 1865 where at the Battle of Saylor's Creek he was captured after a gallant stand in which many of his men broke their muskets in a final act of defiance towards their Yankee pursuers.

Imprisoned at Fort Warren until July of 1865, Hunton returned to his home in Brentsville to find it destroyed (Interestingly enough, part of the blame for its destruction lies with Union hero Elisha Hunt Rhodes, who led a detachment of Rhode Islanders on a foraging mission to Brentsville where they plundered doors, windows and boards from the Hunton home that they used to build winter quarters in nearby Bristow Station). He overcame the privations of reconstruction and physician ailments to resurrect a thriving law practice in Warrenton

Hunton's post-war career included 8 years of public service representing the 8th Congressional District in the House of Representatives, and almost 3 years representing the Old Dominion in the U.S. Senate. Hunton died in 1908 at the age of 86 after helping his son found what is today still the largest law firm in Richmond, Hunton and Williams. An admiring Tom Munford of the 2nd Virginia Cavalry said of Hunton, "...though modest as a woman, (he) was a dangerous soldier for the Yankees to meet. Hunton was the real hero of Ball's Bluff and his fame was never tarnished by any slip. He served his Mother Virginia as a worthy son."

Visit The Virtual Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Barracks/5272/>

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Antietam Staff Ride

As a follow-up to last spring's successful Gettysburg Staff Ride, Kevin Anastas is organizing this fall's trek to the battlefields of Sharpsburg. The event is tentatively planned for Saturday, September 23rd and will include stops and detailed discussion at such landmarks as:

- The Cornfield
- The North, East and West Woods
- The Bloody Lane
- Burnside's Bridge

As always, Kevin encourages volunteers to lead discussions at each site and can be reached at the following email address: kpai@erols.com

Preservation News

Save Lee's Boyhood Home!

(From the web site www.leeshome.com)

The Friends of the Lee Boyhood Home on July 31 submitted a proposal to buy, restore and maintain the Robert E Lee Boyhood Museum, to the advisory panel established by the house's new owner, Mark Kington. The proposal included outline plans for restoration of the property, for marketing it for historic tourism purposes and for developing an interpretative / educational plan.

We expect to hear sometime in September whether Mr. Kington's advisors will recommend that we be accepted as the purchaser and his subsequent decision. If we are given the go-ahead, we will have until May 31, 2001 to raise the \$2.5 million purchase price and the necessary funds for restoration, as well as develop an ongoing revenue stream for the Museum through memberships, endowments, etc.

The panel of advisors appointed by Mr. Kington consists of the Presidents of the National Trust, Civil War Trust, the Virginia Society and two noted Alexandria historic preservationists. The "Invitation for Proposals" (IFP) process is being managed by the National Trust. (for the rest of the story see the website)

Calendar

Sep 23 Antietam Staff Ride

Sep 22-24 Battle of Chancellorsville

Reenactment event hosted by America's Civil War and Civil War Times. For more information visit: either www.thehistorynet.com, www.cwreenactors.com, or call (540) 933-6564.

NEW

The View from Way Back

In this new section, Keith Young provides nuggets from old books on the Civil War containing many first hand anecdotes and stories which place many of the individuals and events in perspective. Keith can't ensure these passages are reliable history, but they are interesting.

French Notions of American Geography

We translate from the "Almanach du Magazin Pittoresque," the following paragraph contained in an abstract of events of the war in the United States: --

May 23.-- The Federal troops assembled at Harper's Ferry, cross the Potomac, and after a first engagement occupy Alexandria.

May 27.-- The Federals commanded by Gen. Banks, experienced a first reverse. They re-cross the Potomac, and fall back upon Williamsburg.

May 30 and 31.-- A great battle is fought near Richmond; on the first day the advantage remains with the Confederacy, on the second day they experience considerable loss, and abandon Corinth. After seven days of bloody fighting near Richmond (June 28 to 29), 95,000 Federals, commanded by McClellan, retire before the Confederate Army, which, with re-enforcements brought by Gens. Beauregard and Jackson have been increased to 135,000 men. They take position on the James River, 17 miles from Charleston.

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On the cover of the book it is stated that "the Central Committee of Primary Instruction in the City of Paris has placed the 'Magazin Pittoresque' on the list of books proper to be given as prizes in the public schools.

---From "The Civil War in Song and Story.1860-1865." Collected and arranged by Frank Moore, 1865, reprinted 1882.

The College of Trivial Knowledge

This Month's theme, "Raw Deals"

1. This Union general ably built an aggressive and capable Yankee cavalry, which he led to a morale building victory at Brandy Station. He was ultimately cashiered for failing to enthusiastically support Ulrich Dalgren's administration supported, yet ill advised, raid on Richmond, and because U.S. Grant wanted his man, Philip Sheridan, in the post.

2. This proven and capable Union corps commander was relieved of command, and his career and reputation ruined, by Philip Sheridan (with the blessing of U.S. Grant) on a trumped up accusation of sluggishness in the face of the enemy.

3. This valiant Confederate suffered the indignity of a court martial convened by Stonewall Jackson. His honor stained, he transferred to brigade command under Longstreet and disappeared in a haze of fire and smoke only 20 yards from the Union lines on the third day at Gettysburg.

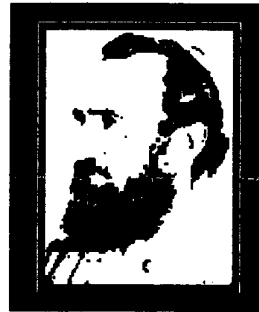
4. This rising star of the Confederate army and his crack brigade missed the Gettysburg campaign at the insistence of Jefferson Davis who wanted retribution for a heated confrontation he once had with a favorite of the President. This "boy general" went on to die tragically to a friendly fire volley in the Wilderness.

5. Branded by George McClellan, "The most magnificent soldier in the Army of the Potomac," this Union Officer underwent a disgraceful court martial and dismissal at the hands of a McClellan-hating administration and a scapegoat-seeking John Pope.

You can submit your answers online or attend this month's meeting to hear the questions reviewed at the beginning of the meeting.

Editors Note: I will turn over the production responsibilities of the newsletter after this issue. I have enjoyed participating in this monthly endeavor, but trying to balance night and weekend classes, family commitments, and work has led to a lack of production timeliness I regret. I will continue to manage the web page, and I do appreciate the efforts of those who have helped this newsletter grow with new features and quality content.

*Regards,
Scott*



Next Month's Event:

Stonewall Jackson

Presented by Robert K. Krick

When: October 12th at 7:30 pm

Where: The Centreville Public Library

Next Month in The Stonewall

The Book Corner

By Ralph G. Swanson

"Where to start? Where should the journey begin? Shouldn't the next student first read a good overview history of the Civil War? My recommendation is to go straight to Bruce Catton's 'Centennial History of the Civil War' (CHW)." --

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