



STONE WALL

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

October/November 2001

Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville

Many members of our Round Table are familiar with Greg Mertz, the guest speaker for our General Membership Meeting on 11 October 2001. Greg has spoken to our group in the past and he has also conducted tours for many of our members visiting the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Military Park as well as Brandy Station. He was a favorite tour guide for the Harsh Brigade, led by none other than Joe Harsh of George Mason University, which swept through the region in 1994 during a frenetic, around the clock effort to cover the first half of the Civil War in two weeks. And what an enjoyable and informative two weeks it was!

Greg was born and raised near St. Louis, MO. His interest in the Civil War developed as the result of the annual hiking and camping trips his Boy Scout Troop made to the magnificent Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Missouri (Columbia) in 1978. Six years later, while working for the National Park Service, he received a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania.

Greg began his National Park Service career as a Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. In 1984 he was reassigned to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park (F&SCNMP). He currently is serving as Supervisory Historian at the F&SCNMP directing visitor service operations.

While assigned to the F&SCNMP, Greg has authored a number of superb Civil War articles. Those include two back to back articles in Blue and Gray Magazine on the Battle of the Wilderness and one on Colonel Emory Upton's attack at Spotsylvania. Other articles include "Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville" (Confederate Veteran) and "Jackson's Artillery at the Battle of Fredericksburg" (Civil War Regiments)

Reports Preparation and OPSEC – Jackson Style

By: John McAnaw

LTG Thomas J. Jackson disliked writing after action reports. Following the Battle of First Kernstown, 23 March 1862, he did file a report. In the following eight months he participated in fourteen battles. Yet, he did not begin working on his next after action report until after he settled in at Moss Neck, the Corbin family home on 17 December 1862, following the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Talented staff officers like LTC Charles J. Faulkner and Lt. James Smith provided him invaluable assistance. Jackson's dicta for the preparation of after action reports were five-fold:

1. Keep the reports simple
2. Include only verifiable information
3. Avoid any discussion of controversies
4. Do not include "laudations of anyone."
5. All reports are subject to his (Jackson's) revision "in all respects."

The erudite Faulkner, a former U.S. Congressman from Virginia and U.S. Minister to France, worked on the after action reports for three months. The preparation of the after action reports must have been a painful experience for all concerned. Dr. Douglas S. Freeman noted that Jackson deleted much of what Faulkner had written concerning the reasons for some of the general's maneuvers. Jackson believed intensely in operations security (OPSEC). He adamantly opposed the publishing of information concerning how and why he acted as he did on various battlefields. Jackson did not want the enemy to discover his modus operandi - and for good reason. Successful commanders like Jackson keep their adversaries guessing and off balance.

As the result of Jackson's "Dictum #5", historians to this very day, debate the controversies not covered by Jackson in his after action reports. An example is the location of Jackson's brigades throughout the Battle of Cedar Mountain, 9 August 1862.

LTG Jackson learned from the experience discussed above, how difficult it was to prepare after action reports many months after battles were fought. Unfortunately, he was unable to benefit from this "lesson learned." His next battle was to be his last.

Source: Freeman, Douglas S. "Lee's Lieutenants." Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1946. Vol. II, pp. 499-503

General Membership Meeting

Thursday

11 October 2001

7:15 PM

*** Greg Mertz**

**"Stonewall Jackson at
Chancellorsville"**

**Bull Run Civil War
Round Table**

P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, VA
20122

President

John McAnaw
(703) 978 – 3371

Vice President

John DePue

Treasurer

Mark Knowles
(703) 787- 9811

Secretary

Nancy Anwyll
nanwyll@patriot.net

At Large

Michael E. Duggan

Robert W. Ford

rford@cox.rr.com

Keith Young

Field Trip

Kevin Anastas
KPA1@erols.com

Preservation

John McAnaw

Editor

Mary Ahrens
ahrn@starpower.net

Webmaster

Maureen Quinn
MRQuinn@patriot.net

IN THIS ISSUE

“Stonewall Jackson
at Chancellorsville” p. 1

BRCWRT
News p. 2

“Gettysburg” p.3

President’s
Column p. 3

Field Trip Info p. 5

Miscellaneous p. 5

Preservation
Corner p. 7

Flashback 1861 p. 9

The View from
Way Back p. 11

Calendar of
Events p. 11

The STONE WALL is published
monthly by the Bull Run Civil War
Round Table. Meetings are held at
7:15 PM on the second Thursday
of the month at:

**The Centreville Regional
Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2299
Tel. No. (703) 830-2223**

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER:

If you would like to participate
in the e-mail program, (messages
are sent blind copy to protect
privacy), or if you would like to
offer comments please contact:

Mary R. Ahrens

(703) 352-9775

ahrn@starpower.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for December
2001 articles is 27 November
2001. Please send input to Mary
Ahrens at the above address or e-
mail.

**November General Membership
Meeting**

8 November 2001

7:15 PM

*** Noah Andre Trudeau
“Gettysburg”**

**Note: Civil War 101 with Mike
Duggan will not be held in
October, but will resume in
November.**

Visit our website at:

[http://www.geocities.com/bullrunc
wrt](http://www.geocities.com/bullrunc
wrt)

**For more information on
the BRCWRT website contact:**

Maureen Quinn:

MRQuinn@patriot.net

Gettysburg (November Presentation)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: John McAnaw

On 9 November 2000, our guest speaker at our General Membership Meeting was Noah Andre Trudeau. He gave a thought provoking presentation entitled "The Appomattox Campaign: Lee's Greatest Victory (?): A New Perspective." As late as 27 September 2001, members of the Executive Committee were still discussing his talk. Well, guess who will be our speaker at our 8 November 2001 General Membership Meeting? You guessed it - none other than "Andy" Trudeau.

When I spoke with Andy, I mentioned several possible topics that I knew he had previously written about. He stated that he wanted to title his presentation "Gettysburg." I asked him why he didn't pick a catchier title like "Fiery Ridges and Blood Soaked Valleys of Gettysburg." He informed me that all the good titles about the battle had already been used by other writers. Yes, "Gettysburg" will also be the title of his next book. It is due to hit the bookstores sometime in 2001. One of the things Andy stated is that after careful study, he concluded that the Pettigrew-Pickett assault on 3 July 1863 was not a bad idea.

Andy Trudeau was born in New York City and received his BA degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany. He is currently the producer for the Cultural Programming Division of National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. Andy is the author of an acclaimed trilogy on the Overland Campaign of 1864-1865. The titles of these books are:

- "Bloody Roads Sout! The Wilderness to Cold Harbor. May-June, 1864" (Winner of the Fletcher Pratt Award)
- "The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia. June 1864-April 1865"
- "Out of the Storm: The End of the Civil War, April - June 1865"

Mr. Trudeau edited a book entitled "Voices of the 55th: Letters from the 55th Massachusetts Volunteers 1861-1865" and he was also an associate editor of the "American Heritage New History of the Civil War." Further, our prolific guest speaker has written numerous articles that have been published in virtually every Civil War periodical.

If you want to listen to what will be a thoroughly entertaining presentation by an historian who always provides fresh insights regarding every topic he writes about make sure to attend our November General Membership Meeting.

Like the vast majority of Americans, I was shocked and grief-stricken by the unbelievable deadly events of 11 September 2001 that took the lives of over 6,000 people in New York City and at the Pentagon.

I ask you to pray for those who were murdered or injured, the families and friends of the deceased and wounded, and all of those incredibly courageous personnel who risked (and are still risking) their lives to save - and now to recover the many individuals who are missing. And, lastly, please pray for our great Nation and our national leaders, members of our Armed Forces and various civilian agencies who are - or shortly will be in "harm's way."

Our General Membership Meeting on 13 September 2001 was "Red Leg Night", featuring a well-organized presentation on the "King of Battle" during the Civil War - the Artillery Branch. It was an informative and well done presentation with an incredibly detailed handout. We have two excellent speakers lined up for October and November meetings. Both Greg Mertz and Andy Trudeau are known by many Round Table members and have spoken to our group in the past.

In October I will be meeting with the Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Kate Hanley, concerning the continuation of funding for the inventory of County Civil War Sites through 2002 and certain preservation-related issues. I again ask our readers to write letters to the Chairman and other members of the Board of Supervisors urging the appropriation of an additional \$200K for the inventory currently being conducted by John A. Milner and Associates and the extension of the deadline for the project until 31 December 2002. Additional information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The annual election of Round Table officers will take place at our General Membership Meeting on 13 December 2001. Bob Ford is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in running for one of the four elected positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) you can contact him either at our monthly meeting or at (703) 273-4115.

Also, included in this issue are proposed changes in our By-laws which were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 27 September.

Per Article VIII - *Amendments for our By-Laws* - "Proposed amendments will be presented at two successive meetings and voted upon by the Membership at the second meeting."

Finally, do not miss our Chancellorsville tour on 13 October with Kevin Anastas as our Chief Tour Guide. I assure that it will be a very worthwhile event.

Reflections on Chancellorsville and Gettysburg – E.P.

Alexander

By: John McAnaw

Since our guest speakers for October and November will be discussing Chancellorsville and Gettysburg respectively – and since our October field trip will be to Chancellorsville, I thought it would be timely to include some reflections on both of those battles by a person with great insight. BG Edward Porter Alexander, C.S.A. was an extraordinary individual. Not only was he a first class artilleryman and signal man, he was a very astute and talented historian. His private memoir, "Fighting for the Confederacy" is one of the most informative personal accounts written about the Civil War. Printed below are two excerpts taken from the 1989 edition of his book, published by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and edited by Gary Gallagher.

"Chancellorsville (pp. 216-217)

There is very little more to say about the battle of Chancellorsville. The most striking feature to me of the military history of the battle is the perfect collapse of the moral courage of Hooker, as a commander in chief, as soon as he found himself in the actual presence of Lee & Jackson. Hooker had been noted for personal bravery, as I have heard from Gen. Jos. E. Johnston, from his entry in the regular army as a young man. He was on some accounts – I never knew exactly what – neither highly esteemed nor much liked in the old army circles which I knew, but he was given full credit for personal courage. And as a division & corps commander he had been noted among the others of the Army of the Potomac as a bold & hard fighter. And it was because Lincoln considered him the most so in the army that he placed him in supreme command. And none of its commanders ever planned or executed better than he did up to his reaching Chancellorsville, & finding that Lee was on the warpath after him. Then he became timid, believed absurdities & gave us the time to make the turning movement on him. That was his first blunder. His second, permitting us to defeat a part of his army while

the next stood idly by, we will attribute solely to the brick in the solar plexus, & excuse him for it. But why did none of his staff take responsibility? Or none of the other corps commanders/ I can only attribute the general fear to take responsibility to the moral effect of Lee's prestige. And surely something like that is necessary to excuse Sedgwick's timidity – to which I referred as I went along.

But Hooker's third & last blunder was the greatest of all. He lost confidence even in being able to repulse Lee with his whole army united behind the short line which any engineer would pronounce impregnable. Besides the powerful artillery force, he had men enough to put them about 15 deep for every yard of line. And he ought to have known Lee's aggressive audacity enough to at least wait a day or two more & see if he could get him to attack.

Gettysburg (pp. 281-283)

We had usually used two lines in our former assaults covering the enemy's entire front. Here the fire to be faced, the distance to be traversed, & the resistance to be encountered were all unusually great. Surely three lines would seem the least with which we should have attempted it. Well we had three lines, but not full ones. In the front line were 6 brigades, in the second line but 3, & in the third line 5. Now we have X in command of the 3rd line.

Surely, he should advance at the same time that the first & second lines do & keep close behind them. There is no use in his advancing at all unless he share in the very shock & crisis of the assault. Really he would better have put some of his brigades in the 2nd line & filled it fuller than with only 3. Every man was bound to be needed & the sooner he arrived the better.

And the battle failed of being fought as Gen. Lee expected & wished, when Pickett's advance had traversed 400 yards, & Wilcox & Anderson were not moving under orders to close up on him & go with him to the bitter end.

Two further questions may be asked. If Anderson & Wilcox had been welded into the column from the first, & all 14 brigades launched together; or, in other words, if Pickett had had the support which Gen. Lee expected; would those five brigades have saved the day? That is a question upon which men will differ. Personally, I cannot feel confident of it, because of Gen. Meade's ability to use such an immense superiority of force. But some Confederates feel very sure about it, & the details of the fight by Pickett's division show that it was not defeated at all by what it first met in front, but was

overwhelmed on the flanks & by reinforcements. It struck upon the front of two brigades of Gibbon's division, Hall's on our right, & Webb's on our left.

Hall's report is a plain confession that both Hall's & Webb's brigades were defeated, & were being driven, when their reinforcements saved them. Had five more Confederate brigades been then at hand we would certainly have stood some chances.

And that suggests the last question. Could we have had in that column any further supports than those five brigades?

I think so. Really, I see no reason why Ewell's whole corps could not have been drawn to the right, enough to spare fully two divisions, say 8 brigades more & three fourths of his artillery. And then, had the assault been delivered upon the bend of the fishhook, & all the artillery, of all three corps, handled as one mass, the heavier guns everywhere put to enfilading fire, & the lighter saved up to be used on the flanks as I had proposed to use Richardson's 9, we would have practically forged our storming column into a sort of armor piercing projectile, & could surely have driven its head a long ways into Meade's body, & stood a fair chance of precipitating a panic."

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Tour: Chancellorsville – Saturday, 13 October 2001

We hope to see you at our fall tour of Chancellorsville Battlefield on 13 October. As mentioned in last month's newsletter we'll see the spot where Stonewall Jackson discovered the flank of the Union 11th Corps "in the air" and visit key areas of the battlefield. We will also visit the resting place of Gen. Jackson's amputated arm! If you have special knowledge or interest in a particular person, unit or event related to the battle and would like to share your knowledge with the group, please give me a call and we will work it into the itinerary.

Assembly Date/Time: Saturday, 13 October 2001

Assembly Point: Centreville Library parking lot time 7:45 AM (consolidate riders). If you choose to drive on your own, meet the group at the Chancellorsville Visitor's Center just prior to 9 AM

Tour Duration: 9 AM to approximately 4 PM.

Lunch: Bring your own lunch and lawn chair for a picnic on the grounds.

Contact: Kevin Anastas at (703) 266-1265. E-mail KPA1@erols.com

Miscellaneous

Nomination of Officers for CY2002

Bob Ford is Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2002 election process. Elections will be held at the 13 December General Membership Meeting. Please call Bob at (703) 273-4115 or e-mail him at rford@cox.rr.com if you would like to run for office or if you would like to nominate an individual.

Proposed Change to the Constitution and By-laws of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section I. Organization Officers. The Organization shall have the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected at the December meeting by ballot of the General Membership to serve for a term of twelve (12) months, commencing on 1 January of the following year.

Each of the candidates for the four (4) elected positions cited above must receive at least a simple majority of the ballots cast.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

- A. President. The President shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in office. The President will preside at all meetings of the Organization and the Executive Committee. The President shall have the power to appoint the chairperson and members of all committees. The President is responsible for all programs and the overall management of the Organization.
- B. Vice President. The Vice President shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in office. The Vice President shall assume and perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President. In the event of the resignation or death of the President the cited individual shall become President for the unexpired term. The Vice President shall be thoroughly familiar with the Constitution and By-laws of the Organization and the rules of

parliamentary procedure. The Vice President will work with the President regarding the development of the Organization's programs.

Summary: The proposed change extends tenure of the President and Vice President from one year to a maximum of two years.

BRCWRT Website

Maureen Reigh Quinn, WebMaster

Hopefully, most of you have had an opportunity to visit our website and for those of you who haven't, I invite you to do so soon. The BRCWRT Website has recently been refurbished and dedicated to providing up-to-date, useful information for anyone interested in the Round Table and our activities. Whether it is specific to existing members (activity updates, sharing events, member offerings) or for the convenience of potential members (Membership Form, meeting information) the purpose remains the same.

We are a multi-faceted organization and the Website should reflect this in the variety of content found on the site. Besides existing items, future content will include: more educational materials (battle studies, book reviews and preservation activities), additions to the Communicators' Corner (State Representatives, preservation contacts, historical groups/reenactors, other Round Table representatives), and - always a high priority - more activities for the Upcoming Events section.

With the activation of our "photo gallery", available space used by our site has now become a major issue. In order to publish most of our pictures as well as develop other aspects of the site, the BRCWRT Board is currently reviewing other options that will ease the size constraints.

For those who have submitted pictures, thank you. I have all of them and am working to try to put them up onto the site - again, space is a concern. To those who would like to submit an item, please do so but if you send in photos try to caption them accordingly.

The entire site has been written using HTML, a common language used in website development and, although the look is rather unadorned, from an administrative point of view it is easier to maintain and control. Because of time constraints, I have tried to strike a balance between something that is interesting, albeit plain, and something that offers good information

right off the bat. The "good information" part is most important to me and it is my intent to concentrate on content primarily and other aspects of the site secondarily. That said, I do plan to change the look of the site, but any major changes can happen only after the available space problem has been rectified.

I would like to emphasize to all members that this Website, along with all of the content, belongs to the BRCWRT and since it is "all ours", I encourage as many contributions as you'd like to send and hope for continued active participation.

Visit our website at:

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

Congratulations to Jim Burgess!!!

By: John McAnaw

I received the following information from BRCWRT member, Bob Hickey, who is also a member of the North-South Skirmish Association. He, along with Jim Burgess of the Manassas National Battlefield Park staff, participated in the "Gator Skirmish" shooting competition at Fort Shenandoah on 25 August 2001. This firing range is located within seven miles of Winchester, VA. Jim Burgess left Fort Shenandoah before the awards were presented so Bob Hickey offered to deliver Jim's marksmanship awards to him. Bob passed the following information on Jim's awards to me:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1. Rifled musket | 50 yards | 2 nd place |
| 2. Carbine | 50 yards | 1 st place |
| 3. Rifled musket | 100 yards | 1 st place |
| 4. Carbine | 100 yards | 1 st place |

Not bad, eh?

Jim is an Army Veteran who served, while on active duty, with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard), - at Fort Myer, VA. His performance at Fort Shenandoah is something you would expect from an "Old Guardsman." Please note that if the very modest Jim Burgess had picked up his own medals we would not have known how well he did.

Congratulations, Jim! Your performance was outstanding!!!



More on the Ox Hill Controversy

By: John McAnaw

The Friday, 28 September 2001 edition of “The Fairfax Journal” contained an excellent editorial (page 6) on the inexplicable delays regarding the completion of the interpretation of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The underlining is mine to emphasize it is a “battlefield park” and not a “neighborhood park.” (More on this later.) I extend my congratulations to Ed Wenzel of the Chantilly Battlefield Association, also a BRCWRT member, for his tenacious and productive efforts that have spanned over 16 years, to preserve at least a small part of this very important historical site.

I take exception to the comment in the editorial by a Fairfax County Park Authority member that the park has been well maintained. Over the years Round Table members such as Ed Wenzel, Bob Hickey, and to a lesser extent, myself, have taken the time to remove large quantities of trash and other debris from the park. Also, Bob and other members of the Father Corby Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Fairfax Station, VA., have cleaned up the “well maintained” park on numerous occasions. Additionally, it should be noted that the Park Authority, without consulting the Chantilly Battlefield Association, constructed a path that runs diagonally across the attack frontage of the famous 79th New York (“Highlander”) Regiment. Due to protests concerning this path the asphalt trail that had been planned for that location was changed at the last minute to a “stone dust” trail that hopefully will be removed in the near future.

In a meeting several years ago with certain Park Authority officials, I was reassured that the cited park was indeed a “battlefield park” and not a “neighborhood park.” I then stated that it should be treated as a “Battlefield Park” instead of a piece of green space where visitors can walk and relieve their dogs and discard their garbage.

The sad saga of the virtual destruction of the Ox Hill Battlefield (except for four plus acres) has given the county a black eye. One nationally known historian once informed me that he hoped that, sometime in the future, he would have the time to write a book on this regrettable chapter of the history of Fairfax County.

Published below is “The Fairfax Journal” editorial on Ox Hill:

“FINISH OX HILL

It’s more than passing strange that Fairfax County, which supposedly reveres real history as opposed to a Disneyfield version of it, continues to shortchange one of its own historic treasures.

Few of its residents are even aware that the county was the scene of a bloody Civil War battle that saw more than 1,500 casualties, let alone know where the Ox Hill battlefield itself can be found.

Vienna resident Edward Wenzel, a member of the Chantilly Battlefield Association, says Civil War buffs have been working for the past 45 years to complete the battlefield park, the site of a monument to Union Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny and Brig. Gen. Isaac Stevens.

Both died there during a torrential downpour on Sept. 1, 1862, while leading an assault that stopped advancing Confederate forces led by Gen. Stonewall Jackson just two days after the Battle of Bull Run.

Jackson was in pursuit of the Union army, then in retreat to Centreville. It wasn’t all that far down Little River Turnpike to Washington, D.C. If Jackson hadn’t been stopped that day, who knows what flag would be flying over every state capitol today.

So association members were delighted when, in 1987, Centennial Development Corp. proffered 2 acres of what little remains of the battlefield off West Ox Road in Chantilly, as well as \$110,000 to improve the site for visitors.

But in 1993, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors used the money to purchase an adjacent 2.45-acre parcel instead, telling association members that they had to be patient, since the top priority was to save the land.

Wenzel told The Journal that members of his group agreed, and were willing to wait their turn.

They waited five more years, envisioning an access road from West Ox Road, which would lead visitors to an interpretive shelter where they could learn about the place where 20,000 Union and Confederate troops clashed in a cornfield in what historians call “a bloody exclamation point to the battle of Second Manassas.”

But despite a multimillion-dollar bond referendum approved by voters in the late ‘90s, the Park Authority budgeted only \$50,000 for the site. And park spokeswoman Judy Pederson says that’s all the Ox Hill site will get.

“It’s a small park, and we’ve maintained it, and maintained it well,” Pederson says. “It’s not fair to compare this project to another,” she added, such as \$150,000 the county spent to renovate an 1897 farmhouse at Frying Pan Park.

But Battlefield Association members do compare, and are not happy with what they see, especially since

they've volunteered "virtually all the historical research and documentation necessary" to complete the park.

"The Park Authority devotes massive amounts of money to new park initiatives," Wenzel says, "but the rapid push to develop Fairfax County has consumed and obliterated scores of Civil War sites, both large and small, that were important in the county's history."

Alexandria historian Brian Pohanka agrees.

"Ox Hill is a work in progress, and progress has been halted," he noted. "History is a record of human lives. The many brave men who fought on that land deserve to be remembered. At least we have a little bit of it left. People are desperate for a little bit of green, but this is more than an oasis. It's a place of contemplation, a link to our heritage."

Wenzel says his group questions why \$50,000 is considered sufficient for a 4.45-acre park when the original proffer of \$110,000 – closer to \$210,000 in today's dollars – was meant for a park half the size 14 years ago.

It's a good question, one the Board of Supervisors needs to ask, and the Park Authority needs to answer."

Another Civil War Site Destroyed in Centreville
By: John McAnaw

I believe almost everyone in our Round Table is familiar with Rev. William Peterson's 1970 sketch map of the Centreville earthworks. It is an excellent map detailing both the fort and earthwork locations at the time (those still existing as well as those destroyed). The destroyed Fort Johnston (Fort #2) was situated in the vicinity of the Pickwick Square Shopping Center in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. Highway 29 and Pickwick Road. A line of earthworks ran north from Fort Johnston to another fort located just north of the intersection of Pickwick and Leland Roads. This fort still stands and is located behind the Robert Harter house. This particular line of earthworks served as a covered way allowing troops to move safely from fort to fort.

Across U.S. Highway 29 from Pickwick Square Shopping Center, in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. Highway 29 and Pickwick Road, excavation is ongoing for another CVS pharmacy. The excavators apparently cut into the covered way that had previously been buried beneath dumped debris and also into a Union Civil War camp. Anyone who had taken the time to properly study the locations of Civil War

sites in Centreville - and Rev. Peterson's sketch map - would have known about the above-described location.

During the first few days of excavation, relic hunters, armed with metal detectors, found numerous Civil War artifacts. When word of these finds reached the individuals in charge of the excavation site, relic hunters were ordered off the property and a high cyclone fence was constructed around the entire CVS site. On at least one occasion the police were called when several individuals were standing outside the fenced off area.

One long time resident of the Centreville area was infuriated when he found out about the destruction of the site. This individual informed me, "They have been destroying Civil War sites out here [Centreville] for so long they figured another one wouldn't matter."

The loss of this historic site is yet another powerful reason for a comprehensive inventory of Civil War sites in Fairfax County. This is why John A. Milner and Associates needs an additional \$200K and an additional year (until the end of 2002) to complete the inventory. Please help out and write your letters.

Continuation of the Inventory of Civil War Sites in Fairfax County
By: Mary Ahrens

As mentioned in the previous article it is imperative that the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory be extended for another year. John McAnaw will be meeting with Chairman Kate Hanley on 19 October 2001 to discuss this issue. We need a strong show of support. A sample letter has been included on the last page of the newsletter. Please feel free to make copies of the letter – or use it as a guide - and send it to Chairman Hanley. Please remember to cc: a copy to the supervisor in your district. Their addresses can be found below:

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman, Elected-at-large
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway; Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-7518, FAX 703-324-3955
E-mail:
<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/chair/feedback.htm>

Gerald W. Hyland, Vice Chairman (Mount Vernon District)
Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane; Alexandria, VA 22036

703-780-7518, FAX 703-780-1491
E-mail: mtvernon@co.fairfax.va.us

Sharon Bulova (Braddock District)
4414 Holborn Avenue; Annandale, VA 22003
703-425-9300, FAX 703-503-9583
E-mail: braddock@co.fairfax.va.us

Gerald Connolly (Providence District)
8739 Lee Highway; Fairfax, VA 22031
703-560-6946, FAX 703-207-3541
E-mail: provdist@co.fairfax.va.us

Michael R. Frey (Sully District)
5900 Centreville Road, Suite 205; Centreville, VA 20121
703-378-9393, FAX 703-803-9216
E-mail: sully@co.fairfax.va.us

Penelope A. Gross (Mason District)
Mason Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike; Annandale, VA 22003
703-256-7717, FAX 703-354-8419
E-mail: mason@co.fairfax.va.us

Catherine M. Hudgins (Hunter Mill District)
North County Governmental Center
12000 Bowman Towne Drive; Reston, VA 20190
703-478-0283, FAX 703-471-6847
E-mail: hntmill@co.fairfax.va.us

Dana Kauffman (Lee District)
Franconia Governmental Center
6121 Franconia Road; Alexandria, VA 22310
703-971-6262, FAX 703-971-3032
E-mail: leedist@co.fairfax.va.us

Elaine McConnell (Springfield District)
West Springfield Governmental Center
6140 Rolling Road; Springfield, VA 22152
703-451-8873, FAX 703-451-3047
E-mail: springfield@co.fairfax.va.us

Stuart Mendelsohn (Dranesville District)
McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road; McLean, VA 22101
703-356-0551, FAX 703-821-4275
E-mail: dranesville@co.fairfax.va.us

FLASHBACK 1861

Welcome to our monthly journey back to 1861 and the chronicles of key events of the times. Mike Duggan

is taking a leave of absence this month so Bob Ford (Make sure to see his Civil Histories at: www.robertford.ws.) and Mark Knowles are this month's "Journalists in Residence."

OCTOBER 1861

By: Bob Ford

Only minor actions occurred during the month, while the Federal blockades were tightened resulting in several captures. Leaders in both the north and the south decide to wait until spring for any major offensive.

1 Oct. - Lincoln orders preparations for a major operation in the East. Jeff Davis visits the defensive line running from Centerville to Dumfries.

2 Oct. - In Virginia, Confederates are beaten at Chapmanville, and a brief skirmish at Springfield Station occurs. Union troops find and scatter a rebel camp.

3 Oct. - Union forces probe near Greenbrier, Virginia, rout the enemy and capture large quantities of supplies and horses.

4 Oct. - The Confederacy signs treaties with several eastern Indian tribes. There is a sharp skirmish at Buffalo Hill, Kentucky. In New Mexico a cavalry fight at Alamosa occurs. The USS South Carolina captures two Confederate blockade-runners at New Orleans. Rebels attack Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Lincoln observes a second balloon flight.

5 Oct. - Contracts are signed for revolutionary new ironclad ships. Union troops from Los Angeles mount an expedition to flush Confederate sympathizers.

6 Oct. - A blockade-runner is captured off of the South Carolina coast. Confederates search for fords on the Potomac River to be used during the invasion of Maryland.

7 Oct. - Lincoln sends Secretary of War Cameron to Missouri to investigate the Wilson Creek defeat and General Fremont's leadership

8 Oct. - William T. Sherman replaces an ill General Robert Anderson of Ft. Sumter fame. There is a small skirmish at Hillsboro, Kentucky.

9 Oct. - In Florida, Confederates attack Santa Rosa Island in Pensacola Bay and are forced to withdraw.

10 Oct. - A minor clash between pickets occurs at Paducah, Kentucky.

11 Oct. – General Rosecrans assumes command of western Virginia. There is a brief skirmish at Harpers Ferry. Confederate forces attack Indians from Fort Inga, Texas. A Federal schooner is burned in Dumfries Creek on Potomac.

12 Oct. – The steamer, *Theodora*, carrying the Confederate Commissioners to France, John Slidell and James Mason, runs the blockade under cover of a dark, stormy night. Skirmishes occur near Clintonville Missouri, and Upton's Hill, Kentucky.

13 Oct. – A Confederate raiding party is repelled in Missouri. Cotton Hill, in western Virginia is the scene of a skirmish. Confederate cavalry annoy the Federal troops stationed at Harpers Ferry.

14 Oct. – Lincoln authorizes General Winfield Scott to suspend the writ of habeas corpus between Bangor, Main and Washington, DC. There is fighting near Linn Creek in Missouri.

15 Oct. – There is a skirmish on the Little River Turnpike in Virginia. Confederates capture and burn the Big River Bridge near Potosi Missouri.

16 Oct. - Lexington, Missouri is captured by Union troops. Federals seize 21,000 bushels of wheat at a mill near Harpers Ferry.

17 Oct. – A series of engagements are started against the strong Union presence around Frederictown and Ironton, Missouri.

18 Oct. – Federal gunboats start down the Mississippi River. In Virginia, a reconnaissance is made toward the Occoquan River and the Confederate line. Lincoln's Cabinet begins discussing the future of General Winfield Scott. Skirmishing occurs around Ironton, Missouri.

19 Oct. – In Missouri, there is skirmishing at Big Hurricane Creek, and a battle is fought around Ironton. A large operation commences in the Kanawha and New Rivers areas of western Virginia with a lot of skirmishing, but no clear results.

20 Oct. – Colonel Charles Devens makes a night crossing of Potomac River to Ball's Bluff, then a reconnaissance toward Leesburg. In Missouri, Federals move against guerrillas in Ironton area.

21 Oct. – The Battle of Ball's Bluff is fought; Union General Stone is later blamed for the loss. Five days of fighting around Ironton and Frederictown, Missouri ends with Federals in pursuit.

22 Oct. – News of the Union defeat at Ball's Bluff races throughout the North. Confederates make major command changes. There is light fighting near Budd's Ferry, Maryland on the Potomac River. Lincoln's Cabinet considers what to do with Fremont in Missouri, the tragedy of Ball's Bluff, and the Confederate batteries blockading the Potomac below Alexandria.

23 Oct. – Fighting in Kentucky near West Liberty and Hodgenville rages. Western Virginia is the scene of another skirmish, this one in Gauley.

24 Oct. – The Transcontinental Telegraph is completed by Western Union. People of western Virginia vote to form a new State. Lincoln orders that General Fremont be relieved of his command in the West.

25 Oct. – Union cavalry charge into Springfield, Missouri, routing Confederates. The keel of the ironclad U.S.S. Monitor is laid.

26 Oct. – Saratoga, Kentucky is attacked by Union troops transported up the Cumberland River on a converted gunboat. Actions occur in western Virginia at South Branch Bridge and Springfield.

27 Oct. – There is skirmishing at Spring Hill, Missouri. Federals at Chincoteague Inlet, Virginia burn three Confederate boats.

28 Oct. – Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston assumes command of the Army at Bowling Green, Kentucky. There is another skirmish near Budd's Ferry, Maryland. A pro-secessionist is ridden out of town on a rail at Braintree, Massachusetts.

29 Oct. – Woodbury, Kentucky is the scene of another skirmish. A combined land and sea force leave Hampton Roads, Virginia for the Carolina and Georgia coasts, the largest force ever assembled.

30 Oct. – The Federal fleet suffers severely from heavy gales encountered off the coast of Cape Hatteras.

31 Oct. – Skirmishing occurs in Kentucky around Morgantown. (*For story see Bob Ford's web site and the 26th KY.*)

November 1861
By: Mark Knowles

1 Nov. - Gen. Winfield Scott - hero of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, as well as the longest serving Army Chief of Staff - voluntarily relinquishes his post as

general in chief of the United States Army. Thirty-four year old Gen. George Brinton McClellan assumes control of the army.

4 Nov. - President Davis and Gen. Beauregard continue to disagree over the actions taken at Manassas, (Bull Run) VA.

8 Nov. - The USS Jacinto, under the command of Capt. Wilkes, stops at Havana, Cuba, and finds the two Confederate Commissioners, James Mason & John Slidell, awaiting passage to Europe on the British packet Trent. As the Trent sails into open waters, the San Jacinto forces the British vessel to stop. Capt. Wilkes demands that Mason and Slidell be turned over to him. This accomplished, the San Jacinto sails to Hampton Roads, VA, with the two commissioners under armed guard. The British captain and crew make their way back to Britain with the families of Mason and Slidell.

13 Nov. - President Lincoln calls on Gen. McClellan at his home. He waits to speak with the new commander of the Union army, but McClellan retires without acknowledging the president.

25 Nov. - The Confederate Naval Department prepares to convert the former USS Merrimack, now the CSS Virginia to an ironclad vessel.

26 Nov. - At Wheeling in western Virginia a convention adopts a new constitution calling for the formation of West Virginia after that area's secession from the rest of the state.

(Source: *The Civil War Day by Day*, Ed. by John S. Bowman)

VIEW FROM WAY BACK

Merriment in the Wrong Place Submitted by Keith Young

After one of the bloody Virginia engagements, the wounded among the Confederates received all possible attention on the part of the Union soldiers, though the want of suitable accommodations was sadly felt. In one of the spots to which the sufferers had been removed, a Federal soldier came along with a pail of soup to fill the canteens and plates, and stopping before a fine athletic fellow, who, it turned out had been married only three days previously, said: Come, pardner! drink yer sup.

Now, ould boy, this 'ill warm ye; sock it down, and ye'll see yer sweetheart soon. You dead, Allybammy? Go'way now! You'll live a hundred years---you wil; that's what you'll do - Won't he, lad? What! Not any? Get out! You'll be slap on your legs next week, and have another shot at me this week a'ter that. You with the butternut trousers! Sa-ay! parder, wake up!" He stirred him gently with his foot: he bent down to touch his face---a grimness came over his mood of merriment; the man was stiff and dumb, ---ready to be buried forever from human sight, or be embalmed for conveyance to his once happy home and kindred.

--- *Reminiscences of the Blue and Gray '61-65*; by Frazar Kirkland, 1895, page 544. ---

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: If you plan to attend an event please verify the information given in this column by calling the telephone number provided.

Through Oct 2001 – 11 AM & 2 PM, Saturdays; 1 PM & 3 PM, Sundays. Walking tours of Ball's Bluff Regional Park, Leesburg. Info: (703) 737 -7800

Through Nov 2001 – Photo exhibit at Richmond Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. Info (804) 771-2145

Through March 2002 – Fort Ward Museum, Alexandria. Exhibit: "To Aid and Comfort: The U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War." Info: (703) 838-4848.

Through Sep 2002 – Arlington National Cemetery Visitors Center. Exhibit: "TAPS – The Military Bugle in History and Ceremony." Info: (410) 744-7708.

4-7 Oct – Preservation Seminar, 27th Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables. Guided cavalry action tours led by Edwin C. Bearss, Friday tour of Brandy Station, Saturday tour of The Road to East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg. Info: (501) 225-3996

5-7 Oct – North-South Skirmish Association 103rd National Competition near Winchester. Info: Bruce Miller (248) 258-9007

6 Oct – 11 AM – 3 PM. Living History. Gen. James Longstreet and Staff, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick. Info: (301) 695-1864

6-7 Oct – Technology of War demonstrations. Antietam Nat'l Battlefield Park. Artillery and musket firings, cavalry demonstrations, tactical maneuvers. Info: (301) 432-5124.

6-7 Oct – 11th reenactment at JEB Stuart birthplace, Laurel Hill in Ararat, Virginia. Admission \$5, Under 12 - \$ 2, Parking \$1. Candlelight tour additional charge. Info: (336) 789-1355

12 – 14 Oct – Middleburg, 4th Annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War. Speakers include Edwin C. Bearss, Gary Ecelbarger, Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. Info: (800) 752-6118

13 Oct - 5 PM Brandy Station Foundation Fundraiser. \$25 in advance. \$30 at gate. Info: (703) 403-1910

13 Oct – 1 PM Annual First Manassas Battlefield Hike, Manassas National Battlefield Park. \$2 entrance fee over age 17. Info: (703) 361-1339

13-14 Oct – Longstreet Seminar. Guided tours of Antietam National Battlefield, lectures, silent auction, meals included. Info: (914) 381-2147

15 Oct – 9:30 AM. Lincoln Symposium. Ford's Theatre. Topic is “The Conspirators”. Free. Info: (202) 426-6924

20 Oct – Preservation March on Cedar Creek battlefield commemorating 137th anniversary of the battle. Info: www.the10thvirginia.org

21-22 Oct – Battle of Cedar Creek reenactment. Middletown, VA. \$15. Info: (540) 869-2064

27 Oct – 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Civil War Sites Tour “Hidden Heritage of Fairfax County” sponsored by The Friends of Fairfax Station and conducted by BRCWRT President, John McAnaw. Meet at the Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. \$30. Lunch at local restaurant at extra cost.

27 Oct – 1 PM. Annual Second Manassas Battlefield Hike. Manassas National Battlefield Park. \$2 entrance fee over age 17. Info: (703) 361-1339

27-28 Oct – 11 AM – 4 PM. “The Battlefield Embalmer: Preserving the Civil War Dead”. National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. Info: (301) 695-1864

29-30 Oct – “First Manassas in Depth for the 140th Anniversary.” Two day Tour at Manassas National Battlefield Park, Blackburn's Ford, Mitchell's Ford, Signal Hill, Battery Ford, Grigsby's Hill, Ox Hill, Manassas Forts and Cemetery, Sudley Church, Ben Lomand Manor House. Led by Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service. \$195. Info: Martha Hendley (703) 754-4181

10 Nov – 7th Virginia Infantry, Co. A, C.S.A. living history presentation. National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. Info: (301) 695-1864

11 Nov - 8 AM – 5 PM. Bus Tour of Spotsylvania and North Anna Battlefields. \$60. Info: (540) 972-9954

15-17 Nov – “Military Staff Ride of the Battles for Spotsylvania Court House”, Fredericksburg, with military analysts Greg Mertz and Michael Miller. Info: (888) 741-2437

17-18 Nov – 9 AM – 5 PM Saturday, 9:30 AM – 3 PM Sunday. 21st Annual Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show, Richmond Raceway Complex on Strawberry Hill. Info: (804) 798-6817, (804) 737-5827, or call the Museum of the Confederacy (804) 649-1861

1 Dec – 5:30 PM – midnight. Blue and Gray Ball. Warrenton. \$85 each – of which \$55 is tax deductible as a donation to the Mosby Foundation and Museum. Info: (540) 351-1600

8 Dec – 2 PM – 8 PM. Museums by Candlelight at National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick. Annual Open House of the Historic Sites Consortium highlighting historic sites and museums throughout the county. Free. Info: (301) 695-1864

8 Dec – 12 PM – 4 AM. Annual Civil War Christmas in Camp Open House, Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, Alexandria. Info: (703) 838-4848

8-9 Dec – 139th Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg weekend in Old Town Fredericksburg. Battle reenactment, living history, candlelight tours of homes. Info: (800) 678-4748

October 11, 2001

Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Ms. Hanley,

Thank you for your support of the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory recently conducted by John A. Milner and Associates. It is encouraging that they have discovered roughly 800 Civil War sites and that of those, 200 have already been field checked. Many Fairfax County residents are aware of our rich Civil War heritage and are delighted that the county has taken this project so seriously. I would also like to commend John A. Milner and Associates for their time, effort, and diligence in working with interested members of the community.

I am concerned, however, that the inventory is not yet fully completed. I understand that time and funding ran out before the sites were able to be fully field checked. And, I question if there are more sites yet unearthed. From what I understand less than half the county has been field checked and so I would urge you and the rest of the Board of Supervisors to extend the completion date of the inventory for another year and to allot at least another \$200K for these excellent personnel to complete the job they have started.

Once the inventory is complete, I would hope the County would include these sites into their green space planning. This would enhance the quality of life of county residents by providing them with places to retreat from the “hustle and bustle” of their event filled lives. In addition, once these sites are properly interpreted, county residents could have the opportunity to explore the wealth of information available on this very important era in our history.

Sincerely,

cc:

