



STONE WALL

Bull Run Civil War Round Table
2001

SPECIAL EDITION

July/August

THIS MONTH: DOUBLE ISSUE

12 JULY 2001 – 9 AUGUST 2001

A Party of Madfellows:

The Story of the Irish Regiments in the Army of the Republic

Our guest speaker for our 12 July 2001 meeting will be Frank A. Boyle. He is a fourth generation American of Irish descent. His great grandfathers (Boyle and Brennan) emigrated from Counties Donegal and Kilarney in 1847 (known as “Black ‘47”) during the Great Hunger (1845-1851). An estimated two million Irish died of starvation and disease during that six year period. Two of Frank’s ancestors, Jeremiah Boyle and John Francis Boyle, were killed at Gettysburg on 3 July 1863 while defending the wall at the “Angle” with the 69th PA Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The tradition of military service runs deep in the Boyle family. During World War II, Frank and a combination of 13 of his brothers and first cousins served in the Military Services of the United States. Two were killed. Frank served with the U.S. Army Air Forces, based in England, as a “chin” or nose gunner aboard a B-17 bomber.

Following World War II, Frank earned BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from Pennsylvania Military College (now Widener University) and St. Joseph’s University, respectively. He had a distinguished career, spanning 42 years, as a chemist, first with the Sun Oil Co. and then with the U.S. Navy. Frank finally retired as a Senior Chemist with the U.S. Navy in 1987. Adding to his other accomplishments, Frank was assigned seven patents, either as sole or co-inventor, while working for the Sun Oil Co.

Frank Boyle’s interest in the Civil War was sparked in early childhood by stories his grandfather told him about the 69th Pennsylvania. Approximately 50 years

ago, he began mulling over the idea of writing a book on the famed Irish Brigade.

Over time that idea evolved into a superbly researched and critically acclaimed book that focuses on the twelve “Green Flag” Irish Regiments that served in the Union Army of the Potomac. Frank’s description of the 69th Pennsylvania at Gettysburg is particularly interesting. However, as Frank points out, there were numerous other Union regiments that had significant percentages of Irish soldiers in their ranks.

The well-known historian, Brian C. Pohanka wrote the following about the Irish Americans featured in Frank Boyle’s book:

“For thousands of Irish-Americans who answered the call of their adopted country, service under the Stars and Stripes was viewed as a precursor to the freedom they hoped one day to win for the Emerald Isle.

The fighting prowess and martial enthusiasm of the Army of the Potomac’s famed Irish Brigade, and other proud Irish American units like the 9th Massachusetts and 69th Pennsylvania, was fired by their hope of freedom for their native land.

Daring and reckless, fiercely combative and willing to suffer terrible losses for their cause and country, the Irish volunteers of the Army of the Potomac battled with heroic endurance through the swamps of the Peninsula, the carnage of Antietam’s Bloody Lane, up the bullet-swept slope of Marye’s Heights and across Gettysburg’s wheat field. They experienced the glories of victory at Cemetery Ridge, and the horrors of Spotylvania and Cold Harbor.

The product of years of research, Frank Boyle’s detailed history of the Irish regiments of the Army of the Potomac follows these gallant sons of Erin through trial and tribulation, down the long and weary road to ultimate victory.”

General Membership Meeting

12 July 2001

7:15 PM

*** Frank A. Boyle**

**“A Party of Mad Fellows: The Story of the Irish
Regiments in the Army of the Potomac”**

AUGUST SPEAKER INFORMATION

**Please keep this newsletter so that you can refer to it later
as there will be no newsletter publication in August.
Thanks!**

General Robert E. Lee at Gaines Mill

William J. Miller, our guest speaker for our 9 August 2001 General Membership Meeting, is the founder of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. (The BRCWRT was organized on 9 May 2001.) Bill is a native of Brookline, MA. He received a BA Degree from Villanova in 1981 and, two years later, a MA Degree from the University of Delaware. In 1987 he and his family moved to Prince William County, VA. He presently lives in an historic home in Churchville, VA (just west of Staunton) that once was the residence of the famous Confederate mapmaker – Maj. Jed Hotchkiss.

Bill’s impressive list of published material on the American Civil War include:

- The Men of Fort Ward
- The Training of an Army: Camp Curtin and the North’s Civil War
- The Peninsula Campaign (3 vols.) [Editor of a collection of Essays]
- Mapping for Stonewall

He is currently completing a multi-year project – the editing of the Hotchkiss papers. The working title for this book is, you guessed it, “The Hotchkiss Papers”. It is scheduled for publication in 2002 by The University of North Carolina Press.

Additionally, Bill has written dozens of articles and book reviews that were published in various Civil War periodicals. Of special note, during the 1990’s, he was the editor of “Civil War: The Magazine of the Civil War Society”, for seven years. Also worthy of mention is the fact that Bill has spent a great deal of pro bono time assisting and advising new and experienced Civil War historians regarding research techniques and other factors relative to the preparation of books and articles. Finally, as will be discussed in the article entitled

“Battlefield Preservation – Greater Richmond Area” on page 7, Bill is an ardent “stand up and be counted” Civil War preservationist. He, like Annie Snyder, actively opposed the Disney America project at Haymarket when a number of Civil War historians and so called preservationists linked arms with Disney supporters.

Bill Miller has spent many years studying the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. During his presentation at our August 2001 General Membership Meeting Bill will provide new insights on the performance of Gen. R.E. Lee at Gaines Mill on 27 June 1862. Key subjects Bill will address include:

1. Lee’s actual plans for offensive operations on 27 June 1862.
2. What other historians believed to be his plans for that date.
3. The distinctions between what Bill Believes to be Lee’s plans and what other historians believed them to be.
4. How Lee’s plans evolved during the course of the day.
5. Conclusions on the command performance of Gen. Robert E. Lee on 27 June 1862.

If you want to hear an enlightening lecture by a talented historian who thinks for himself, join us on 9 August 2001 for Bill Miller’s presentation.

General Membership Meeting
9 August 2001
7:15 PM

- **William J. Miller**

“General Robert E. Lee at Gaines Mill”

- **NEW TO BRCWRT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:**
6:30 PM – 6:55 PM
“Civil War 101”

(Presentations designed to answer your basic Civil War questions. For details, see the article on page 3.)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: John McAnaw

June's activities had a distinctly Loudoun County flavor. First, on June 2001, MG (Ret.) George Kundahl gave us a most informative presentation on "Confederate Engineer – John Morris Wampler". Regarding the defenses around Leesburg, MG Kundahl stated that evidence indicates that Wampler was responsible for the design and construction of Fort Evans, and, very possibly other fortifications such as Fort Johnston and Fort Beaugard.

During our Loudoun County tour on 30 June we visited, among other sites, Fort Evans and Fort Johnston. I want to thank Chief Tour Guide, John DePue, ably assisted by Mark Knowles, Brad Bradshaw, and Jim Morgan (President of the Loudoun County Round Table) for a very enjoyable tour. Despite a busy schedule, member Brad Bradshaw led us on a tour of historic Mount Zion "Hard Shells" Baptist Church and Cemetery. He was very instrumental in raising the necessary funds to preserve the church. Notwithstanding the heat and humidity, all 15 participants survived in good shape. Please take the time to read John DePue's after action report.

During July we will continue our support of the Inventory of Civil War Sites in Fairfax County being conducted by John A. Milner and Associates. Our next "Search and Find" tour will be on Sunday, 15 July. Details on this tour can be found on page 6. The range of our exploration will be dependent on the weather. Please note this tour is not recommended for individuals with history of cardiac or respiratory, or heat stroke/exhaustion problems.

Unlike many other Civil War Round Tables, we meet every month of the year. For our July and August 2001 General Membership Meetings our guest speakers are each distinguished historians: Frank A. Boyle and William J. Miller (founder of the BRCWRT). No small expense will be incurred in bringing these two individuals to our Round Table meetings so all are encouraged to attend. I assure you that both presentations will be informative and thought provoking.

Civil War 101 Begins in August

While reading a good book about a Civil War battle, have you ever wondered how many shots an infantryman could get off in a minute? What the difference was between a regiment and a division? What it means for a unit to have its flank in the air? Or, just what those outdated Napoleonic tactics were?

Beginning in August, there will be a 25-minute instructional briefing and discussion session called Civil War 101 prior to each General Membership Meeting. These briefings will address basic Civil War era military-related concepts, considerations, and operations, and are intended as an introduction to the novice and a refresher/review for others

Civil War 101 will be held from 6:30-6:55 PM on the same evenings and in the same room as the General Membership Meetings. These briefings will be structured, but informal and informative. Each month's topic will be announced in the newsletter.

The August session will cover basic Union and Confederate echelons of command, i.e., company, regiment, brigade, etc.



Dedication of Virginia Civil War Trails Sign at Blackburn's Ford – 18 July 1861

Thanks to persistent and productive efforts of BRCWRT member Mark Trbovich, a Civil War Trails interpretive sign commemorating the Battle of Blackburn's Ford, 18 July 1861, will be dedicated on the anniversary of that battle. A number of BRCWRT members plan to attend. Details are as follows:

Date/Time: 18 July 2001/ 12 (Noon)

Location: Parking lot off Route 28 just north of the bridge over Bull Run on the Fairfax County side of the stream.

Attendees: A number of dignitaries have been invited. Reenactors from the 1st Virginia and 17th Virginia Infantry Regiments are expected to attend.

Note: Parking is very limited so be prepared to park elsewhere and walk to the dedication site.

For more information contact Mark Trbovich at (703) 361-1396



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The STONE WALL is published
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**The Centreville Regional
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NEWSLETTER UPDATE

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER:

In addition to receiving the
STONE WALL earlier than you
normally would through regular
mail services, there are other
benefits to being on the BRCWRT
e-mail list. Periodically, I receive
information from various sources
that I pass along to members via e-
mail.

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:

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE

There will be one more double
issue published this year before
resuming our regular monthly
schedule. The September and
October will be combined. The
deadline for September/October
2001 articles is 27 August 2001.
Please send input to Mary Ahrens
at the above address or e-mail.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Balls Bluff/Loudoun County Tour

By: John Depue

On Saturday 30 June 2001, 14 stalwart members of BRCWRT and guests (out of 28 who initially signed up for the tour) braved 90+ degree heat to participate in a highly successful tour of key sites in the Leesburg-Loudoun County area related to the Battle of Balls Bluff and Confederate defense of Leesburg.

We began our excursion with a stop at the site of the Guilford Hill signal station where our treasurer, Mark Knowles, explained the importance of the site as a transmission point for flag messages essential to coordinating the movements of the Army of the Potomac at the outset of the Gettysburg Campaign.

Proceeding to the vicinity of “burnt bridge,” where Goose Creek crosses the Leesburg Pike (Route 7), we examined the rifle pits and gun emplacements constructed during the fall of 1861 to impede a federal movement toward Leesburg. Here, John DePue provided an overview of events leading up to the battle of Balls Bluff and discussed the significance of the site in relation to the battle.

We then braved construction equipment, mud, and several fences to visit earthworks and the “masked battery” gun emplacements occupied at the time of the Balls Bluff battle by elements of the 13th Mississippi. From these works Col. William Barksdale interdicted movement by Gorman’s Union Brigade up Edwards Ferry Road and launched a counterattack on 22 October.

Proceeding to the Rehau Corporation property, we were privileged to examine Fort Evans, one of the finest remaining examples of a Civil War field fortification in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was from this location that Col. “Shanks” Evans directed the battle, shuttling units from “burnt bridge” to more seriously threatened locations. This stop complimented our June program during which MG (Ret.) George G. Kundahl told how his great, great grandfather, Confederate Engineer Morris Wampler, supervised construction of the work.

After a quick comfort break, we arrived at Balls Bluff Regional Park where Jim Morgan, President of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable and a volunteer guide at the battlefield, provided a tour of the field. His lucid and detailed explanation of the battle, accompanied by maps and photos, made it the highlight of the day.

Following a leisurely lunch at the “Laurel Brigade” in Leesburg, we visited Fort Johnston, crucial to the protection of the town from possible Yankee attacks from the north, and, while there, we were treated to a magnificent vista of the entire region. Jim Morgan used this location to complete his discussion of Balls Bluff, recounting the injustices visited upon BG Charles Stone by the “Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War” in the wake of the Union defeat.

We terminated our tour with a visit to Mount Zion Church where member Brad Bradshaw (a leader in the effort to preserve the church) opened the building for us, recounted the July 1864 engagement between Mosby’s Rangers and elements of the 2nd Massachusetts and 13th New York Cavalry, and showed us the burial site of the Union KIA.

We are deeply indebted to a number of members and supporters for the success of this expedition. First, our thanks to our superb Balls Bluff guide, Jim Morgan. We are also in the debt of Brad Bradshaw who made our visit to Mt. Zion Church possible. Harriet Condon, once again came through by obtaining permission for us to visit Fort Johnston, an important site that is ordinarily off limits to Civil War buffs. Finally, we should recognize the Rehau Corporation for permitting us access to Fort Evans.

In addition to enabling our members to learn something about this local battle, our tour permitted all of us to appreciate the great vulnerability of important Civil War historical sites in Loudoun County. Only one of the Balls Bluff battle sites we visited – the battlefield itself – is now protected by the state. Most of the other key locations, including the “burnt bridge” fortifications, Fort Evans and Fort Johnston, are privately owned or are the property of homeowner associations. Although we are fortunate that each has, to date, proven to be a fine steward of such historic ground, this situation could rapidly change by the simple transfer of title to the properties to others with a different agenda. The construction of townhouses and roads, that will soon engulf the Edwards Ferry battery, poignantly demonstrates how truly vulnerable these historic sites

are. If future generations are to gain the same understanding of this battlefield that we now enjoy and to witness the remaining physical evidence of the conflict, we must be alert to further efforts to despoil these sites and be willing to make our voices heard in efforts to preserve them.

The following individuals participated in the Loudoun County tour:

Kevin Anastas	Bryce Cumbie
Howard Ewing	Janet Greentree
Mark Knowles	Drew Lavan
Justin Lavan	John McAnaw
Mark Morgan	Rose Nelson
Phil Pruna	Mary Sereno
Keith Young	

humidity. Relatively little heavy undergrowth will be encountered.

To sign up or obtain more information contact: John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371.

PRESERVATION CORNER

Battlefield Preservation – Petersburg Campaign

By: John McAnaw

In the past ten years I have spent a considerable amount of time visiting and studying the Civil War battlefields around Richmond and Petersburg. Like so many others, I am saddened concerning the loss, either by industrial/residential development or by logging, of so much historically important acreage. The situation in the Petersburg-Dinwiddie County area is particularly bad. The Chaparral Steel Corporation, for example, has markedly changed the terrain and view right up to several surviving Union forts along the Flank Road. The northern half of the Reams Station Battlefield has been severely damaged by loggers. The situation regarding other battlefields and fortifications associated with the Petersburg Campaign is equally grim.

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has just launched a drive to raise \$330K to purchase a 118 acre tract that includes portions of the Boydton Plank Road (27 Oct 1864) and Hatcher’s Run (5-7 Feb 1865) Battlefields. A. Wilson Greene, the Executive Director of nearby Pamplin Historical Park stated that the cited 118 acre tract is “historically significant times four.” I agree and ask for your assistance in contributing to this worthy preservation effort by CWPT. The donation form is included in this issue of the *Stone Wall*. (See the last page of this issue.) Time is critical. The present owners of the property have given the CWPT no more than 120 days to raise the \$330K.

Please note that the American Battlefield Protection Program has classified every acre of this tract as “core battle area” in at least one, if not four important battles or engagements. Some of the best preserved Confederate earthworks anywhere are on this property so, please act now!!

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

“Search and Find” Tour in Southwest Fairfax County – Sunday, 15 July 2001

This will be the third BRCWRT tour expressly designed to support the ongoing effort to inventory Civil War sites in Fairfax County. As previously mentioned in the President’s Column only individuals in average or better condition with no history of cardiac or respiratory problems and no history of heat exhaustion or strokes should participate. Details are as follows:

Assembly Date/Time: Sunday, 15 July 2001/8:15 AM.

Assembly Point: In front of McDonalds in University Mall, located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Braddock Road (Route 620) and Ox Road (Route 123). The Mall is located just south of George Mason University.

Tour Duration: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Equipment/Personal Items: Bring own food and minimum of 1½ quarts of water, compass, pocket knife, insect repellent, and sunscreen recommended. Maps will be provided.

Note: Safety of participants will be paramount. The pace of tour will be dependent on temperature and

Battlefield Preservation – Greater Richmond Area

By: John McAnaw

I spent portions of 1-3 June 2001 exploring and trying to locate specific unit locations on the Gaines Mill and Cold Harbor Battlefields. As you know there is significant terrain overlap relative to the Gaines Mill Battlefield of 27 June 1862 and that of Cold Harbor of 3 June 1864.

In reality, only a very small portion of these historically important battlefields is owned by the National Park Service. The great majority of the acreage encompassing the two battlefields and others around Richmond is privately owned. There, battlefields have been and will continue to be vulnerable to rezoning actions and development.

However, there is good news in this regard. A new preservation organization called “The Richmond Battlefields Association” (RBA) has recently been formed to protect our Civil War heritage in the greater Richmond area. Bill Miller, the founder of our Round Table, is on the Board of Directors of the RBA and will brief us on the objectives of the RBA at our 9 August General Membership Meeting.

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Cold Harbor and the 15th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment – Preserving our Military Heritage

By: John McAnaw

While exploring the Cold Harbor Battlefield on Sunday, 3 June 2001, I ran across about twelve reenactors from 15th NJ Volunteer Infantry Regiment. They were camped at the Hanover County Park adjacent to the Garthright House – one of the few landmarks left from the time of the battle.

These reenactors were authentically dressed and equipped and very knowledgeable about their units service during the war. They showed me the forward limit of the advance of their regiment on that fateful day of 3 June 1864 plus the exact location of a supporting artillery battery. “Fixes” like these are hard to come by on the Cold Harbor Battle field. I appreciated their help.

Later, that Sunday, at 1:00 PM these individuals participated along with other reenactors in a demonstration of various company formations near the Cold Harbor Unit building of the National Park Service. Their knowledge of company drill was excellent and well received by the many visitors present.

Subsequently, I did some research on the First New Jersey Brigade, Wright’s Division, VI Corps, of which the 15th NJ Regiment was a part. During the war the 1st NJ sustained 240 killed and mortally wounded. The regiment ranked twelfth, in terms of killed and mortally wounded, of all Union regiments that served during the war. Of the 942 men originally recruited, 190 were killed (20%). Almost 300 fell in the vicinity of Spotsylvania Court House in May 1864.

The regiment had a distinguished battle record. Now I know why these reenactors picked the 15th NJ. It was refreshing to meet Civil War reenactors who took the time and trouble to master the soldierly skills required of their forebears. Our New Jersey born Vice President, John DePue, would have been proud of them.

.....
Death of Ambassador Charles Whitehouse – Fought against Disney in Haymarket

Submitted by Harriett Condon

The Preservation Community has lost one of its highly esteemed members, Ambassador Charles Whitehouse, former Chairman of the Piedmont Environmental Council (P.E.C.). Ambassador Whitehouse was a LEADER, with his wife Janet, in the fight to keep Disney out of Haymarket. He had a deep love for Virginia's history and open space. In his job as chairman "Charlie looked upon every crisis as an opportunity- for people to become passionately involved in shaping the future of their community". He also knew when and how to rally the troops.

His final legacy was the preservation of Ovoka Farm and 4000 acres of Fauquier County in Paris, VA. The P.E.C. will name the high point "Whitehouse Ridge" in his honor.

Although you may not have known him he did so much for your future enjoyment of our countryside.

FLASHBACK 1861

July/August 1861

By: Mike Duggan

July 1861

Public and political pressure begins to build for a Northern offensive against the Confederates who control a major railway junction at Manassas. Each side continues to believe that, in the Napoleonic tradition, one large decisive battle will decide the outcome of the war, inspiring romantic notions in the minds of young men both North and South. During the first half of the month Federal victories in western Virginia hold center stage, before the sobering blow of the first major land battle of the war, at Manassas. Then MG George B. McClellan enters the Union spotlight.

2 July – President Lincoln authorizes the Commanding General of the US Army, Winfield Scott, to suspend the writ of habeas corpus on or near any military line between the city of New York and Washington.

3 July – The Federals plan to march troops under BG Robert Patterson to the Shenandoah Valley and hold Confederate forces under Confederate BG Joseph E. Johnston there while the main Union army under BG McDowell attacks Manassas. Patterson advances to Martinsburg, western VA, and Johnston falls back to Winchester, VA.

5 July – The Federal advance into Missouri is set back at Carthage when troops under US BG Franz Sigel are forced to retreat. Casualties – Fed: 13k(killed), 31w(wounded). Conf: 40-50k, 120w.

11 July – At Rich Mountain in western Virginia, Federal troops under BG Rosecrans force the surrender of LTC John Pegram and 555 men. Casualties: Fed: 12k, 49w. Conf: unknown. Although this operation was planned and executed by Rosecrans, his superior, MG McClellan received most of the credit for the victory.

13 July – While retreating from Laurel hill across Cheat Mountain and into the Cheat River Valley, Confederate BG Robert S. Garnett becomes the first general officer on either side to be killed in action -- at Corrick's (or Carrick's) Ford.

-- Federal operations in western VA have given the Union control of the mountain area, rivers, and other

communications lines, and the Northern east-west railroads.

16 July – BG McDowell begins to move his 35,000-man Federal Army of Northeastern Virginia westward from Washington toward Centerville and Manassas.

17 July – The Washington morning newspapers announce the Federal advance, but Confederate BG Beauregard, in command at Manassas, received the news the previous evening via a message sent from Confederate spy Mrs. Rose Greenhow.

– Richmond orders Johnston to move his 10,000-man force from the Shenandoah Valley to Manassas to reinforce Beauregard's 22,000 men, "if practicable."

– Meanwhile, Patterson has pulled his Federal troops back to Charles Town rather than keeping pressure on Johnston, as ordered. Johnston is thereby able to cross the mountains and proceed to Manassas.

18 July – Union division commander BG Daniel Tyler conducts a reconnaissance in force toward two Bull Run fords, but is repulsed by Confederates under BG James Longstreet at Blackburn's Ford. Casualties – Fed: 19k, 38w, 26m(missing). Conf: 15k, 53w.

19 July – The first of Johnston's forces arrive at Manassas.

21 July – The Confederates are victorious at the Battle of First Manassas. A force of 13,000 that crosses Sudley Ford and hits the Rebel left flank spearheads McDowell's morning attack. A key factor in the Union defeat is their 2 ½ hour midday pause, when a push on Henry Hill would probably have secured a Federal victory. Casualties – Fed: 460k, 1,124w, 1,312m. Conf: 387k, 1,582w, 13m.

22 July – In Washington, the House of Representatives passes the Crittenden Resolution stating that the war is being waged "To defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union," and not to interfere with slavery or subjugate the South. (On 25 July, the Senate follows suit.)

– MG McClellan is ordered to Washington to take command of the defeated Union army.

27 July – McClellan assumes command of the Federal Division of the Potomac.

31 July – Lincoln nominates an obscure US Col, Ulysses S. Grant, as a BG of Volunteers.

AUGUST 1861

Throughout the North and South the military and civilians alike prepare for a longer war. Each side takes stock of its assets, capabilities, and considers potential plans for action. Preparation is the primary directive everywhere. The second significant battle of the war is fought – this time, in the western theater. The South formally begins its bid for foreign recognition, and Confederate four-star generals are named.

1 Aug. – BG Robert E. Lee, an advisor to President Davis, arrives in western VA on an uncertain mission to coordinate and inspect Confederate forces there. He soon takes command, replacing BG W.W. Loring, who succeeded the slain Gen Garnett.

2 Aug. – The Federal Congress passes the first national income tax measure, calling for a 3% tax on incomes over \$800. (On 4 August, Congress specified the tax will become effective, on 1 January 1862, but it was never enforced. This tax proposal was revised in 1862.)

6 Aug. – Lincoln signs a bill to raise the pay of the private soldier to \$13 per month and an act that calls for the confiscation of property used for purposes of insurrection against the US.

7 Aug. – The village of Hampton, VA, near Fort Monroe, is burned by Confederate forces under BG John Bankhead Magruder who had heard that Union MG Benjamin Butler intended to use the town to house runaway slaves. (Butler was the first MG of Volunteers appointed by Lincoln, to date from 16 May.)

8 Aug. – US BG Grant assumes command of the District of Ironton, MO.

10 Aug. – At the Battle of Wilson's Creek (Missouri), Federal BG Nathaniel Lyon surprises Confederate BG Benjamin McCulloch's Arkansas troops and Missouri militia under Sterling Price, but fails to exploit his success. Lyon is killed and the Federals retreat, abandoning a large section of Missouri to the Rebels and pro-secessionists. Casualties – Fed: 258k, 873w, 186m. Conf: 279k, 951w.

-- Lincoln calls on Gen Scott to try to ease the friction between himself and McClellan.

14 Aug. – MG John C. Fremont declares martial law in St. Louis city and county.

17 Aug. – The Federal departments of Northeastern Virginia, of Washington, and of the Shenandoah are merged into the Department of the Potomac.

– Henry Wager Halleck is appointed a MG in the Regular Army.

-- Orders are issued providing for forty cents per day and one ration for Nurses in the US Army.

18 Aug.– A cavalry skirmish occurs at Pohick Church, VA.

19 Aug.– The Confederate Congress agrees to an alliance with Missouri and virtually admits the state into the Confederacy, giving Missouri two governments – one Union and one Confederate.

20 Aug. - McClellan assumes command of the newly organized Department and Army of the Potomac.

24 Aug. – President Davis names three commissioners to Europe: Pierre A. Rost to Spain; James M. Mason to Great Britain; and John Slidell to France. Their mission is to attempt to gain foreign recognition of the Confederacy and to act as purchasing agents for weapons, ammunition, and supplies.

27-28 Aug. – In a combined-arms operation, Federal Army and Naval forces attack and seize Forts Clark and Hatteras, NC which together protected an important waterway for Confederate blockade-runners.

30 Aug. – MG Fremont issues an unauthorized emancipation proclamation and order of confiscation. The document declares martial law throughout Missouri, confiscates all property of “those who shall take up arms against the United States,” and added that “their slaves, if any they have, are hereby declared free men.”

31 Aug. – The Confederate Congress announces the appointment of five full-rank general officers (i.e., four-stars). In order of seniority, with date of rank: Samuel A. Cooper, 16 May; Albert Sidney Johnston, 28 May; Robert E. Lee, 14 June; Joseph E. Johnston, 4 July; and P.G.T. Beauregard, 21 July.

-- There is a skirmish at Munson's Hill or Little River Turnpike, VA.

(Sources: *The Civil War Day By Day: An Almanac 1861-1865*, E.B. Long with Barbara Long; *The Civil War Dictionary*, Mark M. Boatner III; and *Generals In Blue* and *Generals In Gray*, Ezra J. Warner.)

VIEW FROM WAY BACK

Lee's Miserables

By: Keith Young

"I want a copy of that book about Gen. Lee's poor miserable soldiers faintin'," said an old lady in West & Johnston's bookstore, the other day. The clerk was dumb-founded. One of the proprietors was sent for, made the old lady repeat her request, turned pale, rolled his eyes wildly, scratched his head and at last exclaimed, "Oh! ah! yes! I know what it is now you mean Les Miserables Fantine' by Victor Hugo." The old lady replied, "No, I don't know nothing and care nothing about Lays Meeserarbuls. I want Lee's Miserables faintin'." As nothing else would satisfy her, she was allowed to depart without the book she so eagerly sought.

- *Richmond Whig*, 12 June 1863. Quoted in *J. Tracy Power's Lee's Miserables: Life in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Wilderness to Appomattox*, 1998.

Lee's Miserables

While the Federal forces were passing their winter near Brandy Station, some of the officers endeavored to relieve the ennui of camp life by frequent visits to the fair secesh maidens of the surrounding country. One of the staff became quite enamored with a young lady in Culpepper, more noted for her secession ideas than for her beauty. On one of his visits she requested the loan of some books, and the next day he sent over a parcel containing, among other volumes, Victor Hugo's Les Miserables." To his surprise the orderly returned with the books, and a message from the fair one that she "didn't want any of his nasty Yankee trash." Not exactly understanding it, he rode over in the evening to enquire what was wrong. The young lady's eyes flashed as she demanded to know how he dared to insult her by sending a book about "Lee's Miserables." She knew that General Lee's men weren't as well dressed as the Yankees, but they weren't miserable one bit, and it was all a Yankee falsehood to say that they were.

--- *Reminiscences of the Blue and Gray '61-'65*; by *Frazar Kirkland*, 1895, page 561. ---

THE BRCWRT LIBRARY

The Book Corner

By: Ralph G. Swanson

The recent PBS documentary "A House Divided: Abraham and Mary Lincoln" was a distinct disappointment, lacking, as it did, any real insight into Mary Todd Lincoln as mother, wife, and First Lady. Instead, it simply repeated the familiar negative stories about her. The wealth and depth of information ignored on TV can be found in "Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage" by Ruth P. Randall, wife of the noted Lincoln historian J. G. Randall.

Randall provides a fresh analysis of MTL based on important materials, only recently available at the time of her book (1954). She had early access to the Herndon-Weik papers, the personal literary materials of William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner and, according to Randall, the principle purveyor of the negative caricature we have today of MTL. Randall argues that too many subsequent historians accepted Herndon's estimates of MTL, rightly assuming him to be a credible primary source.

Randall exposes Herndon's distortions and systematically demolishes his versions of the broken engagement, Mary Todd as a jilted bride, and a marriage that was an unhappy burden of guilt that hurt Lincoln politically. She reveals these as myths or, at best, exaggerations based on Herndon's penchant for amateur psychoanalysis.

Randall also relies on voluminous personal correspondence between Abraham and Mary, and with close friends and relatives, much of it dating to long before the Lincolns were prominent. These letters, thankfully preserved to history, are the intimate feelings of the principles involved, never intended for the public eye, and, thus, unlikely to have been influenced by historical motivations.

Miss Mary Todd was a cultured and sophisticated woman. She was highly educated, probably even by today's standards. She spoke fluent French, and was knowledgeable and interested in current affairs, particularly national politics, unusual for a woman at that time. Growing up, she had met and conversed with the foremost political leaders of the day who frequently

visited in her parent's home. And she was no fragile wallflower. There is no evidence that she fell apart emotionally, as did Lincoln, when their engagement was temporarily called off in 1841.

As First Lady, she encountered the snobbishness of the east and south which was eager to reject the "hick" from the backwoods. Unfortunately, some of the stories about her are at least factually correct. She apparently did have a shopping obsession and a quick temper, both unseemly traits for a woman of her station. Grief over the loss of son Willie drove her to seek comfort in spiritualism, then a popular fraud; she had half-brothers in Confederate service. All this made for easy gossip that has colored her reputation down to the present. Yet, Randall argues convincingly that the uncontrolled outbursts were rare, not characteristic, and never a burden on her marriage. Thankfully, no historian has credited the slanderous allegation that she conveyed secrets to the enemy during the war.

Sadly, her nerves were shattered in later life and she succumbed to some sort of mental illness. But who among us could maintain our equilibrium after enduring the loss of three children to disease and the brutal murder of a spouse on our arm?

This book surprised me. I had read other biographies of Lincoln and expected to be bored. I wasn't. This book is a fascinating reanalysis of the relationship between the Lincolns as a couple, then a Presidential couple, and the often cruel forces that shaped their lives together.

"Biography of a Marriage", published in 1954, may be difficult to find, but please try. Search for it at the Civil War book sales and inquire of used booksellers for a copy. With it you will come to know Mary Todd Lincoln as a woman to whom this nation owes a great debt of appreciation.

Until next time, keep reading.

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Who Were Those Federal Guys, Anyway?

By: John McAnaw

One of the most informative books on the American Civil War was written by LTC William F. Fox and titled "Regimental Losses in the American Civil War 1861-

1865." It was originally published by Bandow Printing Company, Albany, NY in 1898. It was reprinted by Morningside House, Inc, Dayton, OH in 1988. LTC Fox obtained much of his information from a book authored by Dr. B.A. Gould, titled "Anthropological Statistics of American Soldiers."

LTC Fox used a variety of sources to come up with some interesting information, albeit not complete, on those who served (pp. 62-63).

- Average Height: 5 feet 8 ¼ inches tall (From recruiting officers)
Men from Maine, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and Iowa were slightly taller. The average height would have been greater had it not included those recruits under 20. Many of these had not yet reached their full stature.
- Average Weight: 143 ½ lbs. (Incomplete information)
- Hair Color:

13% Black	4% Sandy
25% Dark	3% Red
30% Brown	1% Gray
24% Light	

 (Apparently there were no bald headed recruits.)
- Eye Color:

45% Blue	10% Dark
24% Gray	8% Black
13% Hazel	
- Occupation:

48% Farmers
24% Mechanics
16% Laborers
5% Commercial Pursuits
3% Professional Men
4% Miscellaneous Vocations
- Shortest Soldier: (Verified) 40" tall. This 24 year- old soldier was a member of the 192nd Ohio. His regimental commander stated "that there was no soldier in his command who could endure a greater amount of fatigue and exposure."

NOTE: What a "tunnel rat" he would have made in Vietnam!

- Tallest Soldier: 82 ½" tall. He was Capt. Van Buskirts of the 27th Indiana.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Only A Soldier's Grave

By: S.A. Jones

Only a soldier's grave! Pass by,
For soldiers, like other mortals, die.
Parents had he - - they are far away;
No sister weeps o'er the soldier's clay;
No brother comes, with tearful eye;
It's only a soldier's grave: - pass by.

True, he was loving, and young, and brave,
Though no glowing epitaph honors his grave;
No proud recital of virtues known,
Of griefs endured, or triumphs won;
No tablet of marble, or obelisk high; --
Only a soldier's grave: -- pass by.

Yet bravely he wielded his sword in fight,
And he gave his life in the cause of right!
When his hope was high, and his youthful dream
As warm as the sunlight on yonder stream;
His heart unvexed by sorrow or sigh; --
Yet, 'tis only a soldier's grave: - pass by.

Yet, we should mark it - the soldier's grave,
Some one may seek him in hope to save!
Some of the dear ones, far away,
Would bear him home to his native clay:
'Twere sad, indeed, should they wander nigh,
Find not the hillock, and pass him by.

How many unmarked soldiers' graves have we passed by? - Mary Ahrens

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 Sep 2002 - Arlington National Cemetery Visitors Center. Exhibit: "TAPS - The Military Bugle in History and Ceremony." Artifacts include the sword and spurs of Gen. Daniel Butterfield, bugles, photos, sheet music, manuals, uniforms, and bugler insignias. Info: (410) 744-7708.

Through 28 Oct - Sat: 11 AM - 2 PM/Sun: 1 - 3 PM
Weekend walking tours at Balls Bluff Regional Park.
Assemble: kiosk in parking lot. Info: (703) 779-9372.

Through Mar 2002 - Fort Ward Museum, Alexandria.
Exhibit: "To Aid and Comfort: The U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War." Includes rare objects that have never been seen in the Washington area from sanitary fairs and from the American Red Cross Museum. Info: (703) 838-4848.

14 Jul - 10 AM to 12:30 PM Arlington National Cemetery; Author Kathryn Jacob will lead a walking tour based on her book "Testament to Union Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C."; Reservations required. Info: (202) 208 - 7345.

21-22 Jul - Call for schedule of events; Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of First Manassas at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Special events all weekend. Info: (703) 361-1339.

21 Jul - 6:30 - 8 PM Walking tour of Prospect Hill, site of the Federal breakthrough at the Battle of Fredericksburg (13 December 1862). Begins at Stop #4. Led by historian Mac Wyckoff. . Info: (540) 972-9954.

21 Jul - 1 - 4 PM Book signing. Prof. James I. Robertson will sign his books at the Manassas Museum. Info: (703) 368-1873.

3-5 Aug - 140th Anniversary Reenactment of the First Battle of Manassas, in Leesburg. Info: (540) 933-6564.

9 Aug - 7 - 9 PM Talk on "Custer: Little Known Facts," by Larry Hines at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline St., Fredericksburg. Info: (540) 972-9954.

10-16 Aug - Ed Bearss Tour sponsored by National Geographic Expeditions: "Road to Gettysburg: Lee's Invasion Campaigns - Antietam & Gettysburg" Info: 1-888-966-8687.

11-12 Aug - Artillery Weekend at Antietam National Battlefield. Firing demonstrations and special ranger walks. Info: (301) 432-5124.

18 Aug - 6 - 7:30 PM; Spotsylvania Battlefield. Guided walking tour of Confederate artillery related to Upton's Assault and Bloody Angle led by David R. Edwards. From NPS tour stop # 14. Info: (540) 972-9954.

24-26 Aug – 7 PM Friday (“The Battle Begins” - Walking Tour of Brawner Farm) Call for schedule of Saturday/Sunday Events; 139th Anniversary of the Second Battle of Manassas at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Military demonstrations and “real-time” tours. Info: (703) 361-1339.

1 Sep – Civil War Music Muster at Gettysburg NBP. Brass bands, fife-and-drum, and parlor music in concert on the Cyclorama lawn, followed by a concert at the Pennsylvania Monument in the early evening. Info: (717) 334-1124, ext. 422.

15-16 Sep – 10th Annual Sharpsburg heritage Festival commemorating the 139th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg. Living history, battlefield and town tours, lecture series, Civil War music. Info: (301) 432-5124.

17 Sep – Anniversary ranger-led extended tour at Antietam NB. (301) 432-5124.

29-30 Sep – Civil War Heritage Weekend and the dedication of a new Manassas Museum System park at Mayfield Fort (Confederate installation with a signal station during the war.) Living history, drills, signal and other demonstrations. Dedication ceremony Sunday. Info: (703) 368-1873.

The following events will be held at the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St., Richmond, VA 23219. For info call (804) 649-1861.

Through 2001 – Exhibit: “R.E. Lee: The Exhibition.” Artifacts, images, and letters related to Lee’s family, military career, Confederate service, and post-war years, including his Appomattox sword and death mask. Info: (804) 649-1861.

The following events will be held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701. For info call (301) 695-1864.

29 Jul – 11 AM - 3 PM. Medicine for the Soldier. Living historians portray a hospital steward and a civilian caregiver, and discuss Confederate medicine and civilian contributions during the war.

11 Aug – 11 AM - 3 PM. Civil War camp life. Living history members of the 17th VA and 34th MA.

**Manassas National Battlefield Park
Commemorates the Anniversaries of Both
First and Second Manassas**

A full range of living history activities is scheduled at the Manassas National Battlefield Park to commemorate the anniversaries of First and Second Manassas. Please note the activities listed in the BRCWRT Calendar of Events. For more information call (703) 361-1339 or visit the Manassas National Battlefield Park website:

www.nps.gov/mana

Visit our website at:

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

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

Maureen Quinn:

MRQuinn@patriot.net

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