



# STONE WALL

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

December 2002

**Donald Hakenson, “This Forgotten Land: A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia**

The guest speaker for our 12 December 2002 General Membership Meeting will be distinguished Fairfax County historian – Don Hakenson. He and his family moved from Washington, D.C. to Franconia in Fairfax County when he was three months old. Don has called Franconia home ever since. Following graduation from Edison High School, Don served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force during the period of 1972-1976. For the past 31 plus years he has held a variety of positions in the Department of Defense. He is currently the Director of the U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Records Research, based in Springfield, VA. During this period, Don found the time to pursue his education at George Washington University and the University of Maryland. Also, for the past 30 years Don has found the time to play about 170 games per year as shortstop and left field in the Alexandria and Fairfax Softball League, where he was known for his rifle arm and competitive spirit.

Don has been a “dyed-in-the-wool” Civil War buff since the age of eight. He attributed his intense interest in the Civil War to his third (and fourth) grade teacher, Mrs. Swain, whose heroes were Gen. Robert E. Lee, LTG Thomas J. Jackson, MG J.E.B. Stuart and President Abraham Lincoln – “in that order.” Also, Don is intensely proud of his great-great grandfather, Corporal Robert McCormick (4<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry) and Private Elijah Columbus Anderson (6<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry) who served in the Confederate Army.

For the past 15 years Don has been meticulously researching events that occurred in Fairfax County during the Civil War. The result of some of his research is his superb book, “This Forgotten Land. A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia.” Copies of this book will be available for purchase and autographing at our 12 December meeting. Not only is the text well written and informative, the illustrations and photography (all 139 of them) are absolutely outstanding. His presentation will

be based upon this book and promises to be interesting, indeed!

Don Hakenson’s presentation is sure to fill the void that many of us have regarding the Civil War in Fairfax County. His presentation (and book) will ensure that the rich Civil War heritage south of Alexandria will be preserved for posterity. Have you ever wondered where the famous Widow Violet’s House, the scene of several engagements, was located? Or, perhaps you may have wondered about the identity of LTG Longstreet’s spy “Harrison?” Answers to these questions, plus much more fascinating information, can be found in Dan’s book which will be on sale for \$37.50. Attendees are urged to purchase it. It will be an ideal Christmas present – for you!!! The purchase of additional copies will make worthy gifts for your “buff” relatives and friends.

Do not miss this presentation. It will be a memorable experience.

**General Membership Meeting  
12 December 2002  
7:15 PM**

**Donald Hakenson  
“This Forgotten Land: A Tour of Civil War  
Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of  
Alexandria, Virginia”**

**Civil War 101 – 6:30 PM**

**Holiday Social: Please join us for cookies and  
soft drinks as we celebrate the holiday season  
during our General Membership Meeting.**

**Election of Officers – 7:15 PM**

**Bull Run Civil War  
Round Table**

P.O. Box 2147  
Centreville, VA  
20122

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The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the STONE WALL monthly. 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**

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. These include photos I am unable to include in the print version of the newsletter due to space constraints, and information on events and websites.

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  
**[BRCWRT10@aol.com](mailto:BRCWRT10@aol.com)**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for the January 2003 articles is 27 December 2002. Please send input to Mary Ahrens at the above address or e-mail.

**Visit our website at:**  
<http://www.bullruncwrt.org>

**For more information on the BRCWRT website contact:**  
**Maureen Quinn:**  
[MRQuinn@patriot.net](mailto:MRQuinn@patriot.net)

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

## PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

**By: John McAnaw**

Effective 1 January 2003, I stand down as President. I extend my thanks to everyone who supported our organization over the last two years. It has been a distinct pleasure to serve as President. Rarely does one have the opportunity to serve with such high quality individuals who are genuinely interested in our magnificent Civil War heritage.

My special thanks goes to fellow members of the Executive Committee who lightened my burden and, by the way, that of all members of our well-respected, "Cheap and Proud" Round Table. These dedicated individuals are Keith Young, Mark Knowles, Nancy Anwyll, Mike Duggan, Bob Ford, John DePue, Kevin Anastas, Maureen Quinn, and lastly, our inimitable newsletter editor, Mary Ahrens.

Our organization is on sound financial footing. Membership is over 150 dues paying members. We have an absolutely outstanding website and the best Civil War Newsletter in the entire region. The quality and frequency of our field trips exceeds that of similar organizations. And, I believe that we are the only organization that has conducted a Civil War 101 education program for its members. We have done our level best to assist and encourage area historians in the preparation of their books and articles on the Civil War. Further, we have gone the extra mile and, by personal involvement, fought the good fight regarding the preservation of important Civil War sites in Virginia, Maryland, and believe it or not, Tennessee.

Also, throughout the past two years, in fact for many years, we have had a superb guest speaker program. All of the above could not have been accomplished without harmony and camaraderie within the organization. Every effort was made to keep membership and field trip costs to an absolute minimum. As Ed Bearss once stated, we are the second cheapest Round Table, in terms of dues, that he knows of – second only to the one in Wichita, Kansas (\$13.00)

Round Table Members also expended hundreds of hours in research and field work in support of the Inventory of Civil War Sites in Fairfax County, conducted by John A. Milner and Associates. This effort was a resounding success.

With genuine pride in our accomplishment, and with sadness, I hand over my Round Table "walking stick" to my successor. Again, Thank You, I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a rewarding and healthy 2003.

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### **Election of Officers for CY2003**

The following members in good standing have announced their candidacy for the four elected positions of the BRCWRT:

President	Keith Young
Vice President	John McAnaw
Secretary	Nancy Anwyll
Treasurer	Mark Knowles

Other nominations can be made from the floor prior to the election of officers on 12 December 2002.

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### **Membership Dues for 2003 remains the same**

The dues rates for CY2003 are

Family - \$25.00; Individual - \$15.00; Student - \$10.00

Make checks payable to the "Bull Run Civil War Round Table." Either drop the check or cash at the Membership Table at the next monthly meeting or mail the check to:

Mark Knowles  
169 Applegate Drive  
Sterling, Virginia 20164

If you have any questions, contact Mark at (703) 787-9811

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Inclement Weather SOP for Meetings and Tours**

#### **Monthly Meetings**

If, on the date of a scheduled monthly meeting, adverse weather conditions exist or are impending take one of the following actions to determine whether or not the meeting will be held as scheduled:

1. Call John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller, or
2. Call the Centreville Regional Library at (703) 830-2223. A staff member will tell you if the meeting is on or not.

Tours

1. Call the Chief Tour Guide. The name and telephone number for the Chief Tour Guide for each tour will be published in the monthly newsletter. In the event contact cannot be made, contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller.

<b>PRESERVATION</b>
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**“You Have Given Us a Black Eye Around the World”, The Planning Commission in Spotsylvania County Debacle**

**By: John McAnaw**

Dorothy Miller uttered the above-cited quote to members of the Spotsylvania County Planning Commission at a public meeting on 6 November 2002. The meeting was held in the Holbert Building adjacent to the Spotsylvania Court House. The key agenda item that evening was the proposed rezoning of the 791-acre Ashley (Mullins) tract located on and adjacent to the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The meeting was at 7:30 PM.

Before continuing, permit me to relate some information provided by an eye-witness on the “run up” to this “evening of infamy.” The special interest groups in favor of rezoning sent out invitations to selected individuals for a “Supporters Dinner and Meeting” slated from 5:00-6:30 PM, 6 November 2002, at Scafa’s Italian Restaurant. The invitation stated that “supporters” would eat free of charge. Reportedly, members of the Planning Commission attended this “Dinner and Meeting.” Following the dinner attendees and the left over food were relocated to the Holbert Building for the Planning Commission Meeting. Tables were set up at that site and the left over food was laid out for disposal to those present.

Prior to the meeting, such notables as Superintendent Sandy Rieves of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, President Jim Lighthizer and Jim Campi of the Civil War Preservation Trust plus preservationist Rob Hodge met with media representatives outside the building and voiced their strong opposition to the proposed rezoning.

After the Planning Commission meeting began, those present were advised that all those who favored the rezoning of the Ashley (Mullins) Tract would be permitted to speak before any opponents had the opportunity to address the Commission. Such arrogance!

It was not until 10:35 PM that anyone in opposition to the proposed rezoning was permitted to speak. By that time a number of opponents had returned home. However, the redoubtable Spotsylvania resident, Dorothy Miller, stayed on and humiliated the Planning Commission with her “Black Eye around the World” denunciation. Other speakers echoed her sentiments.

However, the words of the rezoning opponents fell on deaf ears, and the majority of the Planning Commission voted (5:2) to recommend approval of the proposed rezoning of the Ashley (Mullins) tract. The Planning Commission closed the shameful public meeting and adjourned at approximately 12:30 AM. Please note that earlier this year members of the BRCWRT received similar treatment when we spoke out in opposition to the proposed rezoning of a portion of the Centreville Historic District before the Fairfax County Planning Commission. None of us were able to speak until well into the night and the conduct of several Planning Commission members was reprehensible.

Do you remember the left over food? Well at the end of the meeting there was still a quantity of food left over. So, the left over, leftovers fell into the right hands. And this was the only good thing that occurred at that disgraceful meeting!

Some of the information presented above was obtained from a 7 November 2002 article by Betty Hayden Snider in the *Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star*. More news on the events concerning the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors is covered in the following article.  
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**A Tempest in Spotsylvania: Supervisor Stands by Resignation**

**By: John McAnaw**

The above quote was the page one headline in the Thursday, 28 November 2002 edition of the *Fredericksburg Lance-Star*. The article, by Betty Hayden Snider, clearly indicates that the Spotsylvania County Government is in disarray. One knowledgeable observer informed me that the County Government is in a “free-fall.”

The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, 26 November. [A complete listing of the Supervisors, County Planning Commission members, County Administrator and Deputy Administrator can be found in the November 2002 edition of *The Stone Wall*.] One of the agenda items was the proposed rezoning of land for the Lee's Parke development located south of Hamilton's Crossing. As many of you know, Hamilton's Crossing marked the right flank of LTG Thomas J. Jackson's force during the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 1883.

As expected, the Board voted 4:2 to approve the Lee's Parke development for roughly 2,200 homes. Supervisors Patricia J. "Tricia" Lenwell (Chancellor District) and Gary Jackson (Salem District) voted against rezoning. The Board also went into closed session on 26 November to discuss the performance of the controversial County Administrator, Mr. Anthony W. Barrett who has filled the position for the past 14 months.

According to Reporter Snider a vote of no confidence proposed by Supervisor Jackson failed by a 4:3 margin. Following the vote, Supervisor Lenwell advised other Board members that "she would not be party to a sham that is being played out in this county." Reporter Snider wrote that Supervisor Lenwell's statement "addressed her problems with Barrett," starting with his public endorsement of the Lee's Parke development after a September 24<sup>th</sup> public hearing. She said staff members told her Barrett instructed them to give only the "good side of projects such as Southpoint II, Lee's Parke, and the Town of Chancellorsville (Ashley/Mullins Tract) – all controversial developments requiring a rezoning." Following the tumultuous closed door session, Supervisor Lenwell announced that she was resigning. As of 28 November she indicated that she would not change her mind. Reporter Snider wrote that "Lenwell said she began considering stepping down after the Board delayed a vote on Lee's Parke in September. She was angry that Barrett offered a glowing recommendation of the project without being asked by the Board.

The extra time allowed the developer to increase proffers to the point where a majority agreed to support the rezoning."

To add to the chaos Reporter Snider wrote that Supervisor Jackson hinted that he might also resign his

position. In her article of 28 November Reporter Snider wrote that "Spotsylvania also has had several department heads resign in recent weeks – with rumors of more to come – and some Board members expressed frustration last week that Barrett had not submitted a reorganization plan for county staff. The plan was distributed to the Board Tuesday (26 November), but will not be discussed in open session until next month (10 December).

Lenwell said in her statement that Barrett had promised in September 2001 to present the plan within 90 days."

Supervisor Lenwell indicated that she might stay on the Board long enough to get the problem with Barrett resolved. She is quoted as stating, "How are we going to restore the organization? How are we going to restore morale?" These are good questions.

After Supervisor Lenwell submits her resignation, the County Board of Supervisors has 45 days to appoint a successor. If the majority of the Board cannot agree on a replacement, a judge will make the decision. Based on the Board's past track record favoring controversial developments over the preservation of our Nation's priceless Civil War heritage, there is genuine concern that the Board will chose a pro-development "waterbird."

To again quote Reporter Snider, "Whoever is appointed will likely vote on the controversial Town of Chancellorsville project, which would put 1,995 homes and up to 2.2 million square feet of offices and retail space on Route 3. To repeat, this development will be on the 791 acre Ashley (Mullins) Tract that is located within and adjacent to the eastern part of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. Without question, the construction of the Town of Chancellorsville and other follow-on developments will, if approved, have a catastrophic effect on the Chancellorsville and Wilderness Battlefields. A host of reputable regional preservationists and conservation organizations, plus a majority of Spotsylvania residents opposed this proposed "Town" project. This leads to a question that has been asked throughout the Nation. That is, who do members of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors present? Do they represent residents within their respective Districts or do they represent special interest groups, such as developers? Also, do the Supervisors recognize their responsibilities as "stewards of the land" and protectors of our Nation's heritage sites located within their county? The present turmoil within the

Spotsylvania County Government indicates that serious problems exist. A thorough investigation of their problems by an appropriate agency is in order to determine whether conflict of interests and corruption exists. Confidence in county government is presently lacking.

The Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors has indefinitely postponed the discussion of the proposed rezoning of the Ashley (Mullins) Tract for the creation of the Town of Chancellorsville. This should not result in the relaxation of public and organizational pressure on the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors. Keep sending the letters, FAXES, etc... to the media and the Board. As I stated last month, this fight is for all the marbles. We cannot even contemplate defeat in this worthy effort to protect the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

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**National Historical Park in the Shenandoah Valley**

**By: John McAnaw**

On 20 November 2002 the U.S. Senate passed the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park Bill. The previous month the House of Representatives approved the Bill. A check on 3 December 2002 with the White House Executive Clerk's Office indicated the President has not yet signed the Bill into law. However, no problem is anticipated in getting his signature, U.S. Representative Frank R. Wolf (10<sup>th</sup> District, VA) sponsored the Bill in the House and Senator John W. Warner of VA sponsored it in the Senate.

According to an AP article dated 22 November and site-lined Harrisonburg, VA, the Bill, when signed by the President will create a 3000-acre park in sections of Frederick, Warren and Shenandoah Counties. The Park will include terrain where some of the heaviest fighting occurred on 19 October 1864. At present private organizations protect almost 600 acres of the 15000-acre Cedar Creek Battlefield, including Belle Grove. The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation owns 308 acres while the Belle Grove Foundation, deeded to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, owns another 283 acres. Both organizations, cited above, will retain ownership of their land when the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park is established.

The intent of the Bill is for the remainder of the 3000 acres to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior from "willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriate funds or exchange." In other words it

may be a long time before this Historic Park actually consists of 3000 acres.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Why Did Confederate Soldiers Fight So Tenaciously and Effectively**

**By: John McAnaw**

The Montgomery (AL) *Daily Advertiser* published, on 24 November 1864, a letter from Pvt. Henry B. Wood, 12<sup>th</sup> AL Volunteer Infantry Regiment, to his father, Allen Wood. The original letter has not been found and, very possibly, it was edited prior to publication. Regardless, the letter reveals the mindset of countless Confederates during the war and is reprinted verbatim for the reader's edification:

“ *In Camp, Near Richmond*  
*May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1862 (?)*

*Dear Father: Here I am, far away from home, and loving friends, and long cherished associations – from all that makes life dear to me. And why am I here? Was it merely that I might be an actor in scenes novel and exciting, that I forsook the delights of home, and subjected myself to the trials and privations of camp life, and the fearful untold dangers of the battlefield? Let me consider. If I can satisfy myself that I am right, in being here, conscious rectitude will reconcile me to my fate, and nerve my arm for the deadly conflict, whenever I may be called to meet it.*

*I am here, because a numerous and powerful enemy has invaded my country, and threatened our subjugation. Long had the two sections of this great country lived together in harmony, under a constitution, framed by men whose wisdom, and integrity have seldom been equaled.*

*The manufacturing pursuits of the North and the agricultural products of the South, seemed to create a mutual dependence, which by many, was supposed to constitute a bond of union, too strong to be broken. For many years this bond was held as sacred, and palsied by the tongue that would utter the word, disunion.*

*While this harmony, so delightful to be remembered, continued, the country prospered to a degree, which astonished all Europe. But evil councils at length, prevailed in the heart of the greedy North. The sacred safe guards provided in the Constitution were, one after another, overthrown, and one section of the country was*

*found using the power, which numerical strength supplied, to oppress the other. This, brought me here! I am here, because those who once called us friends, now call us rebels, and openly proclaim their purpose to subjugate us-nay! even to annihilate us, simply because we claim the same privilege for ourselves. When we found that the difference between us and our Northern brothers rendered it impossible for us to live peaceably under the same government, we sought every honorable means to secure such a compromise as would make us separate nations, mutually interested in each others welfare; but our propositions for a compromise were treated with scorn and contempt, and we were made to understand by many indirect, but practical demonstrations, that we must submit to the will of a majority, whether that majority should conform to the Constitution, or govern its cause by its own sectional interest and selfish ambition.*

*I am here because I believe that defensive war is justifiable. True, nothing can be plainer than that war in itself is unnatural, and would never occur if all men would observe the law that bids them love others, as they love themselves; but when my fellow man so far forgets this law, as to assail my personal rights, my property or my friends, the same law which bids me to love him, requires me to compel him (if in my power) to respect all my rights. The present war is on our part, emphatically a war of defense, and would not lose its defensive character, and even if in prosecuting it we should find it necessary to advance into the very midst of the enemy's territory.*

*Camp life has no charms for me, nor would I seek the battlefield for its own sake.*

*To dwell among the loved ones at home, would be far more agreeable to every feeling of my heart, than to encounter either my present or prospective experience. But more than all other earthly goods I covet for my friends, as well as for myself, the privilege of choosing the Civil Institutions under which we live. To secure this privilege, I am here,, and would regard myself unfaithful to my country and my country's God, if I should for a moment, shrink from the just responsibilities of a soldier. I am here under a stern sense of duty, and impressed in some degree with the obligations that rest upon me as a soldier. My health must be cared for, my morals must be guarded against the seductive power of evil examples and all the duties of a soldier must be faithfully discharged. I owe this to myself, to my friends, my country and my God.*

*Determined then to occupy my place with honor to myself, with comfort to my friends, and with some*

*advantage to my country's cause, I cheerfully consent to be a soldier, to bear a soldier's burdens-to die! if need be a soldier's death. God grant that I may ever possess the true soldiers spirit.*

*I am here, not knowing what destiny awaits me. Many, by the exposure of camp life contract diseases, which they would probably have escaped, had they remained at home, and dying far away from home and friends, now lie buried in a stranger's grave, while many others fall in the midst of the clash of arms and scarcely find a decent burial, and who am I! that I should escape both of these contingencies? This thought may well awaken emotions in my bosom, which some would think unmanly: to me they seem rational and worthy of one who believes himself, as I do, immortal, and I will therefore strive to cherish them.*

*With such feelings and sentiments I am here, and committing myself for time and eternity to Him who stand pledged to men and angels, that those who trust in Him shall be sustained in their cause.*

*Come comrades! I am in for the war; I have shouldered my musket, and it must not be thrown down (unless wrested from me by the Hand that is stronger than all) until the nations of the earth, including the proud boasting North, shall confess that we are not rebels; but a nation of freemen, who know our rights and dare maintain them.*

*H.B. Wood"*

## **FLASHBACK 1862**

### **December Flashback 1862**

**By: Mark Knowles**

**1 Dec.** - President Lincoln addresses the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress, discussing several constitutional amendments. Proposed amendments center around slavery, suggested plans for colonization, and financial compensation to previous slave owners as well as cooperating states.

**4 Dec.** - Winchester, VA falls into Union hands. 145 Southern soldiers captured.

**6 Dec.** - As a result of the Sioux Indian uprisings in MN during September that resulted in the deaths of 450 white settlers, President Lincoln orders 39 Indians to be hung on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec. Federal troops attacked at Cane Hill, AR.

**7 Dec.** - Hartville, TN is the scene of a raid by rebel John Hunt Morgan. Col. Moore's union troops suffer 2096

casualties. The Battle of Prairie Grove takes place. Confederate Gen. Hindman's 10,000 rebels surprise the 10,000 Federals commanded by Gens. Blunt & Herron.

**10 Dec.** - A bill creating the state of West Virginia passes the U.S. House of Representatives, following a similar action by the Senate on 14 July. Gen. Burnside's Union troops gather around Fredericksburg, VA in preparation for advance on that city.

**13 Dec.** - Fredericksburg, VA. 72,000 men of Confederate Gen. Thomas Jackson's command are attacked by Gen. Burnside's troops. Gen. Franklin attacks the rebel position south of the city. Gen. Sumner advances his Union troops north of the city. Confederates are entrenched at the foot of Marye's Heights. The Federal attempt to dislodge the Confederates is a futile one. Confederate Gens. Cobb & Gregg are killed. At the end of the day Gen. Lee remarks "I wish these people would go away and let us alone".

**15 Dec.** - In TN, Gen. Grant's forces are on their way to Vicksburg, MS. They encounter Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. Gen. Forrest starts for Vicksburg as well. He intends to interfere with Federal communications along the way. Union Gen. Benjamin Butler has been forced to step down as military governor of New Orleans, LA. Apparently, none of the good citizens of New Orleans were sorry to see him leave.

**16 Dec.** - President Lincoln delays the execution of the 39 Sioux Indians. New date for hanging is 26 Dec. Union Gen. Burnside makes a statement assuming full responsibility for the failure at Fredericksburg, VA. Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks takes over command of the Federal Department of the Gulf from Gen. Butler.

**17 Dec.** - Gen. Grant issues General Order #11 regarding speculation, but specifically singling out Jews as the object of the declaration against illegal trade: "The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the department within 24 hours from the receipt of this order." The order is rescinded 4 Jan., 1863. Grant's reputation is damaged by the adverse publicity.

**20 Dec.** - President Lincoln experiences dissention with some of his cabinet. Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase and Secretary of State Seward proffered their resignations resulting from political differences. Lincoln

discusses the situation with his advisors and decides not to accept their resignations.

**23 Dec.** - Confederate President Jefferson Davis brands Gen. Ben. Butler a felon and enemy of mankind. Davis suggests immediate execution of Butler if the Confederates should seize him.

**25 Dec.** - President and Mrs. Lincoln visit several military hospitals in Washington, DC.

**26 Dec.** - Sioux Indians are executed at Mankato, MN.

**27 Dec.** - Federal forces under command of Gen. William Sherman are positioned near Vicksburg, MS on the Yazoo River.

**28 Dec.** - Gen. Sherman experiences minor fighting near Vicksburg, MS. He pushes closer toward city.

**29 Dec.** - Gen. Sherman's troops clash with Confederates at Chickasaw Bayou. The Union force is unable to break through the Confederate line at Chickasaw Bluffs.

**30 Dec.** - President Lincoln makes final preparations for the announcement of his Emancipation Proclamation. USS Monitor is lost off Cape Hatteras in stormy waters. 16 Officers and men died. USS Rhode Island manages to rescue another 47 men.

**31 Dec.** - President Lincoln signs the bill that establishes West Virginia as the nation's 35<sup>th</sup> state. The Battle of Stone's River, Murfreesboro, TN commences. Gen. Rosecrans' Federals face Gen. Bragg's Confederates. The Union forces holds their own.

*Source: The Civil War Day by Day. Edited by John S. Bowman*

**VIEW FROM WAY BACK**

**Public Property**

**Submitted by: Keith Young**

"I was sent for hurriedly one day, and directed to bring to the office of the Secretary of War, six field glasses, to be used by some officers. I produced the glasses and with them a special requisition. The Secretary of War approved the requisition, and I asked to who I should look for receipts. 'I will receipt for them,' said he. 'All right,' said I, and I wandered off armed with receipts that



I thought were sufficient. This was in 1862. In 1866 the third auditor examined my papers and suspended the account on the ground that 'No authority exists to transfer public property to a CIVILIAN.' It took me a year to get that suspension removed. Thereafter, if the Secretary of War wanted anything he had to get a second lieutenant to receipt for it."

- Samuel T. Cushing, quoted in *The Signal Corps in the War of the Rebellion*, by J. Willard Brown, Boston, 1896. -

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Contributed by: Sandra Cox**

*Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply.*

**7 Dec.** – Frederick, MD. ‘*Camp Life of Union Soldiers*’. Living history presentation of camp life by the members of the 51<sup>st</sup> PA Infantry. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Info: Nat’l Museum of Civil War Medicine – 301.695.1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org)

**7-8 Dec.** – Richmond, VA. ‘*Living History Encampment at Fort Harrison*’. Volunteers depict camp life in winter quarters. Info: Civil War Visitor Center at 804.771.2145 or [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich)

**7-8 Dec.** – Newport News, VA. ‘*Christmas in the Field*’. Scenarios with troops in camp at Endview Plantation. Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. \$5 adults, under 7 free. Info: Endview Plantation 757.887.1862

**11 Dec.** – Fredericksburg, VA. Former Chief Park Historical Robert K. Krick will speak on ‘*Under War’s Savage Heels: Fredericksburg in the Civil War*’. 7:30 p.m. Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline Street (downtown). Info: Central Rappahannock Regional Library website.

**9 Dec.** – Fredericksburg, VA ‘*Salem Church Christmas*’. The NPS invites the public to attend a holiday music program at Old Salem Church. The 1844 church survived a Civil War battle in May 1863 that scarred its walls and woodwork with marks of bullets and shells. 7 p.m. Info: National Park Service , 540.371.0802, or [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**13 Dec.** – Fredericksburg, VA. ‘*Reception & Book Signing*’. Booksigning. NPS Historian Frank O’Reilly, “*The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock*”. 7-9 p.m. at Fredericksburg Square, 525 Caroline Street in downtown Fredericksburg. Tickets must be purchased in advance for the reception. Sponsored by Central VA Battlefield Trust. Info: 540.659.6819.

**14 Dec.** – Frederick, MD. ‘*Museums by Candlelight*’. Annual Open House of the Historic Sites Consortium highlighting historic sites and museums throughout Frederick County. Free admission. 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Info: Nat’l Museum of Civil War Medicine – 301.695.1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org)

**14 Dec.** – Alexandria, ‘*Christmas in Camp Open House*’. This holiday event interprets how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Guided tours of the fort will be offered, weather permitting. Suggested donations: \$2 adults, \$1 children. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site. 4301 W. Braddock Road.

**15 Dec.** – Fredericksburg, VA. ‘*140<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg*’. Noon – NPS Historian Frank O’Reilly will lead a two-hour walking tour following the path of the Irish Brigade. Meet at City Dock on Sophia Street. Info: NPS 540.371.0802, or [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

### Editor’s Note

During the 2003 calendar year there will be four double issues of *The Stone Wall*. The projected schedule is as follows:

- January
- February-March
- April
- May-June
- July-August
- September-October
- November
- December

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA

20122

**2002 BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM**

We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events! Annual dues are Individual - \$15, Family - \$25, and Student (age 22 & under) - \$10. Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the President or Treasurer at the General Membership meeting or mailed to:

Mark Knowles                      or  
Treasurer  
169 Applegate Ct.  
Sterling, VA  
20164

BRCWRT  
P.O. Box 2147  
Centreville, VA  
20122

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_