



STONE WALL

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

November 2002

**LTC Ewald J. Hausdorf, Austrian Embassy:
“The History of the First Minnesota Volunteer
Infantry Regiment: The Unpublished Diary of
Private Balthasar Best:**

We are honored to have as our guest speaker at the November General Membership Meeting, LTC Ewald J. Hausdorf who is presently assigned to the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C. He has been the Assistant Defense, Military and Air Attache USA and Foreign Service Attache Canada since 1998.

LTC Hausdorf has compiled an impressive record of service since he was commissioned as an infantry lieutenant in 1979. His domestic infantry assignments from 1979 to 1990 include Platoon Leader, Training Officer, Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer (S-3). From 1990-1995 he was the Operations and Training Officer/Coordinator of the Austrian Training Center for Peace-keeping Operations. During the period of 1995-1998 he was assigned as the Peace-keeping Expert Officer with the Department for International Policies of the Ministry of Defense. His duties included mission planning, doctrine, documentation, training and multilateral cooperation.

LTC Hausdorf's international assignments were also challenging. He served as a Company Commander in 1985-1986 with the Austrian contingent to the United Nations Mission in Cyprus. From 1988-1990 he was a Military Observer with the UN Truce Supervision Organization covering the Golan Heights and Beirut, Lebanon. In 1992 and 1995 he participated in fact finding tours conducted by UN Missions in Cambodia and Angola respectively. Lastly, from 1993-1995, he

Held several key positions in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations located at UN Headquarters in New York City. During his assignment he authored and co-authored training manuals and guidelines for Peace-keeping Operations, which were published by the UN.

LTC Hausdorf and his spouse, Maria, have done a great service to the students of the American Civil War by painstakingly translating the diary of Private Balthasar Best from the “Old German” or Gothic script, to English.

Undoubtedly, Private Best's unpublished record of his experiences will enhance our knowledge of one of the most famous regiments in the Union Army of the Potomac. Join us on 14 November for what will be a most informative presentation by LTC Hausdorf, a keen student of the American Civil War.

**General Membership Meeting
14 November 2002
7:15 PM**

**LTC Ewald J. Hausdorf – “The
History of the First Minnesota
Volunteer Infantry Regiment:
The Unpublished Diary of Private
Balthasar Best.”**

Civil War 101 – 6:30 PM

Bull Run Civil War

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**The Centreville Regional
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14200 St. Germain Drive
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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. 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

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for the December
2002 articles is 27 November
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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: John McAnaw

A training session for preservation minded members of our Round Table will be conducted at a field location on 16 November. More information on this training is included later in the newsletter.

This issue also contains some very important preservation information concerning Chancellorsville and Bristoe Station Battlefields. Please read and act as your conscience dictates. To understate the case, the situation at Chancellorsville is truly alarming. For that reason this issue has two articles on Chancellorsville.

Now is the time to pay your dues for CY2003. I do not personally know of any other organization where an individual member can get as much for his/her money. Please note that our annual election of officers will take place at our 12 December General Membership Meeting. Nominations can be made as late as that date. The names of those members running for office are included in this newsletter.

I urge all members to attend our 14 November General Membership Meeting. I assure that you will thoroughly enjoy LTC Ewald Hausdorf's presentation. In fact, invite some friends to join you!

The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Gettysburg – Day Two

By: John McAnaw

On 1 February 1890, Judge William Lochren of Minneapolis, MN, completed his narrative of his old unit, the First Minnesota Volunteers, during the Civil War. He was appointed on 16 April 1889 by the Minnesota Legislature to be a member of a board of commissioners whose charter was to "take charge of and cause to be prepared and published an official historical narrative of the services of each regiment, battalion, battery and independent company of Minnesota troops while in the service of the United States in the Civil War of 1861-1865, and in the Indian War of 1862... said work shall contain a complete roster of all Minnesota soldiers and sailors engaged in said war."

Just two years later the project was completed and a most informative volume titled "Minnesota in the Civil

and Indian Wars: 1861-1865" was published by the Pioneer Press Company, St. Paul, MN.

During the Civil War William Lochren served as a second Lieutenant in Company K prior to transferring to Company E as a first Lieutenant. The subject of our guest speaker's presentation on 14 November, Private Balthasar Best, also served in Company K.

Judge Lochren wrote the following in the above-cited book regarding the famous charge on 2 July 1863 of the First Minnesota Volunteers, led by Col. William Colvill against the tenacious Alabama Brigade led by BG Cadmus Wilcox:

"Silently, without orders, and, almost from the start, double-quick had changed to utmost speed; for in utmost speed lay the only hope that any of us would pass through that storm of lead and strike the enemy. 'Charge!' shouted (Col.) Colvill, as we neared their first line; and with leveled bayonets, at full speed, we rushed upon it; fortunately, as it was slightly disordered in crossing a dry brook at the foot of a slope. The men were never made who will stand against leveled bayonets coming with such momentum and evident desperation. The first line broke in our front as we reached it, and rushed back through the second line, stopping the whole advance. We then poured in our first fire, and availing ourselves of such shelter as the low banks of the dry brook afforded, held the entire force at bay for a considerable time, and until our reserves appeared on the ridge we had left. Had the enemy rallied quickly to a counter charge, its great numbers would have crushed us in a moment, and we would have made but a slight pause in its advance. But the ferocity of our onset seemed to paralyze them for the time, and although they poured upon us a terrible and continuous fire from the front and enveloping flanks, they kept at a respectful distance from our bayonets, until, before the added fire of our fresh reserves, they began to retire, and we were ordered back. What Hancock had given us to do was done thoroughly. The regiment had stopped the enemy, and held back its mighty force and saved the position. But at what sacrifice! Nearly every officer was dead or lay weltering with bloody wounds, our gallant colonel and every field officer among them. Of the two hundred and sixty-two men who made the charge, two hundred and fifteen lay upon the field, stricken down by rebel bullets, forty-seven were still in line, and not a man was missing."

The superb conduct of the soldiers of the First Minnesota Volunteers at Gettysburg and on other battlefields guaranteed its reputation as one of the finest regiments in the Union Army of the Potomac during the period of 1861-1864.

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.

Membership Dues for 2003 remains the same

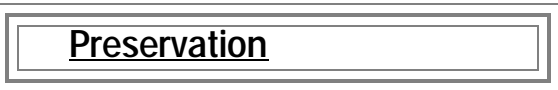
The dues rates for CY2003 are as follows:

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



Update on the Grave Threat Facing the Chancellorsville Battlefield in Spotsylvania County
By: John McAnaw

At our General Membership Meeting on 10 October 2002, our guest speaker, Greg Mertz, gave us an excellent rundown on the proposed development of the 791-acre Mullins (a.k.a. Ashley) Farm located on the east side of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. His maps were particularly enlightening.

On 17 October 2002 The Coalition to Save the Chancellorsville Battlefield (CSCB), an informal group

of 11 national and local preservation, conservation and civic organizations, released the following statement in opposition to the Dogwood Development Groups' latest proffers relative to its proposed land mauling of the Mullins Farm tract. To gain a full appreciation of the impact of the proposed development, CSCB's statement is reprinted below in its entirety:

"NATIONAL AND LOCAL PRESERVATION GROUPS CRITICIZE NEW PROFFERS FOR MULLINS FARM

Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield describes Dogwood's latest proposal as an extremely bad deal for Spotsylvania County re (Chancellorsville, Va.) – The Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield released the following statement today in response to the Dogwood Development Group's latest proffers for a development on the Mullins Farm. On May 1, 1863, Union and Confederate armies collided on the Mullins Farm in the opening clash of the historic battle of Chancellorsville.

"The Dogwood Development Group's latest proffers for the Mullins Farm remain unacceptable to the 600,000 members of the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield. Dogwood's newest proposal is nothing more than a common tactic used by developers to make grandiose plans appear reasonable. They propose something large, anticipating a public outcry, then offer something smaller that seems like a compromise. But, despite this public posturing, the construction of 2,000 houses and 1.2 million square feet of strip malls and office space on the Mullins Farm remains the most inappropriate use imaginable for this historic property.

The new proffers only make worse what was already an extremely bad deal for Spotsylvania County residents. By proposing a special tax on businesses in order to widen Route 3 in and around the proposed development, Dogwood President Ray Smith is confirming what we have been saying all along: This development will spawn more mega-developments and strip mall sprawl along Route 3. Further, Smith's promises to fix only the miniscule portions of Route 3 that serve his development will not solve the traffic problems his new town will create along that road and River Road behind it.

We also have serious questions about Dogwood's fuzzy revenue numbers. The decision to cut the amount of commercial and office space by 50 percent while only cutting the number of houses by 15 percent calls in to serious question Smith's claim that his proposal will

generate \$10 million a year for county coffers. If the original proffers were supposed to generate \$11 million for the county, how can Smith cut the business side of the development in half and still claim 8-digit revenue figures for the county? The answer is that Smith's revenue figures will never be realized – and he knows it.

The new proffers also underestimate the cost of the new development to county taxpayers. Just this week, a county school board official expressed concern about several large rezoning applications in the county, stating that the school system was 'feeling the stress of growth.' The new proffers also fail to address the impact of the new development on the tourist industry, the county's already strained water supply and the area's overburdened health care system.

Fortunately, the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield is not alone in its opposition to Dogwood's questionable development plans. In a public opinion survey conducted in late August, 66 percent of Spotsylvania County voters stated they oppose development of the Mullins Farm. In addition, 80 percent of county voters indicated that Dogwood's plans will put a strain on county finances.

The Coalition is committed to working with county officials to find ways to promote responsible growth in Spotsylvania County while still preserving the county's historic treasures. That same poll says that the voters are with us on that score. The coalition believes that by working together a solution can be found that benefits all county residents – not just the developer and the landowner."

A list of the members of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission is included at the end of this article. Please take the time to contact these individuals and express your opposition to the proposed Mullins Development. Time is running out.

The proposed rezoning of the Mullins Tract will be an agenda item at the Planning Commission Meeting set for Wednesday evening, 6 November 2002!!! The meeting will be held at the Spotsylvania Courthouse Complex, 9104 Courthouse Rd. (Rt. 208) at 7:30 PM. For further information visit: www.cvbt.org.

Board Members:

- Battlefield District – Mr. Benjamin T. Pitts, Chair

207 Southgate Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Phone: (540) 898-4335, Fax: (540) 898-6991

E-mail: bpitts207@aol.com

- Berkeley District – Mr. Emmitt B. Marshall
6411 Marye Road, Woodford, VA 22580
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- Chancellor District – Ms. Patricia J. "Tricia" Lenwell
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- Lee Hill District – Mrs. Mary Lee Carter
4220 Mine Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22408
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E-mail: spotsymic@aol.com
- Livingston District: Mr. Thomas C. Waddy, Jr.
17608 Waddy Lane, Orange, VA 22960
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- Livingston District – Robert E. Taylor, Jr.
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Is a Preservation Doomsday Imminent for the Chancellorsville Battlefield?

By: John McAnaw

As of the date of this article, 31 October 2002, I understand that communications among concerned agencies re: proposed plans by the Dogwood Development Group to maul the eastern portion of the Chancellorsville Battlefield are non-existent!!! In other words, representatives from the Dogwood Development Group and the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors (BOS) refuse to meet with the representatives from the National Park Service, Civil War preservation organizations, conservation groups, and area citizen's associations who oppose current development plans for the 791-acre Ashley (a.k.a. Mullins) Tract on the endangered battlefield.

The latest information available to me indicates that the Spotsylvania County Planning Commission will meet on 6 November. One of the scheduled agenda items will be the rezoning of the 791-acre Ashley (Mullins) Tract. County residents have informed me that the Commission will make it difficult for citizens opposing the proposed development to voice their objections at a reasonable hour during the public meeting. We have seen these tactics before in Fairfax County (Stanley-Martin development in the Centreville Historic District) and in Prince William County (CENTEX development on the Bristoe Station Battlefield). In both cases we were not able to speak

until well after midnight. In fact, in the case of the Bristoe Station Battlefield meeting, some BRCWRT members did not speak until after 3:00 AM!

This brings up a very important point, who works for whom in these counties? Should not our counties be responsive to their citizens? Why not have the public Planning Commission/BOS meetings begin on Saturday mornings, for example, instead of a weekday night when it is extremely hard for citizens to attend. Well, back to the subject at hand.

If the current proposal of the Dogwood Development Group for the Ashley (Mullins) Tract is approved, it will have an extremely adverse impact on the preservation of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. I ask the reader to study the most recent ADC or land use map for Spotsylvania County. You will see that there are residential communities present within the actual battle area of both the Wilderness and Chancellorsville Battlefields.

Much of the eastern part of the Chancellorsville Battlefield (including the Ashley Tract) is in private hands. If Dogwood's development plans for the Ashley (Mullins) Tract are approved by compliant and short-sighted BOS, there is no doubt that adjacent land holdings will, over time, also be rezoned. The result will in all likelihood, be the creation of a new city between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville Battlefield land (protected by the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP)), in the vicinity of Elys Ford Road north of Highway 3 and the thin crust of Battlefield property along McLaws Drive south of Highway 3. Continued land mauling will undoubtedly lap around the boundaries of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The effort will be catastrophic not only to the Chancellorsville Battlefield but also the Wilderness Battlefield as well. Needless to state, the recession resistant Civil War tourism industry in Spotsylvania County will suffer severely if these "Doomsday" events occur.

The proposed rezoning of the Ashley (Mullins) Tract is the most important land use matter in the history of Spotsylvania County. This action is for all the marbles. We can not afford to lose, so join the fight to save these battlefields. This is the most important preservation fight in Virginia since Disney at Haymarket. Remember what Annie Snyder said "Never, never, never give up!"

Bristoe Station Update

By: John DePue

As most of you are aware, the CENTEX Corporation has obtained from Prince William County a resolution rezoning from “agricultural” to “residential” a 341-acre tract, known as the “Rollins property,” that embraces a significant portion of the Bristoe Station Battlefield. As one of its proffers to the County, CENTEX has agreed to deed approximately 127 acres of the Rollins property to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). This land embraces the heart of the battlefield and contains two known Confederate cemeteries.

In addition to the land transfer to CWPT, CENTEX has agreed both to conduct its own survey on the remaining 214 acres for additional Confederate graves, and to permit interested parties, particularly the Sons of the Confederate Veterans (SCV), access to the property for a period of 120 days following the transfer of title for the purpose of locating additional graves. The SCV is now arranging for an archeological survey of the CENTEX property. The archeologists involved anticipate the use of ground penetrating radar in its search for graves. BRCWRT has agreed to support this effort by providing volunteers to assist the archeologists as needed. To date, over 40 members have indicated their willingness to participate in the project.

On 26 September 2002, the engineering firm of Dewberry & Davis (D&D) hosted a meeting of representatives of organizations interested in preserving the Bristoe Station Battlefield and in assisting in the location of Confederate graves on the CENTEX property. In addition to representatives of CENTEX and D&D, meeting participants included Jim Burgess of the Prince William County Historical Commission; Jim Campi of the CWRT; “Red” Barber and Sandy Lucas of the SCV; and John Pearson, Drew Lavan and John DePue of the BRCWRT. During the meeting, we learned that CENTEX did not anticipate acquiring title to the Rollins tract until April 2003 at the earliest – placing the grave location effort in the April – July 2003 time frame. Although the delay will give those involved in the project additional time to organize, it will also force our volunteers to deal with the summer’s heat, critters and brambles.

D&D was most accommodating in addressing our concerns relating to our volunteer effort. It assured us that it would have “portajohn” facilities available at the

site, as well as shelter on the property to escape the elements when necessary. In return, D&D requested that BRCWRT create picture ID cards for participating members, provide them with a member “authorized access” list, and have volunteers sign “hold harmless” forms. D&D also promised to hold periodic meetings for the purpose of updating all participants on the progress of the transfer.

During the meeting, Jim Campi stated that, as soon as CWPT can obtain access to its 127-acre tract, the organization will begin the process of establishing trails, interpretive markers, and access to historically significant sites. Volunteers may be needed to support this effort.

For now, we need to await developments pending transfer of the property to CENTEX. In the meanwhile, the SCV is in the process of raising additional money to retain the services of a professional archeologist. It is likely that, when the time arrives, our principal function will be to assist the archeological survey by conducting visual observation of terrain, and removing obstructions to the use of ground penetrating radar. Thus, the dates of our involvement will likely be contingent upon the dates the archeologists and other professionals will be at the site to operate the radar and provide expert guidance. As soon as we can establish what those dates are likely to be, we will circulate a schedule asking those who have volunteered for the project to commit themselves to a particular date and time. Stay tuned for further information!

Field Training Session for BRCWRT Preservationists – 16 November 2002

By: John McAnaw

Weather permitting, the BRCWRT will host a field training session for MEMBERS only on Sunday, 16 November 2002 at a readily accessible site in Fairfax County. The session will be conducted by a trained archeologist, BRCWRT member, Joe Balicki. He is an employee of John A. Milner and Associates, which has done a significant amount of archeological work in the Virginia-Maryland area.

As many of your remember we worked closely with Joe Balicki and others in his firm on the “too” successful Inventory of Civil War Sites in Fairfax County. The training will include map reading, means to precisely pinpoint locations in the field (GPS), methods for finding Civil War sites, and some practical work.

Training Officer in Charge: John McAnaw

Assembly Date/Time: Sunday, 16 November 2002, 9:15 AM

Assembly Location: Pickwick Square Shopping Center parking lot by O'Toole's Restaurant at the southwest corner of the intersection of Pickwick Road and Lee Highway (U.S. Hwy 29).

Session Length: 9:15 AM to no later than 1:45 PM

Training Site: To be announced at the assembly location.

Equipment: Dress appropriate to the weather conditions. Bring gloves. Certain attendees will be requested to bring trowels, shovels, brush cutters, etc...

Sign up: At the 14 November General Membership Meeting or contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371.

Memorial Hall Foundation to Appeal Civil District Court Ruling

By: Mary Ahrens

Many of you have been following the battle between the Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans and the University of New Orleans (UNO) Foundation over land rights. Memorial Hall, Louisiana's oldest museum, has been existence for 111 years. It houses the second largest Civil War collection in the world – only Richmond has more items. The building was built in 1891 and donated by Frank Howard, a local philanthropist, as a place for Southern Civil War veterans to gather and display their artifacts. But, when the Ogden Museum was constructed next door, a dispute arose over who actually owned the land.

In a letter dated 30 September 2002, President Glen Cangelosi, M.D. of the Memorial Hall Foundation stated:

“We have lost our first battle by way of a summary judgment at the hands of Civil District Judge Hunter King, who sided with the UNO Foundation attorneys on every count. Fortunately, Judge King gave our museum a stay of execution by allowing a lower security bond than requested by UNO, preventing Memorial Hall's immediate eviction. A hearing on our appeal to Judge King's decision will be heard at the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in 6-8 months. Louisiana's governor Mike

Foster defended our right to stay in our building on his radio talk show and vows to work out a compromise between the two sides.”

For more information, please visit the following website: www.confederatemuseum.com. Donations to the Foundation for their legal battle can be sent to:

Memorial Hall Foundation
929 Camp Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Update on Harper's Ferry

By: John McAnaw

And now for some good preservation news! Recently the Washington Post printed the following two articles re: Harper's Ferry:

“Tuesday, October 29, 2002

Harpers Ferry Farm to Be Added to Park

A historic 99-acre farm near the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park in West Virginia slated for residential development will be added to the park instead, according to a spokesman for the Trust for Public Land.

Trust spokesman Tim Ahern said yesterday that the organization has an agreement to purchase the parcel known as the Murphy Farm, where Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson took more than 12,000 Union prisoners during a battle Sept. 15, 1862.

Under the terms of the agreement, the National Park Service will purchase the property from the trust later this year for inclusion in the national park.”

“Wednesday, October 30, 2002

Harpers Ferry Battlefield Preservation

The preservation of a large piece of unprotected battlefield at Harpers Ferry outside the boundaries of the national park is scheduled to be announced this afternoon by the Civil War Preservation Trust according to a trust spokesman.

Spokesman Jim Campi said the trust is assisting in the purchase of the \$1.7 million, 232-acre tract known as School House Ridge, a part of the Harpers Ferry battlefield where Confederate forces captured more than 12,000 Union forces during the Battle of Harpers Ferry on Sept. 15, 1862. It comes one day after the

announcement of the preservation of another section of the same battlefield, an area known as Murphy's farm."

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Tour of the Grigsby Hill and Blackburn's Ford Battlefields and the Historic Union Mills Area – 26 October 2002

By: John McAnaw

The original date for the above-mentioned tour was 12 October but was postponed until 26 October due to inclement weather. On the morning of 26 October the weather was also threatening and affected the turnout. However, as the morning wore on, the day was transformed into a perfect one for our tour – cool and clear.

The tour was broken down into four phases:

Phase I: (0830-1130): Extensive walking tour of the Grigsby Hill (Little Rocky Run) and Blackburn's Ford Battlefields. Thanks to property owners Mark Morgan and Tony Aiken we traversed more of the Grigsby Hill Battlefield than ever before. We also located the site of a destroyed Confederate earthwork roughly 90' in diameter that anchored the main Confederate defense line protecting Centreville and Manassas Junction during the fall-winter of 1861-1862. It was tragically destroyed in 1995. Thanks to Tony Aiken our understanding of the landmarks on the battlefield as well as our knowledge about the residents that lived in this historic area was enhanced. Also a surviving section of what appears to be a Union artillery position was found. All tour participants saw first hand the large quantities of trash that littered the Northern Virginia Regional Park land and a nearly privately owned parcel. Sad situation!

Phase II: (1230 – 1530): Walking tour of the Union Mills area. A total of 15 Civil War sites and events were covered during this part of the tour. A short break was taken at the site of the historic Bull Run Bridge where we enjoyed the view and the spectacular fall foliage.

Phase III: (1530-1630): Tour of the "Great Redoubt", a well-preserved Confederate fortification; and adjacent campsite; and a section of the McLean's Ford Road. By this time our small "proud but cheap" band had shrunk to three. However, no matter how many times you see it, the "Great Redoubt" is worth visiting.

Phase IV: (1630-1745): Visit to the site of the Confederate Fort Johnston located in the vicinity of the Pickwick Square Shopping Center at the intersection of Lee Highway (Route 29) and Pickwick Road. For this phase only two die-hard tour members remained. In truth, this phase was conducted inside O'Toole's Restaurant and Pub where the liquid refreshments were no longer water! Here's to Fort Johnston!

In summary, we had a most enjoyable and informative time. I extend my thanks to Tony Aiken who accompanied us throughout much of Phase I and gave us access to his property and whose knowledge of the area was most helpful. All tour participants were either present or accounted for at the end of the tour. These individuals are:

Mary Ahrens and son Wade	Dale Machino
Tony Aiken	John McAnaw
Nancy Anwyll	Bev Regimbal
Charles Balch	Keith Young
Mick Jenkins	

SPECIAL – ED BEARSS ARTICLE

One of the BRCWRT's favorite speakers is the illustrious Ed Bearss. We are proud to present our readers with a reprint of a recent *Washington Times* article written by local writer, Tom O'Brien.

'Bearss Outranks Many as Historian
Tom O'Brien
Special to the Washington Times

It's getting so people think Ed Bearss may have been in the Civil War. Not so, he says, though he will admit to meeting a few survivors.

Mr. Bearss – the legendary and now retired chief historian of the National Park Service – is aging well; some Park Service staff members might even say he isn't aging at all. At a recent birthday party, he gave out buttons that read, "79 and feeling fine."

Just a few weeks ago, he was on the battlefield at Antietam, leading with customary gusto a tour organized by National Geographic Expeditions just before the battle re-enactment and 140th anniversary.

Antietam remains a pastoral scene; the names of the farms are the same as on Sept. 17, 1862 – German immigrant names such as Mumma and Poffenberger.

The old German evangelical Dunker Church is still there, rebuilt after falling in a severe storm in 1921, and looking as pure white and absurdly and peaceful as ever. Brown cows lounge lazily in the meadows, and the Miller cornfield crop, through parched from drought, stands as tall as it did on the morning of the battle.

Mr. Bearss (pronounced “Bars,” as in Stars and Bars) takes his group to the cornfield, the sunken road (Bloody Lane) and Burnside’s bridge, and as you listen, you realize that even if you thought you knew this battlefield, with Mr. Bearss, you get to know it truly, sadly, deeply.

There is, first, the crackerjack phrasing. Staring down from the North Woods onto the Miller cornfield, Mr. Bearss notes Gen. Joseph Hooker’s mistakes at Antietam – failing to tell the rest of the Army he was attacking at dawn, failing to send any troops to chase Rebel artillery off Nicodemus Heights – and concludes tartly, “As an Army commander at Chancellorsville, Hooker plans well and fights poorly; as a corps commander at Antietam, unfortunately, he plans poorly but fights well.” It’s the luck of the Army of the Potomac, in a nutshell.

Mr. Bearss also illuminates the geography of the battlefield. On the crest of ridge next to the Dunker Church, the land slopes down to Antietam Creek off to the east – not much, but just enough for an advantage – to where much of the Union Army was.

“Lee had chosen an excellent defensive position,” Mr. Bearss says. “His back was to the Potomac, showing his high confidence in his army, plus the Yankees cannot see him.”

Mr. Bearss pauses for effect and says, with a quieter emphasis than usual, “It is important to be on a battlefield to see what they saw and to see what they couldn’t see.”

Mr. Bearss has a kind of cult – the “Bearss brigade” it is sometimes called – that follows him. Its members are Civil War buffs mesmerized by his down-home charisma. On some tours, there are veterans of other battlefield excursions. At Antietam, the National Geographic tour has first-timers, but like all his seasoned fans, they, too, are eager to hear him talk.

Most are men, though there are several women and one youngster with his mother. Mr. Bearss makes an effort to draw them in with the tale of Clara Barton, “the only person – man, woman or child, North or South – not

afraid of Edwin McMaster Stanton,” Lincoln’s secretary of war.

It was her first time on a battlefield caring for the wounded, Mr. Bearss notes, although she had been near others before. He takes special relish in recounting how as she was cradling a soldier in her arms, a Minie ball just missed hitting her, cutting through the loose, flowing sleeves of her dress.

Mr. Bearss is a maelstrom of words and details. Holding a silver-knobbed regimental swagger stick under his arm, drawing the picture with his hands, he is, though an American original, like Shakespeare’s Welsh chieftan and medicine man in “Henry IV,” Owen Glendower. He “can call spirits from the vasty deep.” Mr. Bearss conjures the regiments out of the cornfield and brings them animatedly to life.

His voice is a cross between a Western drawl (organically grown on the range during his youth in Montana, near Little Big Horn, whose battlefield he knows well) and a gravelly, stentorian growl. He has the tic, or gift, or stopping at odd moments, midsentence, his eyes closed, which only serves to draw his audience in closer.

Mr. Bearss knows war firsthand. A Marine in World War II, he fought at Guadalcanal and New Britain, where he was severely wounded in the left arm. At the Dunker Church, used as a field hospital for the Antietam wounded, Mr. Bearss halts a moment when discussing the risks of death after amputation during the Civil War and acknowledges his wound. “It’s really good to have practical experience in these things,” he says somberly.

Mr. Bearss joined the National Park Service in 1955 and over the years honed his rhetorical gift, though he also admits (his face sour at the memory) to being “a traffic cop” at centennial events in the 1960s. He has written 15 books, earned advanced degrees from Georgetown and Indiana universities (his Master’s thesis was on Pat Cleburne, a Confederate from Ireland called the “Stonewall of the West”) and appeared on such programs as A&E’s “Civil War Journal” and PBS “The Civil War” – although he is quick to see that as one of his less successful outings.

“People told me Ken Burns made a mistake in forcing me to sit down in a dark room,” Mr. Bearss says. He knows he needs to act, to stalk, to stage live theater, to become what in hip circles is called a “performance

artist.” Most of all, Mr. Bearss needs the outdoors, the battlefield, to weave his spells. Maybe it is almost better, one thinks, that Mr. Bearss was unable to schedule a cameo role in the upcoming film “Gods and Generals,” even though he might have been well-cast as the old, barrel-voiced and irascible Union commander Edwin “Bull” Sumner.

In person, Mr. Bearss is a magnet for re-enactors. Antietam is crawling with them (mostly Confederate and mostly Texan – there in force, it seems, to rejoin the issue). When they see Mr. Bearss, though, they stop to listen as he gently joshes them about their uniforms or regiments – though he always concludes with a heartfelt “Good job.”

It is a strange episode in the history of celebrity; with a Robert E. Lee look-alike reaching down from his horse to shake Mr. Bearss’ hand, it is almost as if the past is paying homage to the present, not vice versa.

Mr. Bearss’ tours cover not only multiple locations from the Civil War (both in Virginia and on the Western front), but also Little Big Horn and Minnesota (the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862), plus sites from the War of 1812 and in Boston from the American Revolution. Every “cultural tourism” institution with the past to sell – the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic and others – wants a piece of Bearss, the “franchise player.”

Not only is he busy all year long, but he also keeps his tour members busy all hours of the day. He lectures them during their breakfast at 7 a.m. on some apt topic (e.g., was Gettysburg really the high tide of the Confederacy? Or Antietam?); he then lectures on the bus that takes off at 8 a.m.; and then he starts lecturing on the field at 8:30.

The schedule is not quite as dire as it was for soldiers or even camp-out re-enactors. (Our Texas friends, with Park Service permission, camped out near the Bloody Lane and are mostly asleep when the bus comes by at 9:30 p.m.) But Mr. Bearss keeps his troops busy.

There is no unfilled time, and late one afternoon the Antietam group even squeezes in a stop for lemonade in downtown Sharpsburg at – where else? – a 1780s house being renovated by modern-day Poffenbergers.

Guest speakers are featured, but Mr. Bearss is always ready to chime in with friendly kibitzing or a telling detail. Sometimes you think he might be the solution to the energy crisis.

Mr. Bearss “retired” from the government about a decade ago, just in time for what marketers call “heritage tourism.” He is, however, both a real historian and the real McCoy, a package of authentic eccentricity for an age in search of the heroic past. He is the bard without a beer hall (though one or two of his tours have been known to stop thereabouts). He is our storyteller, the reincarnation of an ancient voice regaling us with vivid tales of bygone honor. Everywhere he goes, he makes his audience smarter and makes it smile.

Literature has never really done justice to the Civil War. There are some poems, of course (even some by Herman Melville and Walt Whitman), the short novel “Red Badge of Courage” and the short story (and ultracynical) “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge.” There have been, yes, some good historical novels lately, as well as the old soap opera “Gone With the Wind.”

There is nothing monumental, though. Maybe it had to be left to the oral tradition, in which the names of officers such as Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana roll grandly off Mr. Bearss’ tongue. Every epic deserves a Homer. In Ed Bearss, the Civil War finally may have gotten one.”

BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

By: Ralph G. Swanson

The single best book about Robert E. Lee may not be one of his many biographies—not even the Pulitzer Prize winning treatment by Douglas Southhall Freeman. But then, *The Marble Man*, by Thomas L. Connelly, (Louisiana State University Press) is not a biography in the strictest sense of the word. The sub-title, *Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society*, is the clue to this provocative analysis of Lee as he has come to be regarded by us today and by American history. Think about it. How has this man been elevated to the status of an American hero—on par with Washington and Lincoln—more than a century after he led a violent rebellion against the United States government?

Virtually on the day of his death in 1870, a small but influential cult of Lee admirers led by Jubal Early, organized to control the written history of the war and exalt the name of Robert E. Lee. Connelly believes their

aim was twofold: justify southern secession, and deny any military deficiencies of Lee.

Early, and his cohort of former Lee staffers, succeeded in gaining business and editorial control of the prestigious Southern Historical Society and its periodical, the *Papers*. They published articles favorable to Lee and attacked any who would criticize him or the southern war effort. Many southern periodicals, now long gone and forgotten, participated in what became a vicious post-war offensive. By 1880, Lee was well established as the supreme Confederate hero, far above Jefferson Davis, or even Stonewall Jackson.

To devotees, Gettysburg was the most serious stain on Lee's record. Following the war, several published histories were critical of Lee's performance in that battle. In an 1872 speech commemorating Lee's birthday, Early made the first public effort to divert blame from Lee (and, not incidentally, himself). In that speech, he originated the legend that Longstreet was insubordinate and late in attacking on July 2. The literary assault on Longstreet began in earnest in a *Papers* series published in 1877.

No point was too small to draw the fire of the Early cabal. One bitter dispute erupted over who originated the strategy for the flank attack at Chancellorsville. Even treatments complimentary of Lee were criticized as not sufficiently enthusiastic. The internecine squabbling that Connelly documents would be downright funny if it had not ruined so many reputations.

By the 20th century there was less emphasis on Lee's military performance and more on his overarching sense of duty and his sacrifices to a losing cause. The new generation of writers stressed Lee's family connections with George Washington, and his selfless devotion to restoring the south after the war.

In 1925, Arlington (Lee's home) was restored and the government ordered the return of family heirlooms to the house. In 1955 it was dedicated as a memorial to Robert E. Lee. By then, the image of Lee as an American hero was firmly implanted in the national mind.

While he never spoke publicly about the war or his own conduct, Lee fervently wished to publish his own war history and a defense of southern secession. He actively solicited materials from former comrades to that end. Sadly, ill health and the press of work as a small

college president prevented his ever achieving that goal. Perhaps it is best that he did not.

In the opinion of "The Book Corner," had he lived, Lee would have stifled the unseemly behavior of his former subordinates. Lee neither needed nor wanted defenders of his war record. Of course Lee is responsible for the flank attack at Chancellorsville, regardless of who originated the idea. And we who have studied the Battle of Gettysburg know there is plenty of blame to go around--on all three days. These questions need not detain us today, because we study the war from a more dispassionate distance. But they were raging controversies at one time and vital, in some minds, to the proper place of Robert E. Lee in history.

In the final analysis, Connelly gives no clear answer as to why this essentially unreconstructed rebel is so revered in our nation today. Did those early Lost Cause writers succeed in brainwashing us? Here is an alternate explanation: Lee was a victorious battlefield commander, and Americans naturally admire a winner. After the surrender, Lee lived quietly in obedience to the laws and counseled everyone else to do the same. And Americans also respect a gracious loser. Lee rejected lucrative offers of post-war employment, choosing instead to work for the education of the nation's youth as a means to rebuild the shattered south. And, above all, Americans esteem the unselfish character. Perhaps we honor these things more than we care about a particular battle strategy?

There is much to think about in *The Marble Man*. This important book will give all serious students of the war necessary perspective on any Lee biography as well as many eastern theater battle studies. That is why it is the single best book you will ever read about Robert E. Lee.

Until next time, keep reading.

P.S. A visit to beautiful Lexington, Virginia, Robert E. Lee's final resting place, will vastly reward any student of the Civil War. Lee's last home, college office and burial site on the campus of Washington and Lee University are all open to the public. The university chapel, where Lee is interred, is also the location of the famous recumbent statue of Lee by Edward Valentine. The museum at nearby Virginia Military Institute has some breathtaking artifacts. The house where Professor T.J. Jackson lived while an instructor at VMI is fully restored and welcomes visitors. Finally,

the gravesites of many Confederates, most notably Stonewall Jackson, are in Lexington's cemetery. Start at the excellent town Visitor Center and spend a very enjoyable day.

FLASHBACK 1862

October Flashback 1862

By: Mark Knowles

2 Oct. - Confederates under Generals Van Dorn & Sterling Price, press Gen. Rosecrans' Union troops northwest of Corinth, MS.

4 Oct. - Fighting between Confederate Generals Van Dorn and Price and Union Gen. Rosecrans continues. The Rebs are forced to withdraw before nightfall. The South does not get the satisfaction of securing the railroad center at Corinth, MS and forcing Gen. Rosecrans' soldiers back toward OH.

5 Oct. - Gen. Rosecrans' army follows Gen. Van Dorn's retreating army. Gen. E.O.C Ord engages Gen. Van Dorn's men near the Hatchie River, TN. The Confederates break free from Gen. Ord & head for Holly Springs.

6 Oct - Gen. Braxton Bragg's rebel army pulls back toward Harrodsburg, KY. They are pursued by Gen. Buell's Federals.

8 Oct. - The Battle of Perryville, KY occurs involving Gen. Bragg and Gen. Buell's armies. Bragg is forced to retreat southeastward.

9 Oct. - Gen. JEB Stuart begins a several day raid of Chambersburg, PA.

10 Oct. - Confederate President Jefferson Davis requests a draft of 4,500 blacks to help the Confederate army in building fortifications around Richmond, VA.

11 Oct. - The Confederate Congress passes a bill allowing anyone owning 20 or more slaves to be exempt from service in the Confederate army. Much controversy ensues. Some claim the military situation as a "rich man's war and a poor man's fight." JEB Stuart continues to harass Chambersburg, PA. He seizes 500 horses & destroys several trains.

18 Oct. - Confederate John Hunt Morgan routs Federal cavalry outside Lexington, KY. Morgan's 1,500 men enter the city capturing 125 prisoners.

22 Oct. - Confederate Gen. Bragg successfully withdraws from KY, under constant pressure from Gen. Buell.

24 Oct. - Gen. Buell is relieved of command of Federal troops in KY & TN following Gen. Bragg's successful escape. Gen. Rosecrans receives authority from President Lincoln to take over the responsibility of Gen. Buell's troops in KY & TN.

25 Oct. - President Lincoln becomes increasingly annoyed at Gen. McClellan's inactivity after Antietam. McClellan comments that his horses suffer from sore tongue & fatigue. Lincoln wants to know what McClellan's army has done that has fatigued anything.

28 Oct. - Gen. McClellan moves the Army of the Potomac toward Warrenton, VA. Gen. Lee is pushed slightly to the south. Light skirmishing occurs at Snicker's Gap.

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

Flashback November 1862

By: Bob Ford

Saturday, 1 Nov. - Gen. McClellan is back in Virginia after hardly any pursuit of Lee after the Battle of Antietam. Gen. Butler, in New Orleans issues orders discharging from confinement all "slaves not known to be slaves of loyal owners." Skirmishing occurs in and around New Berne, NC for the next eleven days, and Pleasanton's Union Cavalry begins seven days of skirmishing in VA.

2 Nov. - Minor fighting occurs in the Valley. Mrs. Lincoln goes to NY.

3 Nov. - The First South Carolina Volunteers, a regiment of African descent, fights in its first battle along the coast of Georgia. The regiment will not be mustered into Federal service until the first of the year. Longstreet's Corps arrives at Culpeper, VA thereby getting in front of McClellan who is at Warrenton. There is skirmishing in VA and MO.

4 Nov. - Election in the North sees Democrats gain in State and Congressional offices.

5 Nov. – President Lincoln orders McClellan replaced with Gen. Burnside. There is action near Nashville and skirmishes in AR, KY and MO.

6 Nov. – There is increased fighting in AR, and KY, and GA.

7 Nov. – McClellan is relieved of command and Burnside put in charge. Lincoln puts ships on the Mississippi River under control of the Navy over the objections of the War Dept. Gen. Grant sets in motion his planned campaign against Vicksburg.

8 Nov. – There are actions in AR, KA, and western VA. Gen. Butler closes all breweries and distilleries in New Orleans.

9 Nov. – Burnside assumes full command. Skirmishing occurs in western VA, in MO, AR and TX.

10 Nov. – Gen. McClellan receives an emotional farewell. There is skirmishing at Charles Town, western VA and along the Orange and Alexander Railroad.

11 Nov. – There is a skirmish at Jefferson, VA and a Confederate demonstration at New Berne, NC.

12 Nov. – Skirmishing occurs in MS, TN, and VA.

13 Nov. – Skirmishing continues in MS, TN and VA.

14 Nov. – Gen. Burnside gets Lincoln's approval to move on Richmond. There is fighting in VA.

15 Nov. – Gen Burnside begins to move toward Fredericksburg. There are actions in VA, MO and TN. Lincoln calls for "orderly observance of the Sabbath" by the Army and Navy.

16 Nov. – A small fight occurs at U.S. Ford on the Rappahannock and on VA Peninsula.

17 Nov. - Skirmishing and fighting occurs in VA and MO.

18 Nov. – Both Armies move toward Fredericksburg, and are concentrating forces near Nashville. Fighting occurs in GA, NC, TN and VA.

19 Nov. – Gen. Longstreet takes position above Fredericksburg while Burnside arrives near Falmouth. There was fighting in VA, TN, KY, and MS.

20 Nov. – The Army of Tennessee is officially constituted under Gen. Bragg. There is action in TX.

21 Nov. – Davis names a new Confederate Secretary of War. There is a skirmish in LA.

22 Nov. – Twelve salt works are destroyed in VA, while other fighting occurs in LA.

23 Nov. – Naval Lt. Cushing takes his steamer up the New River in NC, capturing two schooners. They run aground upon returning thus losing the ship, while escaping capture in one of the schooners.

24 Nov. – There is skirmishing in MD, VA, and MO. Confederate Gen. Joe E. Johnston assigns command of troops in GA, NC, TN, AL, MS and LA.

25 Nov. – Confederate cavalry raid into MD. Other fighting occurs in AR, TN, and KY.

26 Nov. – There is fighting in TN, VA, MO and NC.

27 Nov. - Lincoln confers with Burnside at Aquia Creek, VA. There is skirmishing in TN, MO and MS.

28 Nov. – There are engagements in AR, MS, TN and VA.

29 Nov. – Gen Magruder, C.S.A., takes command of forces in TN, NM and AZ. There is fighting in MS and TN.

30 Nov. – A quiet end to the month with only skirmishing in MS and MO.

VIEW FROM WAY BACK

Honesty on the Battlefield **Submitted by: Keith Young**

Lieutenant Tinkham was among the many brave men who were killed at the second battle of Corinth. It appears that Lieutenant Tinkham was not seriously wounded when the rebels took possession of that part of the field where he fell, but was only shot through the leg; and as the Union boys were contesting the advance of the enemy with desperate bravery, Lieutenant Tinkham raised himself upon his elbow to see the fighting, when another leaden messenger pierced his body, and he fell to the ground again. Seeing that he soon must be numbered among the slain, and that his life-blood was

fast flowing out, he made some sign to a passing rebel-- which was said to be a Masonic sign of recognition. The rebel immediately came to Tinkham's side, and rendered him all the assistance in his power. Just before the Lieutenant expired, he handed the rebel his watch and some money, with the instruction to forward it to his family the first opportunity he had, -- and in a few moments after saying this he expired. The rebel now pinned a small piece of paper on Tinkham's coat, stating his name and company and left him. In this condition, he was found by his company and buried by them.

Time rolled on, and on 4 July 1863, thirty-five thousand rebels surrendered to the victorious Federal army at Vicksburg, and among that vast multitude was to be found Lieutenant Tinkham's rebel friend - (all honor to him!) -- eagerly searching for the Fourteenth Wisconsin regiment. This he at last discovered, and, safely delivering the watch and money to one of its members, disappeared among the throng. The articles were duly received by the Lieutenant's friends. What it is to have an honorable foe.

--- *Reminiscences of the Blue and Gray '61-'65*; by Frazar Kirkland, 1895, page 355. ---

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.

2 Nov. – 10 AM – 3 PM, ‘*Camp Life of Union Soldiers*’. Info: Nat’l Museum of Civil War Medicine – 301.695.1864 or www.civilwarmed.org

3 Nov. – 10 AM – 1 PM, ‘*Biking Through History*’. 10-mile bike tour led by Park Rangers. Antietam National Battlefield Visitors Center. Info: 301.432.5124 or www.nps.gov/anti

9-10 Nov. – ‘*Assault of Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry*’, Artillery demonstration. Info: Harpers Ferry Nat’l Historical Park - 304.535.6298 or www.nps.gov/hafe

10 Nov. – 1 PM – 3 PM, ‘*Antietam Battlefield Hike-Another Lost Opportunity: George Greene at Antietam*’. 1.5-mile hike through the Cornfield, East Woods, Mumma Swale, Dunker Church and West Woods.

Antietam National Battlefield Visitors Center. Info: 301.432.5124 or www.nps.gov/anti

11 Nov. – 12 PM, ‘*Veteran’s Day Ceremony*’ Glendale National Cemetery. Info: Civil War Visitor Center at 804.771.2145 or www.nps.gov/rich

12-14 Nov. – ‘*The Civil War and American Memory*’, Convocation of historians, experts, and students of the Civil War Era. Eight sessions with Gary W. Gallagher, John L. Nau III and Paul Finkelman. Info: 202.707.5093, Library of Congress. Reservations 202.707.1616 or www.loc.gov. Free but space is limited.

14 Nov. – ‘*Civilians in the Civil War*’ forum by Civil War Railroad expert Ron Beavers. Info: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 703.425.9225 (Note date change from the 13th) Donation appreciated.

13-17 Nov. – ‘*Abraham Lincoln, Commander-in Chief*’, Field tour of sites including the US Capitol, Lincoln & Soldiers’ Home Nat’l Monument (Anderson Cottage) Fort Stevens, Washington Navy Yard, Arlington Nat’l Cemetery, Ball’s Bluff, Antietam & Gettysburg Battlefields, Gettysburg Nat’l Cemetery plus a private showing of rare documents and books at the Library of Congress related to Lincoln as war-time President with David Long and Gary Ecelbarger. Info: Civil War Education Assn - 800.298.1861, email info@cwea.net

16-17 Nov. – 9 AM – 5 PM Saturday, 9:30 AM – 3 PM Sunday, ‘*Civil War Show*’, Richmond Raceway Complex. Fee \$5.

17 Nov. – 1 PM – 3 PM, ‘*Antietam Battlefield Hike-The Burnside Bridge*’. 2-mile hike - Burnside Bridge, high ground east of the Bridge, Confederate Overlook and a portion of the Snavely’s Ford Trail. Antietam National Battlefield Visitors Center. Info: 301.432.5124 or www.nps.gov/anti

23 Nov. – 11 AM – 2 PM. Book signing, ‘*One Vast Hospital: the Civil War Hospital Sites in Frederick, MD after Antietam*’ by Terry Reimer. Info: Nat’l Museum of Civil War Medicine – 301.695.1864 or www.civilwarmed.org