



## Battles in Loudoun County

### **Historian James Morgan To Discuss Ball's Bluff, Edwards Ferry on Aug. 11**

A detailed tactical study of the combat that occurred at Ball's Bluff and nearby Edwards Ferry in Loudoun County on 21-22 October 1861 will be the topic of Round Table discussion at the general membership meeting on Thursday, 11 August 2005.

Historian James A. Morgan, III, will discuss his recently published book, *A Little Short of Boats: The Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*. And two days later, on 13 August, Jim Morgan will lead members of our Round Table on a tour of privately owned (and well preserved) Fort Evans and the Ball's Bluff Battlefield.

Our guest speaker was born in New Orleans and raised in north Florida. He currently lives in Lovettsville, Loudoun County. Jim has been awarded two master's degrees, one in political science and the other in library science. He is presently employed as the Acquisitions Librarian for the State Department's Office of International Information Programs in Washington, D.C.

Worthy of note, Jim has also written a number of articles that have been published by such periodicals as "Blue and Gray," the "Camp Chase Gazette," "The Artilleryman," "Loudoun Magazine" and "The Civil War" page of *The Washington Times*.

See MORGAN, Page 3

### **This Is a Double Issue**

This issue of *The Stone Wall* covers upcoming activities for August and September. The next issue will be published in October.

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**11 AUGUST 2005**

**7:15 P.M., Centreville Library**

**Guest Speaker: JIM MORGAN**

**Subject: "The Battle of Ball's Bluff"**

**[Book Signing]**

### *A Tribute to Brian*

## **Pohanka Was Truly A Civil War Legend**

By ED WENZEL

Brian Pohanka, one of the most beloved and respected Civil War historians of our era, and a founder of the modern battlefield preservation movement, has joined the ranks of the soldiers he so often talked of in his many writings and lectures and portrayed on reenactment battlefields.



See BRIAN POHANKA, Page 7

## How to Obtain Copies of Books Authored by Upcoming Guest Speakers

The following information was provided by concerned guest speakers:

**11 August: James A Morgan, III:  
'A Little Short of Boats: The Fight at Balls Bluff and Edwards Ferry, 21-22 October 1861' — \$18.95**

Check with the publisher:  
ironcladpublishing.com, or amazon.com,  
or with local book stores

\* \* \*

**8 September: Charles P. Poland, Jr.  
'The Glories of War: Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861'  
Hardback \$40.95. Softback \$28.95**

Book can be ordered through Ingram's Books in Print Database, directly from the publisher at [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com), or through the book order hotline at (888) 280-7715. Book is also available through local book stores.

**Note:** Dr. Poland will also bring copies of his book when he speaks to our Round Table.

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

**President:** John McAnaw  
JPMTOG29@aol.com [703.978.3371]

**Immediate Past President:** Keith Young  
RKeith\_Young@compuserve.com

**Vice-President:** Charlie Balch  
cabalch@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Mark Knowles [703.787.9811]

**Secretary:** Nancy Anwyll  
Nanwyll@Patriot.net

**At Large:**  
John DePue, Ed Wenzel, Sandra Cox

**Field Trips:** Kevin Anastas  
KKA2@cox.net

**Webmaster:** Maureen Reigh Quinn  
MRQuinn@Patriot.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Ed Essertier  
EEssertier@aol.com

**Newsletter Team:**  
Sandra Cox, Nancy Anwyll, Ken Jones

**The Bull Run Civil War Round Table** publishes *The Stone Wall* monthly. General Membership meetings are held at 7:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at:

**The Centreville Regional Library  
14200 St. Germain Drive  
Centreville, VA 20121-2299  
703.803.2223**

For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the WEBSITE:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

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## ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our on-going book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank you!

## The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

Despite the onset of summer vacations, we had excellent turnouts at our monthly meetings on 9 June to listen to Mike O'Donnell speak on U.S. Army Winter Camps in Stafford County and on 14 July to hear Don Hakenson and Gregg Dudding cover the life of LTC John S. Mosby and his exploits in Fairfax County.

Also, of note, at the latter meeting over 70 Round Table members unanimously supported a resolution to oppose any action to change the zoning of existing properties within the proposed boundaries of an expanded Centreville Historic Overlay District (CHOD).

Thankfully, we will have a respite in August re the proposed expansion of the CHOD. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of preserving what remains of Centreville's priceless Civil War heritage. I appreciate the efforts of those Round Table members who have become involved in this last-ditch fight.

The last newsletter (June-July 2005) went to press before our tour to Spotsylvania Court House. I extend my congratulations to Chief Tour Guide Kevin Anastas for conducting an outstanding and thoroughly productive tour. Please read his after action report in this issue of *The Stone Wall*.

And speaking of tours, members are encouraged to participate in the BRCWRT tour of Fort Evans and Ball's Bluff on 13 August and our sojourn to the Norfolk-Hampton Roads (Fort Monroe) and Newport News (Mariners Museum) on 10-11 September.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer and I hope to see you at the events mentioned above.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

\* \* \* \*

8 SEPTEMBER 2005

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr.

SUBJECT:

The Glories of War:  
Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861

[Book Signing]

\* \* \* \*

13 OCTOBER 2005

GUEST SPEAKER:

William B. Style

SUBJECT:

Generals in Bronze:  
Post War Interviews with  
Civil War Leaders by James E. Kelly

[Book Signing]

## Morgan to Speak Aug. 11

[Continued from Page 1]

He also has an article pending with "America's Civil War."

Jim is a volunteer guide at the Ball's Bluff Battlefield and is the immediate past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table. Our versatile guest speaker is also a Civil War reenactor. Additionally, Jim does Civil War music programs as a hobby and to date has produced two recordings of Civil War songs.

Join us on 11 August for Jim Morgan's presentation and also on 13 August for the tour of Fort Evans and the Ball's Bluff Battlefield. While Jim will not bring copies of his book to the 11 August meeting, he will autograph copies purchased elsewhere by members prior to the meeting.

# Memorial Service For Brian Pohanka

## Thursday, 23 June 2005

### Manassas National Battlefield Park

By JOHN P. MC ANAW

It was fitting to hold the memorial service for Brian Pohanka on that part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) that was once known as the Williams Center Tract. This 541-acre parcel is an integral part of the Second Manassas Battlefield and the scene of a bitter fight in the 1980s between Civil War preservationists led by the indomitable Annie Snyder, now deceased, and a group of politically powerful developers. It took the legislative taking of the Williams Center Tract by the U.S. Congress in 1988 to save this land (which includes Stuarts Hill) and incorporate it within the boundaries of the MNBP. Brian Pohanka materially contributed to the successful effort to spare the Williams Center Tract from destruction.

The ceremony for Brian Pohanka was held near a treeless parking area west of Groveton Road, between Lee Highway (U.S. 29) and I-66. The staff of the MNBP did an excellent job on short notice in preparing the site for the service. There was ample space for parking. A large revival-type tent, complete with folding chairs, provided shade and seating for those in attendance. Refreshments and restroom facilities were available. The weather cooperated. The sky was clear with the temperature at 83 degrees. The humidity was moderate.

The service for Brian began at 2:35 p.m. By that time approximately 400 individuals had assembled under and around the tent. Many prominent Civil War historians, preservationists, friends and acquaintances of Brian were there. Most conspicuous were the members of the reenactor honor guard from Brian's beloved Co. A, 5th New York, "Duryee's Zouaves." These individuals were smartly attired and brought to my mind what happened to most of the soldiers of the 5th New York just a short distance away up the Groveton Road on the afternoon of 30 August 1862. We were honoring

See **MEMORIAL SERVICE, Page 8**

### ***Heads Up!***

#### **BRCWRT TOUR OF FORT EVANS AND BALL'S BLUFF BATTLEFIELD IN LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA SATURDAY, 13 AUGUST 2005**

##### **ASSEMBLY/LOCATIONS/TIMES**

— Centreville Regional Library Parking Lot:  
7:35 A.M. OR

— Fort Evans (Rehau Corp., 5701 Edwards  
Ferry Rd., Leesburg: 8:20 A.M.

**DURATION:** 8:30 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

**DEGREE OF EXERTION:** Light to moderate. Group will descend trail from Ball's Bluff to the Potomac River and cover other important parts of battlefield on foot.

**PERSONAL ITEMS/GEAR:** Headgear, sun screen, insect repellent, energy food, plenty of water and good hiking shoes.

**LUNCH:** Brown bag lunch recommended. Fast food restaurants nearby.

##### **OTHER BATTLEFIELD ACTIVITIES:**

Reenactors from the 8th VA Vol Inf Regt will be present on Ball's Bluff Battlefield; e.g., camp life, drill, battle vignettes, etc.

**CHIEF TOUR GUIDE:** Jim Morgan

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In the event of very adverse weather the decision to postpone will be made not later than 6:00 A.M. on Saturday, 13 August.

Contact John McAnaw at 703.978.3371

**MORE INFORMATION:** Call John McAnaw at above number.

##### **ROUTE TO FORT EVANS (REHAU CORP.) FROM CENTREVILLE LIBRARY:**

Travel north on Sully Road (Route 28) to Leesburg Pike (Route 7). Then turn west (left) on Route 7 and motor to the Leesburg Bypass (By-P15). Then turn north (right) on Leesburg Bypass to Edwards Ferry Road (Route 773). Then turn east (right) on Edwards Ferry Road (Route 773) and travel about 0.5 miles. Look for Rehau Corp. sign. Then turn north (left) into Rehau Corp. grounds. Proceed upslope to Visitors Parking Lot vicinity the Fort Evans fortifications. Park. You are at the START POINT for tour.

**NOTE:** Before commencing tour at Fort Evans, all participants must sign the "Release and Indemnity Agreement" prepared by the Rehau legal staff.

## 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. If you would like an event posted, please e-mail Sandra at [scox@capitalav.com](mailto:scox@capitalav.com) or call 703.675.0702.*

**5 Aug** – Guinea Station, “Stonewall’s Final Battle: Jackson Shrine by Candlelight”. A team of historians led by Frank O’Reilly, present the story of Jackson’s death. Tours 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 P.M. Info: [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**6-7 Aug** – Culpeper, “Battle of Cedar Mountain Commemoration” with events by the UDC, Friends of CMB, Brandy Rifles Camp SCV, Order of Confederate Gray, 4<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry and others with demonstrations and skirmish plus a 1 hour walking tour of the battlefield by Virginia Morton, author of *Marching Through Culpeper*. Info: 540.825.1038

**6-7 Aug** – “Frederick During the Civil War”. A living history encampment and special interpretive programs at Monocacy National Battlefield bring to life that period of occupation. Info: [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono)

**6-7 Aug** – Harpers Ferry, “I Will Follow Them to the Death: Sheridan’s Soldiers 1864” living history. Info: [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe)

**12 Aug** – Fredericksburg, “Where Valor Sleeps: Fredericksburg’s National Cemetery”. A provocative look at the Cemetery’s development and those buried there, using all new research by historian Donald Pfanz. Meet at the Battlefield Visitor Center 7 P.M. Info: [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**13 Aug** – Brandy Station, “Kelly’s Ford & Stevensburg” two hour tour leaves from the Graffiti House at 10:00 A.M. Info: Gary Wilson at 540.547.4106 or [bsfjune91863@aol.com](mailto:bsfjune91863@aol.com). \$5 donation.

**13-14 Aug** – Harpers Ferry, “A Soldier’s City: Harpers Ferry 1864. Info: [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe)

**27 Aug** – Brandy Station, “Fleetwood Hill” two hour tour leaves from the Graffiti House at 10:00 A.M. Info: Gary Wilson at 540.547.4106 or [bsfjune91863@aol.com](mailto:bsfjune91863@aol.com). \$5 donation.

**26-28 Aug** – Manassas, “Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas” anniversary weekend with living history and special talks. Info: [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**29-30 Aug** – Manassas, “2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas Anniversary Tour with Ed Bearss” includes Brawner Farm, Unfinished Railroad Cut, and Chinn Ridge. Info: [info@fmbnp.org](mailto:info@fmbnp.org) or Harvey Simon at 703.670.3277. Cost \$225 includes tour, snacks, refreshments, lunch, buffet dinner with James Lighthizer, Pres. CWPT and BBQ.

**4 Sept** – Boonsboro area, “Death of a Brigade, The Afternoon Battle” will explore Turner’s Gap and Fox’s Gap of the South Mountain Battlefield. Begins at Turner’s Gap (Alt. Rte 40). Info: 301.432.8065

**10 Sept** – Brandy Station, “Fleetwood Hill” two hour tour leaves from the Graffiti House at 10:00 A.M. Info: Gary Wilson at 540.547.4106 or [bsfjune91863@aol.com](mailto:bsfjune91863@aol.com). \$5 donation.

**16-18 Sept** – Winchester, “The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Winchester Anniversary” with activities throughout the Winchester area. Info: [www.winchesterva.com](http://www.winchesterva.com) or 800.662.1360.

**16-18 Sept** – Sharpsburg, “Anniversary Weekend at Antietam National Battlefield Park” with special hikes and lectures. Info: [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti)

**17-18 Sept** – Woodbridge, “Anniversary of Freestone Battery”, the Confederacy’s northernmost artillery battery that helped blockade the Potomac River in 1861. Info: Leesylvania State Park at 703.583.6904

**24 Sept** – Brandy Station, “Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge” two hour tour leaves from the Graffiti House at 10:00 A.M. Info: Gary Wilson at 540.547.4106 or [bsfjune91863@aol.com](mailto:bsfjune91863@aol.com). \$5 donation.

**8 Oct** – Fairfax, “25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Mosby Civil War Bus Tour” with Don Hakenson and Gregg Dudding visiting Monocacy Aqueduct, Rowers Ford, Seneca Mills, Poolesville, Whites Form. Info: 703.971.4984. \$40

**1-2 Oct** – New Orleans, “Reconstruction & Reunion” featuring Dr. George Rable and Dr. William Piston sponsored by The Longstreet Society. Info: [www.longstreet.org](http://www.longstreet.org)

**7-9 Oct** – Middleburg, “8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War: The Generals and Their Presidents” with Craig Symonds, Emory Thomas, Gary Ecelbarger, Robert K. Krick, Robert E. L. Krick and others. Info: [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org)

**Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr.**

**‘The Glories of War:  
Small Battles and Early  
Heroes of 1861’**

Our guest speaker for our monthly meeting on 8 September 2005 will be one of “Northern Virginia’s Own,” historian Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr. Both he and his wife Betty are descended from ancestors who settled in northern Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War. They reside, appropriately enough, on Poland Road in Chantilly.

Dr. Poland is the author of three books and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the Civil War, including field trip courses to all battle sites in the Eastern Theater. Round Table member E. B. Vandiver is a veteran of several decades of Dr. Poland’s tours and he will confirm that he has truly visited all battle sites in the region.

As a professor of history at Northern Virginia Community College and the founder and director of that institution’s Civil War Mobile Museum, Dr. Poland visits colleges, schools and civic groups, and makes presentations on the material contained in the museum. He has spoken to numerous Civil War Round tables, including the BRCWRT, and various historical societies.

“The Glories of War” focuses on the Union invasion of Virginia in 1861 from four directions. It is the first study on the four invasion corridors into Virginia. These Union incursions produced small battles, meeting engagements and skirmishes, as well as widely celebrated heroes. Major themes of Dr. Poland’s book include the romanticized visions of war by the combatants, as well as subsequent disillusionment.

Campaigning in the rugged terrain of western Virginia had that effect on soldiers. In fact, Dr. Poland placed special emphasis on military activity in that region, a.k.a. West Virginia. His extensive use of material from Confederate and Union newspapers and previously unused sources

***An Update on the Possible  
Sale of Historic Salona Land***

An article appeared in a recent issue of the *Stone Wall* about the potential sale of about 40 acres of McLean’s historic Salona property to Fairfax County. The owners of Salona, the Duval family, proposed selling the land to the county for about \$15 million, reportedly well under its assessed commercial value.

At this point, negotiations continue between the Duval family and the county. Neither party, the Board of Supervisors nor the Duval family, is saying anything about the discussions, but reportedly the county has made an offer of some sort to the Duvals, presumably to buy the land. The Duval family is reviewing the offer.

There has been some talk around McLean that the county will use some of that land for athletic fields should the sale go through. Considering the historic background of Salona, we can only hope that some effort will be made by the county to use some of the land for historic interpretation.

—Submitted by Mike Shannon

**Bristoe Station Sites Tour Pending**

Details of a proposed tour of Bristoe Station Campaign sites will come under discussion at the general membership meeting on 11 August. To make suggestions or gain further information contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371.

enabled Dr. Poland to present fresh information and perspectives to the reader. The text is supplemented by numerous maps that portray strategic situations and also the tactical details of specific military actions.

Join us on 8 September for Dr. Poland’s presentation on his book, “The Glories of War.” I am confident that it will be as well received as his previous superb talk to the BRCWRT on “Reconstruction” in northern Virginia. .

# A Tribute to Pohanka

[Continued from Page 1]

A resident of Alexandria, Va., Brian was probably the most recognizable symbol of Civil War history and preservation among the country's legions of Civil War buffs and re-enactors. Clad in Union blue or Zouaves red, Brian's presence at a ceremony, public hearing or reenactment event was always highlighted by his eloquent words or remarks on the Civil War and preservation, whether pronounced from the podium, the campfire or the battlefield.

I write this as a friend and associate of Brian's in the Chantilly Battlefield Association, an ad hoc preservation group formed in early 1987 at the suggestion of our colleague, Bud Hall, in an attempt to salvage something at Ox Hill. Brian's historical background, and particularly his work on the Time/Life Civil War series, brought instant legitimacy to our efforts. And Brian's research and knowledge of obscure Chantilly and Ox Hill battle accounts and maps put county officials on notice that a serious blunder had been made in squandering and destroying nearly all of the county's most important Civil War historic site.

In the aftermath of the Chantilly fiasco, Donald Pfanz, then a historian at Petersburg National Battlefield contacted Brian and proposed forming a private organization to try to head off the destruction of other Civil War sites. This was exactly what Brian had in mind, and as a result, the two organized a meeting of Civil War buffs, historians and preservationists that resulted in the formation of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the first nationwide Civil War battlefield preservation organization and a predecessor of today's Civil War Preservation Trust.

The list of preservation groups and boards that Brian helped to found, served on, or supported over the years is a testament to his passion for history and preservation, and no words of mine could ever do justice to his many contributions. But I can say this: Brian found time, amongst all his other endeavors, to play a crucial role in our effort to preserve something at Ox Hill,

and not only to enlarge the park and move it toward completion, but to prod the county to save other sites as well. Brian was our official historian, our rock of Civil War information whose presence at any meeting, or signed name at the bottom of the page, proved the worthiness of our cause.

Probably nothing better illustrates the seriousness and purpose of Brian's commitment to preservation than his memorable address on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chantilly/Ox Hill battle, September 1, 1987. Standing beside the Kearny and Stevens monuments and only a few feet from a huge gash in the earth scraped by monster earth moving machines, these are Brian Pohanka's heartfelt and emotional words, as he spoke them, delivered to the assembled crowd:

are Brian Pohanka's heartfelt and emotional words, as he spoke them, delivered to the assembled crowd:

*"...and this is a field that I think means a very great deal to all of us here today. I first stood here by these markers two decades ago as a very, very young teenager, and I've come back many times over the years. And as I stand here today, I feel some very conflicting emotions. I feel satisfaction---satisfaction that those of us for whom the name Ox Hill or Chantilly, and those for whom the sacrifice of these soldiers of the Union and the Confederacy means a great deal---that we were able to accomplish something here; that we were able to preserve this site on which we now stand, the site where Gen. Isaac Stevens fell with the flag of the Union in his hands, and the site where twelve hundred men bled for their beliefs.*

*But I feel other emotions as well, and those are sadness and shame. I feel a sense of sadness because so much of this field has been lost, and not only lost, but destroyed. And I feel a sense of shame because though I cared about this place, and came here often, my efforts and the efforts of those who shared my feelings about this place were less than what they should have been. We should have begun this fight earlier, and we should have waged it with the intensity that we waged it in the last year and a half, a decade ago, or five years ago even.*

See page 11

# Memorial Service

[Continued from Page 4]

another fallen member of the 5th New York — Brian Pohanka.

For the record, the sequence of events for Brian's service was as follows:

\_\_\_ Honor Guard, Co. A, 5th New York. Final respects.

\_\_\_ Pledge of Allegiance. All present.

\_\_\_ Prayer: Ernie Packer, Co. A, 5th New York.

\_\_\_ Opening Remarks: Steve Thompson, President, Co. A, 5th New York.

Remarks by various individuals:

**Patrick Schroeder:** Historian, Appomattox Court House Nat'l Historical Park (also Historian of 5th NY).

**Terry Daley:** Col., Co. A, 5th NY

**Michael Kraus:** Capt., 116th PA (Irish Brigade). He commented on Brian's intellect and his commitment to research and preservation. Further, he stated that Brian "had the ability to transport you to the Civil War scene." He added that Brian was a stickler for historical accuracy and credited him for saving the movie "Gettysburg." Overnight, Brian wrote and turned in over 100 pages of corrections to the movie director, who acted positively on many of Brian's recommendations. Michael Kraus also related anecdotes regarding Brian's work on the movie "Cold Mountain," with the Romanian Army.

**James Lighthizer:** President, the Civil War Preservation Trust. He said Brian did many things that went unrecognized. Brian edited many books for which he received no credit. Brian was a co-founder of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War sites (now the Civil War Preservation Trust) which to date has saved more than 23,000 acres of Civil War battlefields. Also, he added that Brian quietly contributed significant amounts of money to the CWPT. Lighthizer commented that Brian recognized how important it is to be able to walk the actual land where battles occurred to fully appreciate what happened and why.

**William Gwaltney:** 1st Sgt., Co. B, 54th Massachusetts. He flew in from Denver to attend. His comments centered around Brian's role in training the

Black reenactors of Co. B, 54th MA, for the movie he called "The Price of Glory" and not "Glory." Gwaltney said Brian fully recognized the importance of Black troops in the Civil War. Therefore, as a military advisor for the movie, Brian did everything to assure that the 46 participants of Co. B, 54th MA, were thoroughly trained. He said Brian trained them to near perfection. Gwaltney said the other unit in the movie, Co. A, 54th MA, was in contrast not well motivated. He added that Brian was held in high regard by Black reenactors and that "we accepted him into the Afro-American community."

The last speaker was Brian Pohanka's father.

**John Pohanka:** After seeing the large crowd and listening to the heartfelt tributes to his departed son, he began by saying, "Wow!" He was visibly touched. Thoroughly in control of his emotions, Pohanka spoke of Brian's love of writing. With fatherly pride, he added that "Brian was the master of the sound bite." Anyone who watched Brian on the A&E History Channel presentation of *Civil War Journal* would agree with his father's assessment. He fondly recalled how often as he traveled across the country he was asked whether he was related to Brian, "that Civil War guy." Pohanka also shared with those present the touching eulogy made by Brian in March 1987 for his departed mother, Jean Pohanka. In turn, John Pohanka's final tribute to his son was magnificent.

The ceremony ended with brief comments by **Steve Thompson**. Clearly Brian Pohanka was an individual of rare merit whose talents and human decency were recognized by many people. He made a difference! "Requiescat in pace, Brian Pohanka."

Lastly, I want to recognize those BRCWRT members whom I spotted at the service. I'm sure there were others I did not see. Sorry if I did not include you in this list:

Nancy Anwyll, A.C. Baird, Mike Duggan, Bob Ford, Bob Hickey, John McAnaw, Bev Regeimbal, Fred Schmidtman, Harvey Simon, Claudette Ward and Ed Wenzel. Thank you all for coming to the service and honoring an old friend of our Round Table.



# THE BOOK CORNER

By Ralph G. Swanson

Are you reenacting yet?

“Today reenacting has come of age. The reenactments of the 1960s, with their amateurish uniforms and untrained volunteers, are a thing of the past. The 125th Anniversary battle series between 1986 and 1990 proved that living history had evolved from light-hearted weekends to professionally performed events.”

These words summarize the theme of William C. Davis’ recent book, *The Civil War Reenactors’ Encyclopedia* (The Lyons Press, 2002, \$35.00).

From its birth in the earliest days of the North-South Skirmish Association in 1950, reenacting has matured, and Davis’ book is the introduction and manual for prospective recruits. For those of us who are merely spectators, it is a glimpse into the serious and utterly professional nature of reenacting today.

Davis edits five comprehensive chapters: “Reenacting the War Between the States,” by W.C. Smith III; “Uniforms, Weapons and Equipment,” “Equipment of the Federal Forces,” and “Equipment of the Confederate Forces,” by Russ A. Pritchard, and finally, “The Battles,” by Davis himself.

**These chapters are packed** with useful information and encouragement to those interested in reenacting but unsure of the terrain ahead. Davis offers many resources such as publications and web sites that cater to the reenactor. Most importantly, the Smith chapter contains sobering guidance for the beginners on training and safety. In short, any reenacting group worth your commitment should require special training for all new recruits and display a constant emphasis on unit safety. Incidentally, don’t show up at the first meeting in a major’s uniform and expect to join right in. As in the real army, recruits start as privates and work their way up the ranks with commitment to authenticity and dedicated service to the unit.

The heft in this book is, however, to be found in the chapters on uniforms and equipment. Getting these things right--for the unit--is the heart and the art of reenacting. It also, no doubt, fuels unending skirmishing among the “purists” in any reenacting unit.

Photos of weapons, uniforms and accouterments, including such minutia as badges, decorations and insignia, are from well known museum collections and are presented in fascinating detail.

Coats, jackets and pants, often both front and back views, are, in many cases, laid open to show linings (fabric and colors), stitching and button layouts. These are vitally important matters for reenactors wishing to present an authentic interpretation. So few of these uniform parts, particularly shoes, trousers and caps, have survived that these remaining museum specimens are virtually our only primary source materials. Unfortunately, a few glaring errors in labeling, and the occasional description of an item not pictured, distract from this otherwise fine effort.

**Davis’ chapter on battles** provides general overviews of only the main encounters. Maps, too, are basic, but will allow planners to improve the accuracy of their reenactments.

The artwork of Jeff Burn will be familiar to readers of other Salamander and Gallery Book publications. His work is the best presentation of uniforms and accouterments in the proper context (ie., on a fully equipped soldier) and will help officers, enlisted, and even cavalymen to dress themselves properly.

I, personally, do not participate in reenacting, choosing to study the Civil War through books, tours and museum visits (and, of course, the round table). However, I support reenacting with my entrance fees and enthusiastic cheering. I congratulate those who devote so much of their time, effort and money to presenting a display that will thrill an audience, create an “in the moment” experience for themselves, and convey just a bit of the authenticity (spelled h-o-r-r-o-r) of that late, great unpleasantness.

Make an effort to visit a major reenactment this summer. Do not fail to visit the camps and talk to the sutlers and soldiers about equipment and army life. The “most authentic soldier” competitions are especially enjoyable. Here are those few who have made the extreme effort to present an utterly authentic interpretation, including their speech and personal toilet. Most are carrying original weapons, authentic equipment, carte de visits, Bibles, currency and other contemporary items in their haversacks and blanket rolls. Many have adopted the personae of a real Civil War soldier from their unit or hometown based on extensive biographical research. The really dedicated will not break character, even outside the competition (“Whar y’ frum, boah?”). These soldiers are truly “living history museums.” Davis’ book is for them, and for us all.

Until next time, keep reading!



**MAPPING THE TOUR** —Leader Kevin Anastas tells Spotsylvania BRCWRT members and guests what they can expect during the Spotsylvania Battlefield tour which took place on June 18.

### After Action Report

## 29 Members and Guests Absorb History on Visit To Spotsylvania Sites

By KEVIN ANASTAS, Tour Leader

On Saturday 18 June the BRCWRT conducted our spring tour to Spotsylvania C.H. We had 29 people participate in the all day tour. The weather was perfect and we had a wonderful day touring the battlefield.

The group assembled at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center at 0900 and after a short overview of the plan for the day we headed for the first stop. We followed the route taken by G.K. Warren's 5th Corps on 7 May 1864 along the Brock Road to Todd's Tavern. From there we moved to the Spotsylvania Battlefield exhibit shelter to begin our visit to the main battlefield.

We walked the Spindle Field loop and discussed the race to Laurel Hill. We then covered the death of Sedgwick on 9 May and Upton's attack on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

We took a break from the hard marching and had a picnic lunch near the Bloody Angle parking area.

After lunch we hit the trail again and walked to the Landrum House where we discussed Hancock's approach for his all-out attack on 12 May.

We then walked in the footsteps of the 2nd Corps as they assaulted the Mule Shoe. We continued the Federal attack until it culminated near the McCoull House in the center of the Confederate position. From there we followed the route of Ramseur's counterattack and spent some time discussing the 20-hour close quarters fight at the Bloody Angle. A Park Ranger briefed the group on the disposition of the famous 22-inch oak.

The last portion of the tour took us to Lee's last line where we observed some reconstructed fortifications and some well preserved earthworks in the woods. Our final stop was Masaponax Church, site of the famous photograph of Grant's impromptu staff meeting on 21 May during his march to the North Anna.

I would like to thank everyone who hiked with us on the tour — Keith Young says we walked seven miles. Special thanks to Mark Labeda for sharing his Blue and Gray magazines with me and to Nancy Anwyll for bringing the name tags. **Thanks to Charlie Balch for the pictures.** Overall we had perfect weather, no casualties and came in on time and under budget once again.

Reserve your calendars now for the fall tour to the site of the naval battle of Hampton Roads scheduled for 10 September 2005!

Members and guests of the BRCWRT taking the tour were Kevin Anastas, Nancy Anwyll, Charlie Balch, Dom Bumbaca, Effie Bumbaca, Sandra Cox, John DePue, William Freels, Janet Greentree, Ken Jones, Andy Kapfer, Harlan Lenius, Sharon Lenius, Lyle Lovall.

Also Dan Lundeen, Curtis Myers, Dale Maschino, Rose Nelson, Bud Porter, Phil Pruna, Bev Regeimbal, Mike Rumsey, Fred Schmidtman, Mike Shannon, Paul Thorbjornsen, Jean Turrentine, Michael Virts, Ed Wenzel and Keith Young.

## Death Claims Famed Civil War Historian

### Shelby Foote at 88

A Tribute by NANCY ANWYLL

Shelby Foote, the author of a trilogy on the Civil War that was classified by the Modern Library as one of the 100 most important works of nonfiction in the 20th century, died June 27 in Memphis, Tennessee at the age of 88.

His Civil War books, written in a narrative style and with no footnotes, made the Civil War come alive for its readers. Composing with pen and ink, taking time out to research by visiting battlefields as well as libraries, he finished the three volumes in 20 years -- a considerable part of Foote's life.

Most of us in the Civil War community not only remember Shelby Foote for that great trilogy, *The Civil War: A Narrative*, but also for his earlier work of fiction on Shiloh. We also watched his 89 cameo appearances on the 1990 Ken Burns' Civil War PBS series.

The sales of his books soared after those TV appearances, and he soon found himself in demand to speak on numerous occasions. Not relishing the limelight, he turned down as many invitations as he could.

He soon had to come to grips with the rising number of letters that arrived at his Memphis home. A *NY Times* writer, Douglas Martin, said that Foote used Ulysses S. Grant as a role model who once was faced with the same problem. When someone asked Grant if he got lots of mail, Grant replied "Not nearly so much as I did when I answered it all." Foote did the same and merely stopped answering his fan mail.

Foote spent his last years with his wife Gwyn - probably feeling satisfied that he had out-flanked the enemy on his way, not to the Wilderness or to Richmond, but to the end of an interesting and quiet life - a life in itself that is worthy of a book.

He was a great writer and will be missed.

## A Tribute to Pohanka

[Continued from Page 7]

*As we lose these fields, we lose much more than land. We lose a big piece of America, and we lose some of the ideals that make this country what it is; and these ideals that are deathless ideals and that I hope and I pray are still with us---for all the talk you hear about children and even high school and college students not knowing which half of the nineteenth century the Civil War occurred in. And I know we still have these ideals, as a nation and as a people.*

*But I shudder to think that ideals that are ignoble and self centered, misdirected at best, evil at worst, are cheating future generations of what Joshua Chamberlain talked about at Gettysburg. And I sincerely hope, as a Civil War buff, as a historian, and as an American, that all of you who care stand together and fight, as we should have fought a decade ago, to save these fields which even as we stand here are threatened, and even as we stand here, are being destroyed.*

*And so I urge all of you to do what you can to preserve not only the historic sites in this county, and not only the historic sites in this state, but those fields throughout this country where these brave men gave their lives, because I think were they to see the fate of this ground they too would be ashamed. Let this place, let Chantilly, Ox Hill be a rallying cry for all of us who care so that this doesn't happen again."*

Thank you Brian for your friendship, for your inspiration, and for your selfless contributions to the preservation of our Civil War heritage. Rest in peace, and know that we continue the fight.

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

The Stone Wall  
P.O. Box 2147  
Centreville, VA 20122

**2005 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—\$15.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.

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 mail it to:

**Mark Knowles, Treasurer  
169 Applegate Drive  
Sterling, VA 20164**

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