



**WILLIAM B. STYPLE  
"GENERALS IN BRONZE:  
INTERVIEWING THE COMMANDERS  
OF THE CIVIL WAR"**

By John McAnaw

British Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell made the following observation during World War II: "Do not let yourself be trammelled by the bonds of orthodoxy. Always think for yourself. And... remember the herd is usually wrong."

Do we students of the Civil War suffer from conventional wisdom when it comes to our assessments of military and civilian leaders and interpretations of events of that conflict? If you are interested in newly uncovered information that will change what you think about leaders and events of that war, then attend our meeting on 13 October and listen to the presentation of our guest speaker – Bill Style. He will speak about his recently published book, "Generals in Bronze." Trust me; his talk will be an eye opener.

Bill Style was born and raised in Kearny N.J. He runs a business in his hometown where he is also the town historian. A graduate of Catawba College, Bill has been a student of the Civil War since he was a youngster. He has authored, co-authored and edited a number of books on the American Civil War. These include

1. *The Little Bugler* (1999). He was awarded the Young Readers Award by the Civil War Round Table of New York for authoring this book.
2. *Writing and Fighting the Civil War: Soldier Correspondence to the New York Sunday Mercury* (2000)
3. *Writing and Fighting the Confederate War: The Letters of Peter Wellington Alexander, Confederate War Correspondent* (2002)
4. *Writing and Fighting the Civil War: Correspondents in the Army of Northern Virginia* (2004)

**See STYPLE, Page 7**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**13 OCTOBER 2005**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**William B. Style**

**SUBJECT:**

**Generals in Bronze:**

**[Book Signing]**

**Ox Hill Planning Now In High Gear; But Problems Crop Up**

By Ed Wenzel

After a summer of little activity, the Fairfax County Park Authority's Ox Hill Battlefield Interpretive Planning Team is now working at a vastly quickened pace to produce an Interpretive Plan by this winter. The plan will blend with the site plan now being finalized by the engineering firm, SWSG, of Reston, Virginia.

Leading the project for the Park Authority is Michael Rierson, Manager, Resource Stewardship Branch. The Interpretive Team members include Mike Henry, team leader and Manager of Colvin Run Mill, Elizabeth Crowell, Cultural Resources Protection Manager, Matt Devor, Area 5 Groundskeeper, and the writer. Also, Bill Justice, NPS Chief of Interpretation, C&O National Historical Park, met with the team in September and offered much appreciated advice on interpreting Ox Hill and meeting the challenges of this park.

Thus far, a covered "kiosk" containing three panels has been recommended. The panels include 1) An introduction to the battlefield with a

**See PROBLEMS, Page 8**

**Save the Date!!**

You are cordially invited to  
**Fairfax County's First Annual History Conference**  
*"People, Places & Preservation"*

**Featuring:** \* Ron Maxwell, Feature Film Maker of epic  
 Civil War motion pictures, "Gettysburg" &  
 " Gods & Generals"

\* Panel of Presenters: Jean Federico, Director, Historic  
 Alexandria, and others TBA;

\* Group Discussions to address current issues

**\*\*Hear of history groups' plans for 2005-2006! \*\***

**\*\*Network and learn of more historical places in the  
 county! \*\***

**\*\*Address preservation issues with a collective voice! \*\***

**When: Saturday, November 12, 2005 9:00 – 4:00**

**Where: Ellmore Farm Center, Frying Pan Park, 2739  
 West Ox Rd., Herndon, VA**

**Price: \$10.00 includes catered lunch; all tax-deductible  
 proceeds go to the FCHC for this & future conferences**

**(payable in advance-attendance limited to first 100)**

*please make checks payable to:*

**"FCPA, History Conference"**

Send check(s) to:

**Michael C. Rierson, Resource Mgmt. Division, FCPA,  
 12055 Gov't. Ctr. Pkwy., Suite 936, Fairfax, VA  
 22035-1118**

Historical groups are invited to bring displays,

For details call Yvonne Johnson, FCPA (703) 437-9101

**RSVP: By October 15, 2005 to:**

Lynne Garvey Wark, [lghassoc@erols.com](mailto:lghassoc@erols.com) or  
 (703) 322-1811

Sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission &  
 Architectural Review Brd, Fairfax County Park Authority,  
 Fairfax City Museum & Visitor Center

**In This Issue**

<b>Bill Stycle To Speak</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Ox Hill Planning</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>The President's Column</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>CW Trails Signs Dedication</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>BRCWRT Baltimore Tour</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Ball's Bluff After Action</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Hotchkiss Maps</b>	<b>Page 7</b>

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
 Executive Committee**

**President:** John McAnaw— [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

**The Bull Run Civil War Round Table** publishes  
*The Stone Wall.*

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandra Cox  
 scox@capitalav.com [703.675.0702]

**Newsletter Team:**  
 Nancy Anwyll, Ken Jones, Dale Maschino, and  
 Photographer Janet Greentree

**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>

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**For November 2005 Issue**

**Handwritten Articles—Noon Tuesday, Oct. 25**

**Fax to Stone Wall Editor at 703.913.9896**

**E-mail Articles — 9 A.M. Monday, Oct. 31**

**E-mail to [scox@capitalav.com](mailto:scox@capitalav.com)**

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article  
 by Oct. 31, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or  
 703.913.9890 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by  
 company software.

## The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

To begin, I want to thank Ed Essertier for the superb job he has done as the editor of our newsletter. Ed is in the process of relocating to Culpeper and at the age of 84 has decided to stand down as editor. I have known Ed for many years. He is an individual of rare merit and many accomplishments. A graduate of Princeton, Ed served with distinction during World War II. Following military service, he had a distinguished career as the editor of a well-known Pasadena, CA newspaper (seven editions per day). This was followed by another successful career in Washington, D.C. with the Department of Interior. Although his new home is in Culpeper, he will continue to be active in my VFW Post in Fairfax Station. Consequently, I won't say goodbye to Ed. Rather, on behalf of the members of the BRCWRT, I want to extend our gratitude and best wishes to a very remarkable Veteran. **Again, Ed, thank you.**

Executive Committee member Sandra Cox is, effective this issue, the new editor of the Stone Wall. Please give her your wholehearted support.

Beginning in October 2005, we are kicking off our **2006 Membership Campaign**. With your help, there is no cogent reason why we cannot again reach 100% of our membership goal. Due to member support of our activities, dues will remain the same as they have been for the past fourteen plus years. According to Ed Bearss, we have the second cheapest dues of any Civil War Round Table in the U.S.A.

I strongly urge all members to attend our monthly meeting on 13 October for **Bill Styple's presentation, "Generals in Bronze."** His book provides a fresh look at the many personages and events of the Civil War. You will enjoy his talk.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming tours to the **Tidewater on 15 October** and to **Baltimore and Fort McHenry on 12 November**. As I mentioned at our last monthly meeting, the Bristow Station Campaign tour has been postponed until early next spring.

**Gerald Connolly, the Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**, is dead serious about Civil War tourism. On 6 August 2005 he and I spent four hours, on foot, covering all Civil War sites within and near the proposed boundaries of an expanded Centreville Historic Overlay District. A follow-up tour to other

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

10 November

**GUEST SPEAKER: BUD HALL**

**SUBJECT: Sabres Across the Rappahannock:  
The Battle of Brandy Station 9 June 1863**

\* \* \* \*

8 DECEMBER

**GUEST SPEAKER: STEVAN F. MESERVE**

**SUBJECT: The Hidden Battles of Gettysburg:  
The Campaign Begins**

significant Civil War sites, scheduled for 25 August, was canceled due to a foot injury suffered by the Chairman. His interest in the County's Civil War heritage is quite evident.

An example of that interest is the progress, since February 2005, regarding the funding for and the interpretation of the **Ox Hill Battlefield Park**. Thanks to numerous recent newspaper articles there is increased interest in the County's Civil War sites, along with heightened concern regarding the commitment of certain politicians and developers to the preservation of these sites.

Lastly, the annual **BRCWRT elections of officers** will be on 8 December. If you are interested in running for office, contact the chairman of the nominating committee John DePue at 703-791-3389 or at the monthly meeting on 13 October.

### JOIN US AT THE LONE STAR

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early for dinner? Join the BRCWRT board and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star located in Centreville Square near the library. **Space is limited so RSVP** to Nancy Anwyll ([nanwyll@patriot.net](mailto:nanwyll@patriot.net) or 703.866.2230) no later than Tuesday before each meeting.

Of course, it's always Dutch treat for the 'cheap and the proud'!



## GREENWICH & EWELL'S CHAPEL CIVIL WAR TRAIL SIGNS DEDICATION OCT 14



Mark Trbovich, a volunteer with Prince William County (PWC) Historic Preservation, searches for and writes Virginia Civil War Trail signs in the county. This month PWC will be dedicating two Virginia Civil War Trail signs on Friday, October 14. The ceremony for both signs will take place at 10 A.M. at Greenwich Presbyterian Church, 15305 Vint Hill Road, in the historic village of Greenwich. The church is located in a beautiful setting at the corner of Burwell Road and Vint Hill Road. All BRCWRT members and guests are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 11 to 703.792.4754. The church will be open for tours following the ceremony.

"For the past five years," says Mark, "I have been blessed to be a member of the BRCWRT and receive such great support to be able to dedicate signs at Blackburn Ford, Bull Rull Railroad Bridge (at the Connor House), Haymarket Museum and now Greenwich, Va." While Mark was able to get PWC to fund the Greenwich, Va. sign, Jim Burgess, Vice-Chairman PWC Historical Commission, received funding and wrote the Ewell's Chapel sign.

**GREENWICH, VA Civil War Trails Sign** – Greenwich Presbyterian Church stood throughout the Civil War in a very busy frontline area occupied by both sides. When the Federal Army attempted to seize the church for a hospital, Thomas Green, owner and British citizen objected, claiming that a clause in the deed provided that the land would revert back to him if religious use ceased, thereby making it English property. The church was thus the only one not damaged by Federal forces. Thomas Green owned the house adjacent to the church, a Tudor-style home called, The Lawn. Both of these sites are registered as Historic Landmarks in Prince William County. Bradford Hoskins, a British soldier who rode with Mosby and was wounded at nearby Grapewood Farm on May 30, 1863, is buried in the cemetery and is also mentioned on the sign. Very unique how British citizen Green cared for wounded British soldier Hoskins at The Lawn for a week until his death in such a 'foreign' land for both of them.

On the morning of October 14, 1863, the day of the Battle of Bristoe Station, Federal troops hastily retreated southward from Greenwich pressed by advancing Confederate troops commanded by Gen. A. P. Hill and Gen. R. S. Ewell coming from the Warrenton/Auburn area. Hill's and Ewell's troops converged on Greenwich but took different routes in pursuit of Union forces toward Bristoe Station.

Hill's troops took (today's) Vint Hill Road, and Ewell's troops took the route past his childhood home, Stony Lonesome, southwest from Greenwich pressed by advancing Confederate troops of Hill's troops. Gen. Hill's troops were already engaged with Gen. Warren's Second Corps at Bristoe Station before Gen. Ewell (with Gen. Lee accompanying) could arrive to help Hill's badly defeated army.

The sign also points out that Federal Generals Reno and Kearny's troops were stationed in Greenwich August 27, 1862 before moving towards Bristoe Station and Manassas Junction on August 28 to catch Stonewall Jackson's troops after his August 27 raid. The Federals did not find Jackson on the 28<sup>th</sup> because he had already moved his troops to Stony Ridge on the Manassas battlefield after midnight on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**EWELL'S CHAPEL Civil War Sign** – Located right off Route 15 and Loudoun Drive in Prince William County near the Loudoun County line, Ewell's Chapel was the site of a Federal ambush and trap set for Confederate Major John S. Mosby and his rangers. Acting on reliable intelligence on June 22, 1863 and orders from General Meade, the 17<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry hid in the rear of Ewell's Chapel and a farm lane waiting for the approaching Mosby troopers. Poorly directed fire from the Federals gave the elusive Mosby and his men a chance to scatter and escape. Mosby's men suffered only three wounded. One Federal soldier with the 17<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry was allegedly shot by Mosby himself and is buried near the chapel. The sign also contains information about Dunblane, home of Dr. Jesse Ewell, Gen. Richard Ewell's cousin. At 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas Gen. Ewell suffered a bullet wound to his left knee at Brawner's Farm on August 28, 1862. His leg was amputated at Auburn, home of Aris Buckner, situated north of Bull Run in Loudoun County. Ewell was transferred to Dunblane to recuperate with his relatives until September 17 when Federal cavalry in the area caused concern for his safety, and he was evacuated south that day.

Jim Burgess shares a piece of trivia not on the Civil War Trails marker but may be of interest to BRCWRT members. John Ballard, one of the three men of Mosby's Command wounded at Ewell's Chapel on June 22, 1863, also lost a leg. After the war he owned much of the Ox Hill/Chantilly battlefield and graciously donated the land.

Thanks Mark and Jim for your continuing preservation efforts.

**RSVP FOR THE  
DEDICATION  
BY  
TUESDAY, OCT. 11**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*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 Dale Maschino at [fsainc@netzero.net](mailto:fsainc@netzero.net).*

**15 Oct** – Washington DC, "Courage" a living history walking tour in Washington. Explore the streets of the national capital. Meets at Cofi Coffee, 10<sup>th</sup> and "E" NW at 11 am. \$10 adults. 301-588-9255 or [www.historicstrolls.com](http://www.historicstrolls.com)

**15 Oct** – Manassas, battlefield hike. Ranger-led five-hour walk over the Second Manassas Battlefield. Begins at noon at the visitor center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**22 Oct** – Monocacy tours. Ranger-led, in-depth tours of the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, MD. Free. Details: 301-662-3515, or [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono).

**22 Oct** – Brandy Station, "Fleetwood Hill", two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10:00 am. At the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Rt. 29 north of Culpeper) Fee \$ 5 , 5 4 0 - 5 4 7 - 4 1 0 5 , o r [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

**22 Oct** – Manassas, Battlefield hike. Ranger-led five-hour walk over the First Manassas Battlefield. Begins at noon at the visitors center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339, or [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**23 Oct** – Petersburg bus tour. Ranger-led tour of "Petersburg's Western Front". Includes visits to Ft. Stedman, Dinwiddie Court House, Five Forks, and much more. Leaves from the Petersburg National Battlefield visitor's center 9:30am, returns 5:00 pm. Bring bag lunch, or purchase Sunday buffet on the tour. \$30 fee (does not include lunch). Reservations required 804-732-3531 ext. 206.

**23 Oct** – "Spotsylvania to the North Anna" field trip. Follow the route of the Union Army with numerous sites along the way including Guinea Station, Bethel Church, Bowling Green, Milford Station, and Mt. Carmel Church. Picnic at the North Anna Battlefield Park. Meet at director John Cummings' house just before 10:00 am. For more information visit the Spotsylvania Battlefield Education Assn. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**29 Oct** – Manassas Battlefield hike. Ranger-led five-hour walk over the Second Manassas Battlefield. Begins at noon at the visitors center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339, or [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**29-30 Oct** – Boonsboro , "Getting the message through". Signal corps activities with simultaneous demonstrations at Washington Monument State Park (South Mountain), near Boonsboro and the Antietam National Battlefield. 1 pm. Both days, free, 301-432-8065.

**5 Nov** – Arlington House. "The Election of 1860", rangers discuss the impact of Abraham Lincoln's election at Arlington House (in Arlington National Cemetery). Free. 703-235-1530, or [www.nps.gov/arho](http://www.nps.gov/arho)

**11 Nov** – Brandy Station, "Buford Knoll and Yew Ridge" two hour tour leaves from the Graffiti House at 10:00 am. \$5 Fee. Info: Gary Wilson at [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com) or 540.547.4106

### BRCWRT NEWPORT NEWS TOUR Saturday, October 15

Civil War Sites to be visited:

Fort Monroe  
Monitor-Virginia (Merrimac) Overlook  
Congress-Cumberland Overlook  
Mariner's Museum

To Sign Up Contact Kevin Anastas  
[kka2@cox.net](mailto:kka2@cox.net) or 703.266.1265

\* \* \* \*

### BRCWRT BALTIMORE TOUR Saturday, November 12

Civil War sites include:

President Street Train Station  
Route of 6<sup>th</sup> Mass. Inf. Regt. on  
April 19, 1861  
Federal Hill, site of Union entrenchments  
Fort McHenry

**More information in the  
November newsletter.**

## After Action Report



Photo by Janet Greentree

### BRCWRT Tour of Fort Evans and the Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Loudoun County, Virginia 13 August 2005

By John McAnaw

When we departed our assembly area at the Centreville Regional Library promptly at 7:40 a.m., the weather was already hot and humid. And it got hotter and more humid as the day progressed. Twenty-two stalwart members of the 40 who signed up participated in the tour. Thankfully everyone survived the oppressive weather conditions.

Our chief tour guide was James A. Morgan III who spoke to us two days earlier at our monthly meeting on his book - *A Little Short of Boats: The Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*.

Jim joined us at Fort Evans, a well-preserved Confederate fortification, when the tour began at 8:25 a.m. Before continuing, permit me to again put in a plug for his book. It is a first rate, objective account of the Ball's Bluff battle and the engagement at Edward's Ferry during the period 21-22 October 1861. His section on the walking/driving tour of the battlefield is also superb.

After touring Fort Evans, we motored to Ball's Bluff Regional Park, owned and managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The battlefield is within the boundaries of this park. For the remainder of the morning, we systematically visited all significant battlefield

sites except for "Mississippi Ridge". We completed the tour at noon, much to the relief of many participants. By then the thermometer was in the high 90's.

**Jim Morgan did an outstanding job as chief tour guide.** Not once during the 3:35 hour tour did he refer to notes or other reference material. He eloquently described the significance of the Ball's Bluff battle and how disastrous it was to the Union cause. About 1,700 Federal and 1,700 Confederate soldiers saw combat that day. Their losses were staggering:

	FEDERAL	CONFEDERATE
Killed/Drowned	230	
Killed		36
Wounded	158	117
Captured	553	2
Total	941	155

Worthy of note, on the date of our tour, the NVRPA had Confederate re-enactors from the 8<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry Regt. plus one artillery piece present. These individuals were knowledgeable and properly attired and equipped.

The following named individuals participated in the tour: Kevin Anastas, Charlie Balch, Gary Blevins, Dom Bumbaca, Effie Bumbaca, Harriett Condon, Norm Cooper, Sandra Cox, Tim Duskin, Phyllis Ford, George Evans, Janet Greentree, Ken Jones, Andy Kapfer, Mark Labeda, Dale Maschino, Harold Matthias, John McAnaw, Lois Montbertrand, Jim Morgan, Jack Nance, Chris Soester. Total 22



Photo by Janet Greentree

**Great Tour, Jim!**

## STYLE TO SPEAK

### [Continued from Page 1]

5. *What Death More Glorious: A Biography of BG Strong Vincent* (This book is a particular favorite of Ed Bearss.)

6. *Our Noble Blood: The Translated Civil War Letters of Philippe Regis de Trobiand*

The upcoming talk by Bill Style will mark the second time that he will speak to our Round Table. Almost one year previously (14 October 2004), Bill gave us a thoroughly informative and entertaining talk titled "Writing and Fighting the Civil War: Confederate and Union Soldier Correspondents plus the Letters of Peter Wellington Alexander, an Embedded Confederate Reporter." This presentation was an amalgam of his previously published books #2, #3, and #4. As many of you remember, his talk was very well received.

In late 2003, Bill Style began examining twenty-seven boxes of interviews, notes, letters, sketches, photographs and autobiographical information that belonged to a talented American illustrator and sculptor named James Edward Kelly. These boxes are the property of the New York Historical Society. Of note, the famous statue of MG John Buford at Gettysburg was done by him. Kelly was commissioned to depict in bronze forty Union generals of the Civil War. During the course of his work, he conducted innumerable post-war interviews with these commanders plus other prominent figures of that period. To quote Bill Style, "Never before had I read such extraordinarily enlightening interviews with the famed commanders of the Civil War."

Consequently Bill Style undertook the mission of editing Kelly's memoirs and transcribing almost two thousand pages of his handwritten notes. The result is Bill Style's book "Generals in Bronze." Without question, this book provides a significant amount of new information on such controversial events as Day Two at Gettysburg (2 July 1863), including the Council of War; the Meade-Sickles controversy; MG G.K Warren's Court of Inquiry; the MG Fitz-John Porter case; the Lincoln assassination and others.

Join us at 7:15 p.m., 13 October for what will be a memorable evening with a very talented historian.

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RELEASES HOTCHKISS MAPS

The Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division is pleased to announce the release of a new American Memory collection: "The Hotchkiss Map Collection: Confederate Army Maps"

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/maps/hotchkiss/>.

The Hotchkiss Map Collection contains cartographic items made by Major Jedediah Hotchkiss (1828-1899), a topographic engineer in the Confederate Army. Hotchkiss made detailed battle maps primarily of the Shenandoah Valley, some of which were used by the Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson for their combat planning and strategy. Several of the maps have annotations of various military officers, demonstrating their importance in the military campaigns. The collection also includes maps made or used by Hotchkiss during his post-war years, including maps with information about railroads, minerals and mining, geology and history, most of which focus on Virginia and West Virginia, but also cover other states and even the world.

The collection consists of 341 sketchbooks, manuscripts, and annotated printed maps, the originals of which reside in the Library of Congress' Geography and Map Division.

This online presentation includes all the materials in the Hotchkiss Map Collection, some of which also appear in the American Memory collection: "Civil War Maps, 1861-1865" [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil\\_war\\_maps/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/)

Please direct questions about this collection to the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-geogmap2.html>

FYI Source: The Scout Report -- September 16, 2005 -- HTML Version National Park Service: the American Civil War

<http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/>

The American Civil War remains a complex and interesting subject. The National Park Service continues to offer a host of introspective

See **HOTCHKISS MAPS, Page 9**

## BUT PROBLEMS CROP UP

### [Continued from Page 1]

brief narrative and reference to the trail on which the visitors will walk (300 words or less). 2) Map of the battlefield showing troop positions with a ghost image of today's modern development superimposed. 3) Information related to Civil War sites in Fairfax County, the Civil War Trails system, Second Manassas, South Mountain and Antietam battlefields, Civil War websites and sources for information on Ox Hill.

Also recommended are the following wayside markers: 1) Stevens' attack, 2) The battlefield of "Chantilly" -Then & Now (annotated 1907 photo), 3) Birney's attack, 4) Ordeal of Sgt. Fletcher, 5) Death of Kearny, 6) Death of Stevens, 7) John Ballard, the boulders, quartz stone and dedication of the Kearny/Stevens monuments, 8) Battle action east of the Ox Road.

In addition, subject matter has been identified for a number of markers north of Monument Drive, including 1) Trimble's Brigade and Capt. Brown, 2) Extra Billy Smith and the blue cotton umbrella, 3) Hay's Brigade and Col. Strong, plus several other markers including Gregg's, Thomas' and Branch's Brigades that might be located further west on Monument Drive.

That's the good news. But a number of problems have come up. First, because the writer is an amateur at interpreting, I came with a different view about how much information should be presented at the kiosk and on the various markers. For instance, I was in disbelief at the first meeting when informed that "museum science" and studies of tourists show that 50-200 words are the maximum number a visitor will read at any one time --- and with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade language level. I was told that people won't read more than that; that "eyes will glaze over". Accordingly, while the Park Authority expects serious students of the Civil War to visit the park, the presentation will be geared to a lower level and the amount of information limited.

I made the best case I could against limiting the presentation. I suggested that we not concern ourselves about people with little interest or short attention spans; that they have the right to quit reading whenever they want. Instead, I proposed that we tell a fuller story and direct it at people who care about history and heritage - the folks who saved the site in the first place - but so far I've not convinced anyone. The accepted wisdom is that history oriented people already have an

interest in the site and are knowledgeable, so it's the other folks at whom the interpretation will be aimed.

To give you an idea of what the word restrictions mean, consider that the existing Ox Hill Civil War Trails sign contains 261 words and presents only a barebones overview of the battle. Thus, the 300-word panel planned for the visitor kiosk will be a real challenge. Despite the fact that the park will have eight wayside markers addressing details of the battle, the kiosk panel must present a brief introduction, describe (or show with a map) how and why the troops arrived at Ox Hill, present a very short battle narrative; give the significance, results, and casualties as well as present information on the park's "trail" and contain large graphics! Obviously, a professional writer will have to distill the information into the necessary sound bites.

Second, the Park Authority requires a 5ft. wide, hard surface "trail", built to Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) specifications, so that the handicapped can tour the park. The trail will be a ¼ mile long, will be expensive, and will either be built of paving blocks or have a natural looking surface. SWSG's site plan shows the trail looping around the restored pasture to visit each wayside marker and monument. Because of the topography, the trail will have switchbacks where the grade exceeds a 1:20 slope. So along the cornfield fence, which is the most important interpretive feature in the park, (where the grade is 1:13), four prominent switchbacks are planned that will intrude into the historical scene. There, the trail will progress northeastward along the fence over a swath of ground 35 to 40 feet wide, switching back and forth as it climbs the slope. Able-bodied people, of course, will not follow the switchbacks and will walk straight up the fence line, so the intrusive switchbacks (which will look like the Burma Road) will almost never be used.

It's hard to imagine a handicapped history buff respecting the sacrifice there and yet demanding that this hard surfaced intrusion be put on the field for his or her personal benefit. If I were disabled, I would certainly repudiate that notion. But the Park Authority doesn't seem concerned. So my recommendation is that we search legal cases for previous rulings involving challenges to ADA regulations at historical sites. We should examine

See **PROBLEMS**, Page 9



## BUT PROBLEMS CROP UP

[Continued from Page 8]

every reasonable alternative and look for every exception to the rule in order to avoid marring this reconstructed historical vista with an inappropriate intrusion, however well intentioned. If you can imagine Manassas or Antietam having every marker, monument and sign connected by a paved "trail", then you'll understand what's planned at Ox Hill. Also, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's trail at Balls Bluff is not hard surfaced and not built to ADA standards, so why must the ADA override historical considerations at this park? I haven't an answer for that.

Third, (and you won't believe this) the Ox Hill Battlefield Park has been blessed with its own "rare and unusual" plant. Two hundred Pink Lady Slippers (orchids) were found by park staff just up the hill from the visitor kiosk site. They live underground in old pine forests and only come to the surface in the spring to bloom, then retreat underground for the rest of the year. Though not federally protected, the Park Authority is required by its mission statement to do just that. Fortunately, the area where these orchids grow will only affect one stretch of trail, causing its relocation around the habitat.

If you recall, a developer once had an option to put townhouses on that half of the park. When I commented that the builder would have bulldozed these little plants into oblivion were it not for the Civil War buffs who fought to save the land, I was told that a private developer could legally bulldoze them because of Virginia's strong property rights laws. But the Park Authority, being a county agency, must protect the plants. Too bad they aren't growing where the four switchbacks are planned.

## HOTCHKISS MAPS

[Continued from Page 7]

perspectives on this military conflict through their creative use of interpretative facilities located on a number of important historic sites across the country. This omnibus website provided by the National Park Service provides a number of thematic sections that include "Civil War Education", "Civil War Parks", and "African Americans in the Civil War". For those who may be less familiar with the basic events and chronology of the Civil War, there is a section titled "About the Civil War" which provides a detailed timeline of events, an area of stories about the Civil War, and information about the Sesquicentennial Initiative, which is designed to prepare for the events that will happen from 2011 to 2015. Taken together, this collection of materials will be of great interest both to educators and the general public.

Thanks to BRCWRT members Harlan & Sharon Lenius for sharing this website information.



## ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War.

Thank you!

---

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**The Stone Wall**

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

**2005 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — 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**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_