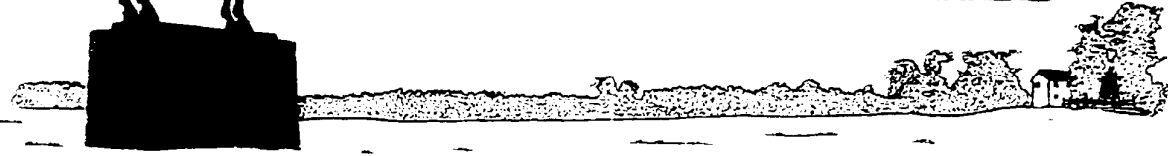




THE STONE WALL



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 951 • Manassas, Virginia, 22111

Our November Program

Thursday, November 14, 1991 ** 7 p.m. at Manassas National Battlefield Park

Just one short year ago, we were all transfixed by the War in the Persian Gulf. Each night on television we saw images of ruin and destruction in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Those pictures once again reminded us of the horror of war and the power and destructiveness of an invading army. How might our perceptions of these images help us understand our own history, particularly the Civil War?

At our November meeting, Ted Alexander of Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland, will speak on "The Great Invasion Reconsidered," a look at General Robert E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863, which culminated in the Battle of Gettysburg.

For generations, students have read and heard that Lee's army was courteous and well behaved in enemy territory -- a result of direct orders from General Lee. But how accurate is this portrayal of that army, which was, at the time, the most powerful and successful army on the continent?

Were the Southerners well-disciplined and well-mannered? Did they indulge in the pillaging and plundering for which invading armies have been known throughout history? Were there atrocities committed against civilians? How did Pennsylvanians respond -- did they resist or assist the invaders? And what of the damage to the landscape done by an army of more than 60,000 men? Our speaker will discuss the reality and the myth surrounding the Great Invasion and promises to reveal that the Army of Northern Virginia "did much more than steal a few pigs."

Ted is a resident of Pennsylvania and the author of When War Passed This Way, which is about the Confederate invasion of the Keystone State, so he is extremely well qualified to speak on the subject. Join us in welcoming Ted to Virginia -- and hear what promises to be an interesting and even controversial talk.

In October

For our October program, instead of relying on regular troops (outsiders) for our program, we called out the local militia and for the first time one of our own members shared his knowledge and interpretations of the War. Art Candquist, our Membership Chairman, delivered an extremely interesting talk on Freemasonry during the Civil War. Many of us did not know much about the fraternity, but Art presented a slide show that enlightened and entertained us with facts, legends and lore about the brotherhood and the strength of its bonds during wartime. We thank Art and encourage more members to come forward as volunteers. The Home Guard will

come out again in May when Bill Miller will talk about the subject of his book: Camp Curtin, the Yankee training camp that was the equivalent of Parris Island or Fort Bragg in later wars. Next year, we will have at least three or four "homegrown" programs, so if you want to address the Round Table, please don't be shy, let Bill Miller know at the meeting or at 369-0602.

Boots and Saddles!!! Field Trip to the Shenandoah Valley

Our Field Trip Chairman Armando Mancini has been in the saddle almost continuously scouting out opportunities for our first field trip, and while most of didn't think we'd get into the field until next spring, Mancini thought differently and, much to our delight, has set up what looks like a first-rate tour of Cedar Creek battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley. Cedar Creek was a decisive Union victory in October 1864, but it very nearly was a stunning Federal defeat. Personal heroics by Federal General Phil Sheridan turned the tide of what is certainly one of the hardest fought and most dramatic battles of the War. Local authority and guide Col. Joe Whitehorne will be our guide.

Our bus will depart from the picnic area (not the visitor center) just north of the stone house on Rte. 234 at Manassas Battlefield at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 16. The battlefield is just an hour's ride away on Rte. 66. At the battlefield, we will disembark from the bus and take some short walking tours, so dress accordingly. To save money, we will brown-bag it, so carry your own rations (pack a lunch). We will have a lunch break at beautiful Belle Grove mansion (the view from the front porch is alone worth the trip), and a representative from the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation will talk to us during lunch about efforts to save the battlefield. Depending on the weather, we might break at nearby Hupp's Hill battlefield. Both Hupp's Hill and Belle Grove are privately owned, so you might want to kick in a buck to their good causes.

Now, to brass tacks. As we announced at the October meeting, the cost of this trip will depend on how many people go. The Round Table Executive Committee decided that the Round Table will not make any money on field trips and will pass on all savings directly to the members. We will not pad the price; you will get the lowest price we can possibly give you. Right now, the minimum price will be \$13.00 a head (an incredibly low price for a tour by a top-notch guide) and the high will be \$26.00 (still an incredibly low price -- one local Civil War group offered the same tour with the same guide last spring for \$50!).

Come on out and have some fun, see some magnificent scenery and breathe some fresh air, all for an excellent price. Call Armando Mancini at 266-3584 or talk to him at the next meeting (or Bill Miller) to reserve your space. The final cost will be determined on November 14, BUT BE SURE WE KNOW YOU WANT TO GO AHEAD OF TIME, so we can save you a seat.

Crass Commercialism of Christmas

Can you believe that Christmas is next month? Whether you are ready for it or not, and whether you've been naughty or nice, it is coming, and everybody will expect you to deliver something under their tree on Christmas morning. In the spirit of capitalism, (and that is now the true spirit of Christmas, isn't it?) the Round Table offers a couple of suggestions to make your holiday gift giving less of a pain.

First, may we suggest that you give that special someone a gift