



THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Henry Hill Dispatch

October 1991

October Meeting in Our New Home

On October 10th, the Round Table will meet once again in the auditorium of the visitor center at Manassas National Battlefield. This will be our new home. We received many favorable comments about the auditorium as a meeting place, so Bill Miller met with Superintendent Ken Apschnikat. Since the Battlefield is the natural place for us to meet, we will do so henceforth. All meetings begin at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month.

The second part of the deal allowing us to meet at the Battlefield amounts to "A player to be named later." Bill Miller asked Supt. Apschnikat what the Round Table could do for the Battlefield, since we not only want to pull our own weight but we are interested in the health and prosperity of the Battlefield. Nothing has been decided yet, but the Round Table will become involved in helping out at the Battlefield.

Our October Program

Our speaker in October is one of our own. Art Candenguist lives in Warrenton, and, in addition to being chairman of the Round Table's membership committee, he is active in several other Civil War organizations. He is a charter member of the Civil War Society, a life member of the Surratt Society, a member of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Historical Society, the Brandy Station Foundation and other historical groups too numerous to mention. Art has a Civil War library like most of the rest of us can only dream about. His personal library consists of about 600 books, including complete sets of The Southern Historical Society Papers, The Official Records (Army and Navy), Confederate Military History and The Confederate Veteran. He also has a complete set of Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper for the years 1861-1866. Art puts his books to good use -- he is Research Historian for the Civil War Society. Art is always ready to talk with a fellow student of the War -- especially any Confederate.

He recently had an article published in Blue & Gray magazine and will have another in Civil War magazine in November -- that article will be about the unlikeliest -- but most successful -- train robbery of the Civil War, which was pulled off, by of all people, Stonewall Jackson.

Art will be talking to us about "Freemasonry in the War." He will offer insight into some of the more unusual episodes of the conflict by presenting evidence that the fraternal bonds of masonry were sometimes stronger than an individual soldier's ties to cause

and country. Don't miss what promises to be an intimate look at one of the lesser-known sidelights of the war.

The Siege of September

Sixty-three folks heard Dennis Frye address the Round Table in September on the Siege of Harpers Ferry by Stonewall Jackson in September 1862. In fact, the date of our meeting, September 12, marked the 129th anniversary of the beginning of the siege, which Dennis contended was one of the more brilliant operations of the War, despite having received little attention from historians. Dennis also revealed that he is working on a book about the siege and surrender of the crucial town. (By the way, we've learned that some of our members have not yet visited Harpers Ferry. GO! Without delay. It is magnificent spot, especially this time of year. It is full of history, natural beauty, books, good shops and all kind of other interesting things, and it is less than two hours away through some of the prettiest country in the nation.)

"Boots and Saddles": Field Trip News

Field Trip Chairman Armando Mancini and his able comrades John Etherington and Frank Boberick, have been busy in exploring possibilities for a spring field trip. So far, Armando reports, he has talked to Dennis Frye about a tour of the siege and capture of Harpers Ferry (when he addressed us last month Dennis offered to give us such a tour, and Armando has been following up). Armando also approached Tom Lewis, author of the acclaimed The Guns of Cedar Creek about a tour of that battlefield. Another possible destination is Brandy Station near Culpeper. Armando and his lieutenants plan to come up with a list of possibilities and present it to the membership so we can select what the majority of us would like.

If you have an idea for a tour or a guide, let Armando know so he can check it out. See him or John or Frank at the next meeting (incidentally, Frank owns a Bed and Breakfast at Manassas Battlefield. If you are expecting overnight guests and don't have room for them, give Frank a call).

Preservation Update

At the September meeting we handed out petitions to help preserve the Wakeman Fort south of Manassas and Brandy Station Battlefield near Culpeper. We also handed out postcards and pre-printed messages to Senators Warner and Robb and Secretary of the Interior Lujan in support of the preservation of Brandy Station Battlefield. The idea is that the officers of the Round Table, like regimental and company officers in the Civil War, are to do everything possible to get their men (and women) on the firing line. All of us want to make a difference in preserving Civil War battlefields, so we have bought the postcards and written the messages. All you have to do is pull the trigger -- put the postcard and the message together, sign it, and put it in the mail. Do not think that pre-printed, mass-produced messages do not make

a difference. Every piece of constituent mail that enters a politician's office must be recorded and responded to. Your voice will be heard.

As far as petitions go, don't be shy. A lot of people are curious about the Civil War since the PBS documentary aired, and they would like to help. Do not worry if you cannot get a full page of signatures -- any and every name you get helps. Save your petition sheets and turn them in to Preservation chairman Mac McMahon at the next meeting.

In another piece of preservation news, Bill Miller and Mac McMahon represented the Round Table at a summit of Civil War preservation groups at Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in September. About 20 other groups were represented, most of them national, including the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the Conservation Fund, The American Battlefield Protection Foundation, The National Parks and Conservation Association, The American Civil War Association, Civil War Round Table Associates, The Civil War Society and others. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table was the ONLY Round Table represented. We reported on our preservation policies and activities and were warmly welcomed and commended by the other groups, all of whom expressed pleasure that a local Round Table was mobilizing in the war to preserve our sites. After the meeting, Bill and Mac joined others in a tour of newly acquired land at Antietam National Battlefield. The Round Table will be represented again at the next of the quarterly summits -- in December at Gettysburg.

Members in the News

As most of you know by now, fellow member Brad Bradshaw lost his bid for a seat on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors in the Democratic primary in September. The loss was a tough one for all of us, since Brad represented the interests of preservation and intelligent, planned growth, but the defeat is especially hard for Brad because he lost by only **12 votes**.

If Youse have News. . .

If you have news or items about anything of general interest to your fellow members, please send the news to P.O. Box 951, Manassas, VA 22111. We'd also like to carry news about all our members, so if something happened to you that you'd like to share, drop us a line.

Parting Shots

From time to time we will pass on some requests for information received from researchers working on Civil War projects. Mike Cavanaugh, who helps run the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table in Philadelphia and who recently published a book in the Virginia "Battles and Leaders" series on the Battle of the Crater, is looking for information about the 13th Battalion, Virginia Artillery -- Otey's Battery, Davidson's Battery and Ringgold Battery. Mike will pay the cost of photocopying and mailing letters, diaries, photos, narratives, personal accounts,

and he will give credit in the book he is writing on the battalion. Write or call Mike at 2713 Burgundy Dr., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077, (609) 829-4380. P.S. Who is the Old Baldy Round Table named after? Answer below.

Bill Miller is working on the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 and is looking for first hand accounts of the retreat from Gaines's Mill and the Battle of Frayser's Farm (Clendale) on June 30, 1862. If you have anything from local soldiers that might be useful, please drop Bill a line at the P.O. Box or call him at 369-0602.

Some dates and events you might wish to make note of:

* **October 6** -- 125th Anniversary of the reinterment of the Ashby brothers and officers and men of the Laurel Brigade at Stonewall Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia. Ceremony, wreath laying, carbine volley. Call (718) 296-5897 for info.

* **October 18-19** -- Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, Middletown, Virginia. Activities all weekend. All proceeds benefit the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's efforts to purchase and preserve the battlefield. Call the CCBF at (703) 869-2064 for info.

* **November 1 and 2** -- 10th Annual Civil War Book and Paper Show, this year held at the Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Dr., McLean, Virginia. Friday 5:30-9 p.m., Saturday 9-5 p.m. Admission \$3.

Who was Old Baldy? George Gordon Meade's horse, of course. The noble steed's head is mounted and displayed at the Round Table's meeting place -- The War Library and Museum in Philly.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table
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