



## Clark Hall to Explain Brandy Station

As a prelude to the Brandy Station Battlefield Tour on May 16, Clark Hall will speak to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table on May 14. Mr. Hall brings a unique perspective to Civil War studies. He is employed as the Regional Assistant Director for Investigations with the U.S. General Accounting Office, where he is responsible for directing criminal oversight investigations for the U.S. Congress in several states. Mr. Hall previously served as the Chief Investigator for the U.S. House of Representatives Iran/Contra Committee and also led the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee investigation of unauthorized disclosure of the Committee Sensitive Materials relative to the Charles Keating ethics probe.

Before entering the Legislative branch in 1984, Mr. Hall was an FBI agent for sixteen years. He specialized in organized crime investigations, one of which resulted in the convictions of 16 top midwestern mafia leaders.

Beyond government service, Mr. Hall is a noted Civil War author and battlefield preservationist. He has prepared extensive articles for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Blue and Gray*, and *Civil War* magazines and authored a chapter in the critically acclaimed *American Civil War Battlefield Guide*. He is a Director of the Brandy Station Foundation, President of the Chantilly Battlefield Association, Chairman of the Civil War Society's Preservation Committee, and has served as a Director and Officer of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc. He is currently completing a book manuscript on the Battle of Brandy Station.

Mr. Hall is a Marine combat veteran of South Vietnam and a resident of Carrollton, Georgia. Come and hear an extremely perceptive and qualified speaker, Thursday, May 14th, at the Manassas National Battlefield Park, 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be the first birthday of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

## Priest Proposes Prelude to Antietam

John Michael Priest spoke at our April meeting on the Battle of South Mountain, 1862 in Maryland. According to Priest, if the Battle of South Mountain had not been fought, there would have been no Antietam. It was the defeat at South Mountain that led Lee to fight at Antietam.

The Battle of South Mountain was a series of three engagements, the largest engagement occurring at Fox's gap. Through the course of the battle, two generals were killed. The confederates fought bravely and did amazingly well, especially considering they were outnumbered three to one.

64  
244  
12

## Bravery In Battle

It is difficult to imagine as we walk in the quiet and peaceful surroundings of the National Battlefield Park what it must have been like for the many soldiers who woke up each morning wondering whether this was going to be their last day. The following is a letter from "Felix," who nearly met an early death, but who lived to share his insights. The letter was written from the Third Army Corps Hospital on May 7th, 1863. It was carried in the *Newburgh Telegraph* on May 14, 1863.

*"On Thursday (April 30th) we moved from our position on the left, and made a forced march of 50 miles or more, that we might get in front of the right. Then we had three hours to rest, after which we were drawn up in line of battle on a muddy field where we remained until we were chilled through. On Saturday our work commenced pretty briskly, but we did not fire a shot till late in the afternoon. A few of our men got wounded, but only a few.*

*"On Sabbath morning at day-light all hands fell at the work with a will. Our regiment lay supporting our battery for a good while till the enemy were driving our forces and getting rather near us, then, we were ordered to the front and formed our battle line in the woods a little to the right.*

*"We had not taken our position long, when the firing commenced in earnest. It was hard work I assure you. The barrel of my gun was so hot I could scarcely touch it. I fired twenty-two rounds when a ball struck me on the head above the right eye. I felt a sting, but thought nothing of it till I saw the blood pouring, then I made up my mind that the ball must have entered the skull, and the wound was mortal. I dropped my gun, and B took me to the rear, where I had my wound dressed. It was not so bad as I supposed. The skin was torn, and the skull a wee bit cracked. I was, and still am weak from loss of blood. Yesterday my cheek was quite black; today I feel much better.*

*"I have made a narrow escape, but my time had not come, and I hope the same kind hand will lead and guide me till the war is over. I have lost everything but the clothes on my back. Our regiment is terribly cut up. They never flinched in battle. I believe they would have stood till the last man had been cut down, had they not been ordered off.*

*"Hooker was struck with their bravery and when the 11th Corps ran there can be no doubt that it was our division that saved the "Grand Army." If we had wavered the rebels would have broken through the center, and cut their way to victory. But during the whole engagement, no one hesitated or evinced timidity. The privates were as heroic as the officers and the officers as the privates.*

*"You will probably have learnt by this time that we lost over 200 men killed, wounded, and missing. A large number of the worst cases are to be sent to Washington. The rest will be sent as quickly as transportation can be had for them."*

*Felix*

## The Flag Pole: Half-way There!

For months now we have been talking about doing something to help support the Manassas National Battlefield Park and the overworked, underpaid, and knowledgeable staff. We now have an excellent opportunity by purchasing a flagpole for the new visitor center. At the March meeting, the members present voted to commit the Round Table to raising the necessary money, about \$650. The new visitor center is not yet open to visitors, but it is, right now, park headquarters. The structures on the site used to be White Oak Nursery on Rte. 29 just west of the Brawner Farm.

This land, of course, was part of the controversial Stuart Hill tract that was to be developed into a shopping mall. Congress saved the nation from a terrible embarrassment and took the land, later compensating the owners, and the property is now part of the Battlefield Park. What we have the chance to do now is very symbolic. We can help raise the first flag over that property. Some of us worked long and hard to keep that land from being a mall parking lot, and the fight in Congress often left us in doubt as to who would win. Well, we won, and now our Round Table has the chance to perform the symbolic final act in the drama, raising the United States flag over the land the whole nation rose up to save. The "Battle of Third Manassas" is over, and we have the honor of celebrating the victory with a gift that will last for years.

We'd like everyone to donate. Gifts of \$10, \$15 and \$20 would be most welcome and will likely be needed to meet the required amount. So far, we have raised just about fifty percent of the total needed, so unless you want to see a very short flag pole with a low flying flag, please contribute your share.

When the pole is bought, paid for and in place, we will have a dedication ceremony, to which everyone will be invited. We expect the media will attend. Everyone who makes a donation of \$10 or more will receive a letter of thanks from Superintendent Apschnikat.

This is a great opportunity to do something for "our" battlefield and make our presence known to our community. Let's get our flag flying over our land. Please use the coupon below to mail your donation as soon as possible.

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### Flag Pole Donations

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Bull Run Civil War Round Table    yes \_\_\_\_\_    no \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation    \$10 \_\_\_\_\_    \$15 \_\_\_\_\_    \$25 \_\_\_\_\_    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Bull Run Civil War round Table. Be sure to indicate that the check is for the flagpole, and include this form with your donation so that you can be properly credited. Please mail donations to Martha Hendley, Treasurer, Bull Run Civil War Round Table, 5704 Featherbed Lane, Manassas, VA, 22110.

## **BRCWRT Expands**

This month the Bull Run Civil War Round Table is welcoming many new members. Jack Gray, son of Joe Gray, has joined. Jack's home is in Virginia Beach. Robert Stone and his son Michael attend from Arlington. Michael O'Neil travels from Woodbridge. George Algie and Charles Hargest commute from Falls Church. Calvin & Melanie Curtis and Eric Spivey attend from Manassas. Tom Devaney, president of the District of Columbia Round Table, commutes from Clifton. Gary & Nancy McCullough travel from Centreville. Justin Issac and his father, Garon, and David Payne attend from Fairfax. John & Marian Fawcett travel from Fairfax Station. Welcome new members!

## **Have You Paid Your Dues?**

Have you paid your 1992 dues yet? Bill Miller and Martha Hendley work for free, but the post office doesn't. We need your dues to cover postage, transportation for speakers, paper, and other necessary expenses. If you haven't paid by the next meeting, this may be the last newsletter you receive until your membership is current.

## **Make History Happen**

EVERYONE in the BRCWRT is invited to submit articles, letters, opinion pieces or news items to this newsletter. If you have a particular interest or angle on a battle or leader, let others know about it. Rumor has it that *Blue and Gray*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, and the *Civil War* magazines all check out the Bull Run Civil War Round Table newsletter first thing every month to come up with new ideas. We also understand that Bruce Catton got most of the information for his series from our newsletter. U.S. Grant credited an editorial from the newsletter for his inspired Vicksburg campaign. And a noted historian, Shelby Arm, has theorized that the reason the south lost the war was because Robert E. Lee let his subscription run out, which allowed Grant to catch him by surprise. Help write history and make history--contribute to our newsletter.

**The deadline for submissions is the 21st of each month.** Submissions arriving late will be held over until the next month, but will still be used. You can send submissions to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 951, Manassas, VA, 22111.

## **Brandy Station Field Trip Details**

The departure time for the Brandy Station tour is 8 a.m., Saturday, May 16. We will board the tour bus at Dogan Ridge, Manassas Battlefield, which is about 3/4 of a mile north on 234 (Sudley Road) from the intersection of Rts. 234 and 29. Please be early, and consider bringing a sack lunch. Brandy Station has just one small store with limited choices.

As we ride south on Rt. 29 we'll talk about the Dogan house; the Manassas Gap railroad to the Shenandoah valley; the Mosby family home in Warrenton, and many other sites. On our return trip, we'll come back north on Rt. 28 and make a brief stop at Catlett's station where Jeb Stuart's cavalry made off with \$358,000 in cash and Gen. Pope's dispatch book. Come along.