



July 1992

Where Did All Those Damn Yankees Come From?

Camp Curtin, named after Pennsylvania's wartime governor, Andrew Gregg Curtin, was located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and became the largest Camp of Rendezvous and Instruction in America--North and South. More regiments and independent companies were formed in Camp Curtin than in any other *city*. At times during the war, fully twenty percent of the Army of the Potomac had been trained or organized at Camp Curtin. In four years, more than 300,000 men were trained at the camp, including future generals, judges and governors, who passed through as soldiers enroute to Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Petersburg. Camp Curtin was one of the more important non-battlefield sites in the eastern theater and will be the focus of our next meeting. Bill Miller will be the speaker.

Bill Miller is the author of *The Training of an Army: Camp Curtin and the North's Civil War*, and will use slides and handouts to tell the story of the camp and its role in the Northern war effort, touching on the education, supplying and medical care of the North's recruits. He will also discuss the life of the common soldier while in a Camp of Instruction.

Bill is also author of *The Men of Fort Ward*, about troops who served at that fort in the defenses of Washington, and many articles on Civil War history. He is an editor for the American Blue & Gray Association, co-editor of *Campaign Chronicles: The Seven Days*, and former editor of *Civil War* magazine. Of course all of that is nothing compared to the role with which all of us are most familiar: Bill is founder of our Roundtable and current president.

The next meeting will be held July 9th, 7:30 p.m., at the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Union Mill on Bull Run

Did you know that Stonewall Jackson's troops fought a running battle along what are now Mathis Ave. and Centreville Rd near Liberia, just prior to Second Manassas? No? Then you weren't one of the twenty-two fortunate people who heard Dr. Kevin Ruffner speak on the encampments, activities and fighting at little-known Union Mill on Bull Run.

Dr. Ruffner has written a report on his extensive research on Union Mill for the Fairfax County Historical Commission. He found about fifty photographs! For those of you who missed Dr. Ruffner's address, or who simply had your appetites whetted for more, the report will be made available to the public, either through the commission or public libraries. (Call the commission for more details.)

July Meeting: Election Time

Officers for the 1992-1993 season will be elected at the July meeting and assume their offices at the close of the August meeting. The slate of nominees is:

President: Dr. Armando Mancini
Vice President: Kevin Leahy
Treasurer: Martha Hendley
Secretary: Linda Schumacher

Our second full season begins in September. The schedule for 1992-1993 will be announced at the August meeting.

Eight Isn't Enough

On June 6th, eight hardy citizens turned out under Major Joe Gray to clean up two roads around Manassas National Battlefield Park. In three hours of clear skies and bright sunshine, we picked up 30 bags of trash. If we'd had a few more people, we'd have finished in two hours or less. The three hours included good fun and good exercise, all achieved with no casualties. We'll do it again in the Fall--more recruits would be appreciated.

BRCWRT Joins BPAC

The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable has joined the Battlefield Preservation Advisory Coalition. BPAC is a coalition of organizations and will provide for united action and a single voice on matters of importance to the civil war preservation movement. The idea is to give the tens of thousands of civil war buffs and preservationists a greater voice and to more fully mobilize the power of their numbers.

BPAC has had just one organizational meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the Fall in the Washington area. Current supporters include several civil war roundtables, the American Blue & Gray Association, the American Civil War Commission, HERITAGEPAC, and the Civil War Battlefield Foundation.