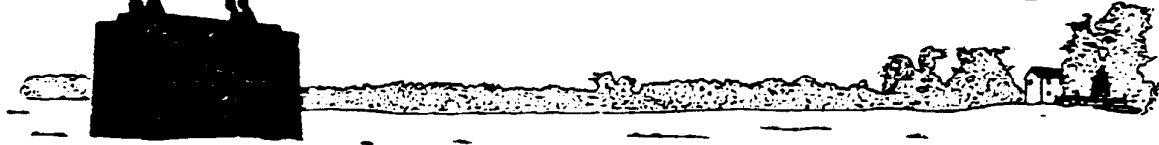


THE STONE WALL



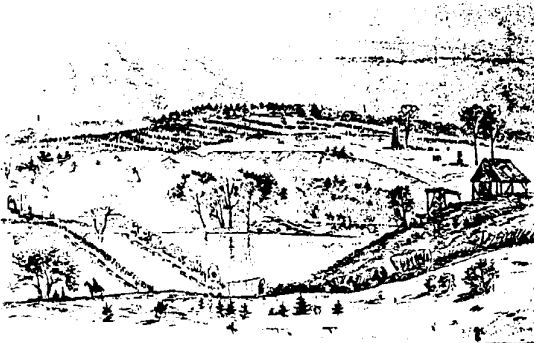
The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

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

December 1992

Don't Miss It!
Edwin Cole Bearss
On
Lee vs. Grant, 1864-1865

10 December, 7:30 PM
Visitor Center
Manassas National Battlefield
Park



Edwin Cole Bearss grew up on a Billings Montana ranch within a bike ride of the Custer Battlefield. His interest in the war between the states started young; as a boy, he named the cattle for Civil War generals and battles (his favorite milk cow was Antietam).

Mr. Bearss attended St. Johns Military Academy and served with the 3d Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division in the invasion of Guadalcanal and New Britain during World War II. He was badly wounded by machine gun fire and spent 26 months in various hospitals.

Following his service, Mr. Bearss studied at Georgetown University and received a B.S. degree in Foreign Service, worked for 3 years in the Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland MD, and later receive an M.A. in history from Indiana University after writing a thesis on Pat Cleburne.

Ed's national park service career began in 1955 at Vicksburg Mississippi, where he was park historian. His research led him and two friends to the long-lost resting place of the Union gunboat Cairo. Mr. Bearss also located two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. He helped get Grand Gulf made into a Mississippi State Military Monument, and founded the Mississippi Civil War Round Table in 1956.

Mr. Bearss was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg in 1963. He receive the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History. In 1964 he was chosen to become a member of the Company of Military Historians and was voted a Fellow in that organization. He received a commendation from the Secretary of the Army in 1985. He is a veteran of 43 years of government service.



Ed is currently chief historian of the National Park Service. He won the Department of the Interiors's Distinguished Service Award in 1983. He has done detailed studies for the National Park Service for many areas, including Vicksburg, Pea Ridge, Wilson's Creek, the Ray House, Fort Smith, Stones River, Fort Donelson, Battles around Richmond, Bighorn Canyon, Eisenhower Farm, the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass, LBJ ranch, Fort Moultrie, Fort Point, William Howard Taft House, Fort Hancock, Boston Navy Yard, Herbert Hoover National Historic site, and others.

In 1990 he was featured as a commentator on the popular PBS program The Civil War. Mr. Bears has written numerous books on the Civil War, edited a number of publications, and contributed widely to other historical writings.

It is a rare event for a local Round Table to be fortunate enough to enjoy a speaker of Mr. Bears's caliber. Come early, and bring a friend. We expect a big turnout.

Hennessey Leads Round Table Through Second Manassas

John Hennessey gave an excellent presentation on the Battle of Second Manassas during our November meeting. John structured his talk around the 4 major characters who represented the 4 major phases of the campaign.

First, Mr. Hennessey discussed John Pope, who was not a political general, but whose appointment was pure politics. Pope represented the "new idea" of war and his call to Virginia was a call to change the nature of the war from McClellan's retreat and holding position to using harsher measures, such as living off the land, having civilians repair damage (and pay soldiers for their protection), and requiring oaths of allegiance. McClellan correctly saw Pope as a threat. Pope had to win to justify this new style of war that was creating a deep schism in the north.

Jackson's "strategic brilliance and tactical mediocrity" represented the second phase of the battle. The strategic brilliance was represented by Jackson's 54 mile march in 36 hours. The tactical mediocrity was represented by the fact that though the Confederates had the Yankees outnumbered by 24,000 to 9,000 at the battle of Brawner farm, they were unable at any given point to overwhelm the north.

The third major character discussed was Longstreet, who Hennessey chose to defend against the usual adjectives of slow, obstinate and domineering. Hennessey argued that the slower pace of Longstreet's march was ordered by Lee. Lee knew where Jackson was, and if anyone deserved blame for the speed of Longstreet's men, it was Lee, not Jackson.

Fourth and finally, Hennessey discussed McClellan. McClellan, according to Mr. Hennessey, viewed Pope as his adversary as much as he viewed Lee as his adversary, even to the extent of hoping for Pope's defeat. Halleck urged little Mac on, but the spiteful McClellan moved slowly, taking special glee in the possibility of what Jackson might do to Pope. When Pope pulled back into Washington, he was relieved of his command and moved West, much to the delight of McClellan, who had done everything in his power to elicit such a response.

Preservation Update

Joe Gray

During a visit with Ken Apschnikat, Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent, on October 16, several items of particular interest to the Round table were discussed.

Brawner Tract

Our Round table continues to be interested in having input on the future disposition of the house located on the Brawner tract. We had hoped to obtain a copy of the Park's plan for the house and to discuss the options they were considering. Ken stated that the project has been put on hold and any input for a decision will be delayed for some time. We will continue to maintain contact with the park so that, when the options are considered, our Round table will be involved.

Dunklin Monument

We also discussed the status of the stone monument to private Dunklin of the Fourth Texas, C.S.A. Private Dunklin was killed in action at Second Manassas and his family erected an impressive memorial in his memory. The monument is located in the southwest corner of Pageland Lane and Rte. 29-211, about 200 yards from the new Second Manassas Visitor Center. The main stone has been knocked down from the base and should be protected. Apparently, there is some difficulty with the current landowners about moving the stones. It is the intention of the Park Service to try to obtain the monument and erect it on the Second Manassas Visitor Center property. They must first get permission from the landowners to enter the property and remove the stones. The Prince William Historical Commission is trying to arrange for property entry with the owners.

It is extremely important that this piece of history be preserved and protected. The Round Table is giving full support to the Park Service and the Historical Commission in their endeavor to remove the monument before it is further vandalized and perhaps completely destroyed. It would indeed be a disgrace to allow this family's symbol of devotion to their son to disappear. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table should, and will, remain actively working with the principals to bring about the preservation of this monument.

The Battle for Bristow Battlefield Continues

Developers are planning to build townhouses on the site of Bristow Battlefield, in spite of the fact that the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan calls for only one house per ten acres (these must be pretty large townhouses). Bristow Battlefield is in the Brentsville District. If you object (and if you don't, why are you on our mailing list?), WRITE or CALL the Brentsville District Supervisor:

William J. Becker

Home
7714 Signal Hill Rd.
Manassas, VA 22111
368-3919 (h)

Office
7873 Ashton Ave.
Manassas, VA 22110
792-6190 or 6191 (o)

Counterpoint to Leahy

Ralph Swanson

I wish to pitch in on the subject of General James Longstreet's capacity and declare that not only was he probably the ablest Corp commander, but had he been commanding General of the Army of Northern Virginia, the south would have won the Civil War.

General Longstreet clearly recognized that maneuver, not head-on attack, was the best strategy for the south to husband its military resources and prolong the war until the north gave up. He would not have fought at Antietam, because he knew the south's aims in Maryland were already defeated. To stand and fight on such poor defensive ground would yield, at best, a costly draw. Instead, he would have retreated into northern Virginia, thus preserving about 13,000 troops the south could ill afford to lose.

At Gettysburg, he advocated movement to flank Meade out of position on Cemetery Ridge. Had he done so, the south would have won the battle of Gettysburg and been in position either to move unimpeded on Washington, or draw the Army of the Potomac into offensive battle to its possible utter defeat. Under such circumstances, the north might have sued for peace in July 1863.

I understand the feasibility of the flank movement at Gettysburg is in some dispute among historians and I invite specific comment on this point.

The Editor Rebutts

We want to thank both Mr. Leahy and Mr. Swanson for getting some good discussion started. After all, that's what a Round Table is for. In an effort to really light things up, the editor would like to make the following comments in response to Mr. Swanson.

With all due respect to General James Longstreet's capabilities, it would have taken much more than a change in commander for the south to ever have a chance of winning the war, especially in 1863. Shelby Foote put it best: The outcome was rarely in doubt (as long as Lincoln remained president) because the north fought the war with one hand tied behind its back. If ever the outcome would have been seriously imperiled, all the north had to do was pull out the other hand and deliver the knockout punch.

To suggest the north would sue for peace in 1863 is to suggest that Lincoln would sue for peace--a highly unlikely proposition. If Lincoln had lost the presidential election in 1864, then it's not only possible but likely that peace would have been offered. But under Lincoln? Never.

Now readers, it's up to you. Would Lincoln have sued for peace under Swanson's scenario? Could Longstreet have made the difference? What do *you* say? We want to hear from you!

1993 Calendar

December 8 (1992)

Meeting for the officers and chairmen of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table
Armando Mancini's House 7:30 p.m.

January 21-23

Sarasota Florida at the Holiday Inn at Lido Beach
"Perspectives on the High Command of the Army of Northern Virginia"
Dr. Gary Gallagher

May 20-23

Manassas, VA
"Second Manassas"
John Hennessy, Robert E.L. Krick and Dennis Frye

July 28-August 1

Winchester, VA Best Western Lee Jackson Conference Center
Convention/Annual Meeting/Seminar
"Winchester and the War"
Kent Masterson Brown with Dr. Gary Gallagher

Book Reviews

If you haven't done so already, you should retrieve the November 8 Sunday issue of the Washington Post and read the *Book World* section. We finally made the front page with 6 Civil War book reviews.

Jody Powell, a true Civil War activist and a good friend of the Manassas Battlefield, reviews Furgurson's new book *Chancellorsville 1863, The Souls of the Brave* and Farwell's *Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson*. In the same issue, Michael Kernan reviews four recent publications, including, *To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign* by Stephen Sears; *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga* by Peter Cozzens; *Sherman* by J.F. Marszalek; and *Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography* by Phil Kunhardt, Jr.

The reviews are very informative and will help you make up your mind about what to buy or read on these topics.

Special Opportunity

We can have bumper stickers (and perhaps even T-shirts?) of one or the other if there is any interest. Please talk to Mancini at the next meeting or drop a line to our P.O. box.



BRCWRT Volunteers do Their Part at Cedar Creek and on County Roads

Our members did a great job helping the Cedar Creek Battlefield officials put on the re-enactment at Middletown, Virginia in October. Kristen Sanders, executive director of the preservation foundation, wrote to us in a letter saying, in part, "...CCBF is extremely fortunate to have volunteers who go above and beyond because they want to save the battlefield. We are indebted to JAY CORBALIS, the parking czar, who spent many hours planning this year's egress and regress, not to mention setting up on Thursday before the event and remaining all weekend. To everyone, ARMANDO and ANN (MANCINI), BILL MILLER, ART CANDENQUIST and CINDY (friend of Art's),....our sincere thanks for a job well done."

We also extend our thanks to JIM HOLLAR, JOAN DEAN, MELISSA MCMAHON, JOE GRAY, JACK GRAY, RALPH and RENATA SWANSON, SUE and JEB STEWART, JIM COLE, KEVIN LEAHY, BILL MILLER and his son, JOE, for participating in our very successful Adopt-A-Highway road clean-up effort on October 17. The excellent turnout enabled the clean-up crew to finish in exactly two hours. Although it can be hard work, everyone had a pleasant time and gained the satisfaction of seeing their results as they drove away down Groveton Road or Pageland Lane.

Remember, the Round Table performs road clean-up four times a year. Our next outing will be during mid to late January, weather permitting. Get your gloves and hat ready to help keep our battlefield clean.

130 Year Guarantee

According to the *Culpepper Star-Exponent* of Thursday, October 15, 1992, there was a moment of excitement on Evans street near Mountain Run on Wednesday, October 14 when a 4 inch cannon ball exploded while being de-fused.

The projectile was unearthed by a backhoe during excavation for a new bridge over Mountain Run. The Fort Belvoir bomb disposal unit was notified and two sergeants arrived to dispose of the ball. They attempted to send a shaped charge through the fuse to keep the round from functioning as designed.

Their innovative attempt was not successful as the Civil War round was determined to function as designed, even 130 years after manufacture. Rather than being de-fused, it blew up, shaking the neighborhood and breaking the windshield of a nearby car.

In History

130 years ago this month...

December 26, 1862 Richmond, VA Jefferson Davis (addressing the Mississippi legislators): "[I had planned] to lead Mississippians in the field, and to be with them where danger was to be braved and glory won....But it was decided differently. I was called to another sphere of action. How, in that sphere, I have discharged the duties and obligations imposed on me, it does not become me to constitute myself the judge. It is for others to decide that question. But, speaking to you with that frankness and that confidence with which I have always spoken to you, and which partakes of the nature of thinking aloud, I can say with my hand upon my heart that whatever I have done has been done with the sincere purpose of promoting the noble cause in which we are engaged. The period which has elapsed since I left you is short; for the time which may appear long in the life of a man is short in the history of a nation. And in that short period remarkable changes have been wrought in all the circumstances by which we are surrounded."

December 22, 1862 Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C. Abraham Lincoln: "To the Army of the Potomac: I have just read your Commanding General's preliminary report of the battle of Fredericksburg. Although you were not successful, the attempt was not an error, nor the failure other than an accident. The courage with which you, in an open field, maintained the contest against an entrenched foe, and the consummate skill and success with which you crossed and re-crossed the river, in face of the enemy, show that you possess all the qualities of a great army, which will yet give victory to the cause of the country and of popular government. Condoling with the mourners for the dead, and sympathizing with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small. I tender to you, officers and soldiers, the thanks of the nation."

Win a Free Book!

Here's your chance to win a free book, and you don't even have to risk a dollar! The first person to identify the two sketches on the front page* (including what the scenes represent and the approximate time and place they happened) will win a free book (of your choice) from our raffle table. Entries must be sent by mail to: Bull Run CWRT, P.O. Box 951, Manassas, VA, 22111. The first correct entry received will be the winner. In the event that two or more correct entries are received on the same day, a drawing will be held during the December meeting.



It's That Time of Year Again!

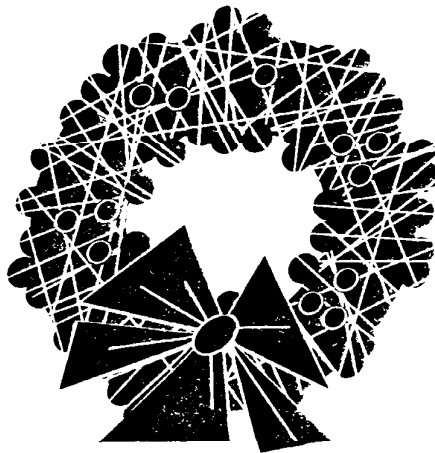
To all our BRCWRT members,

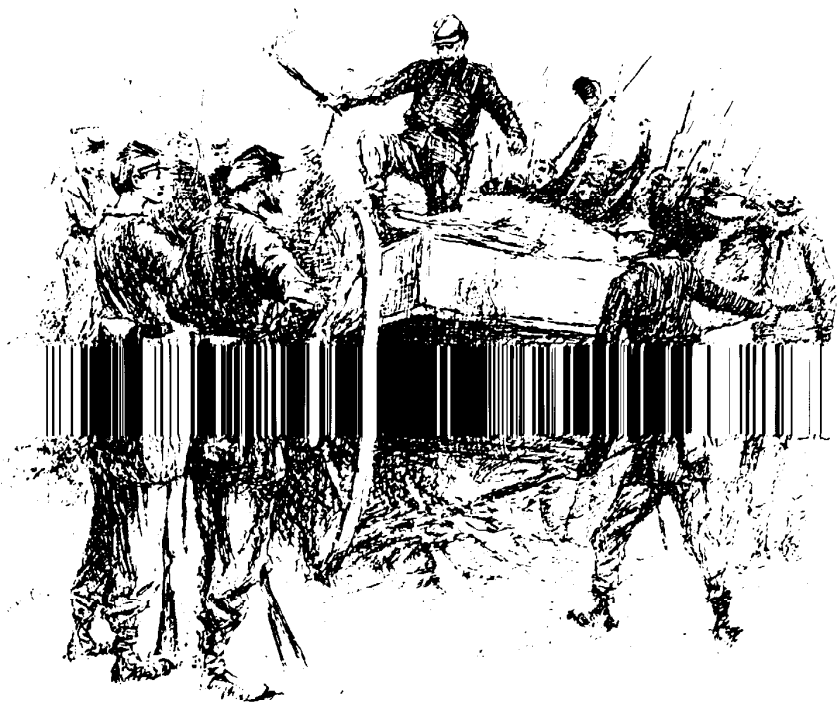
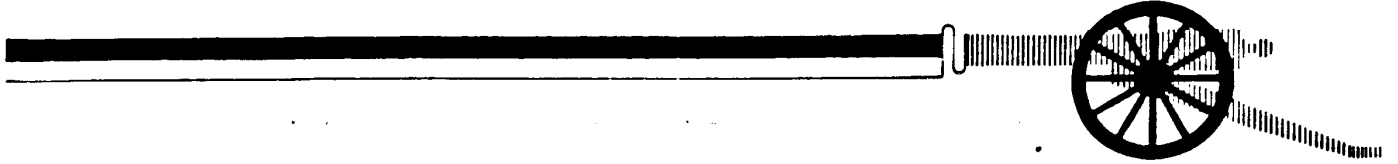
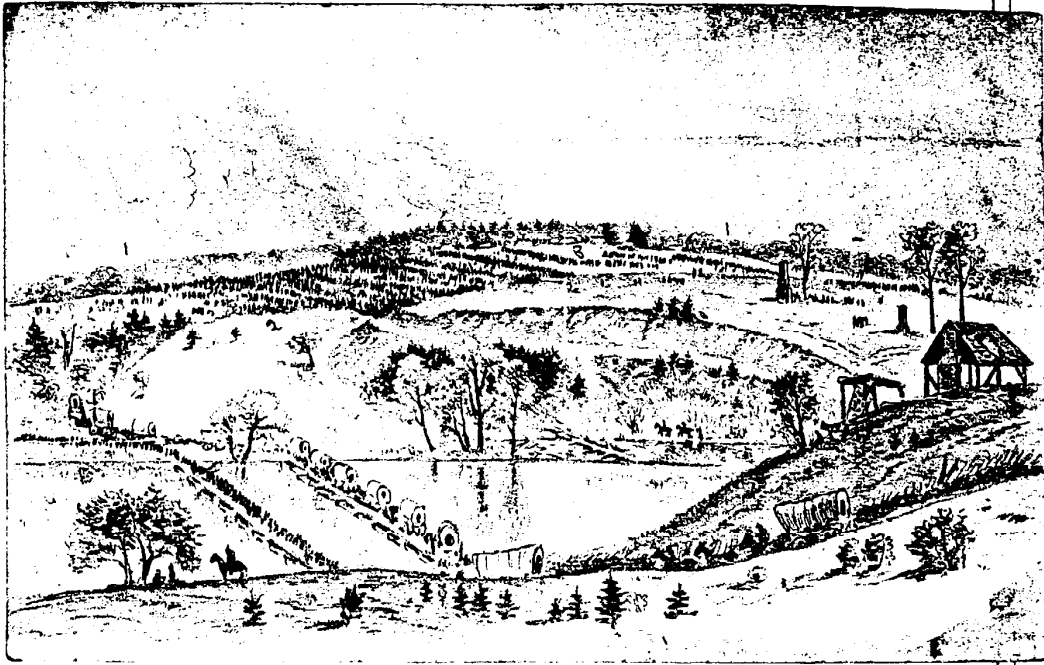
A very merry Christmas

and a happy, healthy, and wealthy

New Year!

Officers and Chairmen of the BRCWRT





Edwin C. Bearss

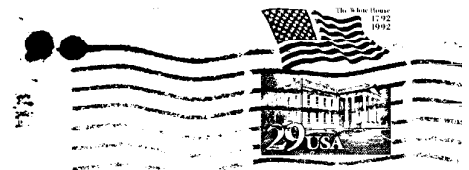
Chief Historian for the National Park Service

speaking on



★ "Lee vs. Grant, 1864-1865" ★

THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. BOX 951
MANASSAS, VA 22111



Bob Kindergan
8546 Yoder Street
Manassas, Va., 22110