



February 1993

**BRCWRT is Proud to Present
Thomas J. Evans**

Tom Evans, a member of the Evans-Moyer writing team and an expert on the Gray Ghost, will be our guest speaker at the 11 February meeting. He will speak to us on that portion of the Mosby Confederacy that will be covered in the Evans-Moyer spring tour scheduled by the D.C. Round Table. Our Round Table has decided to join this tour because of our interest in local Civil War locations and our desire to interact with members of the neighboring Round Tables.

The tour will begin in the City of Fairfax, a favorite site of Mosby's rangers that includes, in addition to the Courthouse itself, the Truro Episcopal Rectory that served as Gen. Stoughton's headquarters, the Wilcox hotel, and many other points of interest. From there the tour will move westward through the Gray Ghost Confederacy, containing a rich field of historic places.

Many of these sites are described and illustrated in the Tom Evans and James Moyer book *A Guide to the Roads and Sites of Col. John Singleton Mosby, Mosby's Confederacy*. If you do not have a copy of this book, you can buy it at the meeting and have it autographed by the author.

Join us at the auditorium of the Manassas Battlefield Park, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Get the historical facts on the Mosby sites and then see them for yourself by taking the April tour conducted by our speaker and his partner James Moyer. Don't miss it!

(Note: Mr. Wil Greene, our scheduled speaker for February had an important function to attend dealing with Civil War preservation. In view of the significance of that meeting, we felt he should attend that session rather than keep his commitment to us.)

Bearss Rescheduled for May

The December 10 presentation by Ed Bearss was canceled because of bad weather. It has been rescheduled for May 13. Ed will address the same subject: Lee vs. Grant in 1864-1865.

Col. Mitchell's talk of 13 May will be rescheduled for a later date, as he requested.

Meeting Cancellation Procedures

To find out if our monthly scheduled meeting has been canceled because of bad weather, listen to WMAL, 630 on your AM radio dial, during the early and mid-morning hours. If you're unable to get that announcement, call (703) 266-3584 for a recorded voice message in the afternoon, or call one of your Round Table officers or committee chairmen.

1862 Valley Campaign Noteworthy Union Performance?

Gary Ecelbarger

Bill Miller's January BRCWRT presentation of Jed Hotchkiss' role in the 1862 Valley Campaign was both interesting and informative. As we approach the 131st anniversary of that famous spring in military history, it should be noted that some of the troops Stonewall Jackson faced actually fought well and foiled his strategic and tactical plans. Nathaniel Banks will be forever known (and deservedly so) as "Commissary" Banks; however, the commendable performance of Shields' division is often understated or completely overlooked.

Historians often cite Jackson's defeat at Kernstown as a "tactical defeat but an important strategic victory" for the Southern cause. Unfortunately, this downplays the performance of the Ohioan, Indianan, and Pennsylvanians that routed Stonewall's army for the only time in his career. The fact that Shields lured an uncharacteristically fallible Jackson into attacking him in the fields south of Winchester by concealing most of his division (which fooled Turner Ashby into believing only a rear guard existed) is rarely highlighted in Civil War accounts. Instead, accounts of Jackson's defeat rationalize the outcome by citing troop strength differences of 2:1 and sometimes 3:1 in Shield's favor; however, when one looks at actual numbers engaged a 5:3 advantage appears more realistic.

Shield's troops were not in the Shenandoah Valley during Stonewall Jackson's brilliant victories over Fremont at McDowell and Banks at Front Royal and Winchester. Once again, the division's performance at the battle of Port Republic was outstanding; Shield's 3000 men successfully withstood Stonewall's poorly-planned piecemeal attacks of over 7000 men for several hours. By the time Jackson's forces overwhelmed the Union's staunch defense, Stonewall had suffered nearly 800 dead and wounded compared to Union losses of 420 killed and wounded along with 500 captured. More importantly, the prolonged fight by Tyler and Carroll's brigades of Shields' Division ruined Jackson's plan to recross the South River to re-defeat Fremont--perhaps this performance could also be described as a strategic victory just as Stonewall's was three months earlier at Kernstown.

Henry Kyd Douglas perhaps gives the most credit to the performance of Shield's Division in the Shenandoah Valley. In *I Rode with Stonewall* he notes how impressed he was at Port Republic watching an Ohio regiment change front to rear on first company under fire. He continues his eye witness analysis:

I knew then that it would be no easy matter to defeat an army of such troops....Jackson found that he had met men of like mettle to his own....Tyler always afterward took much credit to himself for that fight against Jackson, and his little army deserved it.

New Member Update

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

Manassas

Robert Tringali
Jan Congour
Joseph Szwarcop
Oliver & Marie Jones

Centreville

Kevin McLellan
Rene Boer

Oakton

Philip Terzian

Sterling

Robert Hadden

Fairfax

John McAnaw

Burke

Emerson Proctor

Woodbridge

Major James Browne
Jeff Thorpe
Danny Jenkins

Vienna

Mark Hanley

Winchester

Robert Maher

Chantilly

George & Terry Clark

Fairfax Station

Kelly Eldridge

Springfield

David Passamaneck
Fred & Alison Worrall

Win a Free Book!

Here's your chance to win another free book. The first person who correctly identifies the person on the next page and who mails in the correct answers to the following questions will get a book of his or her choice from our raffle table. In the event that two correct answers are received on the same day, a drawing will be held at the next Round Table meeting. Send your answers to : Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 951, Manassas, VA, 22111. You must be able to answer the following questions:



- 1) What is this person's first and last name?
- 2) What is the year of his birth?
- 3) What state did he come from?
- 4) What antebellum, singular military achievement is he known for?

In History...

ABNER DOUBLEDAY (1819-1893)

Kevin Leahy

For most of us the name Abner Doubleday evokes images of our nation's favorite pastime, baseball. Abner Doubleday will be forever linked with the creation of baseball, whether he deserves it or not. But for one day in early July, 1863, Doubleday did something far greater than create a game. He preserved a nation.

Before July 1863, Doubleday's role in the war was minor. At the outbreak of hostilities Doubleday was made a major in the 17th Infantry. By February of 1862 he had risen to the rank of Brigadier General. He commanded a division in the Army of the Potomac's First Corps, leading it through the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.

Doubleday's fateful day came on July 1. That morning the Union army found itself in a struggle with General Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, outside of a small crossroads town called Gettysburg. The Union troops were under the command of Major General John F. Reynolds, one of the Union's rising stars in the Eastern theater. Reynolds would not live to see another day; he was soon struck and killed by an enemy's ball. Command of the field fell to Abner Doubleday.

Reynolds had reported to Major General George Meade that he would stay and fight the Confederates west of town so that the army was given sufficient time to secure the vital high ground south of town. Doubleday would carry out this policy for the rest of the battle.

Doubleday placed two of his divisions along McPherson Ridge, one of the several ridges that ran north-south outside of town. The other he held in reserve on Seminary Ridge, named for the Lutheran Seminary which sat upon it. Doubleday was soon replaced by Major General O.O. Howard, whose Eleventh Corps arrived on the field north of town. For the rest of the day Doubleday ably led the First Corps in a losing battle against increasing Confederate numbers. The Corps fought a fighting withdrawal, making a number of stands between the two ridges. Finally, at 4:30 PM, Doubleday ordered the retreat. After 7 hours of fighting the Union fell back through the town to the high ground south of town. Two days later the Union earned its first clear-cut victory.

Abner Doubleday would never receive credit for his gallant actions on July 1, 1863. Meade, after receiving reports that Doubleday's men broke, replaced him with Major General John Newton of the Sixth Corps. Doubleday would never see active service in the war again. On January 26, 1893, Doubleday died at the age of 74, never to be recognized for the role he played in the War's greatest battle.

Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table

1993 CALENDAR of EVENTS



1993 schedule of speakers and special events for the Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table

PROGRAM OF 1993 SPEAKERS

JANUARY 11 -- John Ed Hurley, president of the Confederate Memorial Association. Topic: "The Flags of the Confederacy: Symbols of What?"

FEBRUARY 8 -- Robert E. L. (Bob) Krick, Historian with the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Topic: "Chimborazo Hospital and Confederate Medical Care in Richmond."

MARCH 8 -- Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service. Topic: "Pea Ridge: The Gettysburg of the West."

APRIL 12 -- Professor Emeritus Edward Jervey, Radford University, author of *Prison Life among the Rebels: Recollections of a Union Chaplain*. Topic: "Civil War Prison life at the Confederate Prisons of Andersonville and Macon, Georgia," including first-hand accounts from Dr. Jervey's book.

MAY 10 -- Dr. Wayne B. Cook, National Archives and Records Administration, a nationally-recognized authority on genealogical research. Topic: "Tracing your Civil War Roots."

JUNE 14 -- Professor Emeritus Norman A. Graebner, The University of Virginia, a scholar of national prominence on U.S. Diplomatic History. Topic: "William Seward and the Struggle for Europe."

SEPTEMBER 13 -- Ernest B. Furgurson (Tentative) - Author of *Chancellorsville, 1863 - The Souls of the Brave*. Topic: To be announced.

OCTOBER 12 -- Charles Roland, author of *The Confederacy*. This will be our second annual joint meeting with District of Columbia Civil War Roundtable at Fort McNair. Topic: To be announced.

NOVEMBER 8 -- Albert Castel, author of *Decision in the West*, a new bestseller about Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. Topic: "How To Be Original Without Trying: Some Revisions in the History of the Atlanta Campaign."

OUR ANNUAL ONE-DAY BUS TOUR JACKSON'S FLANK MARCH BEFORE SECOND MANASSAS

Edwin Bearss again leads the CHCWRT on a one-day bus tour on Sunday, June 20, retracing Stonewall Jackson's flank march around Pope's Army prior to the Second Battle of Manassas. Details of the trip, including the cost, will be announced this spring.

HistoryAmerica TOURS 1993 Itinerary

CIVIL WAR

Jefferson Davis' Escape, March 17 - 21

Host city: Charlotte, N.Carol.; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Edwin Bearss*

Grant's Early Victories, April 19 - 25

Host city: Memphis; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Albert Scheller*

Lee: Triumph to Disaster, May 17 - 23

Host city: Fredericksburg, Virg.; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: William Ridinger*

Riding With Forrest, September 8 - 12

Host city: Memphis; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Edwin Bearss*

Campaigns for the Heartland, September 20 - 26

Host city: Nashville; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Richard McMurry*

Civil War Round Table Associates Congress & Tour, October 4 - 10

Site: To be announced; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Edwin Bearss*

Lincoln and Gettysburg, November 16 - 21

Host city: Washington, DC; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: William Ridinger*

The Rebel Shore: Civil War on the Gulf Coast, December 6 - 12

Host city: New Orleans; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Richard McMurry*

INDIAN WARS AND THE WEST

Down Texas Trails: Tour of Historic Texas, March 15 - 21

Host city: Houston; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Archie McDonald*

Crazy Horse & Custer, June 21 - 27

Host city: Billings; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: Neil Mangum*

Warchiefs & Outlaws, July 19 - 25

Host city: Denver; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: John D. McDermott*

Cody, Custer & Chief Joseph, August 7 - 15

Host city: Billings; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: James Court*

The Warrior Trail, August 23 - 29

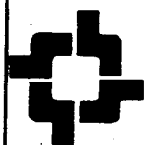
Host city: Scottsbluff, Neb.; *HISTORIAN GUIDE: John D. McDermott*

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HISTORY

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Southern Perspectives On Secession, Civil War And Reconstruction

This course looks at the history of the War for Southern Independence from the Southern side. Arguments and explanations supporting the Southerners' beliefs that their's was the politically correct course of action will be examined and discussed. Historic and contemporary sources will be cited.

Instructor: Bert Barnett, Historian

Sect. 60064		GJHS	\$40
4 sessions	Mon.	7:00-9:00PM	Mar. 1-22

Battle Of Hanover

In June of 1863 there were two huge armies headed toward Pennsylvania and their date with destiny at the small town of Gettysburg. On June 30, 1863, cavalry forces of these two armies collided briefly, but violently, in the streets of Hanover. After an orientation session utilizing maps and audio-visuials, you will trace the routes the two forces took to Hanover, visit the positions they occupied in and around the town and existing Civil War buildings and sites, and follow the retreat routes the forces used. An orientation session will be held on Tuesday evening, followed by two sessions (three hours each) conducted on successive Saturdays (9:00AM-12:00PM).

Instructor: Larry Wallace, Historian and Battlefield Guide

Sect. 60049		SWSD & Hanover Sites	\$40
3 sessions	Tues.	7:00-9:00PM	May 11
	Sat.	9:00AM-12:00PM	May 15, 22

The Civil War In The West — Chickamauga to March-to-the-Sea

This course presents the major campaigns of the American Civil War in the Western Theatre of Operations from 1863-1865. Learn how these campaigns influenced the final outcome of America's bloodiest war, through lectures and slides. (Participation in previous course (1861-1863) not required.)

Instructor: Dr. Charles Fennell, Prof. of History

Sect. 60044		GJHS	\$56
6 sessions	Wed.	7:00-9:00PM	Feb. 24-Mar. 31

Civil War Sites In Gettysburg

A walking tour of Gettysburg, visiting Civil War sites and recounting events that took place therein and the people caught up in the battle, with some possible stops inside buildings.

Instructor: Elwood W. Christ, Historian & Battlefield Guide

Sect. 60045		Downtown Gettysburg	\$18
1 session	Sat.	9:00AM-12:00PM	Apr. 17
			(Rain Date Apr. 24)

Artillery at Gettysburg

An in-depth field study from the actual locations of the more important Union and Confederate Batteries and a discussion of the roles they performed. The class will car pool to the various locations of the Batteries on the Gettysburg National Military Park Battlefield.

Instructor: Charles Hathaway, Artillery Specialist & Battlefield Guide

Sect. 60048		Battlefield	\$20
1 session	Sat.	9:00AM-12:00PM	May 8

