

April 1993

Mine Run Re-visited: The Battle of Payne's Farm Considered

The only significant encounter of arms during the Mine Run Campaign was the bloody engagement at Payne's Farm. Although significant, the action has never been properly examined or "considered." Based solely on firsthand accounts and a thorough understanding of the battlefield-together with evidence removed from the field, Mr. Theodore Savas will dissect the engagement and reach some startling conclusions during our April meeting.

Mr. Savas, a native Iowan, earned his BA in American and European history from the University of Northern Iowa, and is an honors graduate from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he also taught business law. He is a co-editor and publisher of two Civil War publications: *Civil War Regiments: A Journal of the American Civil War*, and *Campaign Chronicles*. He has written numerous articles and book reviews on various Civil War topics, and is currently completing a history of Colonel George Washington Rains, CSA, and the Augusta Power Works, a major Confederate ordnance facility. Mr. Savas practices law in San Jose California, where he resides with his wife Carol and their daughter, Alexandra.

You won't want to miss this meeting, April 8th, 7:30 p.m., at the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Proposals for Shenandoah Battlefield Park Gain Momentum

C.K. Norville

Efforts to create the Shenandoah National Battlefield Park have gained widespread support since the project was first presented to the BRCWRT in January. The effort to create the Park was begun in the summer of 1990, when a group of concerned citizens convinced the National Park Service of the need to determine whether such a Park was feasible. After extensive study, NPS identified 15 battlefield sites as worthy of preservation. After releasing the results of its study, NPS invited comments from the public, along with additional suggestions as to how the Valley's battlefields could be preserved and opened for study and interpretation.



As news of the project spread, it elicited widespread support from property owners, elected officials, community planning staffs, business people, and numerous groups of preservationists and conservationists. Virginia's senators and Congressman Frank Wolf became early supporters of the project. On January 22nd, Congressman Wolf conducted hearings on the proposals at Belle Grove Mansion and the New Market Battlefield Park. Dr. Armando Mancini, president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, was among those who voiced their enthusiastic support for the project. Convinced of its widespread support, Congressman Wolf introduced the necessary legislation for the creation of the Park in the House of Representatives in January. His bill (HR 746) was referred to the Committee on Public Land, a sub-Committee of the Committee on Natural Resources, where it is currently under study and discussion.

Meanwhile, Congressman Bob Goodlatte held hearings on the bill in his 6th congressional district and agreed to co-sponsor the bill with Congressman Wolf. Efforts continue to obtain the support of other members of Congress, including Senators Warner and Robb. Interested persons should continue to voice their support of the proposed Park to make sure that the bill calling for its establishment does not die in Committee.

If adopted, the legislation will establish a Commission that will spend the next two years establishing the Park's boundaries and the sites for two visitor centers, one in the upper valley and one in the lower valley. The commission will include representatives of local governments, members of the tourism industry, business persons, landowners, and historians.



Battlefields cited as worthy of inclusion in the Park are located in the counties of Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Rockingham, Warren, and Shenandoah, and in the city of Winchester. Major military campaigns addressed include Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign of 1862 and Phillip Sheridan's infamous Valley campaign of 1864. Park boundaries will not embrace one large, continuous geographic areas as a single entity, but individuals sites will be created on a regional basis with maps and auto tour guides available at the visitor centers.

Several days would be required to tour the regional park and study the individual sites which would be included. A study by Virginia Tech indicated that the creation of this park within a wide regional framework with site improvements, visitor centers, and interpretative programs could generate up to \$65 million in annual sales, \$22 million in new tax revenues, and 1,600 new jobs. From \$15 to \$40 million would be needed to buy land (with the owner's consent), provide compensation for property owners (as historic sites and properties are restored and maintained), and develop the visitor centers.

The Shenandoah Valley, which was the site of numerous Civil War battles and skirmishes, is the only missing link in the efforts of the NPS to preserve and interpret Civil War battlefield sites. The proposed legislation, if enacted, will correct this situation, and will ensure the preservation of a major section of our nation's Civil War heritage for study and reflection by generations yet to come.

Copies of HR 746 may be obtained from Congressman Wolf's office, and you may register your support of this legislation by writing to him, other members of the House, and Senators Warner and Robb. A failure to gain sanction for this park will mean that Civil War sites now available may be lost forever. Every effort should be made to ensure the passage of this legislation and the preservation of a vital part of our American heritage.

Horse-Mounted Program Under Review BRCWRT Makes its Views Known

Acting on behalf of the BRCWRT, our president, Dr. Mancini, wrote a letter to the Committee on the Horse-Mounted Program voicing support of the continuance of the program.

In his letter, Dr. Mancini noted that the subject has been so politicized and distorted by the press that "an unbiased solution through the government hierarchy may be impossible."

Mancini expresses his desire that the committee "will re-direct the issue back on course and put it in its proper perspective."



The letter mentions several benefits of the program, including the need for a patrol function over the lengthy battlefield trails; the money saved because of a horse's speed over that of a foot patrol; the safety of the horse-mounted officer over a foot patrol; and the provision of private participation with the government staff.

Mancini also mentioned the historical enrichment achieved when a group of children, or people in general, gather around a fully uniformed horse and rider and go through a living history session.

Haymarket Historians Come Out!

Haymarket will celebrate its bicentennial in 1998 and 1999. Sarah Turner, chairman of the Haymarket Historical Commission, notes that there is a need for serious study of Haymarket's role in the Civil War. The commission wants to mark sites where there were encampments, or where action was taken.

Among other things, Haymarket had a regiment, St. Paul's church was used and abused, and the town was systematically torched, from which it never fully recovered. Also, many members of the old families in Haymarket figured prominently in the war. "Nick" Carter lived just behind Haymarket, and members of the Winston Carter family, while not living in the Haymarket community now, are still in the area, as are many others.

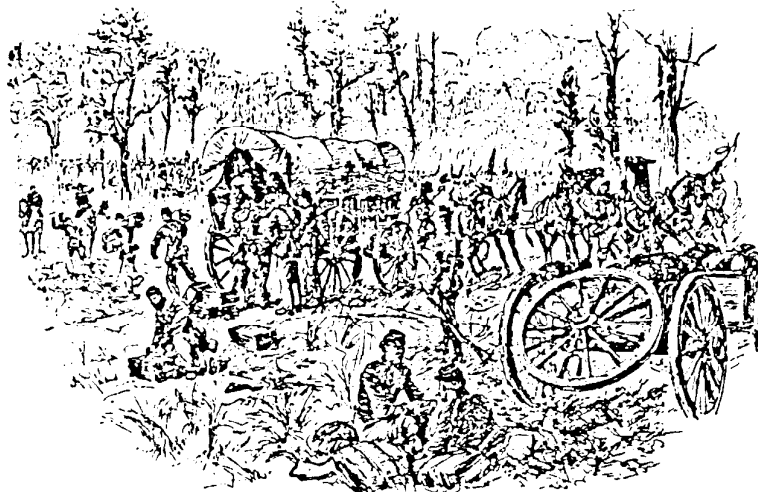
If you would like to do some serious research, please contact the Haymarket Historical Commission at P.O. Box 87, Haymarket, VA 22069.

Civil War History Camp

Our Round Table can further interest in the study of the Civil War by providing a scholarship to the American Blue and Gray Association's Civil War History Camp for high school students. The camp lasts one full week and is held on site. The first session is on Antietam and Gettysburg, and will run from 27 June to 2 July. The cost is about \$500 (or about \$6.00 per member for one scholarship) and includes meals, boarding, handouts, etc. Additional information is available from Dr. Mancini.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING \$5 TO \$10 TO PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE BRCWRT? Several members of the executive committee are. We could hold our own contest, with the student presenting the best paper on the Civil War winning the free scholarship. Second place could be a partial scholarship, and third place a quality book on the Civil War.

Let's consider passing on interest in the Civil War. The more that people study the War, the more interest there will be in preserving important sites and in keeping the history "alive." This is such a small effort with potentially big gains. Mancini will bring this up at the next meeting, so come prepared to voice your opinion.



Would You Like to Help Out With the Newsletter?

When the current editor of the *Stone Wall* was offered his position, he was promised by then BRCWRT President Bill Miller "fame, fortune, and a New York office." If he's so famous, how come you don't know who he is? Regarding the other two, well, he still struggles to pay his mortgage on a Manassas townhouse, where this newsletter is written.

However, he has enjoyed the opportunity to work with some of the best people in Manassas and to get to know some members of the Round Table a lot better than he would have. He also gets reserved seats at the occasional BRCWRT executive committee meetings held at the Mancini "estate," which usually includes free doughnuts and beverages.

If these benefits sound good to you, perhaps you'd like to help out. Contact Mancini or Gary Thomas (finally, my name's in the newsletter! Now I really am famous! Bill was right!) for more details. Gary can be reached at 369-0414.

April Book Quiz "No Luck and No Respect"

This month's book quiz goes by the same rules as in the past. The first person to mail a correct response to the BRCWRT P.O. box will receive a free book at the next meeting. Mancini leads the Round Table, 1 1/2 to 1/2. Let's see if we can get him this time.

This month's "mystery man" was a tinkerer, like many of us. His long years on the frontier gave him time to invent an improved firearm. He subsequently left the army to market his invention, but sales were so bad that he had to sell his invention to his creditors. When the war started, the creditors became rich and this man got nothing.

Some years prior to the War, this soldier came home on leave, met a beauty named Miss Moon, conducted a whirlwind romance, set the wedding date, came to the church and even escorted his intended down the aisle. But when asked during the ceremony, "do you take this man to be your wedded husband," the bride brought the proceedings to a halt by answering loudly and firmly "NO" and fled.

(A year or two later Miss Moon finally married, but her groom brought a pistol to the ceremony. Placing the gun on a table, he advised everyone that there would be "a wedding today or a funeral tomorrow.")

Who was Miss Moon's first, luckless suitor? Did his luck ever change? What firearm did he invent? Mail your answer to BRCWRT, P.O. Box 951, Manassas, VA 22111.

In History 130 Years Ago...

In April, 1863, Hooker was confident and full of energy as he crossed the Rappahannock. "Go forward, and give us victories," Lincoln had written. Hooker intended to do more than that. "I not only expected victory," he later related, "I expected to get the whole [rebel] army." According to Shelby Foote, Hooker's chief of staff confirmed that the real purpose of Hooker's campaign was to "destroy the army of General Lee where it then was." "Fighting Joe" Hooker boldly proclaimed, "My plans are perfect, and when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee; for I shall have none."

On April 27 Union infantry abandoned their winter quarters at Falmouth, marching upriver. A confident Hooker had told Lincoln during the latter's visit that the question was not if he would capture Richmond, but when. By the 29th the Federal infantry were crossing the Rappahannock. On the 30th, Hooker's veterans entered the Wilderness, just 10 miles from December's disaster at Fredericksburg. By nightfall, a Federal force numbering 75,000 lay in the Confederate rear at Chancellorsville, a crossroads hostelry in the Wilderness, while Sedgwick's 40,000 threatened the Southern works at Fredericksburg.

As Hooker faced down R.E. Lee, he wrote a circular to his subordinates, saying he trusted that "a suspension in the attack today will embolden the enemy to attack" us. As Shelby Foote puts it, "Lee and Jackson met at sundown, on the plank road just over a mile southeast of Chancellorsville, for the purpose of deciding how best to go about giving Hooker what he claimed he wanted."

Jeffrey Wert writes, "Hooker's brilliant maneuver endangered Lee's entire army. The Confederate commander could either withdraw toward Richmond or give battle at an enormous disadvantage. When his cavalry confirmed the Federals' presence near Chancellorsville, Lee reacted with an audacious plan. The general had only 60,000 underfed, ragged veterans...[and was] outnumbered nearly 2-to-1. The bold Lee divided his army. Leaving Maj. Gen. Jubal Early with 10,000 men to oppose Sedgwick, Lee marched against Hooker. Lee the gambler had never taken such a risk."

What happened next? We can't tell you. The battle started in May. Stay tuned for the conclusion next month. (Information and quotes taken from Shelby Foote's Narrative and an article written by Jeffrey Wert in the *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*.)



Robert Hicks, Jr.
Director



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March 23, 1993

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table
Dr. Armando Mancini
P. O. Box 951
Manassas, VA 22111

Dear Dr. Mancini:

The 1992 Take Pride in America Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 15, 1993 at 1:00 pm in House Room C of the General Assembly Building in Richmond. A reception will follow immediately in the foyer of the General Assembly Building.

Please use the enclosed form to notify this Department by Friday, April 9, 1993 as to who will represent your group. Due to space limitations, we ask that you limit your group to no more than three people.

Congratulations on your TPIA efforts and I hope you can participate on April 15, 1993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Hicks, Jr.".

J. Robert Hicks, Jr.

Note - This was just received. It's for our purchase and donation of the FLAGPOLE to the Manassas N.B.P last year. We were nominated by the Park superintendent, ... Thanks Ken.

We will receive a Certificate, thanks to your efforts.

Well done.

- Armando - 3/31