



# THE STONE WALL

The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

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

May 1993

Re-printed for  
our 30+ new  
members



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

May 1993

**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. Bearss' caliber. Come early, and bring a friend. We expect a big turnout.

### Unsung Heroes of the Civil War by Scott C. Patchan

Grant and Lee. Longstreet and Jackson. Hancock and Sherman: we've all heard of these famous Civil War commanders before. In this month's issue of the *Stonewall*. I would like to start off a series on unsung heroes of the war. If you have a favorite brigadier, division or corps commander who is not well known send in an article on him and we'll try and print it depending upon the number of articles received. I'll start off with a short piece on Major-General George C. Crook.

George Crook was an Ohioan. At West Point, he roomed with fellow Ohioan Philip H. Sheridan. The two buckeyes hit it off well and formed a friendship that later served the Union cause well. Crook became the Colonel of the 36th Ohio Infantry early in the war. Crook soon gained command of two other regiments in addition to his own. On March 23, 1862, Crook's command garrisoned Lewisburg in what is now West Virginia. Virginian Henry Heth led a Confederate force which greatly outnumbered the Federals. Crook sent out skirmishers to delay Heth's advance while he prepared his forces for the coming battle. Crook not only repulsed Heth but led a sweeping counterattack which captured many prisoners and cannon.

Crook's next major battle came in the late summer of 1862. His brigade transferred to the Army of the Potomac. Here Crook successfully led his men in an assault on South Mountain. At Antietam, however, he failed to live up to his previous successes. At Sharpsburg, Crook found a ford, crossed the Antietam and got his men into the battle to resist A. P. Hill's counterattack against the Union left. Following the 1862 Maryland Campaign, Crook returned with his men to the Western Virginia theatre (West Virginia today). In 1863, Brigadier-General Crook took the 36th Ohio and joined Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland and participated in the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

In the spring of 1864, Major-General George Crook returned to West Virginia to lead a raid on the Tennessee Railroad in southwest Virginia. Crook

handily defeated the Confederate force of General Jenkins in the intense battle of Cloyds Mountain on May 9, 1864 and completed his mission by destroying the railroad bridge over the New River. Crook then joined forces with "Black Dave" Hunter. In what started off as a successful campaign against Lynchburg, a vital rebel railroad hub and supply center, Crook salvaged Hunter's army in late June after Hunter wasted valuable time burning homes and farms on the way to Lynchburg. Crook and his men strongly disapproved of Hunter's tactics against Virginia's civilian population.

Hunter's army marched back to West Virginia and from there to the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Here Crook took field command of Hunter's army and joined forces with Horatio Wright of the 6th Corps, Army of the Potomac. On July 19, 1864, Wright, the senior officer, ordered a division of Crook's across the Shenandoah River in the vicinity of Snicker's Gap. Wright promised Crook the support of the 6th Corps: support that never came. Nevertheless, Crook's men managed to hold on until dark against Jubal Early's army before recrossing the river. On July 20, Crook attacked and crushed Stephen Ramseur's rebel division a few miles north of Winchester. Five days later, though, Jubal Early brought out his entire army and returned the favor forcing Crook's outnumbered troops to retreat in disorderly fashion to Martinsburg. In early August, George Crook's friend Phil Sheridan came to the Valley with numerous reinforcements. On September 19, Sheridan struck Early at the Third Battle of Winchester. Here the Confederates repulsed the first Union advance and counterattacked with a vengeance. Sheridan sent Crook's "Mountain Creepers" to bolster the sagging Federal right. Crook took the initiative and attacked the left flank of the Confederates opposite him. This attack marked the beginning of the rebel rout at Winchester. Three days later with Early's troops entrenched on Fisher's Hill, Crook proposed that he take his troops on a flank march on the east slope of North Mountain upon which rested the left flank of the rebel Army of the Valley. Crook marched his men until they were in rear of the Confederate works. He formed a line perpendicular to the southerners' trenches, charged and proceeded to put the rebel army to flight for the second time in 4 days. After the war, Sheridan claimed to be the originator of these movements however, the accounts of other officers support Crook. On October 19, Crook's troops occupied the extreme left of the army where Jubal Early launched his predawn surprise. The men were routed, but Crook managed form a line in front of army headquarters at Belle Grove plantation where he held off Early for 30 minutes while the headquarters moved out and the 6th Corps' troops readied themselves to receive Early's assaults. Crook's men continued rearward and advanced in a second line during the evening counterattack. Sheridan exhorted Crook's "Buzzards" to join in the attack to show that he still had confidence in them. Crook's men never forgot the advance back to their camps at Cedar Creek that evening.

During the winter of 64-65 Crook was kidnapped by partisans while he

slept in a Cumberland, Maryland hotel. After being exchanged, Crook took command of a division of cavalry in the Army of the Potomac which he led successfully in the Appomattox Campaign. Many Civil War Generals who had commanded a corps would consider it an insult to be lowered to division command. Not Crook, while he would regret parting with troops who served him faithfully, he did not fret about the size of his command.

After the war, George Crook became a well known Indian fighter. It is here that he fell into disfavor with Sheridan. Crook believed that after he defeated the Indians on the battlefield that they should be treated humanely, but Sheridan thought otherwise, and Crook suffered for his humanity.

Although he did not achieve the fame as did other more flamboyant officers, I believe that George C. Crook took full satisfaction in fulfilling his duty to his country and could rest in peace knowing that even in war he did not become blind to the sufferings and deprivations of his fellow human beings.

#### Hennessy addresses the D. C. C. W. R. T by Kevin Leahy

On Tuesday, April 13, 1993, John Hennessy addressed the D. C. Round Table on the Subordinate commanders of the Army of the Potomac. The lecture traced the changes in the army's officer corps from 1862 to 1864. Hennessy explained how in 1862 many officers were old Regulars with Mexican War experience but that by 1863 many of the army's senior officers were men who made few mistakes on the battlefield and were considered "steady but unspectacular". They were not the type of men who would take the initiative and shoulder responsibility on their own but could be relied on most of the time. Through combat experience, these officers formed what arguably may be one of the best led armies in the world by Appomattox.

#### Spring Tour

The Mosby Confederacy Tour was just great: great weather, good company, good guides and good lunch served by a fine group of Ladies in Middleburg. There was a great deal of interaction with the D. C. Round Table including interesting discussions with Pat Jones, Jim Moyer and Tom Evans. It was a tour well worth taking!

#### Tours and Symposiums

"Lee, Triumph to Disaster", May 17 to 23, 1993. Hosted by Bill Ridinger  
"Riding with Forrest", Sept. 8 to 12, 1993. Hosted by Ed Bearss.  
"Campaigns for the Heartland", Sept. 20 to 26, 1993. Dick McMurry  
"Lincoln and Gettysburg" Nov. 16 to 21, 1993  
"The Rebel Shore", Civil War on the Gulf, Dec. 6 to 12, 1993. Dick McMurry  
For a free brochure call 1-800-628-8542

### Own a Civil War Classic!!!!

Ed Bearss will not be the only legend of civil war history at the May Meeting. One of the more important pieces of civil war literature in existence will be available at our book table. We are offering a full set of Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Four volumes and 3091 pages of first-hand accounts, apologies and analysis by the likes of Longstreet, McClellan, Hood, Joe Johnston, Grant, Sherman and others. Every major campaign is covered in this fully illustrated set complete with maps and a detailed index. We will not break up this set (\$50 retail). Its all or nothing for some intrepid soul among us. Come on out and visit our book table. This might be the only chance you ever have to put 9 1/2 inches of Civil War classic on your book shelf for two bucks!

### May Trivia

On November 6, 1862 Major-General George McClellan received an order from the War Department stating, "An engine will leave Alexandria for your headquarters in half an hour or ten a. m. to convey General Buckingham with dispatches. Supplies will be forwarded at once to any point you may direct." What is the historical significance of this order?

The winners of last month's contest are Ralph Swanson and Jeb Stewart. They both correctly responded that Ambrose Burnside was the inventor of the Burnside Carbine and a General in the Army of the Potomac.

### TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA - Joe Gray

The B.R.C.W.R.T. was recognized for its contribution of the new flagpole at the Pageland Lane Park Center in Richmond, Virginia on April 15, 1993.

Sponsored by the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, the awards are for acts by individuals and groups that help present a better, more pleasant viewing of our State and Country.

Our R.T. was awarded honorable mention in the category of Organization and Civic Associations. As our club president could not attend, the award was received by Joe Gray for our club.

FALL IN; Help is wanted for road clean-up on Saturday, May 15, 9:30 a.m. We will meet at Route 29 and Pageland Lane, at the new park headquarters. Join us, bring the kids, we love them and I'll guarantee that you will have a good time.

HORSE-MOUNTED ASSESSMENT TEAM - Martha Hendley

On February 9, 1993, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced that construction work on the barn at Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) would cease pending study of the horse program at the Park and that any "executive VIP" use of the horses would be discontinued. Shortly after that, a study team was assembled by the National Park Service (NPS) which consisted of four NPS personnel and two citizens. Members of the team were Burnice Kearney, Associate Regional Director for Operations, National Capital Region who was the team leader, James D. Young, Superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park, Ken Apschnikat, Superintendent of MNBP, Carl Hanson, Chief Ranger at MNBP, Martha Hendley, horse-mounted patrol volunteer representative, and Brad Bradshaw, citizen's representative. Brad Bradshaw, Martha Hendley, and Ken Apschnikat are all members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. It was stipulated by NPS that the study was not to encompass use of the Park's bridle trails by the general public.

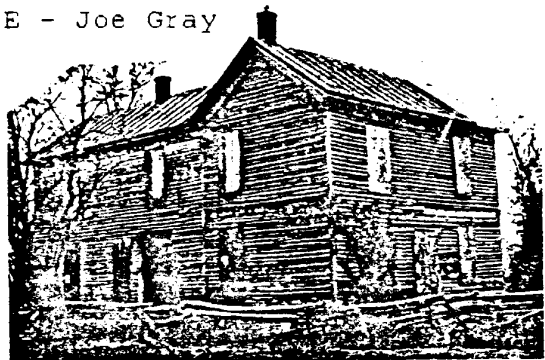
The Horse-Mounted Assessment Team met initially on February 18. That was followed by an on-site inspection of the Park's horse facility and operation on March 3. On March 12 the team met with staff from MNBP and accepted input from all divisions of Park operations which include interpretation, maintenance, administration, resource management, and law enforcement. A public meeting was held in the auditorium of the Park's Visitor Center on March 19 to hear citizens address the team about the program. Eighty-nine people signed in and thirty of them spoke. Written comment was also being accepted throughout the process and our Round Table submitted a letter. The team met again on March 26 to discuss their conclusions and then on March 30 to draft a report of alternatives.

The team's report was ready for Robert Stanton, Regional Director, National Region on April 1. It was expected that Mr. Stanton would confer with other NPS personnel and with personnel from the Department of the Interior before reaching a decision. At this point on April 28, we are awaiting the announcement from NPS as to what that decision is.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OPEN HOUSE - Joe Gray

On Saturday, April 17, 1993, the N.P.S. held an open house to further acquaint the public with the present situation regarding the Brawner House and the electrical transmission lines crossing both new tracts, Brawner's and Stuart's Hill.

In attendance were various people involved in planning future development of the two sites. Forms were available for interested parties to comment on the future of these important areas. Copies will be available for our membership to use at our own May meeting.



The Brawner House at Manassas National Battlefield Park

Unfortunately, this attendee received the distinct impression from all N.P.S. personnel that leaving the existing structure for improving interpretation of the battle was a bad idea. Every comment from N.P.S. was negative.

The letter from our organization, strongly recommending stabilizing the structure was hand delivered to Ken Apschnikat, it was read and will be considered by M.N.B.P. in the future disposition of this important landmark of the 2nd Battle of Manassas.

Stay tuned, more to come.

You Are Invited to Attend

## "THE CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE OF SECOND MANASSAS"

A Seminar of the American Blue & Gray Association

May 20-23, 1993

based at Carradoc Hall, Leesburg, Virginia

★ With John Hennessy, Robert E.L. Krick, A. Wilson Greene and Dennis E. Frye ★

"I regret to see that General Pope. . .has now written himself down as what the military world has long known, an ass." So wrote Gen. Fitz John Porter of his comrade in arms, Gen. John Pope. Pope, the man the Lincoln administration hoped could subdue the Confederates in Virginia and perhaps even capture Richmond, had arrived in Virginia with a flourish, issuing bold orders and addresses to his troops that many, including Porter, found boorish, tactless and ill advised. On the basis of these writings and his subsequent conduct in the campaign of August 1862, Pope has long been considered one of the many inept and insufferable generals to lead Federal troops in Virginia. Was he a braggart or a scapegoat?

Robert E Lee, in command of his army for exactly 75 days when he first squared off with Pope, seemed to take a more personal approach to this Federal general than any other he would ever face. He called Pope a "miscreant" and wrote to "Stonewall" Jackson of his wish to "suppress Pope." As the two armies stared at each other across the Rapidan River in mid-August 1862, Lee prepared to launch his first, full campaign as army commander, and hoped to clear Virginia of a despicable Yankee and his hordes of invaders within weeks. Lee wished to take the war north.

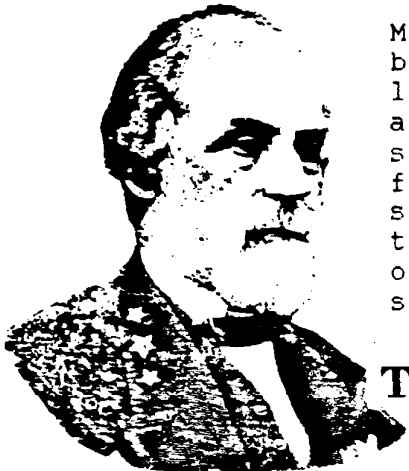
No other campaign in the Civil War is as rich in personality, petty pride, political pressure, prowess and pure heroism and remains as obscure as the Campaign of Second Manassas. The opposing armies returned to Bull Run to fight the bloodiest two-day battle the war had yet produced. The controversies surrounding this campaign are some of the more perplexing and momentous of the war. Could Lee and Jackson possibly have been more daring? Was Pope the boastful braggart he has been portrayed as being? Was McClellan slowed by pride and jealousy? Was Fitz John Porter guilty of insubordination and negligence, or was he a sacrificial lamb? Was Longstreet responsible for losing the Confederacy's best chance yet to destroy the Federal army in Virginia?

Join us this spring in the Virginia Piedmont as we place ourselves in the hands of the "unchallenged authority" on the war's most neglected important campaign. John Hennessy, author of *Return to Bull Run*, the most important campaign history in recent years, will lead us on what he has promised will be "the most in-depth two-day tour of Second Manassas" he has ever given.

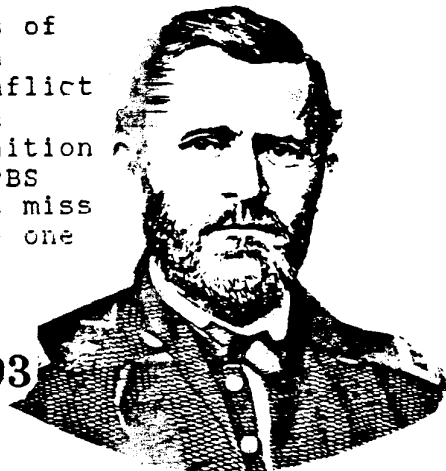
And our friend Linda Breedlove will be on hand during the seminar with full tables of Civil War books. Our registration limit is 90, so enroll now. Please call us at 1-800-992-1863 if you have questions.

# Edwin C. Bearss

Chief Historian for the National Park Service



Mr. Bearss, author of dozens of books on the Civil War, is a leading authority on the conflict and highly sought after as a speaker. He won wide recognition for his appearances in the PBS series *The Civil War*. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of the nation's exceptional speakers.



Thursday, May 13, 1993

★ 7:30 p.m. ★

★ "Lee vs. Grant, 1864-1865" ★

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P.O. BOX 951  
MANASSAS, VA 22111

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