



The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

February 1994



A. Wilson Greene to Speak on Stonewall

A. Wilson Greene, the executive director of the Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites, will address Bull Run Civil War Round Table on Stonewall Jackson. The talk will be held on Thursday, February 10, 1994 at 7:30 P. M. in the Manassas National Battlefield Visitors Center. Mr. Greene has authored *Whatever You Resolve To Be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson* and *A Guidebook to Civil War Battlefield Parks*. Additionally, he formerly held a position as a National Park Service Historian at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park. We look forward to having him as our guest this month.

The Meaning of Battlefield Preservation

by Scott C. Patchan

Last summer, I took my 5 year old son, Andrew, to Fisher's Hill Battlefield near Strasburg, Virginia. We were able to walk along trails leading us to the Confederate positions on top of "Ramseur's" hill. Once there, I explained the battle to Andrew. From this beautiful hilltop sight, we could see North Mountain where General George Crook launched his decisive attack on the Confederate flank and charged across the fields leading to the hill we stood on. My son found in George Crook a hero. Ever since that day, Andrew asks me about Crook and other battles he fought in. He dilligently sets up his toy soldiers to recreate "Crook sneaking up on the rebels" at Fisher's Hill. If it were not for the efforts of A. Wilson Greene and APCWS, I would not have been able to share that experience with my son. As the acting-President of Bull Run Civil War Round Table, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Greene for all the work he has done saving Civil War Battlefields. Glendale, Malvern Hill, Fisher's Hill, Thom's Brook, Bentonville, McDowell, Westport and many other battlefields are preserved at least in part today as a direct result of Mr. Greene's and his organization's efforts. I hope that in the future, Bull Run Civil War Round Table can offer Mr. Greene and APCWS more than just our thanks. If we preserve now, other fathers can share similar experiences with their sons for generations to come.

From the Vice-President's Desk

February 1, 1994

Dear BRCWRT Members:

A new member signed on with us this month. Gary Ecelbarger's wife, Carolyn, gave birth to a strapping 10+ pound baby boy on January 20, 1994. I extend congratulations to Gary (BRCWRT Secretary & Newsletter Editor) and Carolyn and wish them the best of luck. I trust that comrade Ecelbarger will raise young Daniel Allen Ecelbarger to be a "true blue" Yankee like his father.

In other Round Table news, I have scheduled several interesting speakers for next fall and beyond. Ray Brown of MNBPA will address us on the Battle of Salem Church in September. The next month will feature the "Sage of Loudoun County," Mr. John Devine. Greg Mertz of Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Battlefield will talk about Jeb Stuart and his performance as an infantry commander at the battle of Chancellorsville. Retired U. S. Army officer, Joe Whitehorne is scheduled to tell us about the issues which faced General Grant when he assumed supreme command of the U. S. forces in the spring of 1864. The list continues on into 1995 with Roger DeLauter speaking on McNeil's Rangers while Bill Miller is hard at work on next year's presentation on White House Landing. Author Kim Holien will give us the details on the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Bron Wolff, a BRCWRT member, will educate us "Easterners" on the bloody battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Jim Burgess and other National Park Service staff help to round out the schedule. The list goes on, but it looks to be another good year for our Round Table with a wide variety of speakers and topics.

Coming up later this spring, Bill Miller will be conducting a guided bus tour of the Seven Days Battles around Richmond. I encourage you to attend as this trip promises to be first rate. For additional details please see Bill's insert further along in the newsletter. Gary Ecelbarger and myself are planning a self-guided Round Table tour of Antietam Battlefield. This should occur sometime in May. It will be the same format as last fall's Gettysburg trip. If any of you have any ideas for a fall Round Table self-guided tour, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to address the role of the Round Table in conjunction with the planned Disney theme park in Haymarket. As a historical organization, I believe that we have an obligation to examine this issue. I do not mean that the Round Table should take an official stand on the issue, but rather I believe that Bull Run Civil War Round Table should be a source of accurate and reliable information on the planned development. I will ensure that the Round Table provides that information to its members. This will be done primarily through the newsletter.

To date, most of the information Disney provides the media seems to be rather one-sided as if there will be no negatives associated with this project. As Disney claims to want to be a good neighbor, I would like to hear them address the negative aspects of their planned park as well as the good. After all, good neighbors usually talk over matters of concern to their neighborhood. For example, what effect will Disney have on Manassas National Battlefield? Will Disney take any steps to prevent negative repercussions to our battlefield? We also need to find out specifically how Disney plans to interpret history. Is it proper for Disney to exploit the sufferings of some American peoples for profit? Will this new theme park really enhance people's understanding of history? Will visitors from California really understand the cruelty and suffering of slavery

by going to a theme park which includes roller coasters, ferris wheels and a golf course? We must also consider the impact Disney will have on our local economy. It appears certain that Disney and the accompanying ancillary development will bring thousands of jobs to our area. Many of these jobs will go to individuals who are now unemployed. These are some of many items that need to be addressed. Bull Run Civil War Round Table will do all it can to provide its members with the facts on these issues and others so that our members can make their own educated decisions on this matter.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. If you have any friends you've been meaning to do something with but never seem to be able to, why don't you give them a call and invite them to hear A. Wilson Greene speak this month.

Respectfully,

Scott C. Patchan
Vice-President and
Program Chairman, BRCWRT

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

John McAnaw answered last month's trivia answers correctly and earned three raffle tickets for the following responses:

1. The Union disaster at Ball's Bluff, VA resulted in the formation of the Joint Committee for the Conduct of the War.
2. Solomon Meredith and John Gibbon were the two North Carolinians who led the Union Iron Brigade during the early years of the Civil War.
3. Mr. McAnaw researched the question "Name the Civil War officers who were also veterans of both the War of 1812 and the Mexican War?" The following is his informative and interesting response:

I have given this question much thought and some research time. My conclusion is that a completely accurate answer as to the only Civil War officers that were also veterans of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War is unattainable.

Descriptive rolls of organizations in the military forces of the U. S. and the Confederate States are incomplete. One study of Confederate company rolls for 28 regiments (9000+ soldiers) found twelve men aged 60-69, one aged 70, and one aged 73. Conceivably, some of these individuals could have served (at a tender age) in the War of 1812 and also during the Mexican War. A few may have possibly been volunteer, regular army, or militia officers during the Civil War. Benjamin A. Gould, a U.S. Sanitary Commission actuary, compiled vital statistics for 1,012,273 Union volunteers. He recorded that 2366 of the number studied were over 50 years of age - certainly at least a handful of these men were 60 years of age or older.

Let me cite just one odd but fairly well known unit - the 37th Iowa Infantry Regiment. This was a "unique" unit organized for guard duty and consisted, in the main, of men over 45 years of age. Believe it or not, a total of 145 men in this regiment were 60

years of age or older!! The senior soldier of this unit was Curtis King who was discharged for disability on March 20, 1863 - at the age of 81 years! Some of these individuals were undoubtedly officers who could have served in the preceding two wars.

In excess of 2 million soldiers/sailors/marines served in the armed forces of the U.S. during the Civil War. Somewhere around 800,000 men served in the armed forces of the Confederacy. I do not believe the requisite records exist that would show everyone that served in all these wars. - even with the provision that concerned individuals had to have served as an officer during the Civil War. There were too many militia organizations, "hundred day wonders" and even volunteer and regular army units with incomplete or lost records. Furthermore, I have no doubt that some Americans lied about their advanced years just to serve. Additionally, many companies were so strapped for men with military experience that they would elect anyone with a military background - no matter how old they were. Young Americans often showed a "kind streak" toward aged Veterans. If nothing more, the elderly officer was a conversation piece for his younger comrades-in-arms.

Having stated the above, I believe that this question was intended to read "who are the only Civil War Generals (brevets excluded) that were also veterans of both the War of 1812 and the Mexican War?" If this is the case, then Ezra Warner's *Generals in Blue* and *Generals in Gray* can provide the requested information. Here goes:

Union: MG's Winfield Scott, John Wool, John Dix, BG's James Ripley, Joseph Taylor, Charles Thruston.

Confederate: MG David E. Twigg

Thank You Mr. McAnaw for the Response and the Lesson!!

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TRIVIA QUESTIONS

The first person to answer all three of these trivia questions correctly will win 3 raffle tickets for February's book raffle (a five dollar value):

1. What Confederate Artillery unit was formed from a company of infantry from the Stonewall Brigade?
2. What Civil War melody became a pop hit in the 1950's? (Hint: the 1950's version had a completely different set of lyrics, but maintained the same melody as the 1860's version).
3. Like Father/Like Son: Name two Civil War officers whose sons were high-ranking World War II Military Officers.

If you think you know the answers to these questions, you may send your response directly to the newsletter editor - Gary Ecelbarger/211 N. Cameron St./Sterling, VA 20164. The first correct set of responses received will be awarded the book raffle tickets.

CURRENT EVENTS

Submitted by Ralph & Renata Swanson

Each month this calendar will feature events occurring locally that may be of interest to Round Table members. We encourage anyone who attends an event to write a brief review for publication in the newsletter for the benefit and enjoyment of our readers. If readers become aware of an event that should appear on these pages, please notify the newsletter editor by the 20th of each month. Reviews and notices can be mailed to the BRCWRT/ PO Box 951/ Manassas, VA 22111.

Kurtz Cultural Center, Winchester

A dandy CW artifact collection is on permanent display at the Kurtz. Combine this with visits to other historical places, from both the Civil War and Revolutionary War periods, in and around Winchester. Corner of Cameron and Boscowen Streets in Old Town Winchester. Open seven days. Free.

Exchange Hotel, Gordonsville

This rail stop hotel was the center of social activity and commerce at the intersection of the Orange and Alexandria, and Virginia Central Railroads during the war. Later, it fell into disrepair and was nearly lost until Gordonsville citizens rescued it and restored its splendor. The hotel now houses an excellent CW artifact collection and features rotating exhibits. Civil War medicine and medical procedures are occasionally re-enacted there.

Carlyle House, Alexandria

A new exhibit depicts slavery in the home of John Carlyle, a Scottish merchant and one of colonial Alexandria's leading citizens. Exhibit includes interactive displays featuring video performances by actors playing the parts of Carlyle house slaves. Mannequins made specifically for the exhibit are dressed in costumes based on clothing samples from the house. Runs thru next summer. 121 N. Fairfax St. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm. 703/549-2997. \$3.

Pickett's Charge

A new exhibit at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Eleven of the 15 regimental flags carried at Gettysburg by Pickett's Virginians are on display. Other artifacts are Pickett's sash, Armistead's sword, scabbard and belt, and Garnett's monocular. THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ARTIFACTS THAT ARE RARELY ON DISPLAY. 1201 E. Clay St. 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun. 804/649-1861. Admission.

Charity Bus Tour

★ The Seven Days Battles ★

of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign

To Benefit the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites
Glendale-Malvern Hill Battlefield Fundraising Campaign

April 2, 1994

100% of Proceeds go to APCWS

APCWS has signed an option to purchase land on the Virginia Peninsula encompassing portions of two extremely important battlefields. Ed Bearss, chief historian for the National Park Service, has called this, "the largest private Civil War preservation undertaking in American History." Now you can become a part of it.

This one purchase of 750 new acres would approximately *double* the size of Richmond National Battlefield Park. APCWS will be making payments on the property through 1997. APCWS has named this project the "top Civil War preservation priority of this decade" and is actively seeking support from private and corporate donors. If you believe in preservation, this is a great time to lay out a few dollars and really have it count -- and get a great tour besides.

The Tour Guides will

- Provide a campaign orientation briefing with maps
- Stop at the major battlefields of June 25 - July 1, 1862, including non-Park Service sites
- Go off the beaten track to stop at significant non-battlefield sites and historic roads to help provide a clear understanding of the campaign
- Discuss the engagements on tactical and strategic levels
- Take you onto the Glendale-Malvern tract APCWS is buying to see key battlefield landmarks *never before accessible to the public.*

Tour Guides

Michael J. Andrus

Historian, Richmond National Battlefield Park

William J. Miller

Editor, *The Peninsula Campaign: Yorktown to the Seven Days*, a new journal of scholarship

Attendees Should Bring a Brown Bag Lunch ★ Sodas and Light Rations Will be Available on the Bus

Please rally to the cause and help us support APCWS in its worthy venture. Your payment is tax deductible.

The cost of this charity tour is only \$30 (students get a 50% discount), and *all* proceeds above the cost of the bus and mental expenses go to APCWS. **Make all checks payable to APCWS.** Remember, your payment is tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (very important) _____ Other Telephone # _____

Mail to: Bill Miller • 7621 Chadds Landing Way • Manassas, VA 22111

Detailed information will be mailed to you (or we will call you). The bus will leave the Washington area about 7:30 a.m.. If you prefer, you can meet the bus in Richmond or possibly in Fredericksburg, depending on demand. We will call you in case of cancellation. Your check will be returned upon request or in case of cancellation (we cannot return your check after 15 March unless the trip is canceled). Call Bill Miller at (703) 369-0602 with questions.

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph & Renata Swanson

Chantilly Battlefield

We are happy to announce that we achieved victory at the January 10 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. After a stirring presentation by about 11 speakers, including our BRCWRT, supporting the acquisition of Parcel 5, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$550,000 for the purchase. This land is adjacent to, and would be added to, the existing Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The County will now approach the realtor listing the property to make a "back-up" offer. A developer who intends to build homes on the land, currently holds an option to buy the property. Supervisor Michael Frey was quoted in the press as saying the option-holder will now likely pull out after this action by the Board. If that occurs, the County can proceed to negotiate directly with the landowner.

Bristoe Station

The Prince William County planning meeting to consider rezoning Bristoe Station was rescheduled, but the Round Table has gone on record opposing the re-zoning of land encompassing the Bristoe Station battlefield for high density residential uses. Our position advocates retaining the existing agricultural zoning or allowing residential zoning of no greater than one house per acre. We have argued for a compromise that includes an historic district designation that will preserve significant portions of the battlefield while allowing clustered development elsewhere. We need Round Table members, especially PW County residents, to write to the PW County Planning Commission/ One County Complex Court/ Prince William, VA 22192, or call County Chairman Kathleen Seefeldt directly (703/792-4640) and express their views. Supervisor Bobby McManus addressed our last meeting saying that residents are not involved in this issue. **THIS MUST CHANGE!! CONFEDERATE TROOPS STILL LIE BURIED ON THIS BATTLEFIELD!!**

Disney's America

The Disney Corporation has officially applied for a re-zoning of land for its proposed theme park in Prince William County, although the application was recently returned by the County for more details. Those details should soon be available to the public. The plan is for a 3,000-acre commercial/residential complex surrounding a 100-acre theme park. Studies reported recently in the press are predicting far greater impacts from traffic, secondary developments, etc. than previously estimated. The County expects about a nine month review process.

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY MOST UNDERRATED/OVERRATED GENERAL

By Scott C. Patchan

Lt. General Jubal Anderson Early deserves the title of most underrated Confederate General of the war. While Early is usually harshly criticized for his defeats in the Shenandoah Valley, I believe his campaign there to be one of the most remarkable of the war. In June of 1864, he defeated David Hunter at Lynchburg. He followed this win up by advancing down the Valley and invading Maryland. There he trounced Lew Wallace at Monocacy and marched to the gates of Washington, D. C. Early wisely chose not to slaughter his troops attacking the Capital's defenses. Returning to Virginia, he defeated Horatio Wright at Snickers Gap on July 18. On July 24, he routed George Crook's force at the 2nd Battle of Kernstown. In August, despite being outnumbered 2 to 1, he faced down Sheridan and forced him to retreat to the Union defenses near Harpers Ferry. Sheridan managed to defeat Early only after upping the odds to 3 to 1 in favor of the Ohioan. Early's campaign is often compared to Stonewall Jackson's '62 Valley operations. In truth, when Early had opportunities like Jackson did, he won. Additionally, Early had to deal with a commanding General (Lee) who did not believe Jubal's very accurate estimates of Federal troop strengths. With an army incomplete in its organization, (1 brigade contained 14 regiments but numbered only 800 men, and this is but one example) Early successfully held the Valley for three months before being defeated. Even then he tried valiantly to retrieve the sinking Confederate forces. Jubal Early's daring night march along a mountainside and pre-dawn attack is the most daring undertaking of the war. Jubal Early did more than could be reasonably be expected from him with the tools he had at hand. He is the most underrated Confederate General.

Stonewall Jackson is undoubtedly the most overrated Confederate General. Jackson's famous 1862 Valley Campaign could not have had any other results given the buffoons Jackson faced off against. Who didn't beat Nathaniel Banks? Fremont, well he's a real "winner". And who is this Shields character? Would Jackson have been victorious against an aggressive Federal general who concentrated his 40,000 troops against Jackson's 15,000? The same goes for Jackson's 2nd Manassas Campaign. His adversary, General Pope, was a blustering idiot who did not have the respect of his own men even before he lost the battle. At Chancellorsville, Jackson's smashing flank attack was made so easy courtesy of Oliver Otis Howard, that stellar warrior from New England who ignored repeated warnings from "ignorant Dutchmen" that an attack was coming on his flank. It is often said that if Jackson were at Gettysburg on the first day that he would have seized the heights before the Federals had time to reorganize. If one wants to speculate, it is only fair to remember that Jackson may have gone to sleep and let A. P. Hill get mauled as he did during the Seven Day's Battles or fail to aggressively push the attack such as he did during Longstreet's counterattack at 2nd Manassas. I mean no disrespect to the great Stonewall, I merely wish to make some points about Jackson's adversaries and emphasize that he was not perfect. While I do consider Jackson a great General, I honestly believe that he like most of the great generals of the Civil War are greatly overrated when all of the facts are considered. Jackson, however stands out as the **most overrated Confederate General.**

FROM THE RANKS

What a difference three years make! The following two Confederate accounts describe events occurring in two totally different February's of the Civil War. The first account was provided by BRCWRT member Bob Kindergan. It is excerpts from a letter written by his great-grandfather, who was stationed at Camp Allegheny, Western Virginia in February, 1862 - with the dreams and hopes for success for the Confederate States of America still fresh. The second account (from a different soldier) takes place just three years later in front of Petersburg. Instead of snowball fights, this Confederate describes hunger and death as his army and country has less than three months left to survive.

From Captain Thomas Armstead Bradford - Co. H, 31st VA Vol. Inf.

5th Feby. 1862

My Dr Love,

Yours of the 1st inst. was received today, & I was very glad to hear from you & that you & the children were well...Reger left yesterday morning although it was very cold & the snow as about eight inches deep though he had not been outside his cabin for a month. I saw him or rather met him on the road when he was on his way. He was wrapt up so that I could only see his nose & it looked more like the nose of a dead man than one living. I wish him a speedy recovery. Capt. Myers also left this morning on a leave of absence. His mother is not expected to live long & he has not seen her for 2 or 3 years.... I put in an application to go about the middle of this month & thought thought the old devil (Gen'l Johnson) would sign it, but he refused. I intend to try him again about the last of this month & if he refuses I shall appeal to the Secretary of War in Richmond. I will not therefore be able to go to see you before the first or middle of March...

The men have had great times for the last week or so snowbuling. One day not less than six hundred were engaged in it. The Georgia regiment came up & attacked ours & our fellows being used to the business soon whipped the Georgians & then both went down to attack the 52nd & a sharp conflict was going on when the 52nd was reinforced by Reger's battalion & our regiment & the Georgians had to retreat. Old men from Georgia participated. One old capt. 61 years old led the van & got so used up that he has not been able to leave his cabin since....

Farewell my dear love & write me as often as you conveniently can.

T A Bradford

From Col. William H. Stewart - 61st VA, at Hatcher's Run, VA (2/6/65)

...The men hastily threw up scant breastworks, and as night was fast approaching made brush shelters to protect themselves as much as possible from rain, snow, and sleet; but no fires could be allowed in such close proximity to the enemy. During the evening the cooks brought to the men in line of battle a small pone of bread each, the first morsel since early morning; then these hungry soldiers wrapped their shivering frames in wet blankets and slept as best they could under the brush shelters on the frozen ground, while the pickets paced their beats in front of the enemy.

The morning broke clear, with long icicles hanging from the tree limbs, which bent under the burden like weeping willows, and the cold north wind was chilling and terrible to withstand.

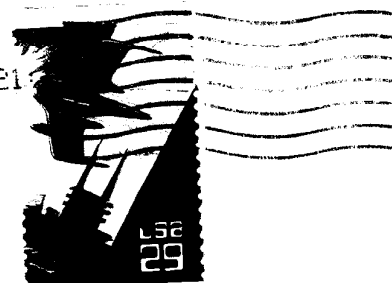
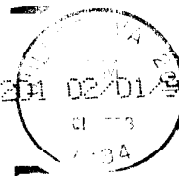
After daylight the soldiers were permitted to cut the sapling trees and build fires, for they were almost to the point of freezing at their posts. There was no activity in front of us until late in the afternoon, when the enemy opened fire with artillery.

Four soldiers of Company A, 61st Virginia Regiment, Mahone's Old Brigade were standing in a line in front of one of these log fires. A shell passed so near the first man's head that the wind knocked him down, and wounded the next on the hip. It crushed the knee of the third one who fell forward in the fire, which severely burnt his hands and face before he could be pulled out; he died from loss of blood on the litter before the bearers could reach the field hospital. The fourth was seriously wounded in the ankle. He had a thirty days' furlough in his pocket when he went into the battle. A double volunteer and a hero of priceless fame!

These times were the most desperate I ever experienced.

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