



The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

MARCH 1994 NEWSLETTER



BLOODY OCTOBER

In October of 1864, the combat focus of the Civil War seemed any place but on Richmond. In the west, Sherman had taken Atlanta, and was gamely trailing after Hood in the vain search for a decisive battle. In the east, Sheridan and Early also sought a decisive battle, and this time the search would not be in vain.

Yet at the very gates of Richmond, in the beginning of this month, Confederate forces under the personal direction of Robert E. Lee would undertake an offensive aimed at upsetting the strategic balance in this theatre. At the end of the month, Union forces would go on the offensive, with the capture of Richmond as the goal. In between would take place a small battle borne out of one officer's clever idea, and another's desire to perform well. These three October engagements outside Richmond will be the subject of Noah Andre Trudeau's presentation.

A history graduate of the State University of New York at Albany, Noah Andre Trudeau has a continuing interest in American cultural history. He is currently a director in National Public Radio's Cultural Programming Department. In addition to his radio work, Mr. Trudeau is a wide-spread published Civil War historian, including a recently completed short history of the Appomattox Campaign for use in National Park Service bookstores. He is best known for *Bloody Roads South*, the 1989 study of the Overland Campaign of 1864 which won the Civil War Round Table of New York's prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award. His second book, *The Last Citadel*, covering the entire siege of Petersburg from June 1864 to April 1865 was published by Little, Brown in 1991. His concluding book in the trilogy, *Out of the Storm*, covering the final three months of the Civil War, will be published in 1994.

HEAR IT ALL AT OUR MARCH MEETING!!!

Thursday, March 10, 1994 - 7:30 pm
Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

Bull Run Civil War Round Table - PO Box 951 - Manassas, VA 22111

From the Vice-President's Desk

Dear Members:

Renewals are coming in slowly. If you have not renewed, this will be your last newsletter. The rates are \$15 per person and \$25 per family. Please mail your payment to BRCWRT, P. O. Box 951, Manassas, VA, 22111, or pay Martha Henley at the March meeting. Don't miss out; renew today! Our new members that have joined our ranks from October through February need not re-enlist.

This month, I will implement a new concept to make our monthly meetings more lively. In the past months, the newsletter has contained several trivia questions which have been omitted this month. Instead, I will ask 5 trivia questions to the audience. The first person to answer a question correctly will win a raffle ticket to a special book drawing limited to the 5 people who answered the questions. In fairness, after someone answers one question correctly, they can answer no more questions. I am also considering ways to increase audience participation in terms of discussing Civil War topics. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

In order to make the meetings more fun, the business section will be limited to a few minutes. During the business section of our meeting, I will limit it to announcing only times and dates of important preservation meetings, discussion of battlefield tours, and other Round Table items. We will use the newsletter to provide you with the details.

We have won a minor victory at Bristoe Station. The PWC Planning Commission approved low density housing there. The battle is not won. The final fight will take place on April 5, 1994 at 7:30 PM in the PWC Government Complex on Davis Ford Road. Supervisor Bobby McManus called me to say that the influence of letters I sent to commissioners and the presence of Round Table members at the Planning Commission meeting won the day. I ask you to come out one more time to save a battlefield in our back yard.

I extend thanks to members Jim Burgess, the Swanson's, Mac McMahan, Joe Gray and any others who attended last months Planning Commission meeting. I also would like to thank Gaert Sime for printing mailing labels. These labels are high quality and make the newsletter look more professional. Thanks for your help!!!

Respectfully,

Scott C. Patchan

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

Tom Kissinger
Paul B. Robeson
Suzanne Weatherholt
William P. Johnson II
Joe Kelly

Dianne Smith
Dot Todd
Douglas Parker
Karen Fojt
Mike Miller
Ed Wenzel

Robert Druggeman
Bob Todd
Bob Watson
Alan Fojt
Charlie Grymes

**WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MEETINGS AND TOURS!!**

1994 BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

- March 10 Noah Andre Trudeau, Author of *Bloody Roads South* and *The Last Citadel*:
"Bloody October - Battles for Richmond, October 1864"
- April 14 Michael Maione, NPS Historian:
"The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"
- May 12 Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service:
"The Siege of Vicksburg"
- June 9 Gary Ecelbarger, BRCWRT:
"The Battle of Kernstown, March 23, 1862"
- July 14 BRCWRT Members:
2nd Annual Intramural Skirmish- "Civil War Jeopardy"
- August 11 Mike Litterst, NPS Historian:
"Lincoln in Richmond, April 1865"
- September 8 Ray Brown, NPS Historian:
"The Battle of Salem's Church - May 4, 1863"
- October 13 John Devine, The Sage of Loudoun County:
"Wade Hampton's Beefsteak Raid - September, 1864"
- November 10 Greg Mertz, Author and Historian:
"Jeb Stuart as an Infantry Commander" (topic may change)
- December 8 Joe Whitehorne, Author, of *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Self Guided Tour*
"Grant Takes Command - March 1864"

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
DUES PAYMENT FORM: MARCH - DECEMBER 1994

Circle one membership category:
Individual \$15 Family \$25 Student \$10 (age 22 and under)

Name _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Today's Date _____

CURRENT EVENTS

Submitted by Ralph and Renata Swanson

Realizing Freedom's Promise - A new exhibit opened at the Manassas Museum last month featuring the history of African-Americans in Prince William County following the end of the Civil War. A visit to the museum would be an excellent follow-up to the exhibit on slavery at the Caryle House in Alexandria, featured in last month's newsletter. Incidentally, don't miss the Manassas Museum's excellent permanent exhibit of Civil War military and other memorabilia. 9101 Prince William St., Manassas (just behind the train station) 703/368-1873 \$2.50.

Lecture - Gen. James Longstreet - March 16 - Hear about and debate the leadership qualities and shortcomings of this much venerated/maligned "war horse" of the Southern Cause. Dr. William Piston will speak at the Richmond Academy of Medicine. 7:30 pm. 1200 E. Clay St., Richmond. Reservations required. 804/649-1861. \$5.

Lincoln - March 18, 19 - Actor James Getty portrays President Lincoln at the Doubleday Inn, Gettysburg. 104 Doubleday Ave. 717/334-9119.

Civil War Heritage Preservation Seminar - March 26,27 - Learn about battlefield preservation strategies from the experts. There is much going on and much we can do as citizen activists. Saturday presentations, Sunday tour of the Wilderness Battlefield. Fredericksburg Sheraton. 704/373-1672 or 703/659-0128. \$75 (Conference & Tour); \$35 (Conference only).

Seven Day's Battle Tour - April 2 - See separate announcement in this newsletter.

Civil War and Gun Collectors Show - April 2, 3 - Ramada Inn, 901 Dual Hwy, Hagerstown, MD. Sat 9-5 pm; Sun. 9-4 pm. Admission. 717/334-4564.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

Despite a gallant attempt by Comrade McAnaw, our trivia questions from last month remained unanswered. Here are the correct responses:

1. Carpenter's Battery was the Confederate Artillery unit formed from a company of infantry from the Stonewall Brigade (Co. A "Allegheny Roughs" 27th VA Inf.)
2. Elvis Presley's hit "Love Me Tender" was based on the Civil War Melody "Aura Lea," published in 1861 by W.W. Fosdick & G.R. Poulton. The melody was also appropriated as the class song at West Point in 1865, where it was rechristened "Army Blue."
3. There were at least three WWII high-ranking officers who were the sons of Civil War officers: Gen. Douglas MacArthur (son of Arthur MacArthur); Admiral Husband E. Kimmel (son of Manning M. Kimmel, AAG to Gen. Earl Van Dorn); & Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, son and namesake of the CW General who "Unconditionally Surrendered" to Grant in 1862.

LAST
CHANCE
TO
ENLIST ★

Charity Bus Tour
of
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

Highlights of the Tour

- ★ Each participant will get a map portfolio with a campaign orientation briefing and will have the chance to ask specific questions about the campaign and about each battle.
 - ★ We will go to Meadow Bridges (not on the Park Service tour route), where A.P. Hill's assault began Lee's offensive. From there we will ride over historic roads on the Federal retreat route.
 - ★ We will go to the Federal side of Beaver Dam Creek (not on the Park Service tour route), on an historic road trace.
 - ★ We will go on to private property at Gaines's Mill (not on the Park Service tour route, where the public is not generally invited. Mike Andrus is one of the leading authorities on the Battle of Gaines's Mill).
 - ★ We will view Savage's Station battlefield from the Old Williamsburg Rd. (not on the Park Service tour route), and continue down this historic road used by both armies.
 - ★ We will walk onto the Glendale battlefield on the newly purchased APCWS property. **WE'LL BE THE FIRST PUBLIC GROUP ON THIS BATTLEFIELD LAND.** We will stand where Longstreet's initial assault hit the 10th and 12th Pennsylvania Reserves and the 1st NY light artillery -- a key point on the battlefield.
 - ★ We will walk onto the Malvern Hill battlefield on the newly purchased APCWS property. **WE'LL BE THE FIRST PUBLIC GROUP EVER TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE CONFEDERATE COLUMNS ATTACKING MALVERN HILL.**
- If you want to go to virgin battlefields. If you want to understand the battles and movements of this crucial campaign. If you want to try to feel what it was like for the soldiers marching over those roads in those hot June days, **DON'T MISS THIS TOUR. AND YOUR PAYMENT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND FOR A GOOD CAUSE.**

★ **If you will be taking the bus from northern Virginia:**

We will depart by bus from the Springfield Mall. The mall is about a half mile east of I-95. From the Beltway, go south just one exit (stay to the right and stay alert -- the exit comes upon you quickly and the merging traffic is crazy). The exit is 169A, Franconia Rd. Be sure you take Franconia Rd. heading east (Old Keene Mill Rd. heads west). Once on Franconia Rd., proceed to the second signal (watch for the Shopping Mall signs). Turn right off of Franconia Road at that second signal. You will see the shopping mall on your right. Turn right into the mall at the first signal light. Ahead of you will be Montgomery Ward and Entrance 3. Turn right again. The bus will be boarding in the parking area to your right. We will not duplicate Stonewall Jackson's error on the day of Beaver Dam Creek by getting a late start. The bus will roll promptly at 7:30 a.m. After the tour, the bus will be back at Springfield Mall at 5:30

★ **If you will be meeting the bus in Richmond:**

Arrive at the visitors center of Richmond National Battlefield Park before 9:30 a.m. The visitor center is at 3215 East Broad St. in Richmond (east of I-95, east of St. John's Church). If you need directions, call the Park at (804) 226-1981. Please be punctual. The bus will leave the visitor center at 9:30 a.m. and return there at the conclusion of the tour at 3:30 p.m.

Regardless of where you meet the bus, please plan to be on the bus before departure time with three days' cooked rations (i.e. bring lunch -- the quartermaster will provide sodas on the bus). Wear clothing and footwear suitable to short walks in the April woods.

Tour Guides:

Michael J. Andrus, Historian, Richmond National Battlefield Park
William J. Miller, Editor, *The Peninsula Campaign: Yorktown to the Seven Days*

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

I will meet the bus in Springfield

I will meet the bus in Richmond

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (very important) _____ Other Telephone # _____

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

Please see reverse for detailed information. The bus will leave the Washington area at 7:30 a.m. If you prefer, you can meet the bus in Richmond or possibly in ~~Fredericksburg~~ 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 and Renata Swanson

Bristoe Station

OUR ARMS ARE AGAIN CROWNED WITH VICTORY!!! The Prince William County Planning Commission voted 6 to 2 in favor of the Comprehensive Plan amendment supported by the BRCWRT for Bristoe Station lands. The Preservation Committee was joined by several Round Table members and a large public turnout in support of battlefield preservation that appeared to turn the tide on this issue. The Commission was widely believed to support any amendment that would allow maximum housing densities on the battlefield land. However, all Commission members who spoke on the issue mentioned battlefield preservation as the basis for their votes. The planning Commission's recommendation now goes to the Board of Supervisors where it can still be reversed. It is more important than ever for members - especially Prince William residents - to contact their Board of Supervisors and urge them to support the Planning Commission's recommendation. It is a reasonable compromise that allows landowners an economic return while preserving the opportunity for some battlefield preservation.

Brandy Station

A coalition of preservation groups has announced it will initiate an all-out campaign in opposition to development of an auto racing track, recently approved by Culpeper County, on a portion of this battlefield. The preservation groups have committed to oppose every land use permit, certification, and approval required by the developers. The Preservation Committee has contacted the coalition to determine if there is a productive role for the BRCWRT in this effort. This is not a "done deal." The developer faces major hurdles to secure approval for transportation designs and sight plans.

Cannon Branch/Mayfield Forts

The City of Manassas has, over the past years, acquired land occupied by two forts that were part of the Civil War fortifications at Manassas. During the war, 17 forts ringed the city and protected such vital military locations as Union Mills, Manassas Junction, and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The Confederate Army occupied these forts and camped at Manassas and Centreville during the winter of 1861-1862. Now only these two remain. Our first Preservation Committee Chair, "Mac" McMahon, succeeded in getting the City to preserve a buffer around Cannon Branch Fort. To open our spring offensive on this front, a letter has gone to the Mayor and City Council and we recently attended a Council Meeting and spoke in favor of continued archeological study and interpretive planning needed to make these resources contributing elements to the rich Civil War history of the area.

MARCHING ORDERS!
PREPARE RATIONS!
FORWARD TO SHARPSBURG!

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table will sponsor its third self-guided tour on Saturday May 14, 1994 (the Saturday after the Ed Bearss meeting). Our destination this campaign will be the Western Maryland Campaign of 1862. We will start from the picnic area of Dogan's Ridge at 7:30 am and, by caravan, head north to South Mountain, then to Antietam Creek to review the action that occurred during Robert E. Lee's First Northern Invasion. As has been the case with the other tours of 2nd Manassas and Gettysburg, this tour will be member guided; i.e., Round Table volunteers will be "tour guides" at each of the nine selected stops on this campaign:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Action to Describe</u>
South Mountain (September 14, 1862)	
(1) Fox's Gap	Kanawha Div. vs. Hill, Jones & Hood - Death of Reno
(2) Turner's Gap	1st Union Corps vs. D.H. Hill & D. R. Jones
Antietam Creek (Sharpsburg) September 17, 1862	
(3) Pry House (McClellan's HQ)	Set Up Union Offensive & Southern Defense
** Debate #1**	Should R.E. Lee have fought here or retreated?
Middle Bridge	Lunch Break (Members to bring a bag lunch)
(4) The Cornfield	Phase 1: Hooker vs. Jackson for the Dunker Church
(5) East Woods	Hoods Offensive, Death of Mansfield
(6) West Woods	Repulse of Sedgwick's division by Jackson
(7) Sunken Road	Phase 2: Action at "Bloody Lane"
(8) Burnside Bridge	9th Corp Divisions vs. Toomb's Georgians
** Debate #2**	Who is Most to Blame - McClellan or Burnside?
(9) Branch Avenue	A.P Hill Saves the Day
** Debate #3 **	Was Antietam a Drawn Battle or a Northern Victory? (We will debate tactical & strategic aspects)

The Group will return to Manassas by 6:00 pm. These tours have always been an entertaining and inexpensive way to learn about the Civil War. Sign up lists will be displayed at each of our next three meetings. You can volunteer to be a driver (others in the car should chip in for gas) or a tour guide at one of the above stops. Most importantly, if you do not want to be a guide nor a driver, but you are interested in this campaign and would like to just "come along for the ride," this tour is made just for you. We guarantee a Saturday well spent - Rain or Shine!

"PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY"

Submitted by John P. McAnaw

WILLIAM T. SHERMAN - MOST OVERRATED UNION GENERAL

It is hard to argue with success and, based on the conventional measurements of generalship, Gen. William T. Sherman was a successful commander based on his accomplishments from May 1864 - April 1865. But he had, and needed, plenty of help.

Sherman's handled his forces poorly earlier in the war - particularly at 1st Manassas, Shiloh, and Chickasaw Bluffs. Sherman's political ties helped him move up the promotion ladder despite these setbacks which would have driven less politically connected officers into oblivion. At the Battle of Missionary Ridge, Major General Sherman showed his limitations as a field commander when his cocky XV & XVII Corps veterans were soundly defeated at Tunnel Hill by heavily outnumbered Confederates.

Once in command of all forces in the western theater, Gen. Sherman lost 1600 men at Pickett's Mill, and 3000 men at Kennesaw Mountain. Adding to these setbacks after Atlanta was captured, Sherman allowed Hood's Army of the Tennessee to escape and failed to destroy Hardee's Confederates at Savannah, GA and Averasborough, NC.

Summing up, W. T. Sherman had a far from outstanding record as a brigade, division, corps, and army commander; and he was not a particularlyly adroit field commander, but he was pragmatic and used his numerical edge to his advantage. He also had an impressive supporting cast that suffered from Sherman's tendency to "play favorites" with his subordinates. In retrospect, Sherman missed many numerous opportunities to achieve more decisive results during the Atlanta Campaign. Without reservation, I offer up the name "George H. Thomas" as someone who could have done better. Another name to consider is Brigadier General Thomas Alfred Smyth (see below).

THOMAS A. SMYTH - MOST UNDERRATED UNION GENERAL

Thomas Alfred Smyth was promoted from colonel to brigadier general in front of Petersburg on October 1, 1864, to spontaneous and prolonged enthusiasm by the veterans of the 2nd Div, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. Smyth was a serious student on the conduct of warfare who took advantage of every opportunity to enhance his professional skills. He was a superb trainer of men and a tough disciplinarian who demanded much of his men, but did not command with caustic harshness.

Although many officers were beginning to show the physical/mental strain of PTCCS (Post Traumatic Confederate Combat Syndrome) by June of 1864, the indomitable Smyth, like Major General George Thomas in the West, was the "Rock" upon which others rallied. No senior officer had a better eye for terrain or "saw the battle" as well as he did. Smyth was often able to anticipate Confederate initiators. His actions at Reams Station kept a bad situation from becoming absolutely disastrous. His cheerful disposition, even temperament, and high visibility did much to keep up the confidence of the infantrymen under his command. Smyth was known and respected throughout the Army of the Potomac. Numerous officers were promoted to major general who could not hold a candle to him.

Why the failure to recognize this brilliant officer? The answer obviously is that he did not have influential political allies. He was not a soldier who lobbied for himself; he was a soldier who fought for his country. I have no doubt that, given the opportunities and resources available to Sherman in his 1864-1865 campaigns, Thomas A. Smyth could have accomplished more in a shorter time frame and with less loss of life than the cited Ohioan. Brigadier General Smyth was that good.

FROM THE RANKS

The first Sunday of spring was anything but peaceful for the city of Winchester, VA in 1862. On Sunday, March 23, Stonewall Jackson met defeat for the only time in his career as an independent commander when his division was turned back by Federal troops under the command of Colonel Nathan Kimball at the battle of Kernstown, a small village three miles south of Winchester. The following two accounts illustrate, in unique ways, how important women were for the safety and comfort of Civil War soldiers.

From the Journal of Billy Davis, 7th Indiana Infantry

Sun. 23 Mar Our brigade returned to camp early in the forenoon, drew and prepared three days rations. Comrade A.I. Canary showed the picture of a Miss Caroline Wyley, and, bragging about her good looks and her goodness, said she was the "Girl he left behind him." Comrade G.K. Covert asked to see the picture. When he got it he teased Canary, and, putting it in his pocket, said he had as much right to carry it as Abe had. A long scuffle followed but Covert kept the picture.

About one p.m. heavy firing was heard at the front. We formed and marched rapidly, and when four miles beyond Winchester, came to Kernstown, when the fight was on. Our brigade was sent to the right to meet a flank movement of the enemy. Found them behind a stone wall, we were in an open timber. They opened on us first with canister then musketry, after fighting for some time, the 13th and 14th Ind. came in the flank and the enemy were routed...

It was a long and trying night for me and worse for the suffering wounded. They called very frequently for water, two or three canteens furnished water and rails were plentiful. The groans of the wounded were constant and most piteous, often calling for Mother, wife or sister. One stalwart fellow sat up most of the time, he was shot through the mouth from side to side, many of his teeth were gone and tongue badly cut.

The young lady's picture - a "Tin Type" - mentioned this forenoon being in Covert's pocket was struck by a minney ball which was obliqued by the tin, and no doubt saved Covert's life, for it knocked him down and left a large black and blue spot near his heart.

From the Diary of Mrs. Cornelia McDonald - Winchester, VA

...Next morning, a worn and weary, ragged and hungry train of (Confederate) prisoners came in town under a strong guard. Throngs of ladies and poor women greeted them and cheered them with comforting words. Mothers at the doors of elegant houses waited to give the poor boys food. They were not allowed to stop, but were hurried out of sight without a word to the parents whose darlings they were...

Not until the Federal dead were all buried on the field, and their wounded brought in, which occupied nearly two days, were our people allowed to go to the relief of their wounded. Then, no doubt, many had perished who could have been saved had timely relief been given. Our people buried their own dead. Though, as we had no conveyances, the authorities had our wounded brought in...

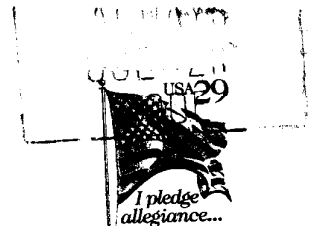
A long line of blue clad forms lay on each side as I passed up the room (in the courthouse). I had not gone far before a pair of sad looking eyes intently regarding the pitcher the servant carried. I stooped and offered him some: it was lemonade; he could not raise his head to drink, so I poured it into his mouth with a tablespoon. He looked

up at me so thankfully. "It is a beautiful drink," he said, "for a thirsty man," and the poor fellow looked after me as I walked away. The next day when I went he was past all succor in this world, ... and after I had spent some time in another part of the room and was going out, I saw them carry his corpse toward the door....

I wanted to be useful, and tried my best, but at the sight of one face that the surgeon uncovered, telling me that it must be washed, I thought I should faint. It was that of a Captain Jones, of a Tennessee regiment. A ball had struck him on the side of the face, taking away both eyes and the bridge of his nose. It was a frightful spectacle. I stood as the surgeon explained how and why he might be saved, and the poor fellow not aware of the awful sight his eyeless face was, with the fearful wound still fresh and bleeding joined in the talk, and raising his hand put his finger on his left temple and said, "Ah! if they had only struck there, I would have troubled no one." The surgeon asked me if I would wash his wound. I tried to say yes, but the thought of it made me so faint that I could only stagger toward the door.

As I passed my dress brushed against a pile of amputated limbs heaped up near the door. My faintness increased, and I had to stop and lean against the wall to keep from falling. Just then Mrs. Magill stopped by me on the way in, and asked me what was the matter. I told her about the poor man whose wound I could not wash. "I'll wash him," she said, and with her sweet cheerful face she went in, and I saw her leaning over him as he laid propped up by a bench...

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P. O. BOX 951
MANASSAS, VA 22111



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