



The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

July 1994 Newsletter



THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN

As November drew to a close in 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood, who had recently replaced Joseph Johnston during the Atlanta Campaign, pursued a nearly-equal sized Union force under the command of Union General John Schofield northward into Tennessee. Unable to dislodge the Federals during four days of skirmishing at Columbia and Spring Hill, a frustrated Hood watched Schofield pull his force back and entrench over a line covering the crossings of the Harpeth River at Franklin, fifteen miles south of Nashville. On November 30, Hood ordered his army to take out the Union forces by direct assault, despite the objections of his corps commanders. Pulitzer Prize winning author James McPherson wrote, "Their protests only confirmed Hood's suspicions of the army's elan and his determination to force it to fight. He had broken the enemy line at Gaines' Mill and at Chickamauga; he would do it again here." The resulting Battle of Franklin was an intense fight that raged for hours after dark. Heavy losses were inflicted during "hand to hand combat as fierce as anything at the Bloody Angle of Spotsylvania."

On July 14, 1994 Bull Run Civil War Round Table member Bron Wolff will revisit Franklin by providing our members with an interpretation of this key Western Theater battle. Bron was born and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana. He received a degree in history at Ball State University and has taught Civil War history at the public high school and college levels. Mr. Wolff is an active member of the North South Skirmish Association and has been a member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table since moving his family to Centreville from the mid west. We look forward to his presentation on the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

HEAR IT ALL AT OUR JULY MEETING!!!

**Thursday - July 14, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.
Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center**

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

Dear Members:

As secretary and newsletter editor of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on affairs concerned with our organization. Summer is an active season for the BRCWRT as we are the only round table I know of that holds meetings twelve months per year.

Our executive committee met briefly after the June meeting to discuss nominees for our 1994-1995 executive committee. We will announce the full slate of candidates in the August newsletter. A member vote will be taken in the August meeting and the newly elected committee members will begin their terms in September. Additionally, we are looking to fill other volunteer positions within our organization. If you would like to help out the BRCWRT in any way (Field Trip Chairman, for example), please feel free to discuss this with any executive committee members during the summer season. The Committee also approved, by a 4 to 2 vote, to allow our APCWS membership to expire. Although no longer official members of that organization, we will continue to directly support their battlefield preservation activities.

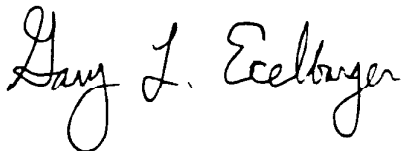
I will continue to function as the editor of "The Stone Wall" for the 1994-1995 season. Tom Kissinger has graciously offered to assist me in processing the newsletter, of which I am truly grateful. I am also very willing to incorporate other members' involvement with the monthly editions, if anyone is interested. I also am interested in members' opinions on how the newsletter can be improved. A short questionnaire was included in last month's newsletter. Please take the few minutes needed to complete it and return it via mail or bring it in person to one of our summer meetings. If I don't hear from you, I will assume you are completely satisfied with the service you are receiving as a member of our round table.

While I'm on the subject of mail, I hope you noticed on this newsletter that we have a new P.O. Box address (P.O. Box 196, Centreville, VA 22020). This change was made necessary to allow us 24-hour access to our mail - the previous PO Box was closed by 5:00 p.m. We expect to have more timely access to our mail with this change. Please make sure to send all correspondences to this new address.

You will notice that this month's newsletter offers a new topic for the op/ed column, Permission to Speak Freely. BRCWRT founder Bill Miller has offered his opinion on the Disney theme park that may be placed less than ten miles from our meeting site. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table has not taken an official position on the Disney plan, but we would like to hear members' opinions about the proposed Disney's America. Alternatively, if you would like to offer any opinion on Civil War topics (most decisive day, overrated and underrated commanders, rebuttals on previous opinions), please put it in writing and send it to our P.O. Box. I will publish all opinions as I receive them.

I thank you for the decent turnout and positive comments concerning my presentation on the Battle of Kernstown in June. I am looking forward to Bron Wolff's talk on the Battle of Franklin next week. Bron is an experienced teacher and he knows his topic well. Until then, keep cool!

I am Most Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant,



PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY

THE THEME PARK -- ADIEU AND ACCELERANDO?

By William J. Miller

Fifty years ago, Richmond resident Douglas Southall Freeman, biographer of Robert E. Lee and his army, wrote that in Virginia "life itself has a different tempo. It is neither the nervous accelerando of the East nor the common time of the Deep South. Life is more leisured without being essentially indolent." So it has always been in what residents call "the real Virginia." The northeastern counties of Arlington and Fairfax, suburbs of Washington, are in essence no different from any suburbs anywhere. Most of the state, though, remains as Freeman knew it -- rural and placid, where life proceeds at a genteel pace... But times, they are a changin'.

On March 12 the Virginia Assembly approved a \$163.2-million benefits package to entice the Walt Disney Company to build its history theme park near the town of Haymarket in the Northern Virginia Piedmont. Those Virginians rushing to welcome Disney, mostly real estate agents and politicians casting about for ways to balance the public books, declare that Disney will bring jobs and and expand the tax base. Disney is sensitive to the environment, they say, and will be a "steward of the land." Disney, they aver, is a fine, family-oriented corporation, and Virginia should feel honored that the empire of wholesome entertainment wishes to make a home here.

All very possibly true. Disney might be a great neighbor and an outstanding member of the Virginia community, but anyone who has been to Orlando, Florida, or Anaheim, California, knows that it is not Disney itself that works the great changes on regions where it settles. The motels, the fast food joints, the souvenir shops and quick-serve gas stations, the strip malls and town house developments that ride in on Disney's coat tails are what - well, changes life for residents. When a picnic is ruined, it's usually not the food, it's the insects.

Virginia Disney fans acknowledge that life in northern Virginia would change, but argue that a little more traffic and a little less green space is a small price to pay for the profits of a high-class organization like Disney in the neighborhood. But what, one must ask, are the neighborhood's boundaries? Prince William County, where Disney will sit just one hour's walk from Manassas National Battlefield Park? Nearby Fauquier and Loudoun Counties, their borders only a few miles from the Disney site? If the Orlando area is any indication, spin-off developments will not halt a few miles away from Disney, but will sprawl over enormous distances.

Landowners recognized the possibilities right away. Within days of Disney's announcement of its plan to build in Haymarket, for-sale signs began sprouting from the crusty red soil along Route 29 and 15 and along Interstate 66. From Leesburg (25 miles north) to Front Royal (30 miles west), developers can take their pick of plots. Politicians were not far behind in looking to capitalize on on the opportunities presented by Disney's plans. To no one's surprise, Prince William County pols jumped on the bandwagon early, but some of the other elected bodies rolling out the Disney carpet did raise eyebrows. The governments of Warren County (30 miles from the Disney site), Frederick County (50 miles) and Shenandoah County (nearly 60 miles) have all endorsed or passed resolutions in support of the Disney project. All three of these counties are in the Shenandoah Valley, and the leaders of all three apparently plan to reap benefits from the theme park, just an hour away by superhighway.

Disney is coming to northern Virginia to capitalize on the tourist base offered by Washington. Certainly, millions of the nation's capital tourists will trek the 35 miles westward out I-66 to Disney's America. And tourism is already big business in the Commonwealth. In 1992, the most recent year for which statistics are available, tourists spent \$8.5 billion in Virginia, and tourism generated more than \$600 million in state and local taxes. And what do these people come to Virginia for? In 1992, nine million visitors toured the Blue Ridge Parkway; two million saw Skyline Drive, and seven million visited other natural areas or historic sites. Almost six of every ten visitors to Virginia gaze at the Shenandoah Valley and its flanking Blue Ridge Mountains. History has long been a major theme of the state tourism promotion campaign, but the prevalence of the past in the Old Dominion is only part of the attraction. Clearly, people come to Virginia because it is beautiful to look at.

Virginia's beauty is not the soaring majesty of Colorado's Rockies, nor the wild power of the surf on the New England coast, nor the sensuous pleasures of the hot sun and crystalline waters of Florida's beaches. Virginia is a balm for the spirit. We cannot explain why looking at a mountain pleases us any more than we can explain why we feel a tightening in our throat when our child does something honest or brave. The sensation is nonetheless real. Most of us spend our lives pursuing these tangible sensations of the heart. Are we willing to part with the vistas of Virginia's farms and forested mountains?

"There are some delightful places in this world," wrote the French novelist, Guy de Maupassant, "which have a sensual charm for the eyes. One loves them with a physical love. Sometimes indeed the memory goes back toward a forest glade, or a spot on a river bank, or an orchard in blossom, glimpsed only once on a happy day, but preserved in our heart. . . ." Such is part of the Virginia charm. The Old Dominion is an uncommonly beautiful place. But the country is more than just appealing to the eye. It is soaked in human history. In Virginia, the past is not something to be studied as a curiosity; here it is part of daily experience. Many of the roads we drive have been driven for centuries. The towns we live in or pass through have been crowded with marching troops. We stand in rooms used by Lincoln, Washington, or Jefferson or beneath trees that Lee and Jackson looked upon. The past is inescapable here.

The land around the Disney site is no nondescript sand plain or swamp in central Florida, nor a Los Angeles suburb. It is a slice of American history. Nearby lived Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall and President James Monroe, and their homes will stand. The entire countryside is battleground. This is Mosby's Confederacy, dominated for two years by perhaps the most effective guerrilla force in American military annals. Here Stonewall Jackson and General Joe Johnston entrained their troops for a swift and dramatic strategic move to the Battle of First Manassas. And here, throughout this region, occurred the Burning Raid of 1864. Federal Cavalry swept through two counties burning barns, mills and crops on such a scale that the sky turned black. Charred foundations from this raid remain to this day, testimony that here the horror of war came home. History minded travelers can still envision all this because the region has changed little since the War.

Disney proclaims its commitment to the environment, citing its wilderness preserve at Disney World, its funding of a study of disease in the upper respiratory tract of gopher turtles and its composting and recycling policies. A Disney's America official declared that "being environmentally sensitive is part of doing business." But the company has so far paid scant attention to the historical environment in northern Virginia, which is every bit as valuable and fragile as any wetland or turtle in America.

Civil War armies fought no major battles in Loudoun or Fauquier Counties, but Americans can learn, should learn, as much in the Virginia Piedmont about the evils of war as they can at Shiloh or Antietam or Chickamauga, for here in this war zone every man, woman and child was touched by the killing and destruction. This was the Bosnia, the Northern Ireland, the Vietnam of the 1860s. How can Disney bring this reality alive more than can the surrounding countryside?

So adieu, perhaps, to a piece of our cultural birthright, and hello to the "nervous accelerando" of 1990s sprawl.

CURRENT EVENTS

Submitted by Ralph Swanson

July 23 - Anchor's Aweigh Children's day activities at the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St., Richmond. \$1 children, \$4 adults. (804) 649-1861.

July 23 - Photo Tour Antietam National Battlefield. 9 a.m. (301) 434-5124. \$2.

July 23, 24 - Essential Stitches and Seams I Seminar on Civil War era sewing fundamentals. Hand and machine techniques. For info call Genteel Arts Academy, Gettysburg (717) 337-0283.

July 23, 24 - Private Lives at Antietam Volunteers give living impressions of individual soldiers who fought at Antietam. (301) 432-5124. \$2.

July 23-24 - Civil War Re-enactment Drills, firing, camp set-up and marching. At merchant Park, Dumfries. (703) 221-3346.

August 5-7 - Civil War Medicine 2nd Annual Conference, Hood College, Frederick, MD. Sponsored by National Museum of Civil War Medicine. For info. write the museum at P.O. Box 470, Frederick, MD 21705.

August 6,7 - Civil War Show Civil War and Gun Collectors Show, Stonehenge Inn, Route 97, Gettysburg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. (717) 334-4564. Admission.

August 6, 7 - Battle of Monocacy Saturday tactical; Sunday full battle reenactment. Living history, sutlers. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.. Oatlands Plantation, Hwy. 15, south of Leesburg, VA. (703) 777-3174. \$6.

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph & Renata Swanson

Bristoe Station

On June 7, 1994, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to amend their Comprehensive Plan for the area surrounding Bristow, VA (Bristoe Station Battlefield) to allow for residential housing development. The issue has been controversial for many years as a few local landowners have tried to alter land use designations for their properties to allow for construction of residential housing.

The Bristoe Battlefield is important not only for the two military engagements fought there, but also because the area served as a winter camp for large Confederate contingents after First Manassas. Considerable evidence indicates that many soldiers died of disease and were buried around the camps of Bristoe Station that year. In addition, the strategic location of Bristoe along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad made the hamlet an important military target.

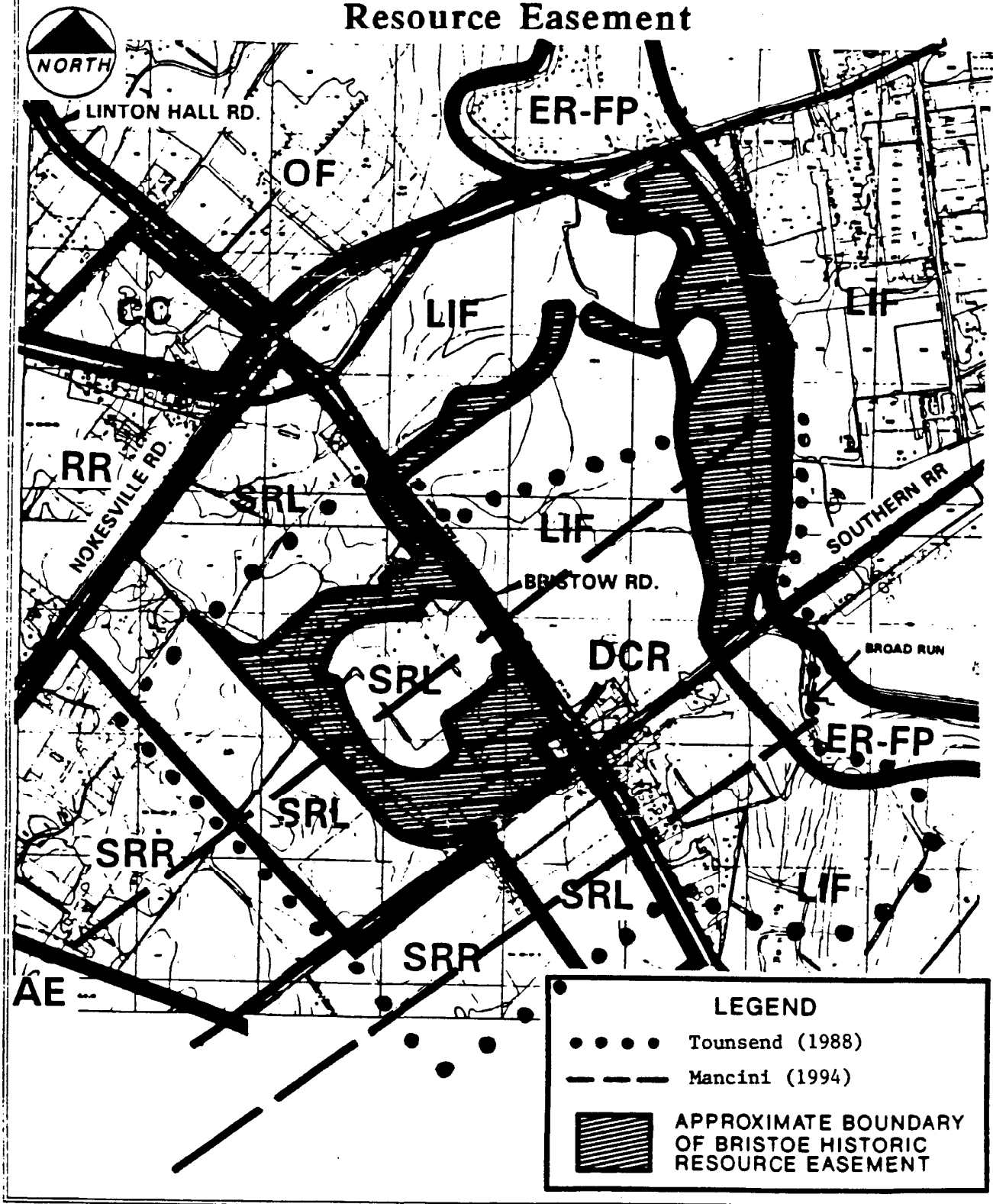
A private attorney, representing the landowners, had previously presented an alternative that would have allowed for very high density housing. In February, the County Planning Commission rejected the alternative in favor of one developed by County staff for moderate increases in residential densities. Either plan would have allowed for housing construction over the entire area of the Battle of Bristoe Station, with no provision whatsoever for battlefield preservation.

The compromise plan approved by the County allows for residential housing development accompanied by conservation easements over large portions of land, including key combat areas and known graves. Easements would be granted to the County for the purposes of battlefield preservation and interpretation upon approval of residential housing. Comprehensive Plan provisions allow for the additional lands to be placed under preservation easement if found to be historically significant. No actual development can occur until re-zoning applications and specific site development plans are reviewed and approved by the County. The accompanying map (next page) shows the areas designated for easement.

Also indicated on the map, for comparison, are two other proposals for battlefield preservation. One, recommended by County archeologist Jan Townsend in 1988, represents the culmination of considerable research into the battle and identification of significant terrain. The second proposal was developed by former Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) President Armando Mancini which also includes virtually all of the important combat areas of the 1864 Battle of Bristoe Station.

The Preservation Committee believes this action by the Board represents progress because, for the first time, it incorporates battlefield preservation into the Comprehensive Plan, the master land use plan for the County. Short of buying title to these lands, there are few options open to us when relying on local land use controls for preservation. We cannot enter the land use planning process when an applicant presents a site-specific development plan and expect to secure anything significant for battlefield preservation. Despite the emotional appeal we can bring to the process, we have a poor basis to argue for land set-asides when they are not already incorporated in the existing Comprehensive Plan. (At Chantilly, where the battlefield land is already zoned and approved for housing, Fairfax County will pay a high price to secure that land.)

Approximate Boundary of Bristoe Historic Resource Easement



Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors may ignore the Comprehensive Plan provisions during consideration of individual development proposals. To prevent that occurrence, The BRCWRT must continue to be involved in the review of development in the Bristoe area.

A summary of our views of the pros and cons on this issue are listed below:

Pros

- * Battlefield preservation is part of the Comprehensive Plan.
- * Easement areas include some core battlefield, notably near the intersection of Highway 619 and the railroad tracks where intense combat occurred.
- * Known soldier graves are included.
- * Conditions are included for easements on additional lands if found to be historically significant (i.e., if additional graves are located).

Cons

- * Easements do not cover all key battlefield areas.
- * Comprehensive Plan provisions can be ignored if the Board determines good cause.
- * The plan allows for high density of residential housing such that battlefield areas could be destroyed if development is not sensitive to easement areas, viewshed, etc.
- * Easements are not approved until housing is approved.

FROM THE BOOK SUTLER

As our July talk concerns a Western Theater subject, we will put a two-volume set of books up for sale dealing with this theater of the war. The books are *Fields of Fury: to the Sea* written by Atlanta native Jim Davis. The topic deals with Sherman's 1864 Campaign against Johnston and Hood. It is a campaign narrative and a tour guide for anyone who visits Georgia. Both volumes will go to one lucky winner.

Additionally, we feel generous this month and will offer Jeffrey D. Wert's critically acclaimed 1993 biography: *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier*. Mr. Wert addressed the Bull Run Civil War Round Table concerning his topic early last year.

Try Your Luck By Visiting Our Raffle Table Prior to the Meeting!!

FROM THE RANKS

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought on July 1-3 1863, was the greatest battle fought on the North American continent. Over 175,000 troops were present; nearly 155,000 were engaged in battle resulting in 45,000 casualties. Gettysburg is also the most documented battle of all time. What follows are excerpts from two rare letters from participants describing their injuries received during this momentous struggle.

Major Henry Kyd Douglas, On Staff of Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson

Letter to "My Dear Miss Tippie" - August 5, 1863 - concerning injury on Culp's Hill, July 3, 1863

"The ball struck me in the back (horrible! isn't it--at least so the ancients thought!) fractured my left shoulder blade & ranging upward lodged somewhere in or near the muscles of the shoulder, paralyzing my shoulder & arm. The ball is still there and I suppose I shall carry it there, until time with me shall be no more, unless in the Future it gets restless & comes out in some unexpected place. Although it is not pleasant carrying musket balls in my shoulder, through life, yet I certainly consider that I was exceedingly fortunate in that after having escaped so often I should not be dangerously or painfully wounded. In fact I hardly knew when I was struck, that I was wounded for although I felt the blow as from a stone that knocked me forward on my horse's mane, yet I did not think the ball had penetrated. I endeavored to rise and found that I was growing weak & that the breath had been thumped out of me. I rode off the field & was put in a litter & then in an ambulance & taken to a Hospital where I laid supinely bored...

I was brought here, where I am most comfortably located, treated with consideration & courtesy and am doing well. An old friend & college mate is my surgeon--he is a gentleman & a good fellow. My wound has been gradually getting better from the beginning & gives me now very little pain. In fact I have not suffered as much as I have expected or as I had been told I should suffer, and I'm not sorry for it. I spend my time during the day in reading (just finished Les Miserables) smoking & walking about. I have had a great many visitors, some friends, others of curiosity affording me not a little amusement & entertainment... I have seen some rare sights & had some rare fun since I've been in the Keystone, including several earnest lectures from ladies in the error of my military & political way.

[Douglas was eventually taken to a series of prisons until exchanged in spring of 1864]

From Chronicles of F. B. Jones - 149th PA Bucktails

Describing injury received on McPherson's Ridge - July 1, 1863.

We halted in the depression on the side of the Chambersburg turnpike, near McPherson's barn, and we were ordered to lie down so the foe, then advancing over a hay field, would not see us until they were close on us. While waiting, the tallest man of my Company, lying next to me, was curious to see what was going on, and raised himself on his elbows. At that instant, a solid shot cut his head off, turned his body over to the rear, and splattered blood over my clothes...[his regiment then advances across turnpike]

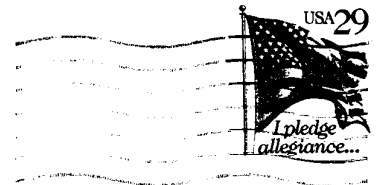
While our regiment was about the middle of that field, I was struck by a bullet that passed through my left leg, and at the same time, a fragment of shell struck the same leg while it was in the air, fracturing the bone. As I attempted to make the next step, my

leg would not support me, and I fell to the ground, while our troops went back to their rallying line. The rain of bursting shell and bullets was so thick about me that the entire hayfield was mown down as if a scythe had cut it off. The enemy came in and passed over me, until they were again repulsed by the fire and charging of our troops. So they drove the enemy back over me. I then heard two men of my Company, who were looking for me, say, "Here he is."... Four of my Company having come up, they picked me up and started to carry me out of that rain of fire back to the turnpike. One of those four men was shot while carrying me. The enemy came on so thick and fast that when we got back to the turnpike, I had them lay me down in the low part of the road, and our line was forced back to the rear... they drove our troops back towards the town of Gettysburg, and I was left lying on the battlefield, unable to walk.

As soon as our troops had retired, the enemy came over that part of the field, marching in line of battle... As each line of battle came to where I was, the Captains ordered their men to open the ranks, so as not to injure me as they passed by...

[F. B. Jones was eventually carried by two soldiers to M. Pherson's barn, which was retaken by Federal troops on July 6]

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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