



The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

August 1994 Newsletter



LINCOLN IN RICHMOND

On the morning of April 2, 1865, as Confederate President Jefferson Davis worshipped at St. Paul's Church in Richmond, a messenger quietly interrupted his prayers with an urgent message from Robert E. Lee. The telegram turned Davis pale. Richmond must be given up; Grant and the Army of the Potomac have broken the siege and could be in the capital before nightfall. As Davis and his government departed later that day, mobs took over the city and nearly burned it to the ground.

Shortly after the events of the night of April 2, 1865, Abraham Lincoln entered the city of Richmond. He had told Admiral Porter at the Union base on the James River: "Thank God I have lived to see this. It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone. I want to see Richmond." Porter complied to the Chief Executive's request. This produced, in the words of James McPherson, "the most unforgettable scenes of this unforgettable war."

On August 11, 1994, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will relive those "unforgettable scenes," compliments of Michael Litterst - Supervisory Historian at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Mr. Litterst was born in Wisconsin, raised in Laurel, Maryland, and graduated from Penn State where he studied Civil War history under Gary Gallagher. He subsequently has completed National Park Service port-of-calls at Gettysburg, Richmond, and Chancellorsville before arriving at Manassas in May of 1992. Mr. Litterst has authored the Malvern Hill chapter in the Civil War Battlefield Guide and wrote Stone House: Silent Sentinel at the Crossroads of History. He is currently working on a roster and history of the 8,000 identified Confederates in Richmond's Oakwood Cemetery. We look forward to his presentation of Abraham Lincoln at Richmond.

HEAR IT ALL AT THE AUGUST MEETING!!

Thursday, August 11, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.

Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

July 28, 1994

Dear Members:

I thought I'd let you know that our membership knows no geographical boundaries. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table can now boast members as far south as Atlanta and, as of this month, as far east as Norway. You will see in a minute that by September we will be sending newsletters toward the left coast as well.

For those that missed Bron Wolff's talk on the battle of Franklin last month, I offer my condolences. Gauging the response of applause and questions he received by the 48 who attended, it appears his talk ranks up there as one of the best presentations of the year. I'm looking forward to Mike Litterst's presentation of Lincoln in Richmond during the final moments of the war. It should be a great way to end our summer season at Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

Prior to the August speaker we will be taking a member vote to elect our 1994-1995 officers nominated by our current executive committee. The candidates are:

President - Scott C. Patchan

Vice President - Gary Ecelbarger

Secretary - Jay Corbalis

Treasurer - Martha Hendley

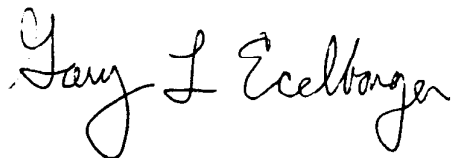
After the election, our new president will select at-large members to fill out our executive committee, and will also appoint chairpersons to keep this organization running. I will continue as newsletter editor, but Scott would like to have volunteers for Field Trip Chair and Preservation Chair. If anyone is interested in those duties and would like to know more about them, don't hesitate to contact Scott (803-2927) or myself (406-4933) concerning ways to help out with this round table.

Since late summer/autumn appear to be the best months weather-wise to run tours, we are planning two free ones in September and October. On September 10, we will run a member-guided tour of the first battle of Manassas. Details of this tour are provided in this newsletter. I will conduct a guided tour of the Battle of Kernstown on October 15. Details of this tour will be provided in our September Newsletter. We hope to see as many of you as possible at both tours. By unanimous opinion the previous ones have been fun, informative, but best of all - they are free of charge!

Ralph Swanson has provided his final contribution of Preservation Update and Current Events to the newsletter. Ralph, a marine biologist, has received an occupational promotion and a transfer to Provo, Utah and he and Renata will be leaving us by the end of August. Suffice it to say, the Bull Run Round Table will sorely miss the Swansons' presence and contributions - especially over this past season. As preservation co-chairs, Ralph and Renata have been extremely proactive and successful in area battlefield preservation, particularly at Ox Hill/Chantilly and Bristoe Station. The Civil War community owes them a debt of gratitude for interrupting landowners' plans for high density housing development on historic property. Additionally, the Swansons have been active participants in our self-guided tours and have faithfully donated insightful articles to the newsletter. All our welcome to join us after the August meeting when we take them out to congratulate Ralph on his promotion and to thank the Swansons for all they've done to keep BRCWRT #1.

Thank you Ralph and Renata Swanson, and good luck to you both!

Sincerely,



1994-1995 BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. Speakers are subject to change.

1994

- 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"

1995

- January 12 Roger DeLauter, Civil War Author:
"McNeil's Rangers"
- February 9 William J. Miller, Author of *Mapping for Stonewall*:
"The Logistics of Supply: White House Landing"
- March 9 Jim Burgess, NPS Historian:
"The Role of Artillery at the First Battle of Bull Run"
- April 13 Kim Holien, Author:
"The Battle of Ball's Bluff, October 21, 1861"
- May 11 Ernest B. Furgurson, Author:
"Chancellorsville 1863: The Soul of the Brave"
- June 8 Scott C. Patchan, BRCWRT President:
"The Battle of Piedmont - June 5, 1864"
- July 13 J. Michael Miller, Author of *The North Anna Campaign*:
To Be Announced
- August 10 Robert Krick, Author of *Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain*:
"Jackson in the Valley - June 1862"

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph Swanson & Gary Ecelbarger

Oak Ridge at Gettysburg May be Restored

Rep. Sydney R. Yates (D-OH), chairman of the powerful House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees budgets of the Department of the Interior, has asked the National Park Service to study how to restore land at Gettysburg that was destroyed when Gettysburg College relocated a stretch of railroad tracks in 1991. "I don't think we ought to give up on it," Yates said. "Money's limited, of course, but for something like this, we'll do everything we can to see if we can get it corrected." This is a significant change in attitude and follows hearings held last month by Rep. Mike Synar (D-OK) into the Federal land exchange that initiated the actions that resulted in the land disturbance.

At Mr. Yates's urging, the full House Appropriations Committee recently approved language in the Interior Department appropriations bill for 1995, urging the Park Service to restore a portion of Oak Ridge. The House will vote on the bill soon and no opposition to that language is expected. The Park Service has agreed to secure cost estimates for the restoration.

Leesburg Seeks to Expand Balls Bluff

Leesburg officials want to expand the existing 173-acre Balls Bluff National Battlefield Park with the acquisition of an additional 50 acres from a private owner. The park, owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, already encompasses most of the site of the 1861 Battle of Balls Bluff National Cemetery. The new lands would complete the acquisition of all remaining battlefield area. The landowner is apparently willing to sell and no disputes are likely. Balls Bluff was the site of the largest Civil War engagement to occur in Loudoun County. The stumbling Union disaster there provided the excuse the Radical Republicans needed to exert greater influence over conduct of the war. In response, they formed the infamous Committee on the Conduct of the War, which was to plague President Lincoln and his Generals for the remainder of the War.

The park land is open to the public, but is uninterpreted and there are no facilities. BRCWRT members are urged to visit the Balls Bluff battle site. It is very close and almost always deserted. Travel north from Leesburg on Hwy. 15 about two miles and watch for the battlefield sign. Take along a good battle map for guidance. Kim Holien, author of a book about this battle, will present Balls Bluff to the round table on April 13, 1995.

Pritchard's Hill receives \$1 Million for Preservation

Pritchard's Hill, an eminence in southern Winchester and Frederick County, was the site of Union artillery positions in the two battles of Kernstown fought in 1862 and 1864 respectively. The 342-acre Charles Hardy Grim Estate, of which Pritchard's Hill belongs, is owned by the F & M Bank-Winchester which planned on auctioning off the property until the Winchester Common Council and Frederick County Board of

Supervisors intervened by paying the bank \$500,000 over two years with an option to buy the estate for \$2.7 million.

On June 24, 1994 that option became more of a reality when state senator Russell Potts Jr (R-Winchester) announced that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has allocated \$1 million to help preserve the farm. No other projects in the Northern Shenandoah Valley received funding. The Grim project will receive \$790,000 this year and \$210,000 next year under the federal act's enhancement program. The city and county will still have to come up with the remaining \$1.2 million by December of 1995 for the complete purchase, but June Wilmot, executive director of the city-county Economic Development Commission, states, "It's a lot easier to raise the money when you can show people that you already have \$1.5 million." The city and county can apply for additional funding from the transportation board in 1995, as well as solicit other organizations and individuals for contributions.

The BRCWRT is planning on touring Pritchard's Hill in mid October as part of the First Battle of Kernstown interpretation of Union headquarters and artillery positions.

CURRENT EVENTS

Submitted by Ralph Swanson

August 13-14 - Civil War Show - Holiday Inn-Timonium Plaza, Exit #16, I-81, North of Baltimore Beltway. Saturday 9-4 p.m., (410) 465-6827. Admission.

August 13 - Photo Tour - Antietam National Battlefield Park, 9 a.m. Check-in at the Visitor's Center. (301) 432-5124. \$2.

August 13-14 - Civil War Medical Weekend - Park volunteers portray battlefield medical care. Antietam National Battlefield Park. Also, photo tour Saturday, 9 a.m. (301) 432-5124.

August 19-21 - 130th Anniversary of the Valley Campaign - Reenactment of 1864 Valley battles and operations. At Long Branch Plantation outside of Winchester. Donation to APCWS. (717) 337-2191. Admission.

August 22-28 - Texans with Lee's Army - Bus tour from Richmond to Seven Day's Battlefields, Antietam, Gettysburg, Petersburg and Appomattox. Another in-depth tour and study for you hard-core types. Sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy and CWRT Associates. (501) 225-3996.

August 27-28 - National Civil War and Antique Arms Show - Over 500 tables of high quality guns, swords, accoutrements, reference works and art. Some of the nation's finest museums will be displaying selected artifacts and renown artists and authors will be on hand to sign autographs. At The Showplace, Richmond. Sat. 9-5 p.m.; Sun 9-2:30 p.m. I-95 south to I-64 east, Exit 192 (Rte. 360). (703) 672-5921. If you are a show and relic buff, this sounds like the one to see!! Admission.

MARCHING ORDERS!
PREPARE RATIONS!
FORWARD TO MANASSAS!

Saturday, September 10, 1994 will mark the beginning of a very busy battlefield touring season at the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Our tour this time will appropriately start where the war in the Eastern Theater started - the First Battle of Manassas. As has been the case with previous tours at 2nd Manassas, Gettysburg, and Antietam, this will be another self-guided tour. This means that round table volunteers will interpret key areas of the Bull Run battlefield. Scott Patchan and John McAnaw have reconnoitered the field and have tentatively designated the following as planned tour stops:

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Action to Describe</u>
1.	*Stone Bridge	Union & Confederate Army Plans
2.	Sudley Church	Union Flank Attack Against Evan's Brigade
3.	* Matthews Hill	Burnside vs. Bartow, Bee and Evans
4.	* Henry Hill	T. J. Jackson Becomes Stonewall
5.	Chinn Ridge	Early and Smith vs. Howard

* denotes walk tour

These tour stops have been planned to cover the most important parts of the field. If time allows, other stops (i.e. Johnston's HQs at Portici) may also be included. Sign-up lists will be displayed at the August meeting - one is if you would like to attend, the other is if you would like to be a tour guide at any of the stops listed above. The tour will start at 9:00 a.m. All participants are to meet at the visitor center. The past self-guided tours have been extremely popular with our organization, and this one promises to equal the quality of our previous tours. So sign up in August and prepared to be entertained in early September. For those who cannot attend the August meeting and would like to attend this tour, you may contact Scott Patchan (803-2927) to place your name on the list.

DO NOT MISS THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!!!

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY

WHAT IF?

Submitted by Gary Ecelbarger

One of the most memorable scenes from Ted Turner's movie *Gettysburg* occurred after the first day's fight, when General Trimble impassionately complained to Robert E. Lee about Richard Ewell's incompetence concerning his orders to take Cemetery Hill. "I said to him, General, give me just one regiment and I will take that hill!" is the line that I remember most. This leads us to the most famous "what if" scenario of the Civil War - "What if Stonewall Jackson was at Gettysburg?" Could he have taken Cemetery Hill on July 1st?

Before the tactical scenario is applied we need to assume that the appropriate Stonewall Jackson is placed on the field; that is, the Stonewall Jackson that routed Banks at Winchester, the Stonewall Jackson that rolled up the 11th Union Corps at Chancellorsville, and the Stonewall Jackson that surrounded and captured Harper's Ferry. If we have another Stonewall Jackson at Gettysburg - the Stonewall that vacillated on the Peninsula or the ill-prepared Stonewall at Brawner's farm - there is no need to pursue the question any further. This is important to consider, for if you take away the three former Stonewall successes, most of this general's memorable moments were achieved on the tactical defensive - 1st Manassas, Cedar Mountain, the railroad cut at 2nd Manassas, and Antietam. Our "what if" scenario requires him to perform on the tactical offensive and his record in this category is suspect.

The Trimble speech in the movie leaves us with the impression that Cemetery Hill was basically unoccupied when Lee's army was routing the 1st and 11th Corps on the late afternoon of July 1, 1863. This could not be further from the truth. At the time the remnants of Reynold's wing fell back to Cemetery Ridge, the following Federal force was positioned on the prominent eminences of Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill south of town: 40 cannons, five entrenched regiments (2300 men) with a full large reserve brigade nearby (3000 men). Add to these totals the more organized remnants returning from the earlier action (Iron Brigade, for example) and the available infantry force alone exceeds 7000 men. Williams's Division would be on the scene by 5:00 pm, adding another 4000 to this total. At this time, a confident Hancock reported to Meade that his position "cannot well be taken."

One of Jackson's most competent subordinates, Robert Rodes, was an eyewitness to the powerful fortifications on Cemetery and Culp's Hills that his division faced after the late afternoon rout. Rodes stated in his post-battle report that before "the completion of his defeat before the town, the enemy had begun to establish a line of battle on the heights back of town, and by the time my line was in a condition to renew the attack, he displayed quite a formidable line of infantry and artillery immediately in my front, extending smartly to my right, and as far as I could see to my left, in front of Early." General Trimble must have had one heckuva regiment if he planned on using it to take that height.

Stonewall Jackson, like everyone else, was not a stellar performer when it came to taking out cannons in commanding positions. He failed miserably at dislodging ten cannons from Pritchard's Hill at Kernstown and it took him several hours to overtake seven Union guns, supported with one regiment, at the coaling at Port Republic. Very few Generals met with success in this endeavor - ask Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain

or Robert E. Lee at Malvern Hill. It was simply a costly task. This mission also required Jackson to get his corps organized after they had spread out in the town of Gettysburg during the rout. His window of opportunity would close quickly as evening turned to darkness. If Jackson tried to take out that force on July 1, only darkness would save his corps from destruction.

Thomas J. Jackson was indeed a great general, a particularly adept strategist and defensive tactician; but the Jackson proponents of the "what if" scenario required Stonewall to display the weakest aspect of his talents as an offensive tactician against very formidable odds. There was no longer a "Commissary" Banks, Fremont, Pope, or a leaderless corps with its inviting flank in the air to surprise. Instead Stonewall would be attacking an entrenched veteran force led by two corps commanders on open elevated ground, with massive artillery support and the intangible advantage of defending Union territory. Although he may have (and should have) done a better job than Richard Ewell on day 2 and 3 at Gettysburg, there is no possibility whatsoever that Jackson could have taken Cemetery Hill on July 1, 1863. Message to the Jackson proponents: You're not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy.

SHERMAN RECONSIDERED:

A Rebuttal to the March Newsletter Editorial Marking Him as Most Overrated
Submitted by Tom Kissinger

"When one nation is at war with another, all the people of one are enemies of the other." With this statement William Tecumseh Sherman (WTS) "conceived a new philosophy that war was more than battles and soldiers, that it included the entire populace - its determination to fight and its material goods." WTS's pursuit of this truly "modern" philosophy bore fruit in the Atlanta campaign. The fall of Atlanta insured the re-election of Mr. Lincoln and WTS's unprecedented march to the sea and through the Carolinas undoubtedly shortened the war.

Similar to the Jackson and Lee relationship, WTS was indispensable to Grant. His unflinching devotion to the future president helped guarantee successful Union campaigns in the West, most notably the fall of Vicksburg. WTS's personal bravery while leading his troops at 1st Manassas and Shiloh, his savvy management of Memphis while acting as military governor, and his hard war/soft peace proposals to J. E. Johnston are additional bright spots in Sherman's record. Yes, WTS failed at Chickasaw Bluffs and was too impatient at Kennesaw Mountain, but these pale in comparison to genuine disasters such as Franklin (Hood) or Pickett's Charge (Lee).

No, General Sherman was not the "Most Overrated Union General." He was, I humbly submit, one of the best.

FROM THE RANKS

The battle of Brawner's Farm (or Groveton) was fought on August 28, 1862 and it initiated the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. The following two Union accounts, both written by members of the Iron Brigade and published in The Racine Advocate (WI) on September 10, 1862, detail the viciousness of the fight - a foreboding of what the next two days would have to offer.

From Charles Jewett - Company F, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, Iron Brigade

"We remained quiet till about 5 o'clock, McDowell and King meanwhile having examined the enemy's position. We being in King's Division were then ordered forward to attack the rebels. Hatch's Brigade were on the advance acting as skirmishers; Gibbon's brigade followed supporting the batteries. We marched about a mile when both sides began firing; this was about quarter to six. We succeeded in driving the rebels along the road for about a mile. It was now just dusk, when General Gibbons came out of a small piece of woods in front of our Regiment and ordered it forward, that is toward the left flank of our position. As soon as we had passed through the woods and up a rise of ground we moved in line of battle. We could just discover the rebels coming out of the woods, regiment after regiment, en masse. Immediately both sides began firing; the rebels yelling their loudest. The battle was now terrific and awfully desperate...

In less time than it takes me to write it, I saw Rodman and Price limp back from the line in which the Regiment lay. There was by this time no man in our Company in the front rank to the right of me. Just at this instant I felt a ball graze my hip, and shortly after I thought another went through the flesh near the same place. I kept on firing, however, and spoke to Walter Gregory, who was the only man near me in the front rank, telling him I had been hit, but could 'keep at work.' We were now ordered to close up to the right. Some of Co. G kept on firing, so I had to pass them and thus got separated from the company. The ground was literally covered with the dead and wounded. In moving we had to be careful where we placed our feet to prevent stepping on them. Just after we closed up the vacant places, I was again hit by a ball on the head. The blood streamed down my face, that I could not see, and made my way to the rear in hopes of getting my wound dressed, telling the man nearest me my name and where I was hit.

I succeeded in gaining the brow of the hill and reaching the woods, but could find no surgeon. I soon reached a house but it was uninhabited, but a piece further on I came to another where I found water to bathe my head, and was able to ascertain the extent of my other injuries. I found the second time I thought I was struck in the hip, that the ball hit the corner of my cartridge box, that had worked round in front of me, and after tearing a slit in it four inches long and carrying away the brass button it glanced off. Had not my cartridge box been there, the ball would have passed through my bowels. Our regiment lost 270 killed."

From L. B. S. Miller - Co. F, 2nd WI Infantry - Iron Brigade

"Company F went into the fight with 33 men, and on Sunday only 12 were fit for duty. Captain Parsons got off a sick bed and led the boys through the ordeal, and in a manner that elicits the warmest praise.

Cole said that he was beside young Stickney during the fight, and the first intimation he had that he was wounded was Stickney's remark: "There, my little finger is

gone, but I can shoot yet." In a few minutes he remarked: " I am shot through the arm, but I can shoot yet." In, perhaps, five minutes more Cole looked around and saw Stickney's head fall over on his shoulder, and he jumped and caught him, and found he was dead; just shot through the head.

The news here this morning is that the rebels have skedaddled. I don't believe it. But one thing is for sure, they will be whipped, and bad too. Col. O'Connor is dead - killed on Thursday. After being wounded, he talked to his men that crowded around him, and advised them to fight to the death for the "good old flag." He was shot while gallantly leading his men.

Editor's Note: Elrich Bailey Stickney was born of northern parents in Alabama in 1840, and his family moved to Montgomery when he was seven. The abolitionist family relocated to Chicago, then to Racine, Wisconsin. Private Stickney was wounded on the same field on July 21, 1861 during the first battle of Manassas.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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