

The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

September 1994 Newsletter



Robert E Lee's Audacious Victory

On May 1-3, 1863 Confederate General Robert E. Lee ignored the traditional teachings at West Point and split his army in the face of superior numbers to defeat the Army of the Potomac at the bloody battle of Chancellorsville. For Lee, this was his most audacious victory, but the job was not finished. The Union 6th Corps, under the direction of General John Sedgwick, captured Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg on the morning of May 3, and was advancing west along the Orange Turnpike to aid Joe Hooker with a substantial force of nearly 20,000 effectives. On May 4, three Confederate divisions clashed with the leading elements of the 6th Corps at Salem Church, several miles east of the Chancellorsville intersection.

The Battle of Salem Church is a significant, but underappreciated encounter that marked the end of the Chancellorsville Campaign. On September 8, 1994 National Park Service historian Ray Brown will present the details of this battle to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Mr. Brown has worked for the park service for several years and is currently stationed at Manassas National Battlefield Park. He is working on a book about the engagement at Salem Church to be published in H. E. Howard's Virginia Battles and Leaders Series.

HEAR IT ALL AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!!!

Thursday - September 8, 1994
7:30 p.m.

Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members:

It is with pleasure that I address you as the President of Bull Run Civil War Round Table. I hope that in the coming year we are able to increase the spirit of comradery and friendship within our ranks. It is my desire that Bull Run Civil War Round Table becomes more than just where we go to hear speakers every month, but become a place where ideas are exchanged and friendships are established.

To start off the new year, I invite you to attend our tour of the first Battle of Bull Run on September 10, 1994 at 9:30 AM. We will meet at the Stone Bridge at Manassas National Battlefield. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the battle our round table is named after. We will give in-depth coverage to Matthew's Hill and Chinn Ridge as well as the usual stops at the bridge and Henry Hill. This will not be like the National Park Service Tour of First Bull Run; we'll debate and discuss the battle throughout the tour. It should last about 4 to 5 hours. See you there.

I have good news on the Preservation front. Fairfax County took title to the last 2.5 acres of Chantilly Battlefield in Manassas in August. Bull Run Round Table was in the thick of this battle since it made the news last year. Hopefully we can save 250 acres at Bristoe Station this year.

I would also like to announce the new officers and appointees:

PRESIDENT: Scott Patchan; VP: Gary Ecelbarger; SECRETARY: Rob Tringale; TREASURER: Martha Henley; PRESERVATION CHAIRMAN: John McAnaw; PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: Armando Mancini and Scott Logan; ROUND TABLE LIAISON: Jay Corbalis; EDITOR: Karen Fojt; MEMBERSHIP: Bill Miller; AT LARGE: Bron Wolff.

We are still looking for a few good men to fill in several remaining slots. Please see Scott or Gary if you are interested look forward to seeing all of you at the September 8, 1994 meeting.

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!!!

MARCHING ORDERS!
PREPARE RATIONS!
FORWARD TO KERNSTOWN!

On Saturday, October 22, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will partake of a very thorough and rare tour of battlefield lands in Frederick County in the Shenandoah Valley. This tour will cover the first battle of Kernstown, fought on March 23, 1862. Our tour guide for this battle will be BRCWRT Vice President Gary Ecelbarger, who presented the battle to our organization in June. This tour, like our September Manassas tour, will also be free of charge to anyone who wishes to attend. The highlights of this tour will be as follows:

<u>TOUR STOP</u>	<u>ACTION TO DESCRIBE</u>
1. Bartonsville (Springdale)	Ashby & Jackson move toward Winchester
2. Valley Pike (Kernstown)	Morning Action
3. Opequon Church	Jackson attempts to take Pritchard's Hill
4. Pritchard's Hill	Union HQs and Artillery Action
5. Sandy Ridge	Infantry Action at the Stone Wall
6. Neal's Dam Site	Confederate Retreat
7. Stone Lane (McGill House)	Consequences of Jackson's Escape

In addition to the battle action described, this tour will also feature a viewing of 18th and 19th century homesteads that still exist in the battle area. As we tour the field, we will also chronologically review the seven court martial charges that Stonewall Jackson levelled against Richard Garnett and attempt to develop a consensus concerning his culpability. Some of the terrain is rough, particularly on Sandy Ridge, so wear appropriate attire. Because much of this field is on private property, we will be the first organized group to thoroughly tour the area in over 100 years!

A sign-up list will be present at the September and October meeting for anyone interested in attending this tour. We will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. on October 22 from the Dogan's Ridge parking lot at Manassas National Battlefield Park (Rt. 234, one half mile north of the Stone House intersection) and our first tour stop will be less than one hour away. The formal tour will end early in the afternoon. No food will be provided on the tour, but several inexpensive restaurants exist in the vicinity and can be visited afterwards. We will return to Manassas by 4:00 p.m.

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!!

PRESERVATION UPDATE
Submitted by Ralph Swanson

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Park Bill advances in Congress

The Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing in July on Senate Bill 1033, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act of 1994, introduced by Senators Warner and Robb of Virginia. The bill already passed the Senate without debate on June 8. A similar measure, H.R. 746, was introduced in the House by Rep. Frank Wolf, but Mr. Wolf has asked the subcommittee to use the Senate-passed version as the vehicle for further consideration. Unlike the Wolf bill, the Senate version will create a new National Battlefield Park immediately upon enactment.

The new park will be about 1,863 acres and consist of portions of the following battlefields: Cedar Creek, Cross Keys, Fisher's Hill, Second Kernstown, McDowell, New Market, Port Republic, Tom's Brook, Opequon (Third Winchester), and Second Winchester.

The bill retains the provision for a commission of valley residents, business interests and preservation enthusiasts to prepare a preservation study and plan that will recommend additional properties for acquisition. According to staff in Mr. Wolf's office, the National Park Service has retreated from its original opposition to this bill and now supports enactment with certain modifications.

Armando Mancini has been tracking this issue for the Round Table. BRCWRT members wishing to weigh in should write to Rep. Bruce Vento, Chairman, Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515. Be sure to copy Mr. Wolf, U.S. House of Representatives, and Senators Warner and Robb, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20515.

Tredegar Lives!

(From Popular Mechanics)

How many times have you looked at that famous Civil War-era photograph of the Tredegar Iron Works along the banks of the James River in Richmond and wondered how much of the original installation exists? Well the answer is PLENTY!! The Tredegar Iron Works has been transformed into a museum that delivers history with a technological blast of grape.

Now called the Valentine Riverside, and a branch of Richmond's Valentine Museum, the new facility features two one-of-a-kind exhibits. In one building, five large liquid-crystal screens stand next to windows that offer views of Richmond's skyline. Touch-screen controls allow visitors to summon digitally manipulated archive photos that present the same views, but in historic times. At night, twin 6,000-watt projectors light up the building facade with 60 x 80 foot images of Civil War battles. This is not your ordinary preservation effort, and we would like a report from any BRCWRT member who visits the Tredegar...Oops! the Valentine. The ironworks are at the foot of 7th Street in Richmond.

Chancellorsville Survey Commences

A field survey of Chancellorsville battlefield was initiated in May by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program using global positioning satellite mapping technology. This space-age tool is being used to plot the precise locations of an estimated 40 miles of surviving entrenchments and other battlefield resources. Entrenchments have not been mapped at the park since a 1930s War Department study. Survey work is complete on the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House park units. Work on the Fredericksburg unit begins this fall.

A Geographic Information System (computer database of mapped information) will assist in storing data and creating maps of resources located in this survey. The computer can store and combine many map layers, providing useful information such as separating Civil War era roads from modern trails, or predicting where entrenchments are most likely to survive on lands adjacent to the park.

A New Private Civil War Battlefield Park
(From APCWS)

Pamplin Park Civil War Site is the name of a new, privately-owned and operated battlefield park near Petersburg, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. The Pamplin Foundation of Portland, Oregon has acquired the 102-acre historic property, the site of the Union 6th Corps breakthrough of Lee's lines around Petersburg on April 2, 1865. APCWS has joined in partnership with the Foundation to plan the interpretive exhibits.

The site still retains 'impressive and relatively pristine earthen entrenchments' on the property. A hiking trail along the fortifications features exhibits interpreting a variety of original defensive elements rarely presented at other battlefield sites. In addition, a fiber-optic map program at the new visitor center details the last eight months of the Petersburg campaign.

This looks like a very worthy destination for all BRCWRT members touring the Richmond-Petersburg Civil War sites. A modest admission is charged. For information, directions and hours, call (804) 861-2408.



CURRENT EVENTS

Submitted by Ralph Swanson

September 10 - CIVIL WAR FASHION SHOW AND TEA

Join the ladies of the 42nd Virginia Infantry for a fashion show and afternoon tea on the lawn of the Ben Lomond Manor House. Infantry encampment, Civil War-era refreshments, tours of the restored house.

10311 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. Noon-4 p.m. Fashion Show at 2 p.m. \$2 donation suggested. Call (703) 792-PARK, ext. 280 for information.

September 17 - Civil War Sale and Exhibition

Many tables of military accouterments, weapons, uniforms, etc. Cliffside Inn and Conference Center, Harpers Ferry. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (301) 432-6366 for information.

September 17/18 - Sharpsburg Heritage Festival

Walking tours, talks about the war, a quilt exhibit and a farmers' market. Sharpsburg. Call (301) 432-8308 for information.

October 1/2 - Re-enactors March for Preservation

Proceeds benefiting the Glendale/Malvern Hill battlefield acquisitions, sponsored by APCWS. Cold Harbor to Malvern Hill. Call Mark Stevens at (703) 371-1860 for information.

FROM THE BOOK SUTLER

Noah Andre Trudeau, who spoke at the Round table last March, has a new book, Out of the Storm (Little, Brown 1994). It treats events of April, May and June 1865 from Richmond to Mississippi, and is the third book of his trilogy.

FROM THE RANKS

The following incident occurred at Sharpsburg and is reported by General Stephen D. Lee. It is available at the Stephen Hotchkiss Collection in the Library of Congress.

The battle was renewed on General Lee's center and right, where Burnside's corps crossed the Antietam, but was finally repulsed on that part of the field before dark.

There can be little doubt that this battle was as bloody during this day (17th of Sep., 1862), and the loss of life was great as during any one day's battle during the war. Both armies were completely exhausted by the great struggle, and welcomed night to stop the terrible slaughter.

General Lee's headquarters were on the pike leading from Sharpsburg to the Potomac, and about half a mile from the town. About one hour or more after night had set in and the weird scene of the great battlefield had changed, in that firing had ceased everywhere, and more open help was being given to the searching for the dead ones, caring for the dying and wounded. General Lee summoned his corps and division commanders to meet him. For once during the day he had some of his staff and escort about him, and one by one his commanders began to arrive, generally with two to three horsemen with them.

As they came up he inquired of each quietly, 'General, how is it on your part of the line?' I, too, had been summoned, and was a quiet, intensely interested observer of one of the most remarkable scenes and interviews I ever witnessed. To the inquiry of Lee, Longstreet, apparently much depressed, replied to effect: 'That it was as bad as could be, that his divisions had lost terribly, and his lines had barely held and there was little better than a good skirmish line along his front.' He volunteered the advice that General Lee should cross the Potomac before daylight. D.H. Hill came next. He said: 'That his division was cut to pieces, that his losses had been terrible, and he had no troops to hold his line against the great odds against him.' He, too, suggested crossing the Potomac before daylight. Next came Jackson. He quietly said: 'That he had had to contend against the greatest odds he had ever met. He had lost a good many generals killed, and several division and brigade commanders were dead or wounded, and his losses in the different commands had been terrible.' He, too, suggested crossing the Potomac before daylight. Next came Hood. To General Lee's inquiry, he displayed great emotion, seemed completely unmanned, he replied: 'That he had no division.' General Lee, with more excitement than I

ever witnessed in him exclaimed, 'Great God! General Hood, where is your splendid division you had this morning?' Hood replied, 'They are lying on the field where you sent them; but few have straggled. My division has been almost wiped out.'

After the opinion of all had been given, there was an appalling stillness over the group. It seemed to last several minutes, when General Lee, apparently rising more erect in his saddle, said, 'Gentlemen, we will not cross the Potomac tonight. You will go to your respective commands, strengthen your lines; send two officers from each brigade towards the ford to collect stragglers and get them up. Many others have also come up. I have had the proper steps taken to collect all the men who are in the rear. If McClellan wants to fight in the morning, I will give him battle again. Go.' The above was, in substance, what occurred and was said. The group gradually broke, each going to his command, and, if I read their countenances aright, they said, 'This is a rash conclusion, and we fear the Army of Northern Virginia is taking a great risk in the face of the day's battle and the great numbers opposed to us.'

The two armies faced each other all the next day (18th of Sept.), the guns unlimbered, the lines of battle and skirmishes in place, but every one being careful not to let a gun go off for fear, apparently, that the terrible slaughter and scenes of the day before might be renewed. - One army was afraid, the other darent.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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