

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

THE STONE WALL

November 1994



TURN THE FLANKS

A Comparison of Confederate Attack in the Wilderness

The second afternoon of fighting in the wilderness west of Fredericksburg. On May 6, 1864 Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's corps on the Confederate right, and Brig. Gen. John B. Gordon's men on the left attacked the Union flanks.

The National Park Service's Greg Mertz will discuss their attacks at our November meeting.

Mr. Mertz is a staff member at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and a former president of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table. A St. Louis, Missouri native, he became interested in the Civil War when he was a Boy Scout and an Eagle Scout, and often visited the Shiloh, Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek battlefields. He has also been on the staff of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

GREG MERTZ

National Park Service

Thursday, November 10, 1994, 7:30 p.m.

Manassas National Battlefield Park

Visitor Center

**BULL RUN
CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**

P. O BOX 196
Centreville, VA 22020

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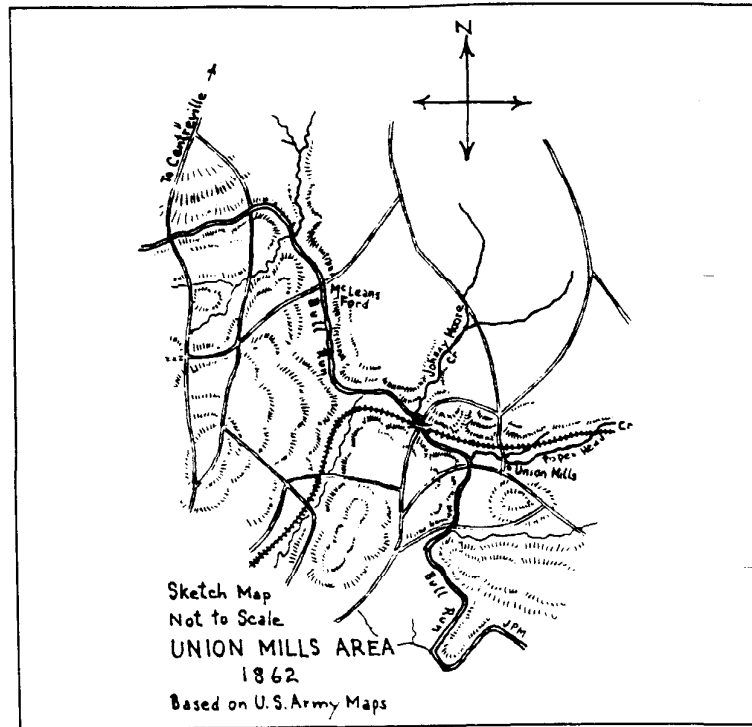
THE STONE WALL is published monthly. Submissions are welcome. Deadline is the 25th of the month. Send manuscripts to Karen Fojt, 9296 Caladium Drive, Manassas, VA 22110.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Column illustrations are from *Hardtack and Coffee*, or *The Unwritten Story of Army Life*, by John D. Billings, Cornerstone Publishers, 1993. Originally published in 1888.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE 1994-1995

- DEC 8 **Grant takes command - March 1864**
Joe Whitehorne
Author of *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Self Guided Tour*
- JAN 12 **McNeil's Rangers**
Roger DeLauter
Civil War Author
- FEB 9 **The Logistics of Supply: White House Landing**
William J. Miller
Author of *Mapping for Stonewall*
- MAR 9 **The Role of Artillery at the First Battle of Bull Run**
Jim Burgess
NPS historian
- APR 13 **The Battle of Ball's Bluff, Oct.. 21, 1861**
- MAY 11 **Chancellorsville 1863: The Soul of the Brave**
Ernest B. Furgurson, Author
- JUN 8 **The Battle of Piedmont, June 5, 1864**
Scott C. Patchan
BRCWRT President
- JUL 13 **To Be Announced**
J. Michael Miller
Author of *The North Anna Campaign*
- AUG 10 **Jackson in the Valley, June 1862**
Robert Krick
Author of *Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain*
- SEP 14 **The Battle of Antietam**
Dennis Frye
Author and NPS Historian
- OCT 12 **The Fighting Irish of the Civil War**
John P. McAnaw
BRCWRT Preservation Chairman
- NOV 9 **The West Virginia Campaign of 1861**
E.B. Vandiver
BRCWRT Member
- DEC 14 **Stonewall Jackson's Winter Campaign, Dec. '61-March 62**
Dan Jenkins
BRCWRT Member

FOCUS ON



UNION MILLS

The area around Bull Run and and Popes Head Creek was prominent because of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. By John Macanaw

Despite the suburbanization of Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the lack of interest by most politicians concerning the preservation of the area's Civil War heritage, vestiges of that war remain untouched. One undeveloped section that contains numerous Civil War (and archeological) sites near what was known as Union Mills. Unfortunately much of the area is 'up for development.' While a few prominent Civil War sites will be preserved, others will be obliterated as single family homes and a golf course are constructed.

The sketch map accompanying this article will give you some idea of what Union Mills looked like during the Civil War. Both Confederate and Union soldiers described not only the area around the confluence of Bull Run and Popes Head Creek as Union Mills, but also the surrounding terrain in both Prince William and Fairfax Counties. In fact, the name was used by soldiers located as far east as present day Clifton.

Today the area around Union Mills, as shown on the sketch map, represents some of the most scenic and historic terrain in the area. Trekking through the wooded landscape north of Popes Head Creek is akin to a journey back in time - back to 1861-65. I have visited the area on a number of occasions and have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent exploring our past.

The prominence of Union Mills during the Civil War was due, in large part, to the nearby Orange and Alexandria Railroad bridge that spanned Bull Run. This bridge, indisputably the most photographed bridge in the Confederacy, was of great importance to both sides, particularly to the Union during most of the period between July 1862 to May 1864. The bridge was a critical choke point along the Union supply line during this time. It had to remain operational.

Seven bridges were erected during the war across Bull Run at Union Mills. Six were destroyed as a result of military action. The seventh, a temporary timber trestle, was rendered unusable by floodwaters. Also, the presence of several fords and defensible high ground in close proximity to Union Mills added to the area's importance.

The terrain around Union Mills was the scene of numerous engagements during the war. Many were initiated by Confederate cavalry and guerrilla units operating in the area. The most significant combat occurred on 27 August 1862 when the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, VI Corps was sent via the O&A Railroad to protect the Bull Run Bridge. This brigade was commanded by Brig. Gen. George W. Taylor and consisted of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th New Jersey Infantry Regiments.

Leaving the 4th New Jersey Regiment behind to guard the bridge, Gen. Taylor ventured southwest, commencing at about 9 a.m., with the rest of his brigade along the railroad tracks toward Manassas Junction. An hour later he ran into elements of Maj. Gen. A. P. Hill's division in the vicinity of Fort Beauregard. Seeing that he was badly overmatched, Taylor tried to conduct a fighting withdrawal back to the Fairfax County side of the Bull Run bridge. The 3rd NJ Regiment acted as the rearguard, Confederate pressure from the brigades of Brig. Gen. Archer and Brig. Gen. Pender threw the retreating New Jersey infantrymen into disarray. While the 1st and 2nd New Jersey Regiments retreated rapidly eastward along the railroad tracks, the 3rd New Jersey Regiment was forced to move cross country to reach Bull Run south of the bridge.

Sometime between 11 a.m. and noon, Brig. Gen. Taylor was severely wounded and forced to leave the field, but not before inexplicably ordering the 4th New Jersey Regiment to leave behind only three companies to defend the Bull Run bridge and withdraw the rest of the unit. When Taylor went down, unit cohesion within the 1st, 2nd and 3rd New Jersey Regiments fell apart and members of these

FAMOUS QUOTES Brig. Gen. Ewell at Union Mills

Brig. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell, C.S.A., as an eccentric combat leader with a droll sense of humor and loved, so the saying goes, 'to put people on.' Those who knew him enjoyed his wit and naivete concerning women.

During the First Manassas Campaign, Ewell commanded 2 brigades stationed on the Prince William County side of Bull Run, vicinity of Union Mills. Early on 21 July, 1861, Ewell was directing a battery into position to cover the ford at Union Mills when a young woman galloped up to him and excitedly told him what she had observed within the Union lines. Ewell listened for several minutes, as he watched Union artillery going into position on the Fairfax side of Union Mills.

Lt. Gen. John B. Gordon recorded the following in *Reminiscences of the Civil War* (New York: 1903)

"He said to her, in his quick, quaint manner: "Look there, look there, miss! Don't you see those men with blue clothes on, in the edge of the woods? Look at those men loading those big guns. They are going to fire, and fire quick, and fire right here. You'll get killed. You'll be a *dead damsel* in less than a minute. *Get away from here! Get away!*" The young woman looked over at the blue coats and the big guns, but paid not the slightest attention to either. Nor did she make any reply to his urgent injunction, "Get away from here!" but continued the story of what she had seen. Gen. Ewell, who was a crusty old bachelor at the time, and knew far less about women than he did about wild Indians, this exhibition of feminine courage. He gazed at her in mute wonder for a few minutes, and then turned to me suddenly, and, with a sort of jerk in words, said: "Women - I tell you, sir, women would make a grand brigade - if it was not for snakes and spiders!" He then added much more thoughtfully: "They don't mind bullets - women are not afraid of bullets; but one big black-snake would put a whole army to flight."

units streamed east along the tracks toward Fairfax Station.

Fortunately for the New Jersey men, two regiments of the Kanawha Division, IX Corps, were on hand to slow the aggressive Confederate pursuit. This units, the 11th and 12th Ohio, were commanded by Col. E. Parker Scammon.

Around 12 noon, Scammon ordered the 12th Ohio to occupy the high ground north of the railroad bridge, Fairfax County side. From this position they could fire at the Confederate infantry moving east along the railroad tracks toward Bull Run bridge. Meanwhile the 11th Ohio crossed Bull Run below the Bridge and advanced about 500 yards up the ridge south of the tracks. Whereupon they attacked the Confederates masing just west of the bridge. Hills men were caught by surprise and retreated west along the tracks. The Confederates quickly recovered and came back in overpowering numbers. While the 12th Ohio laid down two covering fires, men of the 11th Ohio hightailed it east across the bridge. The 11th Ohio deployed about 150 yards behind the 12th Ohio. Despite heavy losses, the Ohioans, bolstered by elements of the 4th New Jersey, held on for two hours before orderly withdrawing toward Fairfax Station.

The published casualties at the Battle of Bull Run Bridge were one-sided. According to the *Official Records* they were:

	K	W	C/M	T
UNION				
New Jersey Brigade	9	126	204	339
11th Ohio		8	25	33
12th Ohio	14	42	17	73
	23	176	246	445
CONFEDERATE				
Archer's Brigade	4	17		23
Pender's Brigade	1	3		4
Other		Unknown		
	5	20		25

Sources of special value include:

Ruffner, Kevin C., Ph.D., *Tenting on the Old Camp Ground: The Civil War History of Union Mills, Fairfax County Magazine*. Study for the Fairfax County History Commission, 1 June 1992.

Naisawald, L. Van Loan, "The Little Known Battle of Manassas." Unpublished manuscript on file at Manassas National Battlefield Visitors Center. Undated.
Official Records, Series I, Volume 12, Part II

Thanks to Jim Burgess and Ray Brown for their research assistance.

LETTER HOME

Union Mills, 1861

Jules Bayoll and his brother, Ned, were stationed with the 5th Alabama Regt. during the fall and winter, 1861-2.

The following extract of a letter to his father on 27 November 1861 provides an entertaining insight into camp life near Union Mills.

Bill Simms Ellison, Ned & myself (our mess) went out this morning to cut logs to build us a house, as Col. Jones gave us orders to build next week. We cut 50 in three hours and would go out and notch tomorrow but have to go out on picket near Sangster X roads. Be not uneasy, for there's not a Yankee in twenty miles of that place. We will return on Saturday if nothing prevents, then build houses all next week. Dr. Hendon has just bid us farewell for our good old State. He leaves Manassas in the morning. Ned sent by him a Pipe for you and I a ring for Ma. both of our own make, dug out of Bull Run on the 15th of Oct. when we were down there bathing. We made the Pipe & ring in our leisure moments, so you see e not always idle. Tell our dear Sisters we will not make bridges of their noses. We have on hand some Rings for them. It is only a few minutes in a week we can get a chance to work on them. So you see it takes us some time to do a little work. We wrote to you some time since not to have the boots made for the cost too much but it is too late now as you say he has begun them. We will ever be grateful for them as the weather is already very cold...

Your devoted son,
 J. H. Bayol

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Reconnaissance of the Bull Run Fords

November 12, 1994

Next spring BRCWRT will conduct two field trips covering the fords across Bull Run, ranging from the Sudley Spring Ford southeast and downstream to Yates Ford below Union Mills.

Participating daytrippers will also tour fortifications and campsites in the vicinity of Bull Run that have survived the onslaught of development.

I am responsible for putting this field trip together and request your assistance to ensure that it will be informational and worthwhile. A sine qua non for such an effort is a thorough reconnaissance of the terrain that will be covered.

The locations of fortifications, campsites and fords must be pinpointed and plotted as soon as practicable. In all likelihood, two reconnaissances will be necessary prior to the field trip.

First Reconnaissance

DATE	Sat., Nov. 12
ASSEMBLY	8:30 a.m.
LOCATION	Manassas Battlefield Visitors Center
ATTIRE	Dress appropriately to the weather and for cross country walking.
RETURN	NLT 3 p.m.
EQUIPMENT	Compass, relevant documents including topographical maps
NOTE	In the event of inclement weather, reconnaissance will be Sat., Nov. 19.
CONTACT	John McAnaw 978-3371, evenings

CONSIDERATION Hunting Season Information

The following is a reminder for members who plan to trek through undeveloped parts of Fairfax and Prince William Counties this Fall and Winter.

During these hunting periods, wear bright clothing.

Bow and arrow Oct 1-19

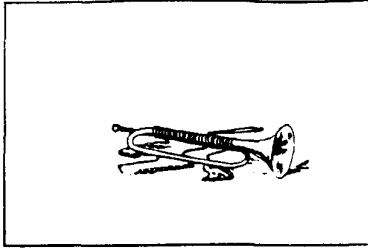
Firearms

Squirrel Oct 8-Jan 31

Turkey Nov 7-19

Nov 28-Jan 7

Deer Nov 21-Jan 7
(shotgun)



BRCWRT FIELD TRIPS

SUDLEY FORD

Good news for our members who participated in the First Manassas tour on Sept. 10.

Arrangements to see and actually cross Sudley Ford are almost complete (as of Oct. 24).

I will schedule the Sudley Ford visit in late November when most of the foliage is down: probably November 26.

BRISTOE STATION

The Bristoe Station tour is November 5.

Information on how to make your own arrangements was distributed at the October meeting.

If you didn't attend, call Bob Kirkcognell, 202-546-3893, D.C. Round Table for reservations.

Armando Mancini
Chairman

Opinion **Gibraltar Brigade** *The Most Underrated Brigade*

This month we begin a new feature: the most overrated, or underrated, brigades. Opinions, responses, arguments are urged. Every one of us has a favorite. Just write what you think, and why. SCOTT PATCHAN leads off.

The Gibraltar Brigade is one of the most underrated brigades. Formed from units of Shield's Division which defeated Stonewall Jackson at Kernstown, this brigade joined the 2nd Corps in the summer of '62 following the Peninsula Campaign. Units came and went, but the 4th and 8th Ohio, 7th West Virginia and 14th Indiana were the bedrock of this brigade.

Commanded initially by Col. Nathan Kimball, the brigade earned its sobriquet at Antietam charging the Sunken Lane and repulsing a Confederate flank attack. The brigade formed the skirmish line leading the attack of the 2nd Corps at Fredericksburg.

At Chancellorsville the brigade, now commanded by Col. Samuel Carroll, counterattacked the Confederates and recaptured a Federal regiment which had been cut off. Carroll's veterans also took a battle flag and prisoners. They then held off numerous Confederate attacks, yielding the field only when outgunned, doing so in an orderly fashion.

Unlike units which earned their reputations by taking heavy losses, the Gibraltar Brigade earned its reputation as shock troops, being sent to a crisis area on the battlefield.

At Gettysburg Carroll's men occupied Cemetery Hill on the right of the 2nd Corps. On the evening of July 2, Lee's forces broke through Union lines on the opposite side of the hill. Leaving the 8th Ohio to hold the line, Carroll marched his brigade to the sound of the guns. He found the Confederates swarming the Union batteries. The veterans fired a volley and charged, driving the Confederates out of the Union lines. Advancing, they came under enfilading fire from the left. The 7th WV changed front and drove off the Confederates. When it was over, Carroll's men had restored the line and captured prisoners.

They remained in their new position on July 3, but the 8th Ohio advancing on the skirmish line, found itself in the middle of Pickett's charge. Repulsing Pickett's men, the Ohioans changed front, faced the left flank of the main Confederate assault column, charged and captured hundreds of prisoners and several battle flags.

The brigade maintained its first-rate reputation when on May 6, 1864 in the Wilderness, Longstreet's men broke the Union line at the intersection of the Brock and Plank Roads. In reserve, the men grabbed their guns, charged and restored yet another breached line.

At Spotsylvania, Carroll's men successfully assaulted the Mule Shoe. Holding their sector of the captured line against repeated Confederate attacks and removing several captured artillery pieces in what was the brigade's last full-fledged engagement. With Carroll wounded at Spotsylvania, the Gibraltar Brigade mustered out of the service May through early June. Only the 7th WV reenlisted for the war's duration. The veterans of the 4th and 8th Ohio were consolidated into the 4th Ohio Battalion. The brigade ceased to exist.



EVENTS

Nov 19-20

Civil War Show and Sale
Virginia State Fairgrounds
Richmond, Va.
(804) 273-2358

Dec 30-Jan 1

Civil War and Gun Collectors' Show
Ramada Inn
Gettysburg, PA
(717) 334-4564

Through April

Embattled Emblem: The Army of the Northern Virginia Battle Flag, 1861 to the Present
Museum of the Confederacy
1201 East Clay Street
Richmond, Va.
(804) 649-1861

Through May

A Confederate Sampler: Objects from the Fort Ward Collection and Zouaves of the Civil War
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
Alexandria, Va.
(800) 388-9119

Through September

Mosby and Sheridan in the Valley
Museum of the Confederacy
1201 East Clay Street
Richmond, Va.
(804) 649-1861

FROM THE RANKS

From the Autobiography and Recollections of Wesley Nichols. Leesville Twin County Newsprint, 1915

Finally we reached Strawsburg and formed our line on the other side of the town. The Yankees commenced to shell us. We soon fell back thru the town, pitching camp and forming another line. We stayed there for several days. Our officers were not satisfied: so they spied out the Yankees' camp. One night our company was called out on picket duty. I just thought that we would catch it that night.

We marched for hours. At last we got to the place called Cedar Creek. We waded the stream.

Commander Dave Griffith said: 'Men, fasten up your canteens: don't speak a word aloud and don't make any noise whatever.'

Then we marched up the creek and formed a picket line near that of the Yankees. We did not know what was stationed behind this. About an hour or two before day our battleline came up from the same direction we had come, and formed in our rear. They were ordered forward in such a way that one could not hear them marching fifty yards away. They captured the enemy's pickets and then went forward and captured the battle line. What few men were not captured were driven back about three miles. Then we halted until late in the evening. At this time the Yankee cavalry charged on our left and drove it back. They were in our rear in a very short time and every man had to look out for himself. This battle took place October 19, 1864. It was the greatest victory we had ever won and thru neglect it was lost again. Several of our men were captured. While some waded the river, I escaped by going around to the right of Strawsburg. The town was blockaded with wagons and ambulances: so there was no way to pass thru.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

First Manassas Tour

Sir:

It is with great pleasure that I report to you the efforts borne by members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table at Bull Run on the 10th of September instant:

A beautiful late summer day greeted the sixteen troops that gathered at the stone bridge crossing Bull Run. From there we were led by BRCWRT President Scott C. Patchan, Preservation Chairman John P. McAnaw, Field Trip Chairman Armando Mancini, and member extraordinaire Charlie Grymes on a comprehensive tour covering all facets of the battle fought July 21, 1861. Each commander adeptly interpreted the scenes of action that occurred in the round table's backyard. Spirits were high and our legs did not buckle at any stage of our three-plus mile tour. Highlights of the excursion were the rarely-visited sites of the Sudley Trail, Chinn Ridge Tour, and Matthew's Hill Tour in which President Patchan displayed his archeological skills in pointing out the ruins of the Matthew House.

I am pleased to report that no casualties were incurred. All leaders turned in superb presentation performances and deserve special commendations for their efforts. We left that sunny afternoon much more knowledgeable about the first major land battle of the Civil War.

Respectfully,
G. L. Ecelbarger
Participant

P.S. Where were you?



Kernstown Tour

General:

I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the tour near Kernstown, Va., on Saturday, Oct. 22.

On Saturday morning, my troops left their camp at Dogan's Ridge near Manassas at 9 a.m. and rode in a three-car train to within three miles south of Winchester. We reinforced our ranks at an old church with six additional troops, making our regiment 18 in total strength, all present for duty. From the southern border of the hamlet of Kernstown, we began the tour.

My command took advantage of brilliant autumn weather (sunny, high near 70) and with a landscape decorated with colorful trees that had peaked this particular weekend in the valley, we concentrated our ranks in five cars and toured the battlefield. The tour consisted of seven total stops, most of them had never been visited by an organized group since the battle was fought 132 years previously. The total tour took five hours

COMING UP
Grant takes Command

Joe Whitehorne, author of *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Self-guided Tour*

December 8.

and I am proud to say that no troops straggled from the ranks. All behaved with distinguished conduct; and since all displayed the greatest gallantry and intrepidity, I cannot distinguish one over the other.

The only intense moment of the expedition occurred during the return from Sandy Ridge. Our retreat lane was blocked by the clever enemy, who obstructed our path with several carefully-selected cattle. I ordered the regiment to form closed column by divisions and we successfully completed our beefsteak raid by flanking the bovines and avoiding their well-placed land mines. The tour ended at Eugene Lupkin's Frederick County farm. He graciously allowed us to tour his property, which included the 18th century homestead and the preserved stone lane that allowed General Jackson to escape with his men over a century ago. Mr. Lupkin briefly addressed the troops and determined that we were still in good spirits to attack the buffet table that awaited us; therefore, we proceeded to advance at once.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. L. Ecelbarger
Tour Guide

Bull Run Civil War Round Table
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