

THE STONE WALL

June 1995

BLACK DAVE HUNTER
Vs.
GRUMBLE JONES

The Battle of Piedmont
June 6, 1864

The number of men killed and wounded at the battle of Piedmont exceeded the number of casualties suffered in any battle fought during Stonewall Jackson's renowned 1862 Valley Campaign and the more familiar battle of New Market.

In spite of the bloodshed and valor displayed at Piedmont, the rapidly changing events of 1864 have caused this fight and its ramifications to be overlooked by historians.

Although overshadowed, the Battle of Piedmont was one of the most fiercely contested battles ever fought in the Shenandoah Valley, and one whose outcome changed the nature of the Civil War in Virginia.

SCOTT PATCHAN

*Thursday, June 8, 1995, 7:30 p.m.
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center*

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE
P. O. Box 196
Centreville, VA 22020

SCOTT PATCHAN
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GARY ECELBARGER
Vice President

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BRON WOLFF
At Large

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President's Desk



Dear Members,

Two items of business.

The first is to announce the list of nominees for next year's executive board positions. We will discuss this at our meeting.

President	Gary Ecelbarger
Vice President	To be announced
Secretary	Marilyn Clark Snyder
Treasurer	Scott Logan

The second concerns a donation. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites is raising funds to purchase land on the sites of 2nd and 3rd Winchester battlefields. See John McAnaw's reports on pages 3 and 5 for further information.

The first payment is due in August. The executive committee voted to donate \$500 toward this cause.

We will discuss this issue at the June and July meetings, and members will vote on it in July.

Scott Patchan

MARCHING ORDERS

Forward to FISHER'S HILL *Saturday, June 17*

Members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will march to the Shenandoah Valley.

Highlights

OVERVIEW at Fisher's Hill
FUNKERHOUSE FARM Earthworks and artillery exchange
UNION FLANK MARCH, CSA POSITION, LOOKOUT TREE, etc.
BATTLE'S BRIGADE vs. CROOK
SPANGLER'S BRIDGE
JACKSON'S HEADQUARTERS
HUPP'S HILL for lunch
LITTLE NORTH MOUNTAIN
BOWMAN'S CROSSING
CONFEDERATES ATTACK, BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK
CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

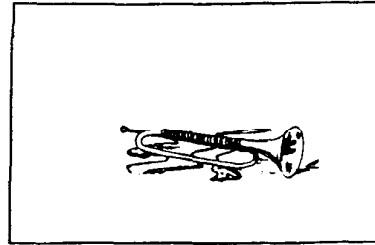
Time of departure: 8 a.m. at the Dogan's Ridge parking lot at Manassas Battlefield Park (Rt. 234, a half mile north of the Stone House intersection).

Cost: Free. Members are encouraged to reimburse the driver of carpools for the gasoline.

Rations: Bring a picnic. We'll break for lunch at Hupp's Hill.

Sign up: At the meeting.

Point of contact: Jay Corbalis, 703-938-1110



Preservation Corner

3rd WINCHESTER BATTLEFIELD

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites is seeking funds to purchase more than 200 acres of the 3rd Winchester Battlefield. The interest of Frederick County citizens in historic preservation is refreshing.

Significant progress can be made in preserving battlefield sites in the Winchester-Kernstown area if we chip in a few dollars. Now is the time to protect 3rd Winchester before developers find it as attractive as they have historic sites in Fairfax and Prince William Counties, such as Ox Hill Battlefield.

UNION MILLS/BALMORAL DEVELOPMENT

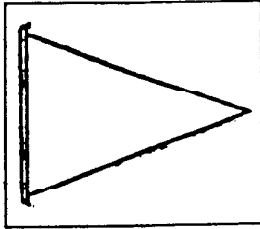
I met with Cindy Whitely, chief archeologist and three assistant archeologists for the Elm Street Development Company, regarding the proposed Balmoral Estate development.

Work on the Balmoral Greens Golf Course has already begun. The remaining 916 acres of the proposed development is still up for sale. Apparently there are several interested buyers.

Thus, it won't be long before the last frontier of Fairfax County is developed. I encourage you to visit this magnificent historic terrain before it is too late.

John McAnaw

Permission to Speak Freely



STONEWALL BRIGADE Return Fire!

By Gregg Clemmer

Scott Patchan offered his opinion that the Stonewall Brigade is overrated in the January issue of The Stone Wall. Gregg Clemmer, a member of the Germantown Round Table, was moved to disagree with Scott's assessment. The following is Greg's rejoinder, originally published in the May issue of The Maryland Line, the Germantown Round Table's newsletter.

I take strong exception to Scott Patchan's recent slam of the Stonewall Brigade as printed in the January 1995 newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, a newsletter curiously circulated under the titled masthead, *The Stone Wall*.

Now Mr. Patchan and I agree that Jackson's Brigade "performed superbly on the slopes of Henry Hill" that hot July day in 1861, but concerning Kernstown, Mr. Patchan needs to do a careful read of Union General James Shields' official reports. "The enemy disputed every inch of ground," he wrote, "and when they gave way did so in order." If Jackson's 4,000 men had been so badly mauled, as Mr. Patchan believes, he might ask why Gen. Shields declined an aggressive pursuit after the battle against a foe that fought like a force of 11,000 to 15,000 by Shields' estimate, styling them "the flower of the Southern Army." As far as any so-called check the brigade may have received at Port Republic, yes, the 2nd and 4th Virginia waged a losing see-saw flank attack against heavily protected Union artillery, and the 5th and 27th Virginia nearly cracked under a deadly bombardment in the wheatfield. But then Old Jack galloped into the chaos shouting, "The Stonewall Brigade never retreats! Follow me!" and the men of the Valley turned and together with brave Louisianians, shattered the Federal line and turned the battle into a rout. Let's tell the whole story, Mr. Patchan.

At Cedar Mountain, only the 27th Virginia broke from the fight, twice to be exact, but each time returned, and in the end joined their brigade comrades in decimating the 5th Connecticut, 28th New York and 46th Pennsylvania, capturing three battle flags and

rendering hors de combat every field officer of those unfortunate commands.

And what is this about the short end of the stick at Brawner Farm? Hardly! Both sides fought with uncommon valor that August day, yet it was the Iron Brigade that withdrew at day's end. And surprisingly, Mr. Patchan makes no mention of the real fight two days later, when the Men of the Valley, bloodied and desperately low on ammunition but still full of fight, resorted to bayonets and stones rather than flee the Railroad Cut. Care to name any Texas, Alabama, South Carolina or Georgia units that fought en masse with rocks...and won? That's the stuff of legend.

Sharpsburg? There were no victors on that September field... to have survived was enough.

And as for describing Jackson's classic flank attack at Chancellorsville, in which the Stonewall Brigade played a prominent role, as a temporary success...well, Mr. Patchan, please take a good read some time through John Bigelow's *The Campaign of Chancellorsville* for a less obtuse interpretation of what most military historians regard as Robert E. Lee's greatest tactical victory.

Let's see, Gettysburg? It was a terrible fight and losses were frightful, but then Stonewall's men went up Culp's rocky hill against the bulk of Slocum's XII Corps reinforced by Wadsworth's Division of the I Corps. On that day, they were simply brave men against impossible odds. We agree the brigade gave a good account of itself in the Wilderness, fighting Yankees and fires and chaos. But didn't every brigade

in the front lines of those horrid woods suffer severely? And surely the fight at Spotsylvania a week later was really their last, yet who knows what they and the other three brigades of Allegheny Johnson's Division might have done in the mist on that May 12th if Lee had not prematurely withdrawn their artillery?

But I must say it is the omissions in the brigade's history that really betray Mr. Patchan's efforts. His pen ignores the cold, freezing Romney campaign and the weeks of endured suffering that would crack the spirit and elan of most units. With perhaps the exception of Ed Johnson's small force wintering in the sleet and snow of Allegheny Mountain at 4,300 feet, no other Confederate command tolerated a longer, harsher winter campaign during the war.

And there are other missing bits of the story. How can we forget the Brigade's lightning march into Front Royal in May of 1862 - 26 miles in 16 hours; or of its intrepid charge, sweeping the entire field, at Winchester two days later? Or why fail to note Stephenson's Depot, fought two weeks before Gettysburg, a spectacular victory in which old Ed Johnson declared "nothing could have been more timely than the arrival of the Stonewall Brigade." He ought to know; of the 2,400 prisoners taken by his men, 800 were seized by the Men of Manassas, more than they had in their brigade.

Certainly no one can ignore the 1862 capture of Harper's Ferry in evaluating the effectiveness of the Stonewall Brigade. Was it perhaps the knowledge that Jackson's 1st Brigade loomed among the Confederate commands on Bolivar's Heights that compelled the largest U.S. troop surrender of the 19th century?

Surely there were many noble commands that served the gray. And there are some that do not enjoy the reputation they deserve. But the veterans of the 2nd, 4th, 5, 27th and 33rd Virginia Regiments endure as legend, not strictly out of fame earned in the South's first victory, but from a consistent valor that carried them forward, despite growing adversity, until the war's end.

*And men will tell their children,
When all other memories fade,
How they fought with Stone wall Jackson
In the old Stonewall Brigade!*

UPDATE

Latest Developments on Site Preservation

In late May, Kitty Fishback of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites filled me in on this organization's activities.

Malvern Hill and Glendale

As of April, a total of \$906,000 of the needed \$2.3 million has been raised for the acquisition of these battlefields. The Gilder Challenge Grant of \$50,000 has been notably successful in raising money; to date, the grant has raised \$160,000.

Authorizations

On Feb. 1, the association's board of trustees authorized \$3.5 million for land acquisition in five states.

There is, of course, a big difference between the authorization and the appropriation of money for land acquisition. Basically, APCWS needs money to acquire the titles to the acreage at these sites.

The board authorized land acquisition as follows:

200 acres	3rd Battle of Winchester, Va.
110 acres	Spring Hill, Tenn.
20 acres	Griswoldville, Ga.
6.25 acres	Fort DeRussy, La.
6 acres	Grand Gulf, Miss.

At the May 4 meeting, the board authorized acquisition for the following battlefields:

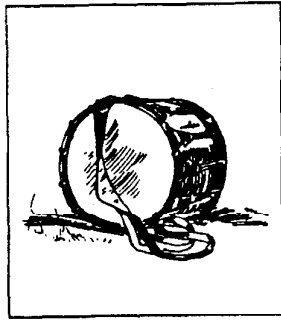
20 acres	Mill Springs, Ky.
10 acres	Harpers Ferry, W.Va.
130 acres	Brice's Cross Roads, Miss.

APCWS President Appointed

Also at the May meeting, the board of trustees offered the organization's presidency to Dennis Frye. Frye, who has recently been acting president, is on leave from the National Park Service and has accepted the offer.

I have congratulated Mr. Frye on behalf of our Round Table.

John McAnaw



**BRCWRT
FIELD TRIPS**

Bull Run/Union Mills

A tour of the Bull Run fords and Civil War sites in the vicinity of Union Mills will be held Saturday, Sept. 16.

Further information will be given as plans firm up.

EVENTS

Wilderness Re-enactment

June 17-19; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.
Wilderness Road Regional Museum, Newbern
Call 703/674-4835 for information.

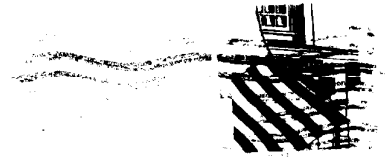
Naval Re-enactment

July 2-4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Norfolk Light Artillery Blues and the crew of the
CSS Virginia. Also a model of the Merrimac.
Call 804/625-1720 and leave a message for the
Norfolk Historical Society.

1864 Valley Campaign Re-enactment

Aug. 20-21
Mill Creek Cavalry Battle, Sat., 1 p.m.
Battle of 3rd Winchester, Sat. 3 p.m.
Tom's Brook Cavalry Battle, Sun., 12:30 p.m.
Battle of Fisher's Hill, Sun., 1:30 p.m.
Longbranch Plantation. Call 717/337-2191 for ticket
information.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. Box 196
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