

THE STONE WALL

July 1995

GETTYSBURG The Second Day

What were Robert E. Lee's plans for the Confederate attack on July 2, 1863? They weren't what happened. Could the Confederates have succeeded?

Mike Miller, U.S. Marine Corps historian and a member of our Round Table, examines the research and considers whether that day could have ended differently.

MIKE MILLER

*Thursday, July 13, 1995, 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 22020.

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

President's Desk



Dear Members,

Our Round Table's by-laws stipulate that prior to any vote, the issue must be addressed twice in the newsletter.

Two items will be voted upon at the July meeting.

We elect next year's executive board. The executive committee nominates the following:

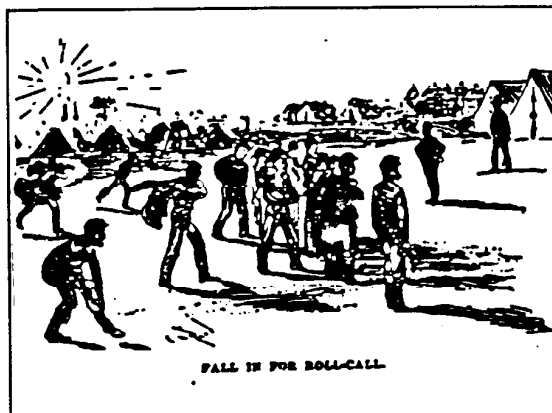
President	Gary Ecelbarger
Vice President	Martha Hendley
Secretary	Marilyn Clark Snyder
Treasurer	Scott Logan

We will also consider a \$500 donation to The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. This organization is raising funds to purchase land on the sites of 2nd and 3rd Winchester battlefields. Their first payment is due in August.

Scott Patchan

OFFICIAL REPORT

Touring Chancellorsville



Headquarters, Bull Run Civil War Round Table

Members:

I have the honor to report the following as the part taken by a company of members from this round table in the 13th of May inst.

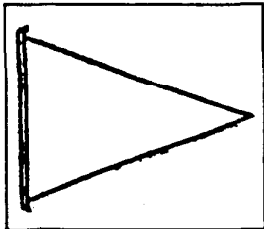
Our company numbered 19 participants, rank and file, on Saturday morning. We embarked ten minutes behind schedule, but the horses appeared especially rested and well fed, allowing us to make excellent time in approaching the Chancellorsville battle arena. A better day for touring a battlefield could not be found. Brilliant sunshine and warm spring temperatures drove the enemy threats of rain completely from our front.

We advanced first to Ely's Ford, then the Chancellor House site, then the scene of the first day's action of May 1, 1863. All this was accomplished within the first hour of arriving on the field. The whole early morning operation ran smoothly, save for the density problems with my presentation. A complete tour of Jackson's flank march eventually led us to our lunch stop, where we bivouacked temporarily and emptied our haversacks. The remainder of the afternoon was spent visiting and reviewing scenes of action that covered May 3-6. Our company subsequently about-faced and returned toward our home fortifications at 4:15 p.m.

I am happy to report that this tour, like our previous engagements, resulted in complete victory to our arms. Special commendations must be made to our studious guides. Maj. Gen. John P. McAnaw adeptly set the stage for the battle and wrapped up the day with a clear and concise analysis of performance. Brevet Brigadier Joe Kelley (note our Irish leaders) masterfully detailed the majority of the May 2 action, including three Lee-Jackson meetings from the previous evening. Kelley also pointed out important locales during the flank march as well as providing insight into Jackson's fatal wounding. Col. Scott Logan adeptly rolled up the 11th Corp for us at a location rarely visited by battlefield tourists.

We incurred only one casualty during the campaign. I received a debilitating solar energy injury (alright, my nose got sunburned), but was able to complete the tour, though much broken down by the severity of the wound. It has been touch and go for weeks, but I have regained enough of my strength to write this report, between fainting spells, and submit it for your approval.

I remain your obedient servant,
Gary L. Ecelbarger



STONEWALL BRIGADE

Another Look

By Gary L. Ecelbarger

In our January newsletter, Scott Patchan chose the Stonewall Brigade as the most overrated Confederate brigade of the Civil War. Last month we printed a response by Gregg Clemmer, a member of the Germantown Round Table. Gary Ecelbarger disagrees with Clemmer's analysis.

While I enjoyed reading the differences of opinion on the Stonewall Brigade, I admit surprise at Clemmer's condescending chiding of Mr. Patchan, i.e. 'Mr. Patchan needs to do a careful read,' and 'Let's tell the whole story, Mr. Patchan,' particularly after reading Clemmer's romanticized, error-filled defense of this brigade. For the sake of consistency, I deem it necessary to rebut his rebuttal in like tone.

Clemmer lauds the 'consistent valor' of the brigade's regiments, suggesting they were several cuts above other regiments of blue and gray. One thing is for sure, they certainly not more loyal. Noted historian Robert K. Krick, in *Antietam: Essays of the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, provides us with the eye-opening revelation that the 33rd Virginia suffered from nearly 25% permanent desertions during its four-year sojourn in the war, 354 men left the ranks for good. I wonder about the consistent valor of a brigade who has one out of four members of at least one of its regiments leave the service permanently without authorization. I'll bet the other units of the brigade yield similar desertion statistics, as will most 3-4 year units on both sides during the war.

As for the Romney Campaign, Lt. Col. George Lay, Johnston's inspector general, was sent to Winchester in January to assess the hardships of the situation. Lay consulted Hunter McGuire and concluded that "Reports of hardships and wretchedness have been sown broadcast through the country by discontented men and officers, but they are exaggerated, and I cannot discover the evidence of any ills not shared by

the other troops in their routine of picket and other duties in front of Bull Run." Dr. McGuire admitted that of the 1,163 soldiers in hospitals, over 800 were from Loring's brigades. Stonewall favored his namesake brigade throughout the first three weeks of January, then sent them back to Winchester and left Loring in Romney. This resulted in disproportionate suffering by Loring's men, producing a great deal of animosity toward 'Jackson's Pets.' I also find it difficult to accept the notion that the suffering on the Romney Campaign was so extreme, particularly on Jan. 7 at Unger's Store, when the Federal soldiers opposing them marched over 32 miles on that same day and captured two cannons at Hanging Rock, less than 20 miles southwest of Ungers.

The Stonewall Brigade fought masterfully at Kernstown, Mr. Clemmer, but please don't take Gen. Shields's report seriously. Shields nursed a broken arm four miles from Kernstown, never saw any of the battle, and inflated Confederate strength afterwards to promote a greater victory for which he undeservingly took all the credit. As to the reason why the Federals did not aggressively pursue the routed foe after the battle, look out the window at 7 p.m. the next time March 23 rolls along and maybe you'll see the light (get it?). Also of note, the Federal soldier at Kernstown never heard of the terms 'Stonewall Brigade' and 'Stonewall Jackson' until talking to prisoners after the battle; then they called them Stonewall in derision for fleeing the stone wall they defended on Sandy Ridge. Those same Union soldiers gave the Stonewall Brigade fits at Port

STONEWALL BRIGADE

Continued from page 4

Republic. Mr. Clemmer wants us to believe that the 5th and 27th Virginia nearly cracked in the wheat field until Stonewall Jackson rallied them. Correction. Those regiments were outmuscled by the Union troops and they did break (no shame, it happens to everybody), but were able to rally only when Dick Ewell's force arrived on the field to support them. Ewell and Taylor prevented a catastrophe from falling on Jackson's prized brigade that day.

Other facts require corrections. Mr. Clemmer states that at 2nd Manassas the Stonewall Brigade resorted to bayonets and stones to fight at the railroad cut, and then challenges Patchan to name any Texas, Alabama, South Carolina or Georgia unit that fought with rocks. The answer is I can't name any Stonewall Brigade regiment that fought with rocks either, for it was Stafford's Louisianians that got into that very short and overblown rock fight; but hey, that's the stuff of legend. Chancellorsville is even better. Jackson let the Stonewall Brigade have the post of honor and spearhead the assault on the 11th Corps, right? Wrong. Stonewall let Rode's men spearhead the attack. Where was the Stonewall Brigade? Why, they were in the rear, supporting artillery and cavalry. According to Colston's report, "The First (Paxton) which had been detached in the evening, not having yet rejoined, was some distance in the rear." How's that for playing a prominent role,

as Mr. Clemmer suggests? I haven't picked up Bigelow's book lately as the respondent recommended, but I doubt that author fabricated a greater role for the Stonewall Brigade on May 2.

I'll end with this one. Concerning Harper's Ferry in 1862, Mr. Clemmer asks "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." PLEASE! I challenge him and anyone else to provide me with just one contemporary account of a Federal soldier who specifically feared the Stonewall Brigade. Don't bother looking; none exist. By the way, wasn't there a larger American surrender at Appomattox?

The Stonewall Brigade was an above average unit, certainly in the upper echelon of Confederate fighting brigades, primarily owing to regimental leadership, opportunity, confidence and experience. Unfortunately, they have received far too much credit for their roles in battle, due to romanticized writings that turn a blind eye toward true critical analysis of performance. This is done at the expense of unheralded but topnotch fighting units. The Stonewall Brigade is overrated through no fault of its own. But it should be noted that the men in its ranks were little better or worse than many experienced veterans of the Civil War, North or South. As soldiers, they should all receive equal accolades.

WAR VETERANS SPEAK OUT FOR BRISTOE STATION

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, Dept. of Virginia, adopted a resolution stating that the graves of the more than 200 Confederate dead on the Bristoe Station Battlefield should not be disturbed and that these graves should be protected for posterity.

The resolution was introduced during the organizations 73rd Annual Convention held in Richmond June 22-25. It was approved unanimously.

This resolution was prepared by VFW 'Blue and Gray' Post 8469 of Fairfax Station. The resolution had passed unimously at the post and district levels prior to being introduced at the convention.

Many veterans expressed their dissatisfaction with those politicians and other individuals who by their action or inaction, have threatened the final resting place of these gallant Americans.

John McAnaw

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY

TURNER ASHBY The Quintessential Cavalier

By Gary L. Ecelbarger

Mention the word cavalier and a powerful image of a Southern horseman and his steed instantly gallops into your mind. The man and horse move as one. The horse is a majestic white charger, "splendid in form and action, responding to every touch of his master's hand." The rider wears a plumed hat; around his slender waist is a sash and a leather belt, holding both a pistol and a sabre. The rider's weight sits deep in the saddle, rein and forearm form a straight line from bit to elbow. The horseman is 5'10" tall with deceptive strength packed into a wiry frame. He is dark complected, fully bearded, handsome, and fearless to a fault. Don't forget to label this picture: Col. Turner Ashby of the 7th Virginia Cavalry.

Although Turner Ashby was commissioned brigadier general one month prior to his death, his greatest impact on others was achieved as a colonel. Ashby lacks the recognition of Stuart, Fitz Lee, Mosby and Forrest, but he left a stunning impression on all who witnessed his exploits. Partison's raved about him, calling him "the most picturesque horseman ever seen in the Shenandoah Valley." One of Jackson's foot cavalry described the colonel as "one of the cavaliers that we read about in romances. The spirit of chivalry, poetry and knighthood seemed to envelope him, and start one dreaming dreams of olden times." Lt. Col. William T. Poague, an artillerist who served four years in both Stonewall Jackson's Valley army and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, was particularly awed by Ashby's dash and daring, and subsequently acknowledged the cavalier as the bravest man he ever saw.

Ashby's opponents also respected and admired his bravery. One Federal officer paid tribute to Ashby by stating, "I think our men had a kind of admiration for him as he sat upon his horse and let them pepper away at him as if he enjoyed it." "This Ashby was

the terror and wizard of the Shenandoah," wrote an Ohio officer, "he was represented as being always mounted on a white horse, of being everywhere present and of wearing a charmed life; consequently everything astride of a white horse in front, in rear, along the mountains, near at hand or in the distance, was at once conjured up in the minds of the soldier to be Ashby. His apparition had presented itself frequently during the day, evening, and morning, and still hovered about fitfully in the advance."



Illustration by Edwin Forbes

CAVALIER

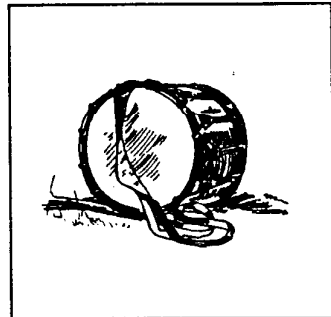
Continued from page 6.
 Ashby's soft-spoken demeanor so contradicted his striking appearance that many admirers remember clearly what he looked like, but few recalled anything he ever said. Ashby's horsemen marvelled at the transformation that overtook their commander in battle. Normally taciturn in camp, the cavalier became animated and aggressive, shouting to his men with his unique expressiveness, "Drive them boys! Drive them!" Ashby was in his glory at the battle of Kernstown. Mounted on his charger and leading his men forward, he was ubiquitous and reckless, bounding rail and stone fences, exhorting his men the whole while. His ostentatious display that afternoon dominated camp disussions for weeks afterwards.

Ashby's heedless bravery assured the inevitable. Cut down at the head of his men near Harrisouburg, the dashing figure became a memory. Instead of being rewarded posthumous superstardom, Turner Ashby somehow attracted criticism of his organizational skills and lack of military control over the 26 companies of undisciplined Valley horsemen that comprised his command. Horse artillery officer R. Preston Chew served under both Ashby and Stuart. His eloquent post-war analysis represents some of the best evidence why Ashby needs to be given a second look:

"...I have served at different times during the war with almost all the prominent cavalry leaders of Virginia, and I have never seen one who possessed the ability to inspire troops under fire with the courage and enthusiasm that Ashby's presence always excited. His modesty, combined with his gentleness, rendered him agreeable to all who came in contact with him. He was always bold in his operations with cavalry, and believed in charging the enemy whenever opportunity afforded. He adopted in the beginning of the war the tactics of cavalry by which other cavalry commanders could only secure success - namely, always meeting the enemy by bold and determined charges, and when defeated, to press them with utmost vigor."

Turner Ashby was indeed the quintessential cavalier.

UPCOMING TOURS



BRCWRT TOURS BULL RUN

If you are interested in the Civil War heritage of Fairfax and Prince William Counties, you will certainly enjoy the Round Table's walking tour in September.

The tour covers the fords across Bull Run used by both armies during 1861-65, plus the fortifications, campsites, etc., vicinity of Union Mills. The walking tour is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information contact John McAnaw, evenings at 978-3371.

BRANDY STATION BATTLEFIELD

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites holds its fall tour of the Brandy Station Battlefield Oct. 13-15.

The tour includes Middleburg, Aldie and Upperville. Tour guides are Bud Hall and Bob O'Neil, both of whom were at our Round Table Brandy Station tour, and have also been speakers for our group.

Further information will be provided in future newsletters.

PRESERVATION NEWS

by John McAnaw

3RD WINCHESTER

Jeff Driscoll, a staff member of the Assoc. for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc., has advised me that the 'march' of June 24-25 to raise money for preserving the 3rd Winchester battlefield was very successful. Over 500 Civil War reenactors assembled June 24 five miles north of Winchester and marched south along the old Valley Turnpike (U.S. Route 1) to Hackwood. On the following day the reenactors paraded through historic Winchester. Driscoll stated that as of mid-day June 26, over \$40,000 had been collected as a result of this march and that more money was coming in.

'ICE TEA' TO THE RESCUE IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

Loudoun County preservationists have every right to celebrate. BRCWRT member, Brad Bradshaw has informed me that the county received two federal grants totalling \$248,000 in May. The grants, from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Acts (ISTEA) funds, are to preserve two historical sites: Mount Zion Church and Snickersville Turnpike.

A total of \$192,000 in ISTEA funds will be spent for Mount Zion Church, which was built in 1851 and is located east of Gilbert's Corner on U.S. Hwy. 50. During the Civil War, the church had a strong association with Col. John S. Mosby and his partisan Rangers. The remaining \$56,000 will be used for landscaping two sections along the Snickersville Turnpike. One section is the famous 'Civil War Corner' where the cavalry engagement of Aldie took place in June 1863. The other is near the turnpike's modern bridge, which many consider an eyesore.

The ISTEA grants require matching funds: for every \$80 funded by ISTEA, \$20 must be put up by the community. The assessed value of Mount Zion Church is \$48,000, thus meeting the 20% matching requirement. However, the Snickersville Turnpike Assoc. must raise \$14,000 to meet its ISTEA matching requirement.

BRANDY STATION UPDATE

Despite what you may have heard, there is still hope that the Brandy Station battlefield will not be subjected to further desecration by developers.

In early June, the owners of a large section of the battlefield, Benton Ventures, Inc., rejected a \$2.1 million bid made by APCWS. However, before the owners can proceed with their plans to build a Formula One motorsport complex, they must acquire additional land. The reason is that the Corps of Engineers has pointed out that some of their property includes wetlands which are protected from development.

The APCWS is trying to purchase selected land parcels to thwart this attempt to destroy an important Civil War battlefield. Further, preservation groups are expected to file additional lawsuits to stop construction of the motorsport complex.

I mentioned in the February issue of *The Stone Wall* that one of the larger investors in the motorsport complex is Thomas Golisano, the CEO of Paychex Inc., Rochester, New York. Take the time to write a letter expressing your displeasure with the plans to destroy the battlefield.

Thomas Golisano, Chief Executive Officer, Paychex Inc.,
911 Panorama Trail S., Rochester, NY 14614

Editor, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 55 Exchange
Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614

Col. Andrew Perkins, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk District, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-
1096

Also write your elected State and Federal officials and your local newspapers. Brandy Station Foundation's address is P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714.



FROM THE RANKS

The Afternoon of July 2

The following is an excerpt of the Richmond Enquirer's account of the battle of Gettysburg, published July 22, 1863. The reporter is unidentified.

July 8, 1864

About the middle of the afternoon orders were issued to the different commanders to prepare for a general attack upon the enemy's centre and left. Longstreet was to commence the movement, which was to be followed up on his left in quick succession by the respective divisions of Hill's corps. As Anderson's division, or at least a portion of it, took a conspicuous part in this movement, I have ascertained, and now give you, the order of its different brigades: On the extreme right of Anderson's division, connecting with McLaws's left, was Wilcox's brigade, then Perry's, Wright's, Posey's, and Mahone's. At half-past 5 o'clock, Longstreet commenced the attack, and Wilcox followed it up by promptly moving forward; Perry's brigade quickly followed, and Wright moved simultaneously with him. The two divisions of Longstreet's corps soon encountered the enemy posted a little in the rear of the Emmetsburgh turnpike, which winds along the slope of the range upon which the enemy's main force was concentrated. After a short but spirited engagement, the enemy was driven back upon the main line upon the crest of the hill. McLaws's and Hood's divisions made a desperate assault upon their main line, but owing to the precipitate and very rugged character of the slope, were unable to reach the summit. The enemy's loss on this part of the line was very heavy...

While the fight was raging on our right, Wilcox and Wright of Anderson's division were pressing the enemy's centre. Wilcox pushed forward for nearly a mile, driving the enemy before him and up to his very guns, and beyond his batteries, several guns of which he captured, and nearly up to the summit of the hill. Wright had swept over the valley, under a terrific fire from the enemy's batteries, posted upon McPherson's heights, had encountered the enemy's advance line, and had driven him across the Emmetsburgh pike to a position behind a stone

wall or fence, which runs parallel with the pike, and about 60 or 80 yards in front of the batteries on the heights, and immediately under them. Here this gallant brigade had a most desperate engagement for 15 or 20 minutes; but charging rapidly up the almost perpendicular side of the mountain, they rushed upon the enemy's infantry behind the stone wall, and drove them from it at the point of the bayonet. Now concentrating their fire upon the heavy batteries (20 guns) of the enemy on the crest of the heights, they soon silenced them, and rushing forward with a shout, soon gained the summit of the heights, capturing all the enemy's guns, and driving their infantry in great disorder and confusion into the woods beyond.

We now had the key to the enemy's stronghold, and, apparently, the victory was won. McLaws and Hood had pushed their line well up the slope on the right; Wilcox had kept well up on his portion of the line; Wright had pierced the enemy's main line on the summit of McPherson's heights, capturing batteries, thus breaking the connection between their right and left wings. I said that, apparently, we had won the victory. It remains to be stated why our successes were not crowned with the important results which should have followed such heroic daring and indomitable bravery. Although the order was peremptory that all of Anderson's division should move into action simultaneously, Brig. Gen. Posey, commanding a Mississippi brigade, and Brig. Gen. Mahone, commanding a Virginia brigade, failed to advance. This failure of these two brigades to advance is assigned, as I learn upon inquiry, as the reason why Pender's division, of Hill's corps, did not advance — the order being, that the advance was to commence from the right and be taken up along our whole line. Pender's failure to advance caused the division on his left — Heth's — to remain inactive. Here we have two whole divisions, and two brigades of another, standing idle spectators of one of the most desperate and important assaults that has ever been made on this continent — fifteen or twenty thousand

FROM THE RANKS

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armed men resting on their arms, in plain view of a terrible battle, witnessing the mighty efforts of two little brigades (Wright's and Wilcox's, for Perry had fallen back overpowered) contending with the heavy masses of Yankee infantry, and subjected to a most deadly fire from the enemy's heavy artillery, without a single effort to aid them in the assault, or to assist them when the heights were carried. Perry's brigade, which was between Wilcox and Wright, soon after its first advance, was pressed so heavily as to be forced to retire. This left an interval in the line between Wright and Wilcox, and which the enemy perceiving, he threw a heavy column in the gap then made, deploying a portion of it in Wilcox's left flank, while a large force was thrown in rear of Wright's right flank. The failure of Posey and Mahone to advance upon Wright's left enabled the enemy to throw forward a strong force on that flank, and to push it well to his rear along the Emmetsburgh pike. It was now apparent that the day was lost — lost, not because our army fought badly, but because a large portion of it did not fight at all.

**SHENANDOAH BATTLEFIELDS
GUIDE PUBLISHED**

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has published a study of Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. As directed by Congress in 1990, the report examines 15 battlefields in the Valley and assesses their condition. A limited number of copies are available at no cost. To order a copy, call 202-343-9505 and ask to speak to an ABPP representative.

APCWS elects Fry

Dennis Fry, formerly with the National Park Service at Harper's Ferry, has been approved by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc.'s executive committee as its new president. Fry replaces Will Greene. Both have been good friends of our Round Table.

Also, APCWS is considering relocating to Maryland. The Washington County folks have offered them rent-free space in Sharpsburg. The move could save them at least \$20,000 per year. Other cities have also expressed interest in luring APCWS.

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