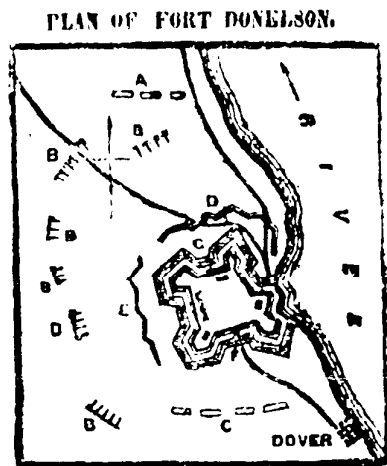


Bull Run Civil War Roundtable
THE STONE WALL

September 1995

FORT DONELSON SURRENDERS
U.S. Grant Captures Rebel Stronghold



REFERENCES TO THE PLAN.
 A.—Gen. SMITH.
 B.—Union Field Battery.
 C.—Gen. McCasland's.
 D.—Rebel Redoubt.
 E.—Rebel Rifle Pits.
 F.—Draw Bridge.
 G.—Ditch around the Fort.

The Union army faced a formidable fortress, difficult terrain and miserable weather in February 1862. Artillery quickly crippled the Federal fleet on the Cumberland River. But, having tasted victory only a few days before at Fort Henry, Grant's men vigorously overcame Confederate resistance. The road to Nashville was open.

B.F. Cooling, author of books on Fort Donelson and the Monocacy, and historian for the Department of Energy, presents a slide show about this four day campaign at our September meeting.

B. F. COOLING

September 12, 7:30 p.m.

Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

ROUNDTABLE
1995-96
TOUR
SCHEDULE

The field trip committee has scheduled the following battlefield tours for the 1995-96 season. Trips are tentatively scheduled for the Saturday following our monthly meeting, but are subject to change. Trip details will be published prior to the event.

Anyone who has suggestions of other tours, wants to participate, or is interested in being a guide, should speak with Gary Ecelbarger, Scott Patchan or John McAnaw.

Sept. 23	Fisher's Hill
Oct. 28	3rd Winchester
Nov. 11-12	2nd Manassas
Jan. 13	Jackson's Winter Campaign
May 11-12	Wilderness & Spotsylvania
June 15	Union Mills
Aug. 10	Early vs. Crook, July 1864

1995-96 SPEAKER SCHEDULE



Meetings begin 7:30 p.m. at the Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. Speakers may change.

	Jan. 11	CIVIL WAR MEDICINE Dr. George Hocker
	Feb. 8	THE 2nd BATTLE OF WINCHESTER Brandon Beck
	March 14	THE BATTLE OF YELLOW TAVERN Mark Mitchell
	April 11	THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS Gordon Rhea
	May 9	HOOD INVADES TENNESSEE Ed Bearss
	June 13	JACKSON'S GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY Art Candenquist
	July 11	THE ROLE OF THE NAVY Scott Logan
	Aug. 8	EARLY VS. CROOK, JULY 1864 Rod Gainer
	Sept. 12	ANTIETAM: WHY IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED Dennis Frye
Oct. 12	THE FIGHTING IRISH John P. McAnaw	
Nov. 9	THE BATTLE OF BALL'S BLUFF Kim Holien	
Dec. 14	JACKSON'S 1861-62 WINTER CAMPAIGN Dan Jenkins	

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

P. O. Box 196
Centreville, VA 22020

PRESIDENT Gary Ecelbarger; VICE PRESIDENT Martha Hendley; SECRETARY Marilyn Clark Snyder; TREASURER Scott Logan; FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN Gary Ecelbarger; FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE Scott Patchan, John McAnaw; PRESERVATION CHAIRMAN John P. McAnaw; PRESERVATION COMMITTEE Armando Mancini; MEMBERSHIP Scott Patchan, Joe Kelley; SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE Scott Patchan, Martha Hendley, Scott Logan; CONSTITUTION CHAIRMAN Gary Ecelbarger; CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE John P. McAnaw, Bill Miller; ROUNDTABLE LIAISON Chris Custode; EDITOR Karen Fojt; AT LARGE Bill Miller, John P. McAnaw, Joe Kelley.

From the President

WE BEGIN OUR 5TH YEAR

Dear Members,

Welcome you to another season of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. I no longer consider us a fledgling organization, as we have now entered our fifth year. I will serve you as president of the roundtable for the next 12 months, and plan on continuing the same style and, dare I say, tradition of my predecessors: that is, an informal approach to our meetings, allowing a multitude of opportunities for members to foster their interests in the Civil War.

We have a new executive committee. This voting body met on Aug. 30 to discuss matters that are forthcoming this year, and all of which enhance interest in the war.

Since our 1995-96 SPEAKER SCHEDULE was published in August, we have already made two changes. Joe Harsh will speak next fall, and our March speaker, Lt. Col. Mark Thompson, will address us on the Battle of Yellow Tavern. Dennis Frye will speak to us in September about Antietam. Meanwhile, Martha Hendley is quickly filling in our 1996-97 speaker calendar. Please feel free if you have ideas about speakers.

As you can see, the NEWSLETTER has a new, more professional look. The committee approved a three month trial of this new format, which costs a few dollars more per month. But I believe it is worth it



if an already excellent newsletter somehow got better. Let me know what you think.

Our BATTLEFIELD TOUR SCHEDULE was approved by the committee and is published on page 1. Our tours are guided by roundtable members to keep costs down. In fact, the only charge to participants is \$3-5 to reimburse the drivers for fuel and mileage. If you haven't had the pleasure of one of our tours, I hope you set aside one of these days to experience one of our organization's great perks.

The TREASURY duties have passed from Martha Hendley to Scott Logan. Our current balance is \$1,600; members voted last year to earmark \$1,000 for a national symposium our roundtable will sponsor. The SYMPOSIUM will probably take place in October of 1996. More details will be provided in coming months. Any profits from the event will go toward battlefield preservation. The committee also discussed some of the nuances of INCORPORATING our organization, and we may switch

banks to get better yields from our treasury deposits. Details will be given when they are ironed out.

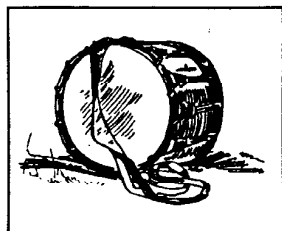
I assigned several committees to handle business functions over the coming year. If anyone would like to participate in our roundtable's various activities - field trips, newsletter, preservation, symposium - see me at the meetings, or call me at home between 5 and 8 p.m., 406-4933. We are always looking for help.

Our spirited meeting ended with a plan to celebrate our fifth year in business. This November we will have a PRE-MEETING PARTY. The committee proved the expenditure of up to, but not more than, \$100 for refreshments. The party will have a roundtable history poll, i.e. favorite speaker, favorite presentation, best tour, favorite newsletter feature; we may also award booby prizes on our organization's personalities. Mark your calendar to arrive earlier on Nov. 9 for the festivities.

BOB KRICK gave a heckuva talk in August. I told him afterwards that he probably sold 50 copies of his book, which is due out in January, by his presentation on Stonewall Jackson and Port Republic. Now I'm looking forward to B. F. COOLING talking about Fort Donelson. I hope to see you there, for I will always be

Your most obedient servant,
Gary L. Ecelberger

Preservation



BRCWRT 1995-96 PRESERVATION PRIORITIES

Our roundtable's preservation committee met Aug. 30 prior to the executive board meeting, to establish priorities for the coming year. The focus remains on the preservation of Civil War sites in Northern Virginia. The executive board approved the following priorities:

In and around the City of Manassas
Bristoe Station
Union Mills Area
Thoroughfare Gap
Winchester battlefields
Brandy Station
Ox Hill (Chantilly)

THE FIGHT FOR BRANDY STATION CONTINUES

Don't let the recent adverse decision by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning the 425 acre tract of wetlands at Brandy Station discourage you. All is not lost. Yet.

To recap, Benton Ventures Inc.

stated its intention to develop this area into a Formula One motorsports complex (read high speed racetrack).

After the Corps of Engineers decision, the Brandy Station Foundation began litigation to preserve this land. Also, 24 landowners who object to the motorsports complex have filed suit. Further, it is becoming increasingly evident that many NASCAR teams and their sponsors will boycott races at this complex if it is built.

In late August, I spoke to several informed preservationists about this site. After discussions with Bob Edmiston of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites; B. B. Mitchell III, president of Brandy Station Foundation; and two other parties who requested anonymity, I am optimistic about the future of Brandy Station with regard to the racetrack. In fact, I am more concerned about the airport next to the battlefield expanding than I am about construction of this ballyhooed motorsport complex.

At this point, I have a wait-and-see attitude. Positive developments could occur in the near future.

GREAT NEWS FOR 3RD WINCHESTER

The Association for the
Preservation of Civil War Sites

(APCWS) exercised its option to acquire 200 acres of 3rd Winchester Battlefield on Aug. 25. The organization made a payment of \$500,000 to the landowner, Top of Virginia Development Corp. Our roundtable donated \$500 to this initial payment.

This important event was in large measure due to support from the Civil War Trust.

The purchase price of this land is \$2.54 million. APCWS has guaranteed two further payments to Top of Virginia Development Corp., one for over \$1 million, and a second for slightly less than \$1 million.

A great deal of effort and time went into saving this land for posterity. We owe a debt of gratitude to all responsible. Bob Edmiston of APCWS praised Dave Holliday, chief executive officer of Top of Virginia, for going out of his way to cooperate.

You may ask where the rest of the money will come from. Hopefully, some will come from the same source that saved Mount Zion Church, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. APCWS intends to apply for a grant for ISTEA funds to cover some, at this time unspecified, percentage of the remaining acquisition costs.

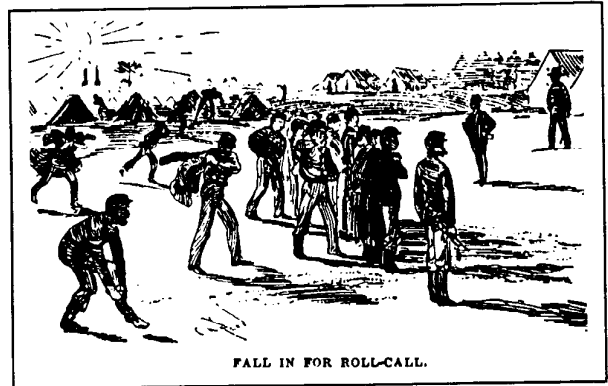
John P. McAnaw

Marching Orders

FORWARD TO FISHER'S HILL

Saturday, Sept. 23

Should Jubal Early have escaped to fight at Cedar Creek? If Gen. Sheridan's trap had worked, the Confederate Army in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 would have been destroyed somewhere between Fisher's Hill and New Market. Join other roundtable members and tour this battlefield one day after the 131st anniversary of the battle.



HIGHLIGHTS

HUPP'S HILL The positions of the Union Army of the Shenandoah on Sept. 20, 1864 as it pursues Early's forces south to Strasburg after the Battle of Winchester the previous day.

QUARRY HILL The left flank of Sheridan's forces on Sept. 21 was held by Emory's XIX Corps with Grover's and Dwight's Divisions. We will inspect Union entrenchments and follow the Union movements from Hupp's Hill to Quarry Hill.

FLINT HILLS Sheridan felt these heights of Strasburg were extremely important to hold as Gen. Crook's Army of West Virginia, VIII Corps, moved into position to strike the Confederate left flank and rear. Sheridan ordered Wright, VI Corps, to take these hills from the Confederate skirmishers. Once accomplished, Sheridan had a clear view of the enemy across Tumbling Run. He took advantage of this excellent

artillery position Sept. 22. Sheridan's maneuvering here Sept. 21 and part of Sept. 22 was designed to fool Early into expecting a frontal rather than a flanking attack. It worked perfectly.

EMMANUEL CHURCH The south slopes of Flint Hills to get a clear Union view of Gordon, Pegram and Ramseur, Confederate locations on the opposite side of Tumbling Run. We'll discuss the path taken by VI and XIX Corps as they engaged the enemy.

RAMSEUR'S HILL We'll discuss Crook's flank attack with Hayes' and Thoborn's Divisions of 4 p.m., Sept. 22 against first Lomax's cavalry and then Ramseur's infantry division. The Confederate line panicked as VI and XIX Corps joined Crook to push the fight toward the Valley Pike. Ramseur was unable to delay Crook on this hill, due to the surprise and swiftness of the Union attack.

NEAR TRAILER PARK, RT. 11 This area marks J. B. Gordon's Division's right flank and Wharton's Division's left flank, where Gordon expected Sheridan to attack. Large numbers of Confederates scrambled down this part of the Pike to escape destruction. They established a rear guard near Round Hill just south of this site and held it temporarily. Jackson's favorite staff officer, Col. Sandie Pendleton, was wounded here; he died in Woodstock on the 23rd.

The cavalry force that Sheridan sent to the Luray Valley and New Market to catch Early in retreat was easily turned back. Early's army escaped to fight again, the following month at Cedar Creek.

IF TIME ALLOWS, we'll view the Valley Pike tollhouse, Jackson's favorite tavern, Valley Pike roadbeds, bridge remains over Cedar Creek, and three fords used

MARCHING ORDERS
(CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

by the Confederates to execute that perfect surprise attack at Cedar Creek.

DEPARTURE SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 8 A.M. at the Dogan's Ridge parking lot at Manassas Battlefield Park, Rt. 234, one half mile north of the Stone House intersection.

COST Free. Members are encouraged to reimburse the driver of carpool for gasoline.

RATIONS Pack your own.

SIGN UP Sheets for members who wish to attend and volunteer tour guides will be available at the next meeting.

CONTACT

Armando Mancini, 266-3584
Jay Corbalis, 938-1110

**BULL RUN FORDS/
UNION MILLS TOUR
POSTPONED**

With great reluctance, I must postpone the Bull Run/Union Mills tour until June 1996.

I regret any inconvenience to those who planned to attend Oct. 7. But injuries and commitments have made it impossible to accomplish what is necessary to make this trip a memorable and worthwhile adventure.

John P. McAnaw

UPCOMING HISTORY AMERICA TOURS

HISTORY AMERICA TOURS conducts popular, worthwhile trips focusing on the War Between the States which are led by well-known historians. Of interest to our roundtable Preservation Committee is the fact that the tour company sends a check amounting to 10% of the initial deposit of any participant who identifies the BRCWRT as the source of information regarding a tour. Advise John McAnaw if you intend to participate, so he can follow up with History America.

For further information on these tours, see John McAnaw for a reservation form, or contact History America Tours, P.O. Box 797687, Dallas, Tex. 75379, (800) 628-8542.

RIDING WITH FORREST: A BATTLE FROM THE START

Historian guide: Ed Bearss

Special guest: Brian Steel Wills, biographer of Nathan Bedford Forrest

Date: Sept. 26 - Oct. 1

Tour stops: To name a few, Memphis, Fort Pillow, Clarksville, Fort Donelson, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Sulphur Springs, Brice's Crossroads.

Cost: \$799 per person, double occupancy; \$899 per person, single occupancy. A deposit of \$100 is required with your reservation.

This is a very popular tour. If you're interested, call the tour company immediately to see if it's already been sold out.

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE SOUTHEAST ALONG THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

Historian guide: Richard McMurry

Date: Nov. 25 - Dec. 2

Participants travel on a Nantucket Clipper, whose shallow draft and great maneuverability allow access to the remotest parts of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Ports of call: Charleston; Beaufort; Savannah; St. Simon's Island, Ga.; St. Mary's Island, Fla.; St. Augustine; Jacksonville.

Cost: Depending upon location of cabin, app. \$1,650 - \$2,750.

From the Ranks

A Richmond Newspaper Comments on the Fall of Fort Donelson

Early Confederate telegraphic accounts of the battle of Fort Donelson reported the Yankees whipped, but by Feb. 16, rumors of defeat spread through the South. Only two Confederate newspapers had reporters on the scene, and what news could be gathered came initially from private citizens, rumors and Northern newspapers. The government in Richmond did not confirm the defeat for a week. The Richmond Dispatch, in the absence of news, resorted to hyperbole such as the following, published in its Feb. 19 edition.

After three days of the most desperate fighting ever witnessed on this continent, (so declares a veteran regular officer,) the most desperate fighting against the most tremendous odds, in which day after day the multitudinous host of invaders were driven back past their own camps, our glorious Spartans band, from sheer exhaustion, has been borne down by a new avalanche of reinforcements piled upon the already enormous weight against which they have hitherto struggled with complete success, and has suffered one of the misfortunes which are common to war, but which entail no dishonor on our

cause, and which will only animate to the most stern and undying resistance every true Southern heart.

If these bloody barbarians, whose hands are now soaked to the elbows in the lifeblood of men defending their own homes and firesides, dream that they are now one inch nearer the subjugation of the South than when they started on their infernal mission, they prove themselves to be fools and madmen, as well as savages and murderers. They have taught us a lesson, we admit; they had admonished us to be more wary and circumspect, to husband with greater care our limited resources, and not to underrate our enemy.

But they have also placed between them and us a gulf that can never be crossed by their arts or arms, and a universal determination to die, if die we must, for our country, but never permit her to be subjugated by the most malignant, the most murderous, the meanest of mankind, whose name is at this

very moment such a byword of scorn and reproach throughout Europe for their combined cruelty and cowardice, that their own ambassadors cannot stand the scorn of the world's contempt, and are all anxious to fly back to the United States.

Their success at Fort Donelson, gained only by vast superiority of numbers, will only have the effect of converting the whole population of the South - men, women and children - into an immense army, who will resist them at every step, and everywhere "welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves." The glorious valor of our troops at Fort Donelson is not dimmed in the slightest degree by their inability to hold their ground against overwhelming odds; but, on the contrary, shines through the black clouds of disaster with a radiance which will kindle the whole South into a blaze, and surround their own names with a halo of imperishable venom.

The crisis of the war is upon us, and reverse upon reverse comes in

THE STONE WALL is published monthly. Submissions are welcome. Deadline is the 25th of the month. Send manuscripts to Karen Fojt, 6355 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, VA 22111, 330-1965.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 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.

FROM THE RANKS
(CONT'D FROM PAGE 7)

quick succession. We have scarcely recovered from the depression consequent upon our defeat at Fort Henry and Roanoke, ere we are called upon to meet a still heavier calamity in the fall of Fort Donelson, and the surrender of our brave troops holding that important post. It is true the facts concerning this last disaster have not yet reached us from sources entitled to belief; but enough is known to convince us that we have sustained another staggering blow.

We have not been of those who entertained the belief that our arms would always be successful, or that if it was within the bounds of possibility our small army could meet and drive back the overwhelming hordes of the enemy at every point at which they could penetrate, and are not, therefore, taken by surprise, nor greatly discouraged, by the untoward

events which have taken place in the West and on the Atlantic coast. We have not known our strength, although we have been greatly too confident of the weakness and cowardice of our foe. If these disasters shall turn our thoughts in upon ourselves, and shall arouse us to the full comprehension of our perilous situation, and to the energy and activity requisite for the occasion, they will not have overtaken us in vain.

We do not believe the defeat at Fort Donelson is of the proportion our telegraphic columns would give us to understand. It must be remembered, the intelligence they furnish comes from the enemy, who are not apt to depreciate the victories they gain. And we see much to encourage us even in this dark hour. Our permanent Government is launched upon the stormy sea, it is true, but we think her timbers are stout enough to bear the strain, and that the noble structure will be none the worse

for the rough usage to which it has thus early been subjected.

The War Department received on Monday evening from Gen. A. Johnston, a telegram announcing the fall of Fort Donelson, but couched in so ambiguous a style that it becomes necessary to request more intelligible information. No answer has as yet been received from that officer, probably on account of the interruption of telegraphic communication, occasioned by the severity of the weather.

Coming Up

Our very own
JOHN P. McANAW
talks about

THE FIGHTING IRISH
October 12

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



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