

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable
THE STONE WALL

October 1995

The Fighting Irish in the Civil War

Irish immigrants and American-born descendants of Irish immigrants have played a prominent part in all our Nation's armed conflicts. While no precise figures exist on the number of Irish-born soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the armed forces of the United States and the Confederacy, reasoned estimates place the total at over 200,000.

A significant number of these servicemen had prior military experience in the armies and navies of European nations, particularly Great Britain. This experience was a decided asset to both governments. Backing up these fighting men was an extraordinary band of Irish priests and nursing nuns and sisters who fought to save their souls and their lives.

The reliability of Irish soldiers in combat drew the praise of numerous Confederate and Union generals and private soldiers. Of note, many Irish-born officers distinguished themselves by their valor and leadership ability. This surprised many observers since, due to persecution in their homeland, few had previously had the opportunity to exercise their leadership ability.

While participating in the bloodiest war in our history, thousands of Irish soldiers prepared for another war against an ancient enemy. Their story and legacy is the subject of John McAnaw's presentation.

John P. McAnaw is a retired U. S. Army infantry officer and a long-time student of past, contemporary and future warfare. During over two years of service in the Republic of Vietnam, he participated in nine campaigns. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and Air War College. Prior to retirement, he was assigned to the U. S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. He is currently conducting research for two books on the American Civil War. One of these books is on a subject dear to his heart: you guessed it, Irish participation during that conflict. He would appreciate whatever assistance roundtable members can provide on this subject.

JOHN P. MCANAW
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center

Your Opinions, Please

Please take a few minutes to consider these questions. We take all members' opinions and interests seriously, but we need to know what they are! You can either bring it to the next meeting or mail it to the roundtable, P.O. Box 196, Centreville, VA 22020.

What do you like best about the Bull Run Civil War Round Table?

What would you like to see improved within the organization?

What speakers or topics would you like to hear at future meetings?

What Civil War-related areas would you like us to tour?

From the President

A Great Tour, a Great Talk

Dear Members,

As the dog days of summer give way to the colorful, cool and comfortable climate of autumn, I take my pen in hand to inform you about news and notes associated with the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

We experimented with a new newsletter layout in September. Although it looked great, we found that it was just too expensive to produce month after month. Karen Fojt, our newsletter editor, will continue to produce the updated format in a stapled rather than the folded newsletter to keep our monthly costs down.

Last month B. F. Cooling gave a fantastic presentation on Fort Donelson to our group. One could easily see that he is an experienced teacher and a skilled orator. All in all, it was a fine talk about a Western theater topic. Unfortunately, most of us will never get the pleasure to see that battlefield. I apologize for the misprinted meeting date in September. I hope it did not inconvenience anyone. Our speaker meetings have always been, and will



continue to be, on the second Thursday of the month.

As I mentioned last month, we are planning a party to be held during the hour before our Nov. 9 meeting; you know, the traditional 42nd Anniversary Celebration. What were your favorite round table topics of all time. What was your favorite tour. Your favorite newsletter feature. I will pass out three polls during the October meeting for you to vote for your personal favorites. It doesn't matter if you have been with us three years or three months - We'd like you to tell us what you liked. We will announce the results during the party. There is no charge for attending the party, so mark your calendars and I hope to see you there.

We have an ambitious plan to run a

two-day tour of the 2nd Manassas Battle; it is too big for us to effectively cover in one day. The first tour day will be Saturday, Nov. 11, Veteran's Day. At our October meeting, I will take a quick hand count from those interested in participating in the tour for preferences on the date of the second tour date. It will either be the following day, Sunday, Nov. 12, or the following Saturday, Nov. 18. Tour information is included in this edition of *The Stone Wall*. Sign up lists will be provided for tour guides and participants at the October and November meetings. This tour is absolutely free of charge (We're cheap and we're proud!) and will provide you with an interesting and thorough treatment of one of Robert E. Lee's greatest victories of the war.

While I'm on the subject of tours, I'd like to thank Armando Mancini for a day well spent. I had the pleasure of attending Mr. Mancini's Fisher's Hill tour on Saturday, Sept. 23, one day past the 131st anniversary of the battle. Armando led us along and across both battle lines (some of it on private property, with permission of course); he

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**
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 P. 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.

did a fantastic job of teaching the battle; it is one of the few times that I felt like I understood a battle that I knew so little about previously, after visiting the field for the first time. Driving home from the tour that afternoon, I could not help but think about the historic hills and houses I saw near Strasburg, the sacrifices made by past generations, and how beautiful the Shenandoah Valley looked from the hilltops on this unusually cool day - the haze of summer had disappeared. It was truly a privilege to attend, for all of the participants realized that we shared a unique understanding of the events of Sept. 22, 1862 that can never be achieved by reading a book, a map or a soldier's diary. One cannot understand the Civil War without visiting the ground where brave men fought and fell. These tours, particularly the off-the-beaten-path stops are what studying and appreciating the Civil War is really all about. And to do it at the cost of only a few dollars for fuel enhances the experience. Hopefully you can see what I'm talking about by attending at least one of the six remaining tours BRCWRT is sponsoring this year.

I'm looking forward to John P. McAnaw's talk on the fighting Irish of the Civil War on Oct. 12. Call me crazy, but I'll bet the bank that you won't hear the names Wladimir Krzyzanowski and Alexander Schimmelfennig at this one. Hope to see you there.

I am most respectfully
Your obedient servant,

Gary L. Ecelbarger

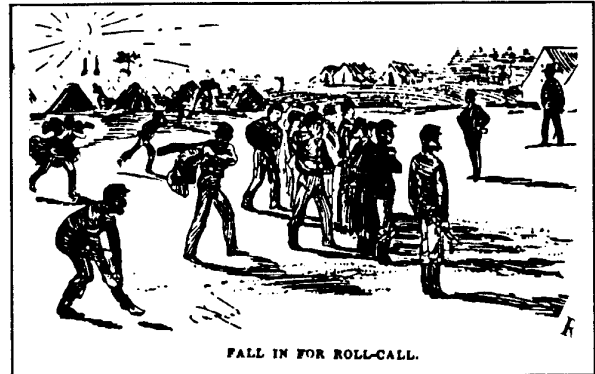
Marching Orders

FORWARD TO MANASSAS Saturday, Nov. 11

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table continues its self-guided tours with the a two day tour of the 2nd Bull Run

Battlefield. The first day is Saturday, Nov.

11. The second day is either Sunday, Nov. 12, or Saturday, Nov. 18. We will vote on the second date at our October meeting.



HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY ONE

STONE HOUSE	Brief preview/overview
THOROUGHFARE GAP	Longstreet vs. Ricketts (walking tour)
BRAWNER'S FARM	Jackson vs. the Iron Brigade
RAILROAD CUT	Federals attack Jackson's line (walking tour)

HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY TWO

BUCK HILL	Summary of the first day's action; Pope's plan
DEEP CUT	Porter's attack (walking tour)
NEW YORK MONUMENTS	Longstreet's attack
CHINN RIDGE	Late action of Aug. 30 (walking tour)
ORIGINAL SUDLEY ROAD	Pope's final line
HENRY HILL	Wrap up and aftermath

DEPARTURE, Nov. 11, 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 the carpool for gasoline.

RATIONS Pack your own.

SIGN UP Sheets for members who wish to attend and for volunteer tour guides will be available at the October and November meetings.

CONTACT Gary Ecelbarger, 406-4933.

Congratulations to a Long-time Roundtable Member

Roundtable member G.F. "Mac" McMahon as recently honored by the World War II Commemoration Committee of the Dept. of Defense for outstanding contributions to military history.

The award, a flag with the motto "A Grateful Nation Remembers," was presented during a reunion of the 71st Infantry Division Association at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mac was our roundtable's first vice president and, although interested in the Civil War and in historic site preservation, is better known as a writer and historian of World War II topics. He is an authority on the U.S. 3rd Army and service in the infantry, and has written five books, including *A CORNER OF HELL* about the liberation of Guns kirchen Lager concentration camp, and *THE SIEGFRIED AND BEYOND* about the 71st Infantry at the Siegfried Line.

Armando Mancini

Local Historic House Sold

Those of you who attended our Bristoe Station tour will remember Melrose Castle in Warrenton. It was sold at auction in mid-September.

During the Civil War it was used as a hospital and Union camp; it also was an observation tower during World War II.

The estate includes 50 acres with a stream, barn and kennels, and was appraised at over \$2 million.

Built around 1854 by Dr. James

Murray, it is listed in Virginia's Landmarks Register, and is considered one of the United States' most authentic stone castles.

Armando Mancini

Railroad Exhibit Opens in Baltimore

The B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore presents its Lecture Series 1995 "In the Vise: The B&O Railroad and Maryland in the Civil War," Oct. 4 through Nov. 8. A companion exhibit is on display until Jan. 26.

The B&O Railroad ran from Baltimore to the Ohio River and straddled the boundary of the North and South. The strategic use of the railroad to move troops, wounded soldiers, prisoners and weapons changed the dynamics of war.

Lectures are Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. at the museum. A tour of Harper's Ferry is Oct. 21, and one of the Pratt Street Riot is Oct. 28. Transportation is provided. For information, call 410-752-2461.

Lectures are free with museum admission. Admission to lectures only is \$3. Museum admission is \$6, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for children 5-12. Parking on museum grounds is free.

LECTURES

Saturday, Oct. 14

10:30 a.m. - Civil War Historical Photography

2:30 p.m. - An Ambulating Hospital: The hospital trains of the US Army during the Civil War

Wednesday, Oct. 18

5:30 p.m. - The B&O Railroad and its antebellum operations

Saturday, Oct. 21

A railroad excursion to Harper's Ferry with walking tour

Wednesday, Oct. 25

6:30 p.m. - In the Vise: Accounts of the B&O in the Civil War

Saturday, Oct. 28

2:30 p.m. - A walking tour of the Pratt Street Riots

Wednesday, Nov. 1

6:30 p.m. - An American Bastille: Fort McHenry and Baltimore during the Civil War

Saturday, Nov. 4

2:30 p.m. - Weapons of the Civil War

Wednesday, Nov. 8

6:30 p.m. - Marylanders and the Civil War: The role of Afro-Americans and women

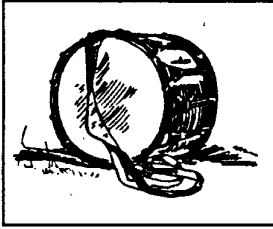
The museum is located at 901 W. Pratt Street, Baltimore MD, 21223. It is open daily 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Parking is free on museum grounds. A free transit bus to the museum runs from Camden Yards and Inner Harbor. Call 410-752-2490 for bus schedule and other events.

Martha Hendley

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.

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Preservation



BRANDY STATION Hope Rekindled

An article in the Sept. 19 issue of THE WASHINGTON POST provided potentially good news to those of us concerned about the preservation of the Brandy Station Battlefield.

As you know, a 425 acre parcel of the battlefield is slated for development by Benton Ventures as a motorsport complex.

However, the original owners of this parcel, Elkwood Downs Limited Partnership, commenced foreclosure action against Benton on Sept. 15. The total cost of this tract is \$1.62 million; Benton Ventures had put down \$500,000 as downpayment, but fell behind on the subsequent payments.

Developer James Lazor of Benton Ventures has been informed that if he has not paid for the tract by Oct. 17, it will up for public auction.

For years, the Assoc. for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and other Civil War groups have negotiated, without success, with Lee Sammis, the president of Elkwood Downs, for acquisition of the battlefield acreage. The Post article quoted Dennis E. Frye, president of APCWS, stating that Mr. Sammis is willing to negotiate with APCWS, and that "for the first time, we may actually have the opportunity to buy the land."

The article also reported that the redoubtable Tersh Boasberg, a well-known Washington lawyer and

preservationist, stated that Civil War preservation organizations would "probably" participate in a public auction for the Brandy Station Battlefield land.

Keep praying.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields

A Sept. 18 WASHINGTON TIMES article advised that the House of Representatives would take up a bill that would place 12 Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley under the protection of the National Park Service.

The bill would authorize \$5 million for developing the park. \$2 million for land acquisition, and \$500,000 for grants and technical assistance. Per the bill, the federal government could only buy or accept donations of land with the owner's consent and would be prohibited from taking land by eminent domain.

On Oct. 2, I spoke with Keith Pavlick, a staffer in Rep. Frank Wolf's office. He advised me that the bill cleared the House on Sept. 19, the anniversary of the 3rd Battle of Winchester. Last year a similar bill passed the Senate but stalled in the House.

Developer Dave Holliday Recognized

In the last issue of THE STONE WALL, I mentioned the contributions of developer Dave Holliday in saving the 3rd Winchester Battlefield. The WASHINGTON TIMES's Sept. 18 edition recognized Mr. Holliday for his outstanding efforts in preserving this battlefield. Writer Lisa Nevan quoted

Dennis Frye, president of APCWS, as stating "To my knowledge, this is the best working relationship in the country between a developer and a Civil War preservation group."

Are there any other developers that have the sense of responsibility and love of our heritage as Mr. Holliday? Perhaps the conventional wisdom that all preservationist-minded developers in Virginia could hold a general meeting in a phone booth, with room left over, is not true.

More on APCWS Move to Maryland

In a previous issue, I advised of the move of APCWS headquarters from Fredericksburg, Va. to Hagerstown, Md. in 1996. The APCWS's publication, HALLOWED GROUND, provided more details in its Sept./Oct. issue.

All seven full-time staff members will be phased in at the new headquarters in downtown Hagerstown beginning Feb. 1996. Some staff members will remain in Fredericksburg until May. The current address and telephone numbers will remain in effect until May 1996.

John P. McAnaw

Put your money
where your heart is.

Buy Civil War
Commemorative Coins
and help
the battlefield
preservation effort.

A Confederate Irishman Remembers Pickett's Charge

John Edward Dooley enlisted as a private on Aug. 11, 1862 with Company C (Montgomery Guard), 1st Virginia Infantry Regiment. Dr. Douglas S. Freeman termed this unit the "most famous regiment in the history of the United States Army." Earlier in the war, the all-Irish Company C was commanded by his father, Maj. John Dooley. John E. Dooley rose to the rank of captain before wounds ended his military career. The 1st Virginia Infantry was in the center of Kemper's Brigade during this assault.

Our artillery has now ceased to roar and the enemy have checked their fury, too. The time appointed for our charge is come.

I tell you, there is no romance in making one of these charges. You might think so from reading 'Charlie O'Malley,' that prodigy of valour, or in reading of any other gallant knight who would as little think of riding over gunners and sich like as they would of eating a dozen oysters. But when you rise to your feet, as we did today, I tell you the enthusiasm of ardent breasts in many cases ain't there, and instead of burning to avenge the insults of our country, families and altars and firesides, the thought is most frequently, Oh, if I could just come out of this charge safely how thankful would I be!

We rise to our feet, but not all. There is a line of men still on the ground with their faces turned, men affected in 4 different ways. There are the gallant dead who will never charge again; the helpless wounded, many of whom desire to share the fortunes of this charge; the men who have charged on many a battlefield but who are now helpless from the heat of the sun; and the men in whom there is not sufficient courage to enable them to rise, — but of these last there are but few.

Up, brave men! Some are actually fainting from the heat and dread. They have fallen to the ground overpowered by the suffocating heat and the terrors of that hour. Onward — steady — dress to the right — give way to the left — steady, not too fast — don't press upon the center — how gentle the slope! steady — keep well in line — there is the line of guns we must take — right in front — but how far they appear! Nearly one third of a mile, off on Cemetery Ridge, and the line stretches round in almost a semicircle. Upon the center of this we must march. Behind the guns are strong lines of infantry. You must see them plainly and now they see us perhaps more plainly.

To the right of us and above the guns we are to capture, black heavy monsters from their lofty mountain sites belch forth their flame and smoke and storms of shot and shell upon our advancing line; while directly in front, breathing flame in our very faces, the long range of guns which must be taken thunder on our quivering melting ranks. Now truly does the work of death begin. The line becomes unsteady because at every step a gap must be closed and thus from left to right much ground is often lost.

Close up! Close up the ranks when a friend falls, while his life blood bespatters your cheek or throws a film over your eyes! Dress to left or right, while the bravest of the brave are sinking to rise no more! Still onward! Capt. Hallinan has fallen and I take his place. So many men have fallen now that I find myself within a few feet of my old Captain (Norton). His men are pressing mine out of place. I ask him to give way a little to the left, and scarcely has he done so than he leaps into the air, falling prostrate. Still we press on — oh, how long it seems before we reach those blazing guns. Our men are falling faster now, for the deadly musket is at work. Volley after volley of crashing musket balls sweeps through the line and mow us down like wheat before the scythe.

On! men, on! Thirty more yards and the guns are ours; but who can stand such a storm of hissing lead and iron? What a relief if earth, which almost seems to hurl those implements of death in our faces, would open now and afford a secure retreat from threatening death. Every officer is in front, Pickett with his long curls streaming in the fiery breath from the cannons' mouth. Garnett on the right, Kemper in the center and Armistead on the left; Cols., Lieut. Cols., Majors, Captains, all press on and cheer the shattered lines.

Just here — from right to left the remnants of our braves pour in their long reserved fire; until now no shot had been fired, no shout of triumph had been raised; but as the cloud of smoke rises over the heads of the advancing divisions the well known southern battle cry which marks the victory gained or nearly gained bursts wildly over the blood stained field and all that line of guns is ours.

Shot through both thighs, I fall about 30 yards from the guns. By my side lies Lt. Kehoe, shot through the knee. Here we lie, he in excessive pain, I fearing to bleed to death, the dead and dying all around, while the division sweeps over the Yankee guns. Oh, how I long to know the result, the end of this fearful charge! We seem to have a victory in our hands; but what can our poor remnant of a shattered division do if they meet beyond the guns an obstinate resistance.

There — listen — we hear a new shout, and cheer after cheer rends the air. Are those fresh troops advancing to our support? No! no! That huzza never broke from southern lips. Oh God! Virginia's bravest, noblest sons have perished here today and perished all in vain!

From the Ranks

Our Little Brigade Fought Like Heroes

Peter Welsh was what was termed a "two-boater" Irish immigrant. He was born of Irish parents in the Canadian Maritimes, Charlottestown, Prince Edward Island. His family subsequently moved to the United States. His letters to his Irish-born wife, Margaret, contain inter alia invaluable information on the 28 MA Infantry Regiment and the renowned Irish Brigade. In late November 1882, the 28 MA joined the Irish Brigade at Falmouth, Va. Unfortunately Welsh, the regimental color sergeant effective March 17, 1863 was wounded at Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864. He died of his wounds on May 28, 1864.

Below is his letter to Margaret on the Gettysburg Campaign and the New York City riots of July 13-16, 1863. Spelling and lack of punctuation are as Welsh wrote it. For ease of reading, however, paragraph separations have been added.

Pleasant Valley, Md.
July the 17th/63

Dear wife

I am happy that i have an oppertunity to write to you to day I have had verry little chance to write for the last month This has been the severest campaign of the war This core was the last to leave Fredericksburg our brigade went on picket on saturday evening June the 13th in a severe thunderstorm we lay on the bank of the Rapahanock untill dark sunday evening we then started and marched all night and next day untill one Oclock the day was very hot we got into the woods then and lay there untill daylight next morning

we started then and marched all day untill dark the day was very hot and the dust was sufficating next morning we started at eight Oclock and marched to a place near fairfax station we got there about one P M there was hundreds of men who had to fall out of the ranks and stay behind the weather was so hot and we were on a forced march

we remained at this place two days i wrote you a few lines there and got a letter from you before we left we marched at four P M on friday and went to Centervill remained there over night and marched next day at noon and went to thoroughfare gap we marched over twenty miles that afternoon it was midnight when we halted the roads being very bad as it rained very heavy the night before We went up on the mountain at the west side of the gap sunday morning and remained on picket there four days

We evacuated our position at nine A M on thursday and marched to a place called Pleasant vally VA camped for the night and started early next morning and arrived at Edwards ferry on the Potomac in the afternoon halted about a mile from the ferry and piched tents just at dark got orders to strike tents and started for the ferry there was so many troops to cross that it was midnight when we got into a field about a mile on this side of the river where we lay down for the night We started next day at four P M and marched untill eleven at night where we threw ourselves down to sleep

started next morning at daylight and marched to Fredericks City and camped within a short distance of wher i first joined the regiment before the battle of south mountain last summer next morning we started at seven A M and marched to Uniontown a distance of thirty two miles This was the greatest march ever made by any part of our army in heavy marching order ours was the only core that done it the others that were en route for there all stoped before they got there and came up next day and our core numbered very small that night when we got there at eleven Oclock there was thousands on the road who had to lay behind unable to come up we did not have over forty of our regiment when we halted The Major of one batallion of our brigade turned round to give orders to his men and found he had but one man to comand I was the only man of my company that was able to cook coffe after we halted I went over half a mile for water and had my supper before i lay down

We remained the next day and marched the day folowing into Pencilvernia to a

FROM THE RANKS
(CONT'D FROM PAGE 7)

place within three miles of the battle ground of Gettysburg the fighting had commenced that day at nine AM we started next morning at five AM went to the front and formed in line of battle there was no fighting except picket skirmishing untill four P M when the enemy comenced the atack on our left we were ordered in at six Oclock in a skirt of woods where the enemy was pressing our lines hard it was at the base of a hill which he wanted to gain had he gained that hill he could easily have driven us from our position it was a hot place our little brigade fought like heroes and we drove the enemy nearly a quarter of a mile when he threw a heavy force against the brigade on the right of ours driving them which let him in on our flank by this we were compeled to fall back but luckily there was a part of another core coming to relieve us this force drove the enemy back holding the ground

We lost heavily the killed wounded and missing of our little regiment is over a hundred Out of five regiments that form this brigade there is but men enough here present to make three full

companys The most desperet fighting was on the third day the enemy opened about one hundred and fifty pieces of artilery on our line all at wonct the hissing of shot and noise of shell was most terrible the enemy charged on our lines at different points but was everywhere repulsed with frightful loss our was well handled they let them burn away untill they saw the proper oppertunity and then they gave it to them with terrible efect Lee got severely whiped on a fair field at Gettysburg by a force smaller than his own

on saturday there was no fighting except with our skirmishing driving in the enemys pickets on sunday our forces comenced to advance after the enemy our core moved back to a place called two taverns we rested there for a day i wrote you a few lines that morning I will give you an account of our marching since it is my next i have not room in this

My dear wife i am sorry to hear that your feet are troubling you again i did not think you would be able to stand that work it is too fateguing you must content yourself and take all the rest you

can i know you would not feel the time so long nor feel so lonesom if you were doing something that would take up your attention but it is no use for you to try to do what you are not able to do I am in good health thank God i have a great deal to be thankfull for i have come out safe and unhurt where thousands have been wounded and killed

I hope to hear from you soon I am sorry to hear that there is such disgracefull riots in new York i hope it will not get near to you nor any you i read a full account of it in yesterdays paper the report was up to twelve oclock wensday night i see they tried the virtue of grape and canister on them and it had a very good efect the originators of those riots should be hung like dogs they are agents of jef davis and had their plans laid [to] start those riots simultanesly with lees raid into Pensilvenia i hope the authorutys will use canister freely it will bring the bloody cutthroats to there censes I must stop for want of room i will write again soon God bless and protect you

your loving husband
Peter Welsh

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