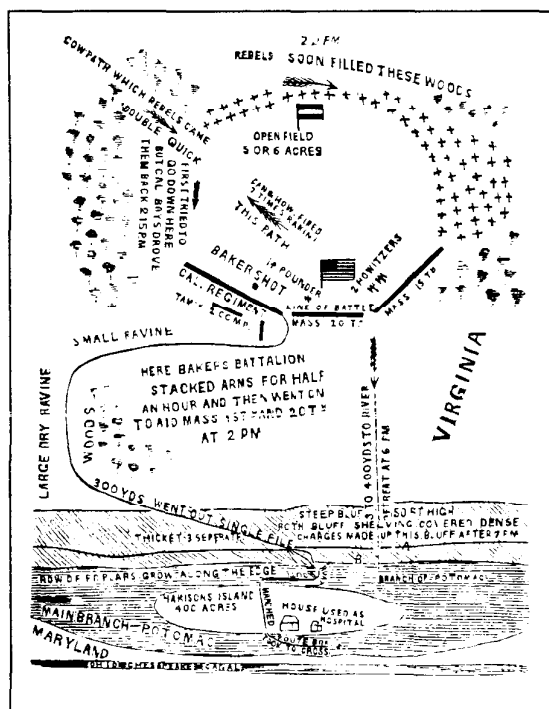


Bull Run Civil War Roundtable
THE STONE WALL

November 1995

BALL'S BLUFF



Published in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 30, 1861.
 Reprinted in Civil War Newspaper Maps: A Historical Atlas by David Bosse, 1993.

Gen. George McClellan learned the Confederates were preparing to evacuate Leesburg. A reconnaissance force was sent across the Potomac to investigate. A skirmish with the Confederate force who saw them quickly became more than they expected, or could handle.

"The fight across the river was their opportunity to prove their critics wrong. Nursery soldiers, one newspaper had called them: wonderfully trained and beautifully drilled, but much too precious to be dirtied in battle. Yet tonight the despised nursery soldiers would fight."

Bernard Cornwell. *COPPERHEAD*

The Confederates pushed the Yankees into a small area on steep Ball's Bluff. Shelby Foote wrote that it reminded the Mississippians of a turkey shoot. The Confederates charged, the Yankees retreated. Over the edge of the bluff. Into the Potomac.

The battle's preminent historian, Kim Holien, describes this early Confederate victory at our November round table.

KIM HOLIEN

Thursday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Manassas National Battlefield Park
 Visitor Center

**COME
 TO THE
 MEETING
 EARLY**

November is our Round Table's 42nd meeting. So we're having a party. Appetizers, wine and soft drinks will be served in the visitor center at 6:30. We often don't have time to chat before our meetings; this gives us an hour to debate, but not likely to solve, our favorite Civil War issues.

From the President

Polls and Parties

Dear Members,

I take this pen in hand to update you on the goings on at Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

At the top of my list is to announce our 42nd MEETING CELEBRATION. It will be held in the visitor center at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 9, the hour prior to our speaker meeting. Scott Logan, who has taken over the reins in planning this event, tells me that we will have 'heavy' hors d'ouervres, wine and soft drinks. So if you're coming to the meeting from work, stop in early and join us in a little get together, meet with others in the organization and, of course, get something to eat. Remember, there is no charge for attending. I hope to see you there.

What were your FAVORITES in the last five years of BRCWRT? According to our very unscientific poll, we now have an idea. Here are the top vote-getters from each category.

FAVORITE**SPEAKERS & TOPICS**

91-92 Bud Hall on Brandy Station



- 92-93 A tie: John Hennessy on the Return to Bull Run; & Ed Bearss, Lee vs. Grant, 1864
- 93-94 Frank O'Reilly about Fredericksburg
- 94-95 Ed Bearss on Nathan Bedford Forrest

OVERALL FAVORITES

1. Bearss on Forrest
2. O'Reilly on Jackson at Fredericksburg
3. A tie: Bearss on Lee vs. Grant; and Hennessy on the return to Bull Run.

FAVORITE TOURS

1. Kernstown, 94
2. Tie: Antietam, 94 & Gettysburg, 93
3. Brandy Station, 92

FAVORITE**NEWSLETTER FEATURE**

1. From the Ranks
2. Civil War Trivia Questions
3. Most Overrated/Underrated Civil War General

I was very surprised by a few. Our Gettysburg tour was conducted during a driving rainstorm, when the winds kicked up to eerie levels, yet it still made the top three! It was also interesting to see how popular the trivia questions were; perhaps we'll bring them back to the newsletter.

Our second and final announcement for the 2nd MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD TOUR is published in this edition of the newsletter. By your vote, part one of the tour will be Nov. 11, the Saturday after our meeting. Part 2 will be one week later, Sat., Nov. 18. The tour is free; be sure to sign up at the meeting.

I'm looking forward to KIM HOLIEN's talk about Ball's Bluff. And a special thanks to JOHN McANAW for his informative talk on the Irish influence in the Civil War at our October meeting.

We added a NEW MEMBER. Dan

**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.

Paterson to the round table at our Oct. 10 meeting. Mr. Paterson has a unique claim to fame that exceeds the fact that there is only one T to his name. He happens to be the great grandson of Gen. James Longstreet. Welcome to the group, Dan.

Hope to see you all Nov. 9; stop by early for the refreshments and say hello.

I am most respectfully
Your obedient servant.

Gary L. Ecelbarger

Civil War Discovery Trail Guidebook Published

The Civil War Trust's Official Guidebook to the Civil War Discovery Trail contains 100 pages of information linking over 300 sites in 16 states. The purpose of this guidebook is to educate the reader on the Civil War and its impact on the U.S.

The guidebook was made possible through the efforts of the Civil War Trust, with help from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and state agencies and local communities. Also, Alamo Rent A Car, Inc., a founding sponsor of the Civil War Trust, made significant contributions to the guidebook.

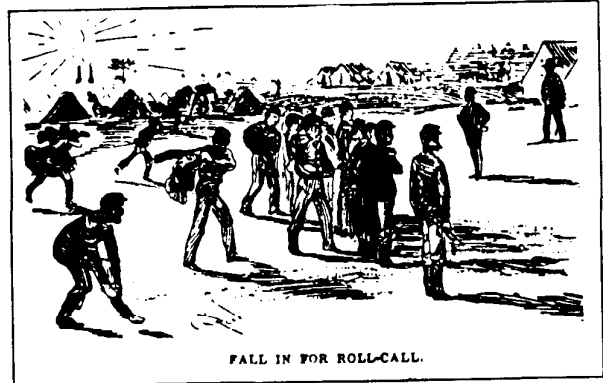
Copies can be purchased for \$4.95, which includes shipping and handling. To order by credit card, call (800) CWTRUST (800-298-7878), or send a check or money order to: The Civil War Trust, 1225 Eye Street, N.W., Ste. 401, Washington D.C. 20005.

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 Saturday, Nov. 18.



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, 9 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.

RATIONS Pack your own.

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

CONTACT Gary Ecelbarger, 406-4933.

Bearss Steps Down

Ed Bearss, the highly regarded and personable Civil War historian, retired from the National Park Service (NPS), effective Sept. 29. I believe that those who have listened to his presentations at the Manassas Battlefield Park Visitor Center, and/or participated in his tours of Civil War battlefields, will agree that Bearss is an individual of exceedingly rare merit.

Bearss followed in the footsteps of his father, a Marine veteran of World War I, and served with distinction in the Corps during World War II. Following the war he earned bachelor of science and master of arts degrees before joining NPS as park historian at Vicksburg, Miss. In 1966 he was transferred to Washington D.C. Fifteen years later he became the chief historian of NPS, a position he held until July 1994, when he was appointed as special assistant to the director on military sites.

During his distinguished career, Bearss received numerous awards for his efforts in the fields of Civil War history and the preservation of Civil War sites. These honors include the T. Harry Williams Award, the Bruce Catton Award, the Bell I. Wiley Award, the Alvin Calman Award, and the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the Dept. of the Interior.

Bearss leaves behind a legacy of solid objective scholarship and tireless efforts to educate and help all of us interested in the history of the American Civil War and the preservation of important sites of that conflict.

John McAnaw

CIVIL WAR COINS Ideal Christmas Gifts

An eleventh hour effort is now in progress to sell U.S. Mint Civil War coins and related gift items.

According to the Fall 1995 issue of the Battlefield Update, the newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, revenues from the sale of Civil War coins and other items have fallen well below the anticipated \$21 million.

In fact, by publication date of Update, they totaled only \$5 million. Barring an act of Congress, these coins cannot be minted after Dec. 31, 1995.

The U.S. Mint has made extensive mailings to numismatic collectors and various Civil War groups. The Mint has also added a half dollar coin into the popular 'prestige set' in order to enhance sales. Needless to say, the support of all Civil War buffs is needed to make this last ditch campaign a success.

The Civil War Trust submitted three proposals for approval, using the \$5 million: purchase of 56 acres below Schoolhouse Ridge, Harpers Ferry; repayment of a loan of a 40-acre purchase of Grove Farm, Antietam where Lincoln and McClellan were photographed; and a down payment to purchase 222 acres of land at the core of 3rd Winchester (Opequon) battlefield.

The Secretary of the Interior approved all three projects. A dedication ceremony was held at Opequon Sept. 18, the eve of the battle's 131st anniversary. Attending were Roger Kennedy, director of the National Park Service; Alexander Wise, director of Virginia Historic Preservation; Sen. Warner and Robb, and Rep. Wolf.

With the Christmas season around the corner, consider giving the coins to friends and family. And by all means, don't forget to order coins for yourself. To quote the Battlefield Update, "You will not only be giving a treasured gift, you will become a member of a larger community helping the worthy cause of battlefield preservation."

To order a catalog, call (800) 258-6200. The address is: United States Mint, P.O. Box 7938, Philadelphia, Pa. 19162-0017.

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

A Call to Investigate the Disaster at Ball's Bluff

The following was published in the Stark County (Canton, Ohio) Republican, Jan. 28, 1862.

The speech of Rosco Conkling of New York, in the House of Representatives, the Ball's Bluff blunder, was a most incisive and excoriating effort. He told the story of the murderous imbecility of the management of the Ball's Bluff affair by our officers, and painted the fearful picture in vivid colors. He said in conclusion:

In the name of the brave and lamented men who fell that day, out of regard for the living and the dead, out of regard for the great interests to be affected by an investigation, I think all of the circumstances connected with the planning and execution of the battle ought to be brought to light. I hope they will be; I hope the committee appointed to investigate into the conduct of the war will not overlook the battle. I hope no apologies and no private interests will dissuade from an investigation into it, by any statements that their evaluations of the whole truth will be detrimental to the public service, come from what quarter the statement may.

I do not think that, after the publication of the report of the Adjutant General, in reference to the division of Gen. Fremont, the publication of anything can

be injurious to any body. In any court of justice, at least according to well settled principle of equity and justice, the military authorities who oppose this investigation and the publication of the facts, would be stopped from setting their vote against it. At all events, the House will be safe in ventilating the authors and holding up to public view, too, the authors of the greatest national calamity and disgrace which has yet been talked of in Gath, and published in the streets of Askalon.

I want it distinctly understood that I push this matter on the attention of the House and the country on several points, each of which call loudly for an explanation, if an explanation can be offered.

In the first place, the division of Gen. McCall was on the same side of the river with Leesburg, within a few hours march and yet was not employed in the attack, but another division was selected, lying on the opposite side of the Potomac.

Secondly, the crossing place selected was one of the worst and most

dangerous that could have been found.

Third, there was a want of transportation, inasmuch that means of crossing absolutely indispensable were wholly unprovided, although they might have been easily procured.

Fourth, the number of troops sent over to Ball's Bluff was wholly insufficient, and this though more than the needed number were close at hand.

Fifth, no reinforcements reached Col. Baker, although, aside from the command of Gen. McCall, there were troops and artillery on both sides of the river within four miles of the field of battle.

All these grounds of censure may be explainable; if so, it is but just to the living and the dead that an opportunity should be afforded. If they are not susceptible of explanation, for higher reasons inquiries ought not to slumber. We should know whether the Commander-in-Chief has taken the pains to inquire who is responsible for the disaster at Ball's Bluff, and we should make the inquiry with a view of obtaining an answer.

SOLDIER DATABASE

The Civil War Soldiers System database is progressing nicely. The actual data entries right now is 90,000, out of the total 5.5 million names. The Daughters of the Confederacy have agreed to help by entering about 1.25 million Confederate names. If you want to help on this project, write to the Civil War Soldiers Index, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, Ut. 84110-3385.

ISTEA Funds Used to Purchase Widow Gibson Farm

Civil War buffs interested in the battles of the Western Theater know that the Widow Gibson Farm in Perryville, Ky., was the scene of fierce combat in 1862.

Recently the Perryville Battlefield Commission purchased the 150-acre farm for \$168,2000. A total of \$2.5 million in Federal funds provided through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) have been dedicated to the Perryville Battlefield State Park by Kentucky governor Brereton Jones.

These funds must be matched by non-Federal dollars. In the case of the Widow Gibson Farm purchase, ISTEA dollars were matched by grants from The Conservation Fund and The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels of Louisville.

Monument to the 54th

A memorial will be erected with the names of the 54th Massachusetts Regt. at the corner of U Street and Vermont Ave., northwest Washington D.C. in what is now referred to as the Shaw neighborhood. The project is scheduled for completion by spring 1997.

Coming Up

DAN JENKINS

on

**JACKSON'S
WINTER CAMPAIGN,
1861-62**

*Thursday,
Dec. 14*

Go 'Big Blue' More on the Western Theater

The largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River was fought at Westport, Mo. Oct. 21-23, 1864. Last April, nearly 100 acres of the Big Blue Battlefield, the site of the Battle of Westport, was deeded to the city of Kansas City, Mo. Parks and Recreations Dept. through the auspices of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund

Back in 1991, the Assoc. for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) issued a challenge grant (one of its first) that made it possible to acquire 40 acres of the battlefield, thus adding to the almost 60 acres that it was already acquiring.

Congratulations to the APCWS for this very significant preservation accomplishment. Well done!

Even More on the Western Theater — A Steamboat Cruise

For the Civil War vacation of a lifetime, go on the Delta Queen July 12-18 for a leisurely tour to such historic ports of call as Nashville, Fort Donelson, Paducah, New Madrid, Fort Pillow and Memphis. You'll enjoy also great food and superb musical entertainment while on board. Included are lectures on period customs, dance classes and a genuine Southern cotillion.

And guess who will be your guide? None other than Ed Bearss, Historian James McPherson will also be there.

This Civil War adventure is sponsored by APCWS. Early booking discounts end Dec. 31. For information contact Charlene, World Wide Travel, (800) 388-0988 or (413) 747-0122. Act now as reservations are limited.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
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