

B U L L E T I N C I V I L W A R R O U N D T A B L E  
T H E S T O N E W A L L

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December 1995

## JACKSON: THE WINTER CAMPAIGN

In the spring of 1862 Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Stonewall Jackson launched his famous Valley Campaign. By outmaneuvering all the forces brought against him and defeating them one by one, Jackson and his foot soldiers created havoc among the Federal armies confronting them, as well as the Federal government in Washington. Stonewall Jackson would forever after be regarded as one of the premier military commanders of all time. But he almost didn't get the opportunity. During the winter of 1861-62, Jackson launched another campaign, one based on the same principles of maneuver and attack. But this campaign resulted in havoc in Jackson's own army and in the Confederate government in Richmond. It also resulted in Jackson's resignation, which was withdrawn only after numerous appeals by friends and the Governor of Virginia.

On a bright, beautiful, spring-like New Year's Day Jackson and his army marched out of Winchester to outflank and capture the Federal army in Romney, 40 miles to the west. By evening the weather changed; within three days snow was on the ground and the temperature fell below zero.

During the next two months Jackson's soldiers suffered through perhaps the most miserable march of the Civil War; the Federal force evacuated Romney and Jackson moved in; the Confederate government ordered Jackson to withdraw all his men from Romney, which he did; Jackson himself submitted and then agreed to withdraw his resignation; a brigadier general Jackson wanted to court-martial was instead promoted and transferred out of the Valley; and finally, on March 11 Jackson would have to evacuate Winchester in the face of a Federal army several times the size of his own. But the end of this disastrous winter campaign signaled the beginning of the victorious Valley Campaign.

At our December meeting Dan Jenkins will present some of his extensive research into Stonewall Jackson's Winter Campaign. One soldier said "in all the war [he] never endured such mental and physical suffering" as during this expedition. Learn about the Stonewall Brigade's "dam trip"; Jackson's bombardment of Hancock, Maryland; and many other events in the Valley District between November 1861 and March 1862. After a career in the Marine Corps, Dan now works for the Corps as a civilian and has been a member of our Round Table for three years.

Danny A. Jenkins  
*Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.*  
*Manassas National Battlefield Park*  
*Visitor Center*

# 1996 SPEAKER SCHEDULE



- Jan. 11 CIVIL WAR MEDICINE, Dr. George Hocker
- Feb. 8 THE 2nd BATTLE OF WINCHESTER, Brandon Beck
- March 14 THE BATTLE OF YELLOW TAVERN, Lt. Col. Mark Thompson
- 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

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

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.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

# A Successful November



Dear Members:

I take this pen in hand to update you on the goings-on at Bull Run Civil War Round Table. We had a very active and successful month and, of course, there is no better way to end November than with a great Thanksgiving feast. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, former President Scott Patchan is thankful that I did not serve as the treasurer during his administration. You see, I apparently cannot add very well. When I advertised our party as our 42nd Meeting party, I made a very measly mistake — I forgot to include one full year of meetings! Therefore, we actually celebrated our 54th month of existence. Excuse me for a minute while I clean some of this egg off my face. Anyway, if anyone needs an

accountant for taxes next year, I am available. Any takers?

Our November party was a wonderful event. Scott Logan deserves all the credit for the preparations. I'm sure the 50 people that attended the meeting got enough to eat. The cost of the food and drink exceeded our estimates, but I'm sure all that were in attendance agreed that it was well worth the splurge. Kim Holien's first class presentation of Ball's Bluff was a perfect complement to the evening. It was one of the best presentations ever given to this round table.

An official report of our two-day 2nd Manassas tour is included in this edition of the Stone Wall. Like the party, this tour turned out to be a very successful event. We had decent weather and good turnouts both days. This proved that we can split tours of large battles and campaigns into two days, rather than try to squeeze everything into one long tour day.

Our next tour will cover a portion of Stonewall Jackson's winter campaign of 1862. Our designated tour date is Saturday, Feb. 10, 1996. We will postpone the tour one month if the weather does not cooperate with us. Our other tours this year will take us to 3rd Winchester in April; Wilderness and Spotsylvania in May; Union Mills in June; and Early vs. Crook in the Lower Valley in August. Remember, all of our tours are free of charge except for the few dollars necessary to reimburse drivers for fuel.

Well, it's that time again. Renewal notices are included on the last page the newsletter. All members who have been with us prior to Oct. 1 are

required to renew. For only \$15 a year, you get 12 newsletters, monthly presentations covering the full spectrum of Civil War topics, free tour opportunities that take you to areas rarely (or never) seen, book raffles and parties. I challenge anyone to demonstrate a bargain better than the one BRCWRT has to offer. Our organization is also unique in that the price of our membership has not changed since the inception of this organization. We are the same price as we were 42, or 54, meetings ago. Please return your renewals as soon as you can. I hope to have all of you on board for 1996.

Dan Jenkins is our speaker this month. His topic is Stonewall Jackson's winter campaign; he will also lead our tour in February. I believe it is an appropriate topic as we enter a new winter season ourselves. I hope to see you all there. For those unable to attend this month's meeting, I speak for all the executive committee members in wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season.

I am Most Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant,

*Gary L. Ecelbarger*

The Symposium on  
Leadership at the  
Battle of 2nd  
Manassas will be held  
in October.

## Civil War Open House & Book Signing

CLIO'S HISTORY BOOKSHOP of  
Leesburg holds an open house Sat., Dec.  
16, 1-6 p.m.

The following noted authors will be on  
hand to sign their books.

JOHN DIVINE  
THOMAS EVANS & JAMES MOYER  
WILLIAM HASSLER  
KIM HOLIEN  
VIRGIL CARRINGTON JONES  
JOSEPH JUDGE  
BOB O'NEILL  
FRANK O'REILLY  
DAVE PHILLIPS  
JOHN MICHAEL PRIEST  
GORDON RHEA

Mr. Priest is scheduled 1-3 p.m. Dr.  
Hassler and Mr. Phillips appear 2:30-6  
p.m.

Think Christmas gifts.

CLIO'S HISTORY BOOKSHOP  
103 Loudoun Street, S. W.  
Leesburg, VA 22075  
(703) 777-1815

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

## OFFICIAL REPORT



## The Second Engagement at Manassas

Headquarters in the Saddle

Members:

I have the honor to submit to you the actions of our command on Nov. 11 and 18th inst. On Saturday, Nov. 11, 20 stalwart members of the BRCWRT embarked on Phase One of the 2nd Manassas Campaign. We were greeted in the morning by wind and warm temperatures. The group launched to Thoroughfare Gap, where Gen. Scot C. Patchan detailed the activities of Aug. 28, 1862. Patchan performed his duties with skill and alacrity. Martha Hendley, Joe Kelley, and I portrayed the engagement between Stonewall Jackson and the Iron Brigade (with some help from Doubleday). To place our troops in a state of virtual reality, I deliberately lost my voice to mimic Col. Edgar O'Connor of the 2nd Wisconsin. Special thanks to Col. Kelley for carrying the group through the majority of the tour, and preventing me from completing my O'Connor impression (O'Connor was mortally wounded by a groin wound). After we overturned the BRCWRT Party Train and helped ourselves to a tremendous feast, Gen. Patchan finished the day with a spirited tour of Sigel/Kearney vs. Jackson at the Railroad Cut of Aug. 29, 1862.

We covered the action of Aug. 30, 1862 the following week. After a brief recap on Buck Hill, Armando Mancini provided the troops with a blow-by-blow account of Porter's attack against Deep Cut. Mancini adeptly covered the action at the regimental level -- mighty impressive. After this, we launched into Longstreet's attack against the 5th and 10th New York and Chinn Ridge, and finished the tour with a description of the final stand on the original Sudley Road in front of Henry House Hill. Rod Gainer gave a lively account of Hood's attack against the New Yorkers and Kern's Battery, including a gruesome story about a scalp that hangs from a Southern flag today. I was disappointed that the troops did not believe my factual account on Chinn Ridge as to why Richard Nixon's great grandfather, an Ohioan in McLean's brigade, refused to fix his men lunch saying "I am not a cook!"

Special thanks to all our presenters and tour participants. This tour should be placed as one of the best in the BRCWRT's 42, I mean 54 month history.

Gary L. Ecelbarger

P. S. Where were you?

## ISSUES & EVENTS

By John P. McAnaw

### NOTED HISTORIAN RETIRES Kelly Heads for the Auld Sod

Long-time visitors to the Manassas National Battlefield Park undoubtedly remember the irrepressible Dennis Kelly, who began his National Park Service career at Manassas in 1975. He retired in October.

In 1980 he was reassigned to the Stone's River National Battlefield Park. (None other than Jim Burgess replaced him at Manassas.) For the past 13 years, he was assigned to the National Battlefield Parks, Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia. In *The Civil War News*, he said that he took early retirement because "I owe it to Newt Gingrich and the Republicans. They're downsizing the government and I'm taking advantage of it. He wants a smaller, more efficient government, so I'm doing my share by leaving."

Kelly is a former U.S. Army paratrooper, serving three years in the 82nd Airborne Division, and participated in the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965. Regarding the value of his military service, Kelly stated, "The Army is where I learned the most."

Kelly has moved to County Clare, in the west of Ireland. He plans to buy a boat and float along the 450 miles of Ireland's inland waterways. He also intends to become involved in historic preservation. NPS's loss is Ireland's gain. However I don't believe that we have heard or read the last from this talented historian.

### UNION MILLS UPDATE The Balmoral Tract

In past issues I passed on information concerning the development of the historic terrain located north of the Southern Railway bed (the old Orange and Alexandria Railroad), east of Bull Run and south of Compton Road. Of the roughly 1,150 acres in question, a total of 233 acres are being developed as a golf course.

Much of this area was occupied by Confederate and Union forces. Some of the best-preserved remaining fortifications and campsites in Fairfax County are located on this tract. The county has destroyed much of its Civil War heritage, for example consider the destruction of the Civil War sites just north of the Balmoral Tract, around Centreville and the Ox Hill-Chantilly Battlefield.

Work on the golf course, located just south of Compton Road and east of Union Mill Road is well advanced. Tree removal and widespread landscaping has occurred. Several large Confederate and Union campsites and a multi-company fortification have been obliterated. I do not know how much of the 1,060 foot long trench line will survive.

The four archeologists employed by the Elm Street Development Company shut down their operation and departed their on-site trailer headquarters mid-August. These dedicated individuals also served as an empty-holstered quasi-police force to keep the relic hunters out of the area. Since their departure, relic hunting has increased

significantly.

Of the remaining 917 acres, 450 acres will be given to upscale, future homeowners associations and to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Roughly 467 acres remain for homesites.

Several important fortifications, including the Ring or Battery Fort and the so-called Great Redoubt, will be on County parkland. However after development is complete, access to these sites by the general public may be difficult. Since these back onto Bull Run Regional Park, it seems to me that it would make sense to transfer title of these small enclaves to the Bull Run Regional Park Authority. However this is not likely to happen.

The Chevy Chase Bank holds title to the 467 acres, which is subdivided into 182 lots. I am told this is the first development venture for the bank. Elm Street Development Company will be involved in this enterprise as well.

In June 1996 we will tour of the Bull Run fords and the Union Mills area. Thankfully some of our historic heritage has survived. But think of what might have been if we had able political leaders concerned about both our historic heritage and our quality of life, instead of preferring to hanging on the coattails of special interest groups. Well-planned economic development and historic preservation can be compatible, and serve the long-term interests of local government and, most importantly, the citizens. Tangible signs of our historic heritage shrink with every housing development, convenience store, mall and road.

## FROM THE RANKS

## A Hot Bath for a Pennsylvanian

*This letter was written by Thomas Gouldsberry of the 84th Pennsylvania to his father on January 10, 1862, from Hancock, Maryland. The 84th had arrived there on the afternoon of January 2, the day before Stonewall Jackson's army of about 9,000 men approached the village of Bath, now Berkeley Springs, six miles south of Hancock. During the evening of January 3, the 84th was sent to Bath to reinforce the small Federal force there and await Jackson's attack. The letter is in the collection of the U. S. Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The misspellings and grammar remain as they were written.*

Dear Father,

I write these few lines to hoping it to find you in as good health as this leaves me in at present. Thank god for it. Dear father I received your leter wich gave me great pleasure of hearing of you living in so good health and geting along so well.

Father we left camp Curtin, Pa. on the last day of December and arrived hair on the 2th day of January and on the 3rd day we rec[ei]ved] our arms and was ordered to go to a villige in Virginey called Bath for the rebels was thair fiting we arrived thair at nine o'clock that night and there we were then extended out on pickets and commenced shelling the enemy for about 4 hours then they fell back till thay got reinforcement the next day at 2 o'clock with about 25,000 men to our 1000 then the col[onel] seen that they wher to strong for us and he orders us to retreat to hancock about 6 miles they being so close to us that we had to wade the Potomick the water being very deep and the ice floting down the river the enemy being so close that they began shelling us in the river but thank god we had to cannons on this side wich being a little better than thairs so that it stop thair pieces awhile

the next day being Sunday they sent a flag of truce

over for us to surrender and be taken prisners and deliver up the arms we had in our care wich being about 4000 arms or for the people to leave in to hours to wich our col refused to so they then comeanced shelling us about 1 o'clock on Sunday and continued so till 5 in the evening we wher formed in a line of batle along the street close to the houses our guns (cannon) played on them like hail and we drove them back of the river bank so that thair guns would not reach us while ours gave them thunder we did not lose a man except 1 that was drowned last Saturday in retreating acrost the river while they lost 35 or 40 they have last have retreat back to Winchester Va.

Dear father i hope you will rite regular to me and my brother and sister let there be reunion among us once more and pray for me so that if i fall god will have mercy on my soul i am bound to return hounerable if i return atall....

No more at present but  
Remaine your kind son

Thomas Gouldsberry

pleas rite ever week and i shall ansr them Good  
by father

## December Book Raffle

The Battle of Fredericksburg  
Anniversary Special

*History of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry*, includes the story of the gallant Sgt. Kirkland, the Angel of Maryes Heights.

*In Defense of Gen. W. B. Franklin.*  
Franklin received a great deal of blame

for the Federal defeat at Fredericksburg. He wrote this book to show that Burnside's unclear and erratic orders led to confusion on Franklin's wing during the battle. Includes 3 large pull-out maps.

FROM THE RANKS  
A Virginian Finds Bath  
Cold and Wet

*These are excerpts from the diary of Watkins Kearns, a 24-year-old sergeant in Company G, 27th Virginia. The diary is in the collections of the Virginia Historical Society.*

Saturday, January 4 [1862]. Marched this day to Bath.... Very cold. Burn the fence all along the route. Reached Bath about dusk. Yankees [all retreated]. About 1500 or 2000 of them. Our cavalry after them. Bath — seat of Berkeley Springs — a romantic looking little town. Some very good houses in it. Our regiment and the 2nd quartered for the night in Berkely Springs Hotel, the property of Col Strother. Good deal of the furniture and Hotel property destroyed by our [men] and carried off. Roomed for the night on the 2nd floor. Slept very cold.

Sun. Jan 5. Left Bath this morning and went back to cook at the wagons. Marched toward Hancock at 4 PM. Went to within about a mile of the Potomac and camped for the night in the woods. Snowing again and very cold.

Mon, Jan 6. Ordered once more to the wagons to cook. Find ourselves this morning almost buried in snow and our blankets so wet that they could not be carried. Stayed behind at the fire to dry blankets. Walked back to the wagons and found cooking going on. Reilly and some others of our Comp come in with Yankee Knap sacks, overcoats, etc. captured down at the river. Detailed to help pack the wagon. Camped for the night in an orchard. Put up our tents and filled them with straw obtained from an old barn....

Tuesday Jan 7. Ordered to strike tents this morning in a great hurry. Scarcely got time for breakfast. Sent the train ahead and waited in camp until late in the afternoon when we followed very slow -- forever getting along. Halt every few minutes. Weather very cold. Arrived at Bath. Stopped in the street to gather stragglers. Almost frozen. Couldn't keep blood in circulation. Finally started. Slow progress made. Never suffered so with cold before. Marched on. Heard a report that our wagons had gone on to Unger Cross Roads 15 miles from Bath. Heard this about 8 miles out of Bath and concluded to stop in a barn. Went into the barn with Stalnaker and got a place to lie down. Great many others in barn. Suffered a good deal from the cold.

Wed Jan 8. Waked up this morning thoroughly chilled and after trying to thaw out at a fire started on. Walked a couple of miles and fell in with a detachment of our company who had also slept in a barn. Found Capt Shriver and the whole company a little further on, having stopped all night when our company wagon had broken down. Cooked and started for camp — Capt Hollaway's company preceding us a short time. Managed with a good deal of difficulty to engineer our wagon through to camp at the Cross Roads where we arrived in the afternoon. Put up our tent and made ourselves as comfortable as possible on the damp ground.

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## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

### Port Republic Offers Print

The Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc. is offering its first limited edition print, "The Charge of the First Maryland Regiment at the Death of Ashby," painted by William Ludwell Sheppard, and lithographed by A. Hoen & Co., Baltimore, Md. in 1867. The print includes a hand-written general order by Maj. Gen. R. S. Ewell and historical text describing the action portrayed in the painting. The print costs \$50, payable to the society.

The society is seeking donations to restore the Frank Kemper House, which houses the Port Republic Museum, and is temporarily closed. The body of Turner Ashby was taken to the Kemper House following his death. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson visited the home and paid his respects to this fearless cavalry leader. Annual membership in the society is very reasonable, \$5! For information, their mailing address is P. O. Box 82, Port Republic, VA 24471.

### An Ideal Subscription

The most comprehensive and timely periodical I have read pertaining to Civil War news and events is *The Civil War News*. There are 11 issues a year. A one-year subscription is \$27; two years, \$49. Subscribers are entitled to a free 20-word ad to run for three issues. For a free issue, or to subscribe, call (800) 222-1861, or (802) 889-3500. Or write The Civil War News, Route 1, Box 36, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

*John P. McAnaw*

# 1996 MEMBERSHIP FORM



*Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table runs January-December. Unless you joined after Oct. 1, this is the last newsletter covered by your dues.*

*Checks are payable to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Drop them off, along with your dues form, at the next meeting. Or mail to Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 196, Centreville, VA 22020.*

- MEMBERSHIP \$15 Individual
- \$25 Family
- \$10 Student (age 22 & under)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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