

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
THE STONE WALL

January 1996

CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

Crude surgery, unsanitary conditions, and primitive medicines. It's amazing any soldier could survive a visit to a Civil War field hospital. If a wound didn't bring down a strapping young man, infections such as gangrene, or diseases such as dysentery, could.

But after those early days, when a single doctor was appointed to a regiment more for political reasons than for any medical skill, medical personnel developed an amazing ability to treat the horrifying numbers of men who required their attention.

Dr. George Hocker, a Leesburg physician and a member of the Leesburg Civil War Round Table, has been interested in Civil War medicine since he attended medical school at Temple University. His talk at our January meeting will focus on this important and sad issue that faces every soldier.

Dr. George Hocker
Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center

OR
The Library in Centreville

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS!

**If the Manassas Battlefield
Park Visitor Center is closed
--- Where do we meet???**

If the Federal budget issues are not resolved, and the Federal parks are still closed on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 10, we cannot meet in our usual place --- the Manassas Battlefield Park.

If the park is closed Wednesday, the round table will still meet on Thursday. But go to the Fairfax County Regional Library in Centreville at 7:30 p.m. in meeting room 1. The library is at 14200 St. Germain Drive, off Route 29 in Centreville, near the Giant shopping center just south of Route 28.

If you have any questions, call Gary Ecelbarger, (703) 406-4933, 5-8 p.m. weeknights. The library's telephone number is (703) 830-2223.

Secretarial Notes

Executive Committee Discusses Our First Symposium

Contributed by Marilyn Clark-Snyder

The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable executive committee met Nov. 29 primarily to begin solidifying plans for the roundtable's first symposium. Tentatively, the symposium will be held either the first or second weekends of October 1996. The topic will be 'Leadership at Second Manassas' and speakers are being scheduled. Several locations were suggested within the vicinity of the Bull Run Battlefield, with Sudley Church being the majority's first choice.

October 1996

LEADERSHIP AT
2ND MANASSAS

Bull Run
Civil War
Roundtable's

FIRST SYMPOSIUM

At this point the symposium's schedule includes a reception on Friday night, an all day session on Saturday with several speakers, and a tour of the battlefield on Sunday.

MEMBERSHIP: It is membership renewal time. The roundtable currently has approximately 100 members. The committee hopes to either maintain this number or grow larger. Renewal forms are on the last page of the newsletter and are also available at the meetings. Anyone with suggestions for recruiting new members should contact one of the committee members.

LIAISON: Chris Custode, our roundtable liaison, discussed ideas to open communication lines between area roundtables and also out-of-state roundtables. With regard to area organizations, these include obtaining speaker schedules with a notation of the best speakers; jointly sponsoring tours; jointly sponsoring a symposium; and publishing other roundtable's speaker lists. Chris is also gathering a list of out-of-state roundtables.

**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.



MARCHING ORDERS

FORWARD TO ROMNEY Saturday, Feb. 10

You heard about it in December. Now you'll get to experience it in February. The Bull

Run Civil War Round Table is sponsoring its third tour of the season and the first one of 1996. We will follow in the footsteps of Stonewall Jackson and his Valley District — including the Stonewall Brigade — as they embark upon the winter campaign of Jan.-Feb. 1862. We'll visit the sights and set foot on points that no organized group has ever seen before. Time constraints will prevent us from visiting Romney itself.

HIGHLIGHTS

WINCHESTER CAMPS: The division sets off, Jan. 1, 1862.

THE PUGHTOWN ROAD: Jackson's trail.

BATH (BERKELY SPRINGS): The action of Jan. 4, 1862.

ALPINE STATION SITE: The Union escapes from Jackson.

HANCOCK: Gen. Lander defends the town, Jan. 5.

LUNCH: In Berkely Springs.

UNGER'S CROSSROADS: Confederate movements and decisions.

BLOOMERY GAP: The action of Feb. 14.

FORT COLLIER REDOUBT: The final defense of Winchester.

JACKSON'S HEADQUARTERS: The last council of war, March 11.

TOUR GUIDES: Dan Jenkins and Gary Ecelbarger.

DEPARTURE: Saturday, Feb. 10, 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. We leave 8 a.m. sharp, so be there early.

WEATHER: If there is heavy snow or freezing rain that morning, the tour will be postponed until March.

COST: Free. Members are encouraged to reimburse the driver of the carpool \$3-5 for gas.

RATIONS: Bring your own or dine out in Berkely Springs.

RETURN: 4 p.m. to Dogan's Ridge.

SIGN UP: Sheets are available at the January and February meetings.

CONTACT: Gary Ecelbarger, (703) 406-4933, 5-8 p.m.

EVENTS & ISSUES

Latest News From Brandy Station

By John P. McAnaw

The following information was obtained during conversations with concerned Civil War preservationists and from various publications, including the Bulletin, the publication of the Brandy Station Foundation.

The following bullets record recent events pertinent to the preservation efforts to save the Brandy Station Battlefield from the landmaulers. If you are not already knowledgeable about the fight to save this battlefield, I believe the following will be of value to you:

⇒ June 1, 1995: The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) offered James Lazor, president of Benton Ventures Inc., \$2.1 million to buy the 425 acre tract slated for development as a Formula One motorsport complex, a.k.a. the Brandy Station Motor Sports Park.

⇒ June-July: During this period hearings were conducted regarding the Federal wetlands permit under consideration by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Benton Ventures needed this

permit before they could commence construction.

⇒ August 11: To the dismay of many preservationists, the ACOE issued the wetlands permit. The November 1995 issue of the Bulletin stated that Civil War preservation organizations, led by BSF and the National Trust for Historical Preservation were "frozen out of the information loop" while President Clinton's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the ACOE put together a memorandum of agreement (MOA) which resulted in the issuance of this wetlands permit. According to the Bulletin, the "BSF believes that the MOA is in essence a 'sellout' and provides Lazor 'carte blanche' to build the track and destroy the topography of the battlefield.

⇒ August 24: Attorneys for BSF filed a lawsuit in Federal court to obtain a reversal of the wetlands permit, alleging violations of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The suit also stated that the ACOE issued the wrong type of permit to Benton Ventures.

⇒ August 28: The engineering firm of Greenhorne and O'Mara filed a suit in U.S. Court to recover \$300,000 from Benton Ventures for unpaid work. Earlier in the summer, Greenhorne and O'Mara had filed a mechanics lien to recover this money. Lazor also has another legal action pending against him, a nuisance suit filed by 24 adjacent landowners.

⇒ September 17: Lee Sammis, president of Elkwood Downs and a California developer, foreclosed on a note he held on the 425 acre motorsport complex. Lazor owed roughly \$1.6 million on the note and had not made any payment since November 1994, when he put down \$500,000 on the property. An auction on the foreclosed property was scheduled for October 17.

⇒ September 28: Sammis, after months of private discussions with BSF counsel, Tersh Boasberg, announced that he and APCWS Chairman Tom Richards had signed a letter of intent for the sale of 1,543 acres of battlefield property (including the motorsport tract of 425 acres) to the preservationist coalition

headed by APCWS. The sale price for this land is estimated to be around \$6.2 million. Shortly thereafter, the announcement that BSF applied to the Civil War Trust for a \$1 million grant which would be used to help pay for the battlefield. I do not know whether this request has been approved.

⇒ October 4: The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors voted to amend the county zoning ordinance to allow a retroactive extension of special use permits. The BSF's Bulletin called it an unbelievable decision. The vote was four for and three against the retroactive extension. The three supervisors voting against the extension were Brad Rosenberger, Jack Finchain, and Steve Jenkins. The four in favor were Irvin Bennet, Bill Chase, John Coates and Ruth Updike.

The vote was in response to a request by Lazor. The county had earlier realized that Lazor's special use permit to build the motorsport complex had expired because Lazor had not begun construction on the project within a year of obtaining the permit. The Bulletin stated that "Lazor simply allowed the permit to expire when he could have simply posted a bond for construction, thereby automatically extending the permit. I [the writer] guess he didn't have the funds to post the bond. Big surprise. Lazor

has not even fulfilled the special conditions attached to the use permit in 1994. He does not own the necessary acreage required by the permits, therefore, he should not be eligible for an extension, especially a retroactive one."

⇒ October 16: Yep, you guessed it! Benton Ventures, one day before the scheduled auction, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, thus preventing the foreclosure action and temporarily delaying the sale of the battlefield property by Elkwood Downs Limited Partnership to APCWS. The November Bulletin quotes Lazor stating to the media, "we made a business decision to resolve certain issues ... it's a strategic move." The Bulletin also stated that "BSF officials believe this only temporarily deters the inevitable. Lazor is actively attempting to find investors for his troubled venture, but thus far it appears he is finding no takers.

⇒ December 5: The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors extended Lazor's special use permit for the motorsport complex.

⇒ December 6: A creditors' meeting was held in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Charlottesville, Va. A staff writer of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Elizabeth Wilkerson, covered the meeting and provided some

interesting information in her article of December 7. According to Wilkerson, Lazor stated at the meeting that he hopes to have investors for his project when his reorganization plan is presented in bankruptcy court some time in January 1996. Regarding these investors, he admitted that he had nothing in writing. Lazor also testified that he needs an adjacent 90 acres for his motorsport complex. The sale price of this tract is \$675,000, he said.

During his testimony, Lazor commented that the checking account balance for Benton Ventures was \$143. (!) According to the corporation attorney, total indebtedness was about \$4.5 million. Lazor also said that he does not anticipate any substantial income from the property until the motorsport complex is in operation.

Lazor also provided additional details on the project. In addition to \$54,000 of his own money from the project, he received a personal loan of \$525,000 from Thomas Golisano, a business executive in upstate New York (Remember the letter writing campaign to Golisano several months ago?). Lazor stated that the Golisano loan was repaid after Lazor's parents advanced the money to the firm. In addition to Golisano and his parents, other residents of upstate New York are also investors, according to Lazor.

I wonder how many of these people ever thought about the negative impact of their investment in our nation's Civil War heritage.

⇒ January 16-31, 1996:
Sometime during this period, Lazor will present his reorganization plan for Benton Ventures at U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Charlottesville.

Keep praying and perhaps we will have a favorable resolution regarding the preservation of the Brandy Station Battlefield.

SAVE BRANDY STATION BATTLEFIELD

JOIN
Brandy Station
Foundation

Membership is only \$15.
Send a check to: Brandy
Station Foundation, P.O.
Box 165, Brandy Station,
VA 22174.

Construction at Signal Hill

Phase I exploration began December 1 at the old Roseberry Farm located on the eastern side of historic Signal

Hill in Prince William County. I have been informed that this work is being done by a Fairfax City engineering firm. This work on the 140 acre farm and an eight acre plot to the northwest of the farm will probably be completed by December 8. Unless this Phase I work uncovers evidence of significant archeological or historical occupation (don't hold your breath), construction on this old farm for homesites should begin in the very near future.

Expansion of the Staunton River Battlefield Park

A new visitors center has opened at the Staunton River Battlefield Park. In 1950 the Daughters of the Confederacy conveyed title of a seven-acre parcel of land on the Staunton River Battlefield to the state to create a park commemorating the victory on June 25, 1864 of the Virginia Home Guard, students of John Powell's Boys Academy and 150 seasoned infantrymen under Capt. James A. Hoyt, 1st South Carolina Palmetto Sharpshooters, over Union cavalry commanded by Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson. The Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Virginia Power donated 80 more acres, containing the Fort Hill earthworks and an old cemetery.

The parkland is dominated by the looming Clover Power Plant nearby. The visitors center contains exhibits on the history of the power company as well as Civil War artifacts.

Wal-Mart's Concern for our Heritage

The December 3rd edition of the Washington Post contained an interesting article from Leeds, New York. Wal-Mart has an option to buy 35 acres of a campground at Leeds Flats, an area with an abundance of Indian artifacts such as pottery and tools, as well as fragments of brass and copper and possible remnants of old European kettles. The campground is located on the site of an Indian settlement and training center. On December 2, a number of Mohicans (James Fenimore Cooper was wrong) and area residents protested the plans to turn this historic site into another discount outlet.

The article also mentioned that Wal-Mart is conducting an archeological study before making a decision to blight the Leeds Flat landscape. Let us hope that this "study" is more than a perfunctory Phase I exploration designed only to fill the square labeled 'Proof of Wal-Mart Sensitivity and Deep Concern for our Native American Heritage.'

FROM THE RANKS

An Injured Officer Describes his Medical Care

Contributed by Gary L. Ecelbarger

Lt. Fitz James O'Brien was the only son of an Irish barrister who died when Fitz was young. He chose literature for his profession, went to London and became a contributor to Dicken's publication, *Household Words*. In 1852, at the age of 23, he emigrated to the United States, and found success writing articles and poems for the *New York Times*, *Putnam's Magazine*, *Harper's Weekly* and the *Saturday Press*.

O'Brien enlisted in the 7th New York Regiment in the spring of 1861. He eventually became a member of Gen. Frederick Lander's staff in January 1862.

He was shot in the shoulder during a skirmish Feb. 16, 1862. The wound was not at first thought dangerous, and he wrote his friends that he should be home in 20 days. Eventually he sent another letter, to a literary associate of the *Saturday Press*. It was filled with humor, but told a sad tale of suffering and anticipation.

"I hope to God you will never have to go through what I have experienced. For the first week of my wound nothing but enormous doses of morphine kept me from going crazy with pain. I had to be kept all day in a lazy, half-slumberous condition in which I felt like a hot-house plant, dozing and living, and that's all... I left off morphine completely four weeks ago. It was a great struggle to part with the great consoler...Imagine the 163-pound man you knew cut down to about 120, and so weak that the falling of a book startles him as if it were the bursting of a shell...The day after tomorrow I am to have a probe put into the wound, and shoved down as far as my elbow, after which they will cut the

flesh of the fore-arm open to the bone for six inches in length. So you see I have quite a pleasing prospect before me...The day is lovely. The sun shines on the distant hills. The singing of the birds comes through my window with a grateful sound, as I lie sad, silent, and suffering. Oh liberty of motion, health, and strength, I never knew what treasures you were till now!"

O'Brien's shoulder was hopelessly shattered into a hundred pieces requiring an adjustment in the procedure to which he refers. On April 4th, O'Brien scrawled a letter announcing the result to his friend:

"I gave up the ghost and told him to go ahead. There were about 12 surgeons there to witness the operation. All my shoulder bone and a portion of my upper arm have been taken away. I nearly died. My breath ceased, heart ceased to beat, pulse stopped. However, I got through. I am not yet out of danger from the operation, but a worse disease has set in. I have got tetanus, or lock jaw. There is a chance of my getting out of it, that's all. In case I don't, good-by, old fellow, with all my love! I don't want to make any legal document, but I desire that you and Frank Wood should be my literary executors, because after I'm dead I may turn out a bigger man than when living. I'd write more, if I could, but I'm very weak. Write to me, I may be alive. Also get Wood to write."

On Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, O'Brien seemed a little better and sat up for a time on the side of his bed. Three of his friends were en route from Baltimore to visit him, which picked up his spirits considerably. The doctor asked if he would take a glass of sherry. He said yes. While slowly sipping it, O'Brien turned pale and fell back. Again, his breath ceased, heart ceased to beat, pulse stopped. This time, he did not get through.

1996 MEMBERSHIP FORM



Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table runs January-December. Unless you joined after Oct. 1, it is time to renew your membership.

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 _____

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
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Michael E. Duggan
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