

*February 1996*

## “Attack at Dawn.” WINCHESTER May 25, 1862

Stonewall Jackson had done a fine job of pursuing, outmaneuvering and confusing the Union's Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks in the Shenandoah Valley.

“The object,” Johnston wrote Jackson, “you have to accomplish is the prevention of the junction of Gen. Banks' troops with those of Gen. McDowell.” Jackson's troops moved north, through the Luray Valley. They overwhelmed a small Union garrison at Front Royal. In Strasburg, Banks had three alternatives: retreat to the Potomac; attack the Confederates at Front Royal; or get to Winchester, the key of the valley. Banks chose to defend Winchester; his troops, with some luck, made it there. And despite its being the Sabbath, Jackson found him, met him, and defeated him there.

Brandon Beck is the author of the only book-length account of the First Battle of Winchester. He has also published a book on the Second Battle, and has just completed the manuscript for the Third Battle of Winchester. At our February meeting, he will speak to us about this fast-paced, legendary campaign that resulted in the First Battle of Winchester. He will have copies of his book available at the meeting, and will be pleased to autograph them.

Brandon Beck  
Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Visitor Center

## □THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER□



Members.

Despite all of our preparations to prevent it, we had to cancel a meeting for only the second time in our history. Our newsletter announced an alternative site if the government was closed because of budget negotiations. Then the snow came, closing the park for weather reasons. No problem, I thought, we can still use our alternative site because the library was still open. Then word came that our scheduled speaker, Dr. George Hocker, broke his foot on the Tuesday before the meeting and would not be able to make it. Considering the short notice to find a replacement, the decision to cancel really was not a difficult one. We tried to notify everybody concerning the cancellation. I apologize if anyone was inconvenienced. We will reschedule Dr. Hocker for 1996-97 season.

As of the date of the printing of

this *Stone Wall*, our scheduled tour for Feb. 10 is on. Dan Jenkins and I mapped out the area the Saturday before the storm and we will be ready to present Romney Lite, or The Romney Campaign without the Romney. If we have significant snowfall that covers the vital road traces that make up part of this tour, we will postpone it for one month. There wasn't tremendous battle action in this campaign, but Dan and I guarantee that you will appreciate the off-the-beaten-path approach to this campaign tour. Keep in mind we have also planned tours for the 3rd Battle of Winchester in April, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania in May, Union Mills and the Bull Run fords in June, and Early vs. Crook in the Shenandoah in August. Hopefully I'll see you at one or more of the tours.

Once again, this edition of the newsletter includes renewal information. My challenge is still on: just try to find a better package offered than the one provided by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. For only \$15 you get 12 informative newsletters, 12 (er...11) monthly presentations, seven inexpensive and informative tours, and inexpensive book purchases. We are working on the idea of providing a small price break for our members in the BRCWRT-sponsored symposium scheduled for next fall. Of course, you need to renew to receive these

perks. Please send your renewals to our post office box or bring it to the February meeting. We'd like to have all our renewals in by the end of the month.

Bill Miller, who started this round table and has been a member of the executive committee ever since, has departed to the Shenandoah Valley. He purchased the Jed Hotchkiss homestead near Staunton. Because he is obviously too far from our location to attend executive committee meetings, his place will be filled by long-time member Charlie Grymes. Thanks to Charlie's perseverance, the BRCWRT has kept up with the times - we will soon be on the WorldWide Web. It is a necessary way to advertize our organization, and it appears we may be one of the first round tables to take advantage of the computer age. Anyway, Charlie's draft looks great and we hope to be on line in the next two months. Thanks, Charlie!

I'm looking forward to Brandon Beck's presentation on the first battle of Winchester. Beck has written the only book-length treatment of this battle to date. I hope to see you, and not two feet of snow, at the visitor center on Feb. 8.

I am most respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant.

Gary L. Ecelbarger

### 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 experience it in February. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table sponsors 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 January-February, 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's defense, 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:** Heavy snow or freezing rain will postpone the tour 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:** 4:30 p.m. to Dogan's Ridge.

**SIGN UP:** Sheets are available at the meeting.

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

## □EVENTS & ISSUES□

### RED ALERT!

## Prince William County Residents — Act Now!

By John P. McAnaw

If you read nothing else in this newsletter, please take the time and digest the following. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

I have been informed that on Tuesday, Feb. 6, there will be a meeting of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. One of the agenda items will be the future of the Prince William County Historical Commission.

The proposal will be made to the supervisors to ELIMINATE the County Historical Commission as an independent county agency. The intention is to roll it under the organizational umbrella of the County Architectural Review Board (ARB).

If this unwise proposal is adopted, this absolutely worthwhile agency will, for all intents and purposes, suffer a mortal blow.

And who will be the losers? The citizens of Prince William County and every American who cares about the tremendous prehistoric and historic heritage of this county.

Critics of the county

government believe that this proposal is further confirmation, if any more is needed, that the majority of the Board of Supervisors has very little real interest in the county's heritage, or in the long term future of the county.

As I have stated before, the preservation of prehistoric and historic sites means tourist money both to the county and to local businesses. Further, it means greenspace and an improved quality of life for county residents.

Do you remember the lengthy and often bitter fight to preserve the Second Manassas battlefield, and particularly an integral part of that battlefield, the Williams Center Tract? The majority of the Board of Supervisors opposed our efforts the 'Save the Battlefield,' preferring housing, a mall and a corporate center instead. Guess who now touts this magnificent jewel in the crown of the National Park Services in its visitors' brochures?

If the Prince William County Historical Commission is subsumed, as a so-called cost-saving measure, under the ARB, it is believed that the number and quality of publications on the

heritage of Prince William County will be drastically reduced, or that publicity of books on this subject will cease altogether.

In front of me are two examples of the many excellent books published by the County Historical Commission. They are: *The Confederate Blockade of Washington D.C. 1861-62* by Mary Alice Wills, 1975; and *The Curtis Collection: A Personal View of Prince William County History* by Donald E. Curtis in 1988.

I find it rather ironic that the more Prince William County develops (like Fairfax County), the more personal county taxes increase and the more county indebtedness rises.

Summing up, please contact your County Supervisor and advise that individual that you are unalterably opposed to the elimination of the Prince William County Historical Commission as an independent agency. Informed county citizens, present and future, will thank you for your effort. Show that you care about our future, our heritage and our quality of life.

More than anyone, Anny

Snyder, who by the way is a member of our round table, was responsible for saving the William Center Tract from destruction by the landmaulers. Despite vicious personal attacks and harrassment of various sorts, she stood tall and led the Civil War preservationist effort that resulted in the legislation taken by Congress of the Williams Center Tract in 1988.

It was a monumental accomplishment against heavy odds. In one of the Save the Battlefield Coalition newsletters, she urged her readers to get involved and participate, rather than passively watching from the sidelines. At worst, she wrote, you can at least say you tried. I ask you to do the same. Do your best to save the Prince William County Historical Commission.

**BROTHERS AND COUSINS:  
CONFEDERATE  
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS  
OF FAIRFAX COUNTY**

by William Page Johnson, II

For those of us interested in local Civil War history, check out this new book by one of our roundtable members.

It records the vital statistics of all Confederates who were born, or resided in Fairfax County, as well as anecdotes on their war experiences and Fairfax landmarks.

To order, send \$20 to William Page Johnson, 4141 Orchard Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032; (703) 273-6130.

## THE 50 PRIORITY I CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

*The following is an alphabetical list of Civil War battlefields which have been determined to be the most important regarding preservation efforts.*

### VIRGINIA

Boydton Plank Road  
Brandy Station  
Bristoe Station  
Cedar Creek  
Chaffin's Farm/New Market Heights  
Chancellorsville  
Cold Harbor  
First Kernstown  
Fisher's Hill  
Gaines Mill  
Glendale  
Malvern Hill  
Mine Run  
North Anna  
Petersburg  
Second Manassas  
Second Deep Bottom  
Spottsylvania  
White Oak Road  
The Wilderness

### WEST VIRGINIA

Harper's Ferry  
Rich Mountain

### MARYLAND

Antietam  
Monocacy  
South Mountain

### PENNSYLVANIA

Gettysburg

### NORTH CAROLINA

Bentonville

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Secessionville

### GEORGIA

Allatoona  
Chickamauga  
Kennesaw Mountain  
Ringgold Gap

### TENNESSEE

Chattanooga  
Fort Donelson  
Spring Hill

### KENTUCKY

Mill Springs  
Perryville

### ALABAMA

Mobile Bay

### MISSISSIPPI

Brice's Cross Roads  
Chickasaw Bayou  
Corinth  
Port Gibson  
Raymond  
Vicksburg

### LOUISIANA

Port Hudson

### ARKASAS

Prairie Grove

### MISSOURI

Fort Davidson (Pilot Knob)  
Newtonia

### OKLAHOMA

Honey Springs

### NEW MEXICO

Glorieta Pass

## Quo Vadis Commemorative Coin Funds?

The Civil War Trust requested on Dec. 7, that the Secretary of the Interior approve its recommendation to expend Civil War Commemorative Coin revenues on preservation projects for Cedar Creek, Va.; Malvern Hill, Va.; Rich Mountain, W. Va.; Mill Springs, Ken.; Perryville, Ken.; and Prairie Grove, Ark.

The Asst. Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks will make the final decision to approve or reject cited this recommendation. All six battlefields are on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's Priority I list for preservation. The total amount of requested funds is approximately \$1 million. Other applications for funds are expected before the end of February.

### Civil War Print Sale & Signing

#### MORT KUNSTLER

Mr. Kunstler's newest work portrays Col. John Singleton Mosby's raid on Fairfax Court House, March 8, 1863.

A Patrons Edition of 250 prints will be offered for sale for \$200 each.

The Friends of the Fairfax City Regional Library host a sale and signing by the author March 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Courthouse. Prints may also be reserved in advance by contacting Brian Conley at the Virginia Room of the county library, (703) 246-2123.

Last summer, as many of you know, the secretary of the interior approved the distribution of \$1.033 million in coin revenues to protect three threatened battlefields: Schoolhouse Ridge on Harper's Ferry, W. Va.; Grove Farm adjacent to Antietam, Md.; and Opequon (3rd Winchester), Va.

I have seen several figures on the amount of uncommitted Civil War Commemorative Coin funds left in the coffers. According to the Winter issue of the *Battlefield Update*, the newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Civil War Trust has \$4.695 million remaining.

## More on Brandy Station

Unfortunately, I do not have access to the latest Culpeper and Richmond newspaper articles on events pertinent to developments concerning the Brandy Station battlefield. Thus I must rely solely on sources close to the scene.

As background, do you remember a prominent English archeologist, Sir Arthur Evans (1851-1941)? He spent much of his life conducting excavations at Knossos on Crete, and uncovered the palaces of the legendary King Minos and the equally legendary labyrinth. To quote the writer C.W. Ceram, "So many were the opportunities to go astray in moving from room to room that the term labyrinth came naturally to mind, even to those who had no inkling of the legend surrounding King Minos." This legend tells of a labyrinth built by Daedalus for Minos, a model for all subsequent structures of its kind.

I believe that there is a labyrinth in Culpeper County. The route leading to a final, and favorable, decision to save Brandy Station Battlefield must, it seems, traverse the many rooms, hallways and dead ends that constitute a labyrinth.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, James Lazor, president of Benton Ventures, Inc., presented his reorganization plan to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Charlottesville. The judge approved it. Lazor was given until Friday, Jan. 26, to come up with the \$1.6 million (some say more) owed to Lee Sammis, president of Elkwood Downs for the 425 acre tract that Lazor wants to develop as a Formula One motorsport complex.

Lazor did not show up on Friday, Jan. 26, thus permitting Sammis to go ahead with the foreclosure action, per Chapter 11. From the time that Sammis puts his foreclosure notice in the local newspaper (to the best of my knowledge, he has not yet done so), Lazor has 30 days to come up with the money. If he fails to do so, an auction will occur.

To understate the case, there are many individuals inside and outside of Culpeper County government who do not want to see the 1,543 acres of battlefield property be sold to the Assoc. for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. These individuals have economic development on their minds, including expanding the airport adjacent to the battlefield.

Thus the journey through the Culpeperian labyrinth continues. Only God knows what's around the next corner.

## □FROM THE RANKS□

# Going Into Battle

*The following account of events in the Shenandoah Valley in May, 1862 was written by the artilleryman, Robert T. Barton. Margaretta Cott records it in her book, Defend the Valley.*

Daylight had come, and with it the guns of the enemy from the hills back of what was then the Hollingsworth Mills, now the Hack place, were sending their screaming shells over our heads. When we reached the toll gate our column halted and the men were directed to find shelter behind a stone house that then stood just to the right of the road as we approached the town.

Our battery consisted of about 150 men of whom about 100 were college men and boys, like myself, from preparatory school. The other 50 were mainly sons of farmers, and laborers from the town of Lexington, where the battery had first been organized...Feeling a little of the sense of safety which the stone house afforded, Bob McKim slapped me on the shoulder and said "I will breakfast with you this morning in Winchester." and I replied, "I will dine with you when we get to Baltimore."

As had been done during the preceding several days, our two best [Parrott] guns Sec. No. 1 of the battery, were sent forward at a run, and regiments of infantry passed us making to the right and left as mounted men delivered orders to their commanders. Soon the call to "fall in and mount caissons" came to us, and we ran out from behind the stone house to where the screaming shells seemed to come closer and closer down to the road, as if they were hunting for us and screaming

in anger because they did not find us. All but I climbed quickly upon the caissons... The horses...were lashed into a gallop. I hung on with both hands, swinging to and fro and only now and then touching the ground with my feet. The men on the seat could not pull me up, and to let go would mean that the plunging horses and the heavy pieces and caissons, which they drew, would crush me to death if I fell. But I did succeed in holding on, thanks perhaps to my light weight of about 115 pounds. I still had hold with both hands when the battery slowed up by the grave yard by the old mill wail just this side of the Hacks, then the Hollingsworth house. When I let go there was hardly a patch of skin on the palms of my hands and the inside of my fingers. We did not stop, but hurried along the road leading up the hill, while the terrible noise of firing guns and bursting shells just above us drowned even the sound of voices close by. Behind us was a column of infantry, with two other batteries and their accompanying caissons intervening. As we mounted the hill the shells seemed to spit in our faces, as they threw all around us the ragged pieces which their explosions scattered right and left.

The road lay between a narrow mill race on the left and a somewhat protecting hill side on the right...The excited horses were hard to keep straight in the middle of the road, and in going through the gateway the

first gun veered a little and fastened itself upon the locust post just between the wheel and the gun...The drivers were struggling with the frightened horses, while the men of the battery and those of the long column behind us, by order, jumped the little race and lay close down behind its protecting embankment. At each lick the axeman grunted, as if playing an accompaniment to the music of his axe. The captain sat still and unmoved upon his horse and eager faces watched the axeman to see what would happen when the post should fall. I became fascinated with looking at it and without thinking what I was doing I got up, crossed the race again and stood in the road watching the axe and flying chips. Suddenly, a strong rough hand caught me by the neck of my jacket and threw me back over the race, saying "Lay down, you damn fool." I fell with my nose in a bunch of mint and recovering my full sense of danger I lay as flat as a snake, wondering if when the call came I could ever get up again...

All along the line voices sung out "Fall in men," and without hesitation every man sprang to his place and I wondered why I had ever feared that I or any other soldier would not rather go to death than show a lack of courage.

# Last Chance!



## 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 you will receive.*

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*Make checks 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*

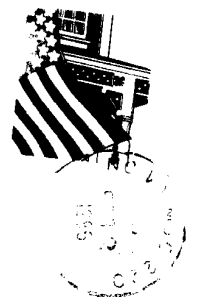
*MEMBERSHIP: (Circle one) \$15 Individual    \$25 Family    \$10 Student (age 22 & under)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
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