

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
STONEWALL

August 1996

July 1864

EARLY vs. CROOK

Second Kernstown was the culmination of Jubal Early's brilliant summer campaign in the summer of 1864. In terms of its political and military gains, Early's campaign had a vast impact on the war in Virginia in 1864.

After marching to the very gates of Washington D.C., Early out-marched and out-fought larger Federal columns pursuing him back to the Valley. Safely crossing the Potomac at White's Ferry, Early reached the Shenandoah, and defeated George Crook's pursuing Army of West Virginia on July 18. Although Confederate General Stephen Dodson Ramseur suffered a sharp reverse two days later at Rutherford's Farm, Early successfully bamboozled the Federal high command into believing that he was returning to Robert E. Lee and the trenches of Petersburg.

Four days later, Early turned on Crook's army and inflicted a crushing defeat against the out-numbered and out-generaled Federals. Second Kernstown was, in the words of one Confederate private, "the

easiest victory of the war." The defeat marked another low point for Federal fortunes in the Valley and was the last major Confederate victory in the Shenandoah. It also led Lincoln and Grant to promote Sheridan to Commander in Chief of the Valley District, a position critically needed at the time.

Strangely, this campaign has been largely neglected by historians, who tend to concentrate on the larger, more cataclysmic battles of the Fall of 1864. This is unfortunate; Second Kernstown was both a large battle (the fourth largest battle in the Valley during the war), and strategically important. It is a story that deserves to be better known.

ROD GAINER

Thursday, Aug. 8, 1996

*Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center*



President's Letter WHAT A YEAR!

As outgoing president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, I would like to pass along some final thoughts concerning the September-August season just completed.

I would like to begin by expressing my only regret: I don't think we did enough tours this season! I am kidding you, of course, for this past year has been one filled with tour opportunities. We began with Fisher's Hill in September, two weeks of 2nd Manassas in November, Jackson's Winter Campaign in March, Wilderness and Spotsylvania in May, Union Mills and Bull Run Fords in June-July, and a pending wrap-up with Early vs. Crook in August. A total of nine weekend days were spent touring, all conducted by members of the round table. This was my number one objective coming in last September. I think the tours have

enhanced the comradery between members. Hopefully you participated in one.

If not, the 1996-97 season has more. According to Chris Custode, your new chairperson, planned excursions include 3rd Winchester in September, Antietam in October, and Fredericksburg in November.

Although we were forced to cancel one meeting this year, I believe the eleven programs we held offered a good mix of Civil War topics. We had battles and campaigns (both east and west) as well as social studies (the Irish), and interesting non-battle endeavors (Stonewall's train robbery). Scott Logan did a fine job introducing the navy last month. Incoming president Martha Hendley has prepared the speaker's schedule for the 96-97 season. You can see that diversity will continue, and

don't worry — our May Ed Bearss tradition continues! My true regret was the unavoidable cancellation of our Civil War medicine talk, and we hope to bring this topic before the round table in the future.

The other objective I had was to have our organization sponsor a symposium. Thanks to the efforts of Martha Hendley and Scott Patchan, we have a terrific program slated for October. Our goal now includes the symposium as an annual or biannual tradition.

I was happy to continue to keep the business aspect of the round table in the newsletter and out of our monthly meetings. Our executive committee came together five times this past season. We started the incorporation process, tightened up our constitution, and planned the symposium. All of this was

**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; **NEWSLETTER** Karen Fojt, Mike Duggan; **AT LARGE** Bill Miller, John P. McAnaw, Joe Kelley.

accomplished informally, as were our monthly meetings. Assuming a reasonable turnout at our symposium, our budget appears healthy for a 100-member organization.

We also enjoyed some unplanned successes this year. Charlie Grymes set up our web page, and it's been a great advertising tool because several members have joined from seeing us on the Internet. Scott Logan and his wife threw a great party in November - everyone who attended enjoyed the good grub, with the leftovers devoured two days later during the Manassas tour.

All in all, it was a terrific season, due chiefly to the efforts of our executive committee and other volunteer members who put in countless hours behind the scenes putting together newsletters, raffles, tours, parties and everything else BRCWRT offers. I personally extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you.

The presidency is supposed to be a reward for years of hard work. You all (you like that "Virginian" speak) certainly rewarded me with your hard work to make it a smooth and successful year. How fortunate it is for us to have most of the same

crew continue those functions for another year.

I leave you now in the experienced and capable hands of Martha Hendley and her officers. Rest assured, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will continue to thrive in Northern Virginia. We are Number One!

I am Most Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant.

Gary L(ander) Ecelbarger

You'll Like Next Year's SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE

Our speakers are lined up for next year. We're still discussing possible topics with a few. A formal schedule will be published in the September issue, but to whet your appetite, our new season begins with Dennis Frye in September.

Other speakers include Robert Driver, Clayton R. Newell, Glenn Hicks, George Hocker, Gordon Rhea, Marcus Ring, A. Wilson Greene, Ed Beards and Gary Ecelbarger. Topics include cavalry (of course), profiles of various generals, Andersonville, Petersburg, Spotsylvania and medicine.

Martha Hendley

Our Web Page

If you're cruising the web, check out our Round Table's very own page, courtesy Charlie Grymes.

Our address is
[HTTP://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRCWRT/BR
CWRTHP.HTML](http://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRCWRT/BR
CWRTHP.HTML)

ZIP CODE CHANGES

BRCWRT's zip code has changed: it is now 20122.

We'd appreciate your letting us know if your zip code has changed too. Mail a post card to BRCWRT, P. O. Box 196, Centreville, VA 20122; or call Marilyn Clark Snyder, 354-2427.

Clean Up Day at the Park

A work day has been scheduled for Aug. 17 to collect trash and do other sundry housekeeping chores on the Manassas Battlefield. Anyone interested in joining us, call Elio Barbis at 361-1012, or Armando Mancini at 266-3584.

REGISTER FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

The finalized slate of speakers for our Oct. 5 symposium includes Frank O'Reilly on Jackson, John Hennessey on Pope, Jeffry Wert on Longstreet, Mary Ferguson-Smith on Sudley Church, J. Michael Miller on Porter, and James Phelps on Lee.

So far, 15 have sent in their registration. Register early, it's \$30, and we think it's going to be a marvelous symposium even if it is our first attempt at organizing one.

TOUR KERNSTOWN BATTLEFIELDS

On Sunday, Aug. 11, the Kernstown Battlefield Association, Inc. (KBA) is sponsoring a program to generate interest in the 340-acre Charles Grim Hardy estate, which includes Pritchard's Hill, the site of action of two important battles of the Civil War. A slide show will be presented at 1 P.M. in the Old Opequon Church, three miles south of Winchester on the west side of Route 11, behind the 7-11 store. At 2:15 P.M. two tours will be offered, 1st or 2nd Kernstown. Each tour covers previously inaccessible property on the Grim estate. The tours run simultaneously and wrap up by 4. Gary Ecelbarger presents the slide show and leads the 1st Kernstown tour, Rod Gainer leads the 2nd Battle of Kernstown tour.

The event is free. The purpose is to generate interest in the KBA and its mission to purchase the Charles Hardy Grim estate and its conversion to a battlefield park. KBA representatives will be available for those who wish to

become members of the KBA or make a donation to its cause. Individual memberships in KBA are \$25, payable to KBA, 104 N. Braddock Street, Winchester, VA 22601. For information call 540-722 3428, or see Gary Ecelbarger at the meeting.

After Action Report BULL RUN FORDS TOUR: Part II

While Northern Virginia escaped the full wrath of Hurricane Bertha on July 12-13, there was sufficient rainfall cover that period to upset plans for Part II of our tour of the Bull Run fords. For those of you who thought wet weather cancels a tour run by The Cheap and the Proud, it will again be run on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Despite the weather on July 13, the tour however did run. I showed up at the designated assembly area at Hemlock Overlook Park at 7:20 A.M. and awaited the arrival of other tour participants. It was good infantry weather — windy and rainy.

At 8:15 the tour party moved out and descended the old wagon road down to Yates Ford, a crossing point used during the Civil War. The party then headed upstream on the Fairfax County side of Bull Run to Union Mills Ford and the site of the 18th century mill located near the confluence of Popes Head Creek and Bull Run. The going was slow due to the driving rain and slippery trails. Fighting the elements, the party moved northwest to the Norfolk-Southern railroad bridge over Bull Run and the nearby site of the blockhouse built in November 1863 by the 170th New York

Volunteer Infantry Regiment of Corcoran's Irish Legion. After a series of toasts to that 'foin' fighting unit, the party moved into one of the most scenic sections of overdeveloped (and overtaxed) Fairfax County, that is, the area bounded on the east by Bull Run, the south by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the north by Compton Road. A number of Civil War sites were reconnoitered.

The weather had improved by 11, thus cheering up the thoroughly soaked (but determined) party. After touring the 'Great Redoubt' the party angled westward and slid downslope to McLeans Ford on Bull Run.

By this time (noon) I was tired of talking to myself regarding the historical significance of each of the sites visited. For you see, "I were the party" and the only tour participant. So I (a.k.a. The Party) sloshed my way south-southeast on the trail paralleling the swollen, coffee-colored stream called Bull Run back to Union Mills. I then hiked the ridge south of Popes Head Creek and returned to the parking lot at Hemlock Overlookd Park. Another BRCWRT tour was successfully completed without any personnel losses.

Summing up, I thoroughly enjoyed the tour and had a feeling of accomplishment that the trek was over. In good or challenging weather, it is a pleasure to hike through such a scenic and historically significant area as that surrounding Union Mills. Join me on Saturday, Sept. 21, and we will try again.

John P. McAnaw

Strike the Tents! Prepare Rations! FORWARD TO THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Saturday, August 10

On August 10 our Round Table steps back almost exactly 134 years, to the summer of 1864.

We will retrace the steps of the most successful Valley campaign of the war. No, not Stonewall Jackson in 1862. I mean Jubal Early in 1864.

If you are a disbeliever, come along and expect to have your mind changed.

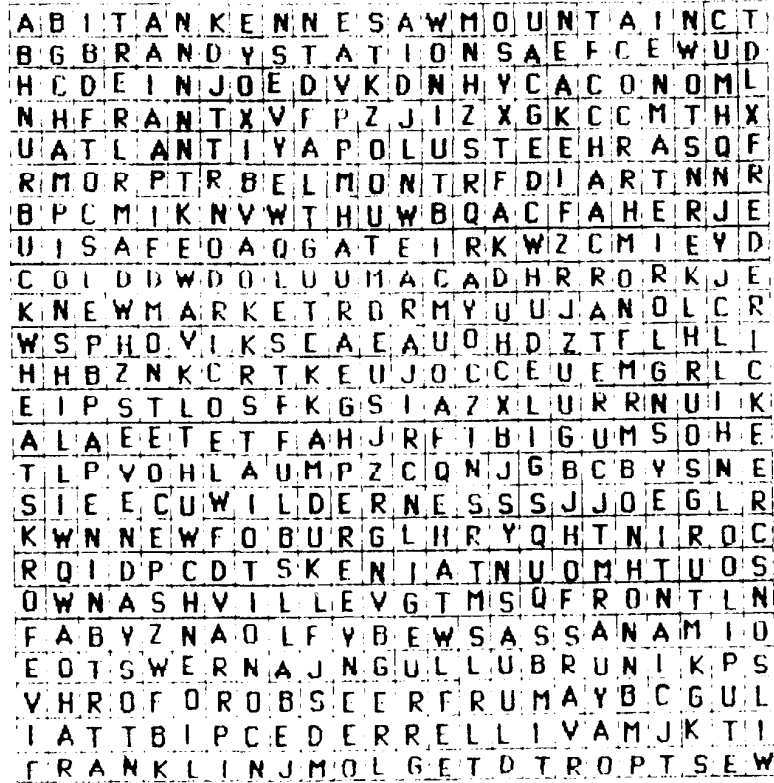
The tour focuses on the Lower Valley Campaign of July 1864. The tour guide is Rod Gainer, the consulting historian for the Winchester-Frederick County Resource Management Plan for the 2nd Kernstown Battlefield Park, and the author of a to-be-published book on the campaign.

TOUR STOP	ACTION TO DESCRIBE
White's Ferry	Early crosses back into Virginia
Castleman's Ferry (Shenandoah River)	The battle of Cool Springs
Rutherford's Farm	Ramseur's defeat, Early's retreat
Lunch Break	Silver Leaf Restaurant, All You Can Eat Buffet, \$6
Sprindale (Bartonsville)	Early returns to Winchester with a vengeance
Stone Lane (McGill House)	Hotchkiss positions Ramseur's troops
Opequon Church	The 2nd battle of Kernstown
Pritchard's Lane	Early breaks Mulligans line, final actions
Final tour stop	Pending approval

Sign up lists will be available June, July and August. The tour is free, but you should reimburse the drivers for gas, and bring money for the buffet. Hope to see you there. *Gary Ecelbarger*

DO YOU KNOW THESE CIVIL WAR BATTLES?

Using the clues, find the name of the battle and fill in the blanks. Locate the battle on the word find. The words go up, down, across, diagonal, back and forth. The answer will be in next month's newsletter. Good luck! *By Scott Logan*



1. The gallant Hood raised hell here in December 1864 -----
2. Grant whipped Pern here -----
3. McPherson cashed in his chips July 22, 1864 -----
4. Don't go to them thar shadbakes, Fitzhugh! -----
5. The boys from VMI hung tough -----
6. Biggest battle in Missouri in 1864 -----
7. The "Rock" stood here -----
8. Lew Wallace saves the Union? -----
9. Was this Virginia battle fought on the moon? -----
10. Jackson and Early fought here and Gary likes it -----
11. Great battle of the wild, wild West -----
12. Baker lost all control on the Potomac -----
13. Little Mac had Lee on the ropes but no KO -----
14. Grant's very first -----
15. Signey Johnston's first -----
16. The Ole' Snappin Turtle grabbed a big one -----
17. There was much for Jones to grumble about -----
18. Nathaniel was a fallen lion in Missouri, 1861 -----
19. JEB almost missed the train here in 1863 -----
20. Old Blue Light foxed Pope out of his saddle born HQ -----
21. Was Bragg stoned by the river in this winter battle? -----
22. Little Phil was o'peeking at the creek in this 1864 battle -----
24. Pap Price and Old Rosy, Mississippi round one -----
25. Pap and Rosy, Mississippi round two. Van Dorn renders less than sterling aid -----
26. Reno took his last gamble getting over this hill -----
27. Cump beets the gallant Hood of texas for the third time -----
28. It took God and Bobby Lee this long to do it -----
29. Pat Cleburne should have stayed home -----
30. Little Phil wasn't too early for this battle of Oct. 19, 1864 -----
31. Sherman went up the hill to meet Joe Johnston -----

From the Ranks

2nd KERNSTOWN — The Easiest Victory of the War

UNION ACCOUNTS

Always ready, the 23rd with their comrades on the right and left started to cross the wall, while in the act they received a disastrous cross fire from the Front and the left which staggered the line. At the same time, the enemy advanced from the wood in front in overwhelming numbers — the extreme right and center were driven back — and the left was obliged to give way under a murderous cross fire, from far superior numbers. A stubborn resistance was made by the 23rd who fell back to Winchester and there formed their line with bayonet fixed to receive Cavalry. Here the regiment found themselves alone with the enemy's cavalry on all sides, but not daunted they formed a square and commenced falling back fighting on every side.....— *Journal History of the 23rd Ohio*

Captain James P. Hart was in the rear covering his men, when three Confederate cavalrymen determined to either kill or capture him. Two of the men were especially well mounted. In falling back to our forces we came to an apple orchard. Here the men divided, part of our men going on one side, the others going around the other way. In some way, Captain Hart and Sergeant Moffit had gotten in our rear and both on the right of this

orchard. Moffit was passing this same orchard close to the fence. Hart was some distance away and in front of Moffit with the two men close on him and the other a little behind the two was an officer and using his gun on Hart at a lively rate. Moffit saw the three would get Hart soon if he didn't do something quick and it would require quick work for the confederate cavalry was coming at a charge. Moffit concluded he would shoot this officer. When he fired the horse fell throwing the rider. This shot attracted the two who were after Hart. They left Hart and came for Moffit who, when he shot the horse, charged the officer to take him prisoner. — *Sergt. John Elwood, 22nd Pennsylvania Cavalry*

CONFEDERATE ACCOUNTS

The first fire we received from them in their retreat was from a fence just behind the old church. As we reached the church and turned around it towards the fence through which they went, a few skirmishes of theirs along this fence fired at us. Sergeant Griever of the 48th, who was carrying the flag, was shot down by my side, and one or two more were wounded. It was the easiest victory of the war. — *John Worsham, 21st Virginia*

Passing under a heavy fire from a high hill (the same on which I was

wounded) we came up with our double-quickening friends and our sharpshooters gave them a fire that covered the ground with killed and wounded. Securing a number of prisoners we passed on as fast as the nature of the ground would admit and the fire from their artillery would allow...It was thrilling while it lasted, which was only a few minutes as the enemy broke and changed base after McClellan's style in '62. — *Capt. George Ring, 6th LO Infantry*

The effect of our appearance on the crest of the hill was instantaneous. The feds. drawn up in two lines of battle, each more than twice our number, were panick stricken and in a few minutes the valley below us seemed to be a dark blue irregular moving mass. — *General Forsberg*

As Breckinridge rode along the line, which was at rest, a cry arose 'bread!' 'bread!' which was taken up and passed along until it seemed threatening to break out into some demonstration of riot. Breckinridge bore it with equanimity, until reaching a colonel of one of the regiments which was peculiarly demonstrative, he halted and good-naturedly addressed him, "Your men seem to be in a bad humor this morning Colonel." "Yes," was the reply, "they did not have time last night to cook their rations and they are hungry." "Never mind, boys," said the general, addressing himself

to the soldiers, "we will have plenty to eat tonight. Those fellows in front of us have got our mills, and they have the biggest droves of fat cattle you ever saw: we are going now to capture them." — S.

Johnston, staff officer to Breckinridge

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 24-25: The Manassas Museum's annual Civil War Weekend features period encampments and demonstrations on the museum's lawn. It begins on the

evening of Friday, Aug. 23, with a road march through Old Town Manassas and a reception. (703) 368-1873.

Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Manassas National Battlefield Park commemorates the 2nd Battle of Manassas with tours and living history at Stuart's Hill. (703) 361-1339.

STAFF CHANGES AT MANASSAS MUSEUM

The Manassas Museum's new director is Scott Harris, who was the museum's curator since 1988. Harris succeeds Douglas K. Harvey, who has gone to

Petersburg to be Director of Operations at Pamplin Park Civil War Site. The museum's new curator is Laura A. Peake, who joined the staff in 1989 as Museum Specialist. Sally Livingston was recently hired to take over the Museum Specialist duties.

The museum is seeking funds to restore and open the Mayfield and Cannon Branch Civil War Earthworks. If you wish to contribute, contact the museum at 368-1873, or send a check to P.O. Box 560, Manassas, Va. 22110.

ACQUISITION OF BRANDY STATION STILL PENDING

During a recent meeting at their new office in Hagerstown, Md., the executive board of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) discussed Brandy Station Battlefield. APCWS is still negotiating the terms of the contract with lawyers for Elkwood Downs Limited regarding the purchase of the property. Negotiations remain on track, albeit a slow-running one.

I spoke with a number of individuals regarding the process; following are their various comments: "We have one foot in the door." "We are almost there." "Looking good." "We will prevail." "It will be sooner than later." "Who stole my socks?"

Keep praying for a timely resolution of the contractual difficulties, and please remember that the transfer of ownership to APCWS is only one step. We still have to do our share in contributing money to pay the estimated \$6.2M to acquire this important battlefield. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Brandy Station Foundation, Box 165,

Brandy Station, Va. 22714.

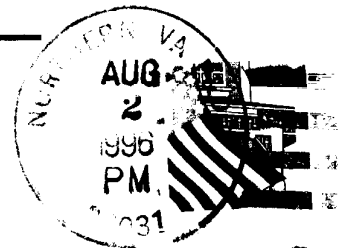
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 — Thomas Francis Meagher, Brig. Gen. U. S. V., 1823-1867. Appointed brigadier general in February 1862 to command the Irish Brigade, which he had just raised in New York City.

27 — James Alexander Walker, Brig. Gen. C. S. A., 1832-1901. Dismissed from VMI during his senior year on a charge preferred by his instructor, T. J. Jackson. Walker challenged Jackson to a duel, but the two did not meet. In May 1863, at Jackson's request, Walker was promoted to brigadier general and given command of the Stonewall Brigade.

31 — Fitz John Porter, Maj. Gen. U. S. V., 1822-1901. Following 2nd Manassas, John Pope accused him of disloyalty, disobedience, and misconduct in the face of the enemy, for which he stood trial.

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