

December 1996

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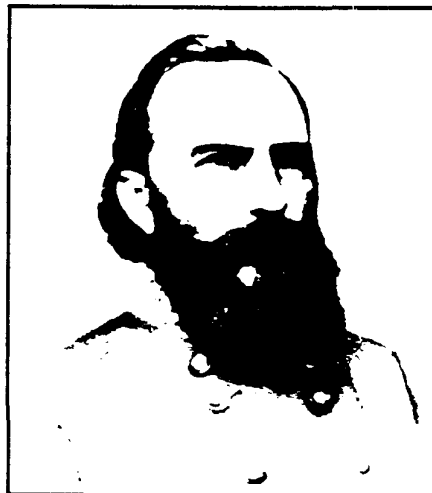
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LONGSTREET

The Story of the Civil War as Seen Through the Eyes of Lee's Second in Command

Glen Hicks has a marvelous one-man show depicting General Longstreet in full uniform. Unfortunately, it doesn't fit into our one-hour lecture format. But he does give a great lecture on this stalwart soldier, which he will present at our December meeting.

Come a few minutes early. We'll have Christmas cookies and coffee and more time to chat before the meeting.



GLEN HICKS

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30 P.M.

Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center

**Bull Run Civil War
Round Table**

P.O. Box 196
Centreville, VA 20122

PRESIDENT

Martha Hendley
754-4181

VICE PRESIDENT

John P. McAnaw
978-3371

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Marilyn Clark-Snyder
354-2427

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Mark Knowles
787-9811

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Chris Custode, *Chairman*, 698-7749, Mike
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Scott Logan, Charlie Grymes, Martha
Hendley, John P. McAnaw, Marilyn Clark-
Snyder

SYMPOSIUM

Scott Patchan and Martha Hendley, *Co-
chairmen*, Scott Logan

The STONE WALL is published monthly by
the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.
Submissions are welcome. Contact Karen Fojt,
(703) 330-1965.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table meets
the second Thursday of the month at the
Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor
Center, 7:30. Web Site of the Round Table is
[HTTP://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRC
WRT/DRCWRTHP.HTML](http://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRC
WRT/DRCWRTHP.HTML)

From the Firing Line



Greetings members and friends,

I've had to spend far too much of my life on the subject of new roads in the last two months and neglecting other activities, such as the round table, which I really enjoy. The significance of the Western Transportation Corridor (WTC) to round table members, besides the overall new development some of the proposed routes would bring, is that one of the proposed corridors would pass through the narrow gap just to the west of Manassas National Battlefield Park and east of Conway Robinson State Forest. This route has been on the county's plans for the Rt. 234 bypass as a road for local traffic. As such it has been supported by the park as a way to divert traffic out of their boundaries. However, this concept for a local road has changed into an interstate type high speed, high volume, limited access highway which would do little good for local traffic. To make matters even worse, Gainesville District Supervisor Ed Wilbourn wants to combine the WTC, the 234 bypass, and his Dulles Parkway all into one gigantic highway from I-66 at Stuart's Hill running north parallel with Pageland Lane, then northeast over Stony Ridge, wrapping the Park in a wide ribbon of concrete. The little kitten has grown into a tiger.

We all mourn the passing of John Divine, the Sage of Loudoun, whose long lifetime was steeped in the study of the Civil War. He was a great repository of lore and fact, with more information on the tip of his tongue than many of us will ever read. He spoke to our round table in 1995 on Hampton's Great Cattle Raid. We are all fortunate that he was so generous with his knowledge.

At least two carloads of our members join the 800 lighting candles at Antietam. The reward was to be able to tour the battlefield first, before the general public. If our members want to make this an annual tradition, let us hear from you. It's a very significant way to begin the holiday season.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

Yours faithfully,
Martha Hendley

More on the 5th Battle of Manassas

Last month I addressed three of the impending threats to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Permit me to again cite these threats and the current states of action relevant to each.

STONE HOUSE INTERSECTION

Proposed construction of left turn lanes at the Stone House intersection is supported by county supervisor Ed Wilbourn and under study by the Federal Highway Administration.

PROPOSED ROUTE 234 BYPASS

Also known as U.S. Highway Bypass, the Western Corridor, the Dulles Parkway, and (to me at least) the Pork Barrel Parkway – Status: Public hearings for the Major Investment Study completed on Nov. 21. More are planned. Heavy lobbying by developer special interest groups. Intense (and growing) opposition by citizens and preservationist groups

PARKRIDGE PROJECT

The wedge-shaped piece of land just north and west of the intersection of I-66 and Route 234, and immediately south of the battlefield will be the site of another shopping center, featuring a 15-screen cinema complex with a size exceeding 300,000 square feet. – Status: Done deal. Project supported by county supervisor Wilbourn and approved by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. Construction begins spring 1997, with the grand opening planned for the winter of 1998. One option, according to available information, places buildings as close as 50 feet from the Manassas Battlefield boundary. The exact nature of the buffer between the battlefield and the buildings, which will be 20 feet in height, is unknown: e.g. a strip of fast-growing conifers or a berm with fast-growing conifers planted on it.

The map given to visitors of the park shows that the road leading to Chinn Ridge and the bridle trail run close to the proposed construction site. So much for a quiet, reflective visit to the battlefield. The proposed site is poor for a retail shopping center; a professional/business park would be a better option. The good news is that, despite the projected increase in vehicular traffic caused by the shopping center, there are no plans to widen that section of Rt. 234 that passes through the battlefield.

A Developer/Homebuilder who cares about preserving our Civil War Heritage

Developer jokes in Northern Virginia are almost as common as lawyer jokes. However during our tour to Fredericksburg on Nov. 16 we encountered a developer who is genuinely concerned about preserving important Civil War sites. Jim Stafford is the president of Sunrise Homes, Inc. Of note, he is a graduate of George Mason University where he majored in history. He informed me that Professor Joe Harsh was materially responsible in developing his keen interest in the American Civil War.

Mr. Stafford's company built the homes in a subdivision located not far from the now-destroyed Phillips house which was, during the Fredericksburg Campaign the headquarters of Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside. One day he ran into two individuals who were using metal detectors on vacant subdivision lots. As it turned out, they were from the Smithsonian Institution. They informed Mr. Stafford that Professor Lowe's balloon launch site might be within his subdivision. To make a long story short, he located the balloon launch site on the eastern side of a ravine in his subdivision. The launch site is a circular crater about four feet deep with a circumference of 35 feet. During the war the hole was probably eight to 10 feet deep.

Mr. Stafford, realizing the historic value of this site, has initiated efforts to convince the concerned homeowners association, which holds title to almost all of the launch site, to donate the land to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. He informed me that 75% of homeowners must agree to give the land to APCWS before transfer of title can occur. He is optimistic that such a transfer of title will occur in the near future.

Despite his busy schedule, Mr. Stafford led our tour at this site. We were the first organized group tour to tour this site so important to the study of the Fredericksburg battle. I believe everyone present enjoyed his clear presentation, which covered all aspects of the operations at this balloon launch site. We extend a sincere thanks to Mr. Stafford for taking the time to meet with us and demonstrating that, by his actions, he is totally committed to preserving an important Civil War site. Unfortunately there are few developer/builders in Virginia like him.

RED ALERT

Dumfries Museum loses funding

By A. E. Hochmuth, President, Historic Dumfries Virginia, Inc.
Reprinted from the organization's November newsletter.

Dear Friends:

This column is a red alert.

There is a distinct possibility that the museum will lose funding support from Prince William County.

Should that happen without a replacement source of funds, we will be forced to close, at worst, or to be open only a few days a week, at best. All services, research, school visitations, hosting tours, all the professional museum services that we have worked so long to develop. We would lose the state highway signs because we would not be open 30 hours a week.

How can this happen you ask, and rightly so.

This past summer, the county reorganized the Office of Economic Development and the Office of Tourism was transferred to the Park Authority. The state had recently granted the county an additional 1/2 percent on the occupancy tax to support tourism and everyone believed that there would be loads of money.

However, the fine print was not read. The additional tax money could only be used for the promotion of tourism, not for the operations and of course the county did not pass along any general funds to the park authority.

Knowing the park authority had jurisdiction over our funding, we requested a funding increase for this year and \$25,000 for future years. We got the \$15,000 for this year, but were informed by the head of the Park Authority Board that we would get nothing after this year.

Needless to say this was a shocker!

We went to the county with this problem and were assured that we shouldn't worry, they would work on it and we would be funded. Now that assurance is down the tubes. We need your help and the help of all the friends of the museum.

Get out your pens and paper and write your supervisor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors expressing your support for the museum. Please emphasize that the museum is operated by Historic Dumfries, a non-profit, state-chartered corporation not affiliated with the town of Dumfries. Let them know the consequences of the loss of funding and the impact on tourism and on the perception that the county cares little for its historic heritage. In comparison, the city of Manassas supports its city museum 100 per cent. The Weems-Bott Regional Museum of Prince William County is becoming recognized as the museum of Prince William colonial history.

Should not the county provide some support to us?

For this situation to arise at the same time that the museum was marked by the Daughters of the American Revolution in recognition of the work we do in promoting colonial and revolutionary history is ironic. We need help. Please help us.

Write Kathleen K. Seefeldt, Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors, 1 County Complex Court, Prince William, Va., 22192, and to your local supervisor.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Round Table membership runs with the calendar year.

The membership form will be attached to next month's edition of *Stone Wall*.

ROADS UPDATE

What you can do:

1. Call the FWC Supervisors before their December 3 meeting.
2. Contact the WTC Policy Advisory Committee members before their Dec. 13 meeting
3. Contact the Commonwealth Transportation Board members by January
4. Don't forget our state representatives and our governor and potential governors-to-be

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192

Kathleen Seefeldt, Chairman
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192
(703) 792-4640
(703) 792-4637 fax

Hilda Barg, Woodbridge
15941 Cardinal Dr., Suite 140
Woodbridge, VA 22191
(703) 792-4646
(703) 792-4993 fax

Maurven Caddigan, Dumfries
15941 Cardinal Dr., Suite 140
Woodbridge, VA 22191
(703) 792-4645
(703) 793-4993 fax

Mary Hill, Coles
4360 Ridgewood Center Dr.
Prince William, VA 22192
(703) 792-4620
(703) 792-4610 fax

John Jenkins, Neabsco
4361 Ridgewood Center Dr.
Prince William VA 22192
(703) 792-4668
(703) 792-4669 fax

Michele McQuigg, Occoquan
13083 Chinn Park Dr
Prince William, VA 22192
(703) 792-4643
(703) 792-4833 fax

Ben Thompson, Brentsville
8506 Wellington Rd., Suite 101
Manassas, VA 22110
(703) 792-6190
(703) 257-9792fax

Ed Wilbourn, Gainesville
7873 Ashton Ave.
Manassas, VA 22110
(703) 792-6195
(703) 792-7664 fax

The Western Transportation Corridor (WTC) is a reincarnation of the Western Bypass. After it became apparent that Maryland was not going to allow a new river crossing anywhere but at Point of Rocks where Loudoun County does not want it, Virginia proceeded with the highway study anyway. They selected a new destination, Dulles Airport, and purpose, economic development.

The VDOT study on the Western Transportation Corridor (WTC) is nearing the juncture where this proposal will either be put in the dead files or moved forward with more study focused on a particular corridor. The county staff report given at the PWC Supervisor's work session on December 3 revealed that no matter which alternative was chosen that building or not building this highway would have no significant impact on our Prince William County roads in 2020. It makes no sense to spend \$1.5 billion to save 9 minutes between Rt. 95 and Rt. 7 east of Leesburg when the traffic projections don't justify it.

- * There is no bridge to Maryland. This route ends at Rt. 7 east of Leesburg.
- * The figures for future traffic from Rt. 95 to Dulles do not justify a new highway.
- * Building a WTC would divert funds from badly needed improvements to existing roads.
- * This is a road for special interests hoping to open up large tracts in outlying areas for new residential development.
- * Loudoun wants the tax gain of economic development at Dulles, but wants to shove the tax drain of new residential communities off on other counties.
- * A north-south road like the WTC would put up to 43% more traffic on east-west roads like Rt. 7, Rt. 50, Rt 66 and Rt. 29.
- * The Bypass Alternatives Review Committee (BARC) of the Washington Airports Task Force endorses the powerline route beside the Manassas Battlefield to keep it off of Rt. 15 in Loudoun. If this road is not good enough for Otlands, then it's not good enough for Manassas Battlefield either.
- * Everyone who has endorsed this highway wants it to be on someone other than themselves.

The next steps in this process are:

December 10, 2:00 P.M., McCoart Center, PWC Board of Supervisors vote on the WTC

December 13, 9:00 A.M., McCoart Center, Policy Advisory Committee of the MIS-WTC
If they can't come to a consensus at this meeting, their recommendation may be held over until January.

January 1997 or later, Commonwealth Transportation Board makes final decision.

!!! HEADS UP !!! RT 29 STUDY INCLUDES ROUTE OVER STONY RIDGE !!!
VDOT Public Open House on the MIS-166 and Rt. 29 Study on Monday, January 27, 1997 at Mountain View School (off Lightner Road off Rt. 15 south of Long Park and north of Havmarket). 6 P.M - 9:00 P.M (Snow date. February 3).

**WESTERN
TRANSPORTATION
CORRIDOR
POLICY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Zeanious "Zeke" Newcomb
PAC Chairman and CTB Member
708 Lendall Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
(540) 371-2929

Carrington Williams
Citizen Representative
McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe
8280 Greensboro Dr., Suite 900
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 712-5451
(703) 712-5050 fax

Kathleen Seefeldt
Prince William County
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192
(703) 792-4640
(703) 792-4637 fax

Robert Dix
Fairfax County
12000 Bowman Towne Dr
Reston, VA 22090
(703) 478-0283
(703) 471-6847

David Magnum
Fauquier county
7232 O'Keefe Rd
Bealton, VA 22712
(540) 439-8197

Linda Musselman
Stafford County
728 Truslow Rd
Falmouth, VA 22406
(540) 373-1936
(540) 899-6528

Dale Polen Myers
Loudoun County
18 North King St.
Leesburg, VA 22075
(703) 777-0204
(703) 777-0325

**COMMONWEALTH
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Robert Martinez, Chairman
1401 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-6675
(804) 786-6683 fax

David Gehr, Vice-Chairman
1401 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-2700
(804) 786-2940 fax

Roy Parrish Byrd
Route 2, Box 24D
Chatham, VA 24531
(804) 324-8224
(804) 324-8228 fax

John V. Cogbill, III
McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe
One James Center
901 E. Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 775-4383
(804) 775-1061 fax

John H. Grubb, Jr.
1062 Hollow Road
Marion, VA 24354
(540) 783-6867

Robert T. Lee
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak
& Stewart
2400 N Street, N.W., 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 887-0855
(202) 887-0866 fax

Lorinda G. Lionberger
P.O. Box 20209
Roanoke, VA 24018-0507
(540) 989-5301

L.C. "Sonny" Martin
P.O. Box 336
Pennington Gap, VA 24277
(540) 346-1414
(540) 346-1578 fax

H. Carter Myers III
440 Rookwood Dr
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(804) 978-3906

Harold E. Neal
Mary Baldwin College
New & Frederick Streets
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 887-7011

Zeanious L. Newcomb
708 Lendall Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
(540) 371-2929

Max B. Porter
P.O. Box 511
Boykins, VA 23827
(804) 654-6430
(804) 654-6430 fax

William W. Prettyman
W.W. Prettyman Real Estate
2809 S. Lynnhaven Rd., Suite 11D
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
(804) 486-5444
(804) 486-5224 fax

James E. Rich
1401 I Street, N.W.
Suite 1030
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 466-1425
(202) 466-1498 fax

William S. Roudabush
P.O. Box 1222
Charlottesville, VA 22902
(804) 977-0205

Ulysses X. White
P.O. Box 392
Manassas, VA 22110
(703) 417-8623
(703) 368-5452 fax

VIRGINIA OFFICIALS

Governor George Allen
Virginia State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-2211
(804) 371-6351 fax

Lt. Governor Donald Beyer
Supreme Court Building
900 E. main St, 14th floor
Richmond VA 23219
(804) 786-2078
(804) 786-7514 fax

Atty. Gen. James Gilmore
900 E. Main St.
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-2071
(804) 786-1991 fax

STATE DELEGATION

Sen. Chuck Colgan
P.O. Box 1650
Manassas, VA
(703) 368-0300

Delegate Harry Parrish
8898 Bond Court
Manassas, VA 22110
(703) 368-3121

Delegate Bob Marshall
P.O. Box 421
Manassas, VA 20108
(703) 866-7177

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE TOUR GUIDE

Fredericksburg in Detail, November 1996

BY JOHN MCANAW

In the last issue of Stone Wall I wrote that our round table's tour of Fredericksburg battlefield sites, including locations off the beaten track, would be leisurely as well as informative. I believe the tour lived up to this billing. Judging by comments made by tour participants, they enjoyed the pace as well as the information – we even had time to get to know one another!

A total of 18 members participated. We departed the assembly point on Dogan Ridge at 8:04 A.M. and proceeded southwest along Hwy. 29 to Warrenton, which was the center of mass of the Army of the Potomac prior to the move to Falmouth in November 1862. South of Warrenton we picked up Hwy. 17 and proceeded to Falmouth, arriving at Chatham at 9:03 A.M., following the route of the Army of the Potomac. What follows are the sites we visited:

#1 Chatham (Lacy House) on the Stafford County side, overlooking the Rappahannock River: Campaign overview and disposition of Union and Confederate forces prior to the battle: Maj. Gen. Burnside's plans. The history of Chatham and surrounding terrain was presented by NPS Ranger Leeanne Williams.

#2 Professor Thaddeus Lowe's balloon launch site, northeast of the Phillips House (Burnside's headquarters): Developer/builder Jim Stafford conducted this segment of the tour about the site and balloon operations. He discovered the site and is working to preserve it. We were the first organized tour group to visit the site.

#3 Middle Pontoon Crossing Site, public landing, Fredericksburg: Union engineers faced little opposition: location of the Irish Brigade on Dec. 12, 1862 with unit anecdotes.

#4 Upper Pontoon Crossing Site, intersection Sophia and Hawke Street: Fierce Confederate opposition to engineers' attempts to build pontoon bridges: bombardment of the town; Union amphibious assault by 7 MI, 19 MA and 20 MA regiments: street fighting; defense by Brig. Gen. Barksdale's MS brigade.

#5 Fall Hill Estate: Left flank of Lt. Gen. Longstreet's I Corps (Brig. Gen. Cadmus Wilcox's AL brigade): key defensive terrain: tour of the 100 acre estate; mansion built 1730.

#6 Lunch: Irish Brigade Restaurant.

#7 Bernard Cabins Site: Importance of Confederate artillery (initially Davidson's nine guns), marking the right flank of Longstreet's I Corps (Maj. Gen. Hood's division) and left flank of Maj. Gen. Jackson's II Corps (Maj. Gen. A. P. Hill's division): order of battle of Jackson's corps and Union left, Grand Division (Maj. Gen. Franklin): Union attack of Dec. 13: Confederate military road #8 Prospect Hill: Anchor point of Jackson's right flank: Confederate artillery (Col. Walker's 14 guns): severity of Union artillery fire: pyramid marking left flank attack of Maj. Gen. Meade's division: Confederate military road

#9 Low ridge southwest of Hwy 17/Rte. 3 and northeast of old RF&P Railroad tracks on axis of attack by Meade's Pennsylvanians: Union and Confederate order of battle, including locations of artillery battalions and batteries; sequence of events of Dec. 12 and 13 including the rupture of A. P. Hill's lines.

#10 After returning to Fredericksburg, the group followed the route of the 2d (Irish) Brigade, as it moved forward to attack Confederates defending the Sunken Road. The group motored to the crest of Marye's Heights on the grounds of the Montfort Academy: Disposition of Longstreet's infantry and artillery units; sequence of Union attacks against Marye's Heights: Confederate actions to thwart Union attacks: Appearance of battlefield following repulse of Union units: Union and Confederate actions of Dec. 14 and

15, including Burnside's forces withdrawing across the Rappahannock; losses.

#11 Visitor Center and bookstore.

Summing up, I thank all participants for making the tour. You made it very enjoyable for the guides.

I want to thank Mark Knowles and Dan Paterson who joined me as guides. They did a superlative job. In addition to the tour itself, we conducted two day-long reconnaissances of the battlefield, measured time and distance factors, and spoke with several National Park Service historians. We also individually made visits to Fredericksburg to study specific aspects of that momentous battle of Dec. 13, 1862. Mark and Dan demonstrated considerable expertise and the willingness to make the extra efforts necessary to ensure the tour's success.

NEW TO THE ECELBARGER FAMILY

Former round table president and esteemed colleague Gary Ecelbarger is a proud father for the second time.

Matthew Journey, all 9 happy pounds, joined the Ecelbargers on the Friday before Thanksgiving. Gary is not yet lecturing his son about General Lander; at this point he's trying to persuade him to sleep through the night.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER, Maj. Gen., U.S.V. (1839-76) - His cavalry brigade sustained the highest number of casualties of any cavalry unit of the Federal army during the war: 525 killed or wounded.

6 JOHN SINGLETON MOSBY, Colonel, C.S.A. (1833-1916) - Our local hero.

26 WILLIAM NELSON PENDLETON, Brig. Gen., C.S.A. (1809-1883) - Was the nominal chief of artillery for the Army of Northern Virginia for much of the war. Was frequently mistaken for Gen. Robert E. Lee, because they were similar in looks.

BOOK SIGNING

14 Civil War Authors Gather at Clio's Bookstore Saturday, Dec. 14, 1-5 P.M.

Richard Crouch, *JOHN MOBBERLY: Loudoun's Own Civil War Guerilla Hero.*

Tom Evans & Jim Moyer: *MOSBY'S CONFEDERACY and MOSBY VIGNETTES*

Ernest Furgurson: *ASHES OF GLORY: RICHMOND AT WAR; CHANCELLORSVILLE 1863*

Kim Holien: *BATTLE AT BALL'S BLUFF*

Virgil Carrington Jones: *RANGER MOSBY; GRAY GHOSTS & REBEL RAIDERS; THE HATFIELDS & McCOYS*

Ed Longacre: *JOHN BUFORD; GEORGE PICKETT: THE CAVALRY AT GETTYSBURG*

Kenneth McAtee: *GHOSTS OF THE CONFEDERACY*
John Phillips: *THE HISTORIAN'S GUIDE TO LOUDOUN COUNTY, Vol. 1*

Bronwen & John Souter: *TO TALK IS TREASON. Waterford during the Civil War*

James Swisher: *PRINCE OF EDISTO: BRIG. GEN. MICAH JENKINS, C.S.A.*

Peggy Vogtsberger: *THE DULANYS OF WELBOURNE: A FAMILY IN MOSBY'S CONFEDERACY*

Harold Woodward: *JOHN IMBODEN; JAMES KEMPER*

Light refreshments will be served. The winner of the special drawing receives a \$50 gift certificate. Free parking available at the town parking facility one block east of the store. For information, call Jason Duberman, (703) 777-1815. The store is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11-6; Sunday, 12-5.

CLIO'S HISTORY BOOKSHOP

103 Loudoun Street, S.W.

Leesburg, Va 22075

New Year's Day with the 29th Ohio

As many round table members know, fellow member Marilyn Clark-Snyder has transcribed her great great uncle's Civil War diary. In the following passage, Lt. Col. Thomas Clark of the 29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry reflects upon the year of 1861 as his regiment journeys to Virginia.

*Camp Chase Near Columbus Ohio
Jan 1st 1862*

Another year has made its annual round & is numbered with the past __ What numberless changes have marked its course. changes that have rendered homes & hearts desolate & called many to face a most dreary future. Some noble sons of earth have fallen. but such are the fortunes of war __ Amid all the gloom which attends our present crisis in one short twelve months

*"Our Country. then with peace and plenty blest.
Destructed now by traitor's art oppression __
Sad the story of its swift decline.
Saw the unfolding of that dark design.
Which through long years. was festering in the thought
Of men to madness by ambition brought."*

there are some glimmering rays of light and hope that may well afford pleasant and profitable reflection as all greet each other with this old time worn. though friendly & ever welcome salutation of Happy New Year __ There no doubt are those who will hardly feel that this advent of the New Year brings for them any additional happiness __ There will be many vacant seats today in family gatherings. & possibly many of those unmeaning New Years Calls will be very sensibly deferred until the War is over __ The calls of real and substantial friends to those whose vacant place might be marked Gone to the War could never be more profitably or pleasantly made than now __ To those who look onward & upward beyond the present privation of loved ones absence & reflect that it is for the welfare of those who may come after us more than for our own that these present ills are to be borne it seems to me there might be a satisfaction today in summing up

one's friends however near who have buckled on the armor in defence of our free institutions & to avenge our insulted flag __ You have today but one new friend Gone to the War & whose place with you is vacant Do you not wish you had a dozen __ Come be a little patriotic & say yes __ It may be hard to loose friends upon the Battle Field __ It is so. but there must be some satisfaction to friends left behind when a shining mark over Soldier of Merit has fallen as a sacrifice in this War __ But the graves of Ellsworth. Baker. Lyon & a host of others. shall not be pointed at as unavenged or offerings made for nought __ But they were officers of high rank __ I am the soldiers friend & aware that the humblest private may have been as good a citizen. as natural a Father & as loving a companion as though wearing starred epauletts to be mourned as such in the more limited circle in which



A Christmas Dinner by Edwin Forbes

he moves is a satisfaction melancholy to be sure but for to be glorified to wasting with disuse engendered by the fashion or follies of our social life. but as it may not be my luck to get killed or worse yet, to be mourned in a very wide circle I will not pursue these reflections further ___ The changes of the year have not you see diminished our family number. although they have been considerable to our little family. sent me to the war & taken you from the school room to the nursery. & if today as you are greeted with the sound of Happy New Year you do not feel perfectly happy as a wife ___ I would hope Cleveland has no happier Mother as she fondly folds her darling child to her bosom than yourself ___ Methinks I would like to stop in about now & see your too ___ Wouldn't I then feel like exulting over our baby & a boy baby too ___ But Corrie we seem for the present to smile as you fondly bend over him. now & then getting one in return ___ If I was there too. with business flourishing. peace declared & we all three in good health a few [unreadable] & then wouldn't I be a happy Father be denied some of the blessings referred to in the ifs ___ and its all owing to the War

DECEMBER EVENTS

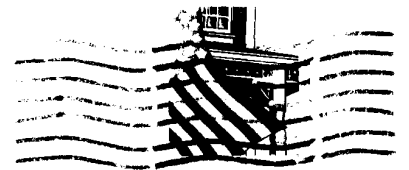
14 Open House: Annual Christmas in Camp, Fort Ward Museum, Alexandria. 1-4 P.M. The activities and traditions of a Civil War-era camp at Christmas. Special guest: Santa Claus. Children's activities, refreshments, music, tours. (703) 838-4848.

15 Irish Brigade Monument unveiling, City Dock, Fredericksburg, 10 A.M.

15 Tour of the Confederate right flank, Fredericksburg, 10 A.M. Meet at the visitor center, Lafayette Blvd.. (540) 373-6122.

15 Tour the route of the Irish Brigade to the Kirkland Memorial, Fredericksburg. noon. Meet at City Dock. (540) 373-6122.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. Box 196, Centreville VA 20122



Michael E. Duggan
5531 Winford Court
Fairfax VA 22032

exp Dec: 96