

January 1997

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Marcus Ring Considers ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

I don't think any institution in the Civil War received such a bad press as the prison camp. The most notorious was, of course, the one at Andersonville, where for a long time, thirty thousand men were herded together without any shelter except what they themselves could put together, and where the death rate was fantastically high - probably between ten and fifteen thousand Union soldiers lost their lives there. After the war, the one man who was tried and executed as a war criminal was Henry C. Wirz, the Confederate officer who was in charge of Andersonville.

The conditions at Andersonville were fully as bad as all the stories say they were.
Bruce Catton, Reflections on the Civil War

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 7:30 P.M.
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Visitor Center

Renew your membership this month.

From the Firing Line

Bull Run Civil War

Round Table

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Centreville, VA 20122

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SYMPOSIUM

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

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/BRCWRT/BRCWRTHP.HTML](http://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRCWRT/BRCWRTHP.HTML)



Greetings Members and Friends,

It's time to reenlist for ourselves and to seek new recruits from among our friends and neighbors. Each of us must know at least one other individual we'd like to share our programs, trips, and newsletters with. There's room in the Visitor Center auditorium for twice as many people each month. Please take time to invite someone to come with you.

The January speaker is Lt.Col. Marcus Ring whose a slide presentation on Andersonville some of you have already seen and recommended. We're looking forward to his presentation.

Glen Hicks promised us a provocative program on Longstreet last month and indeed he delivered one. We feel that it is only fair to seek an opposing view to deliver a rebuttal in the future. From your questions, which could have gone on past midnight, and from the debates which have followed, he certainly stirred up the pot.

Congratulations to Round Table member Amanda Creekman and her team from W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax County. They won the December 28 game of "It's Academic" hosted by Mac McGarry on channel 4. That means they'll be back in the spring for the championship rounds!

Just when everything at Manassas Battlefield National Park looked like it would move forward constructively with new management formulating an updated General Management Plan and with a new Friends group providing additional support and, hopefully, funds, the assault begins. The attack is on four fronts. The route for the Western Transportation Corridor which was identified for further study would pass between Conway Robinson State Forest and the Battlefield Park. A Canadian firm by the name of Opus is planning a shopping mall on Rt. 234 wedged between Rt. 66 and the park. Then there are those who are campaigning to widen the intersection at the Stone House with turn lanes. And finally there is the VDOT Rt. 29 study which proposes a highway route across Stony Ridge. 1997 promises to be a busy year for local preservationists.

Best wishes for the coming year, yours faithfully,
Martha Hendley

Preservation

By John McAnaw

Update on Stone House Intersection

In the last issue of the *Stone Wall* I wrote that the proposed construction of left turn lanes at the Stone House intersection (U.S. Highway 29/County Road 234) was under study by the Federal Highway Administration.

Since then rumors have been rampant that U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf would, when Congress convenes the second week of January 1997, sponsor legislation keyed to the authorization/appropriation of Federal funds for this construction project.

In the past, Rep. Wolf has supported initiatives regarding the preservation of Civil War sites. For example, he recently led the successful effort to establish the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historical District in the Northern Shenandoah. Enabling legislation for this was included in an omnibus public lands bill (H. R. 4236) which cleared the house on Sept. 28 and was approved by the Senate on Oct. 3. Subsequently the president signed the authorization bill into law.

On Jan. 2 I spoke via telephone with Rep. Wolf's concerned staffer, Will Moschella, on whether the

congressman planned to introduce or support legislation designed to provide Federal dollars to construct turn lanes at the Stone House intersection. I covered, inter alia, the objectives of the legislative taking by the U. S. Congress of the William Center Tract on the Manassas Battlefield in 1988. One of these objectives was to markedly reduce motorized traffic through the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Congress mandated a study to be completed within one year of the passage of the Williams Center-related legislation to look at alternate routes for U.S. Hwy. 29 around the battlefield. Apparently this study was not initiated, much less completed. Obviously the construction of turn lanes at the Stone House intersection would draw *more* motorized traffic through the battlefield, not less; thus it would not be consonant with the intent of Congressional legislation signed into law in 1988.

Mr. Moschella advised me that he had *no knowledge* of any proposed legislation that would authorize/appropriate Federal funds for turn lane construction at the Stone House intersection. Further, he stated that he would discuss the matter with two other staffers in Wolf's office who handle transportation issues, and that he would get back to me.

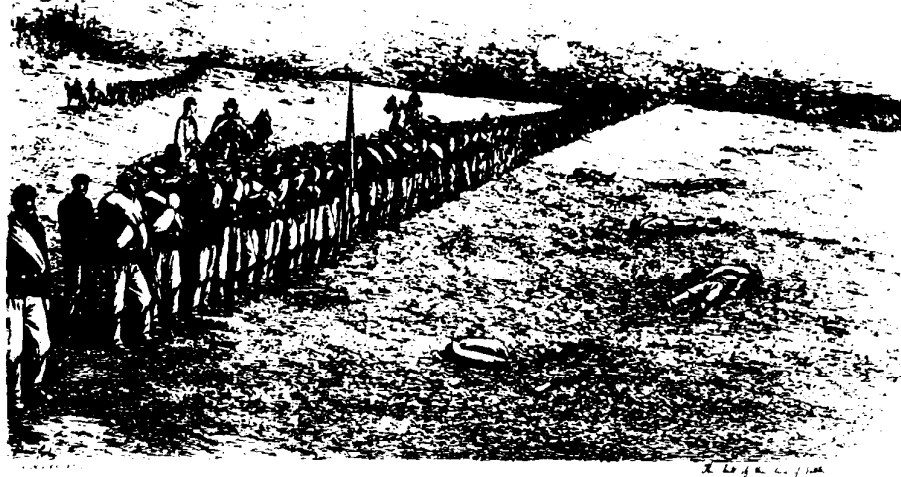
I suggest that all members who are concerned about the preservation of

the Manassas National Battlefield Park to contact the offices of concerned elected officials, including Rep. Wolf. Voice your objections to:

1. Construction of turn lanes at Stone House intersection; and
2. Construction of currently proposed routes adjacent to the battlefield for the Western Transportation Corridor, which has been discussed at length in recent newsletters

Remember that the price of battlefield preservation is eternal vigilance and timely action. There is a very fundamental issue at stake. And that is who controls our government at the local, county, state and Federal level: Do our elected officials represent "We the people" or do they primarily represent special interests

Top 50 Civil War Sites



Each year the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service publishes a list of its "Priority I Civil War Sites." Over 50 Civil War sites are on this list, which reflects (in terms of preservation) what the ABPP has determined to be the focus of its preservation efforts. The fall issue of the Battlefield Update, the newsletter of the ABPP, listed the following locations:

ALABAMA
Mobile Bay (Forts
Morgan & Gaines)

ARKANSAS
Prairie Grove

GEORGIA
Allatoona
Chickamauga
Kennesaw Mountain
Ringgold Gap

KENTUCKY
Mill Springs
Perryville

LOUISIANA
Port Hudson

MARYLAND
Antietam
Monocacy
South Mountain

MISSISSIPPI
Brices Cross Roads
Chickasaw Bayou
Corinth
Port Gibson
Raymond
Vicksburg

MISSOURI
Fort Davidson
Newtonia

NEW MEXICO
Glorieta Pass

NORTH CAROLINA
Bentonville

OKLAHOMA
Honey Springs

PENNSYLVANIA
Gettysburg

SOUTH CAROLINA
Secessionville

TENNESSEE
Chattanooga
Fort Donelson
Spring Hill

VIRGINIA
Boydton Plank Road
Brandy Station
Bristoe Station
Cedar Creek
Chaffin's Farm/New
Market Heights
Chancellorsville
Cold Harbor
Second Deep Bottom
Fisher's Hill
Gaines Mill
Glendale
First Kernstown
Malvern Hill

Second Manassas
Mine Run
North Anna
Petersburg
Spotsylvania Court
House
White Oak Road
Wilderness

WEST VIRGINIA
Harpers Ferry
Rich Mountain

And Whatever Happened to EPPA HUNTON, C.S.A.?

By John McAnaw

Undoubtedly many of you have already read something in the newspapers on the disappearance of Eppa Hunton. First, let me address the identity of this missing individual.

Do you remember who led members of the 8th Virginia Infantry Regt. When, accompanied by men of the 18th Virginia, they made the decisive charge on Henry House Hill during the Battle of First Manassas? It was none other than this Col. Eppa Hunton.

A Short Biographical Sketch

This native of Fauquier County was commended for his outstanding performance at that battle. Eppa Hunton ably led the 8th Virginia in numerous battles, including Gettysburg, where he was wounded. Poor health delayed his promotion to brigadier general until Aug. 9, 1863. In March 1865 he distinguished himself at Five Forks. Later he was captured at Saylor's Creek.

Prior to the War of Secession, Hunton practiced law in Prince William County following his admittance to the bar in 1843. He later became the county's Commonwealth Attorney. After the war, he settled in Warrenton where he resumed his law practice. From 1873 to 1881 he served in the U. S. House of Representatives. And from 1892 to 1895 he served in the U. S. Senate.

Summing up, Eppa Hunton was a distinguished soldier, jurist and politician, a Virginian of great

distinction. After a productive life of 86 years, he died in Richmond on Oct. 11, 1908. He now rests with the thousands of his comrades-in-arms in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond; his grave is near that of President Jefferson Davis.

Current Events

Now, you may ask, if that is what happened to Eppa Hunton, why the title of this article? The title refers to the disappearance of his portrait, which formerly hung in the third floor atrium of the Prince William Courthouse. The following information was obtained from documents made available to the Historical Commission of Prince William County.

The County Clerk of Court, David C. Mabie, wrote in a letter Dec. 7, 1995, that the Hunton portrait was placed in the "Archives Division during the reorganization necessary to hang newer portraits." He further indicated that, unless he disposed of the portrait, it "will rapidly deteriorate in Archives." He related that the appraised value of the portrait was \$2500, and that a "Blair Howard is prepared to pay that amount." Mabie recommended that the proceeds of the sale go to the Prince William County Bar Association.

One of the addressees of Mabie's letter was the Honorable William D. Hamblen, Chief Judge, 31st Judicial Court. He advised Mabie in a letter dated Dec. 12, 1995, that he had "serious reservations regarding your proposal which, in its essence, involves the sale of at least quasi public property to one private party to benefit another." Judge Hamblen went on to recommend that "In my view a more appropriate disposition could be made of this portrait by hanging it on the second floor in the vicinity of the Commonwealth Attorney's Office together with other portraits of former Commonwealth Attorneys." (Please note that Judge Hamblen stated that there was indeed room on the second floor to hang the portrait.)

Documents recently available to the Historical Commission indicate that Mr. Blair D. Howard

wanted to acquire the Eppa Hunton portrait for a Mr. Richard O. Hunton of Houston, Texas. In a letter to Mabie dated Nov. 13, 1995, Howard wrote that Hunton "is a direct descendent of Eppa Hunton." Further, that "In our last conversation you had mentioned the possibility of acquiring General Hunton's portrait if a donation could be made to either the Prince William Bar Association or the Courthouse. This would be agreeable to me if you could secure permission from the Bar Association and the judges."

Without burdening you with further details, let me state that the portrait was sold at auction. The Historical Commission of Prince William County did not learn until Nov. 12, 1996 that Hunton's portrait had been sold to a private party for \$2500, with the proceeds being placed in the county's General Fund. Naturally commission members were indignant because they were not kept in the communication loop regarding plans to dispose of Hunton's portrait. Why have a Historical Commission if it is kept in the dark regarding plans by county officials to get rid of historical assets? On Nov. 12, 1996, the Historical Commission approved a motion titled "Preservation or Disposition of County Owned Property," which among other things, was designed to prevent future recurrences regarding the loss of county historical assets.

On Nov. 20, the chairman of the Historical Commission, Betty Dooley, expressed in a letter to the chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, her displeasure over the sale of Hunton's portrait without any attempt to consult the Historical Commission. She recommended the establishment "of a policy which requires the Historical Commission to review any disposition of County property which might be historic."

Further, Chairman Dooley wrote that "The Historical Commission believes that the portrait should be return[ed], and the purchase price refunded. Even if the portrait was sold in good faith, \$2500 does not compensate the County for the loss of such a historical item."

I totally concur with the recommendations of Chairman Dooley and other members of the Historical Commission. The sale of the Brig. Gen. Eppa Hunton portrait was a disgraceful action and the portrait should be reacquired by the county.

This unwise action casts discredit upon the county regarding the preservation of its historic assets. I wonder why the wise advice given by Judge Hamblen was not followed.

Lastly I ask all readers who reside in Prince William County to contact your county supervisor and express your indignation over the sale of Hunton's portrait and demand its reacquisition. The line must be drawn to protect our disappearing heritage.

Round Table Secretary Notes

The meeting of the BRCWRT executive committee was held Dec. 16 at Fairfax Government Center.

Mark Knowles, treasurer, reported that the checking account's adjusted ending balance as of 12/12/96 was \$1,946.05. A check for \$550, the profit from our symposium last October, was sent to APCWS.

January begins our membership renewal. At present we have 138 members, which includes families. In an effort to attract new members, monthly notices will be placed on community bulletin boards at libraries, visitor centers, Stuart's Hill, Manassas Museum and so forth. It was suggested that the front page of our newsletter be used.

Mark Knowles volunteered to read the instructions and follow through on incorporating the round table as a nonprofit organization.

The possibility of having another symposium was discussed. It was generally agreed it would be a good idea. John McAnaw suggested a topic: Outstanding Combat Leaders in the Civil War. Would love to hear other suggestions and ideas.

Marilyn Clark-Snyder

Marching Orders

RICHMOND

A Warm and Comfy Field Trip for January

Saturday, January 11

Our informal motto for field trips is "We're cheap and we're proud" - not "We're cold and lost in the dark..." So our January field trip will be indoors, primarily. We'll travel 100 years - ugh, 100 miles - south to Richmond, Virginia to see The Museum of the Confederacy and the White House of the Confederacy.

We're gonna stay flexible so we can match logistics with weather ("We're cheap but we're warm..."). If the weather is good, we'll explore Hollywood Cemetery. Otherwise, we'll stay indoors and probably tour the Capitol, where the Confederate Congress met for four years.

We will leave from Dogan Ridge Picnic Area parking lot on the Manassas Battlefield at 9 A.M. (Yeah, you can sleep late.) on Saturday, January 11.

Because the drive is rather long - hey, it took the Union four years to get there - we'll return at 5:30 P.M.

For more details, contact Charlie Grymes at 754-8191 (or 938-9208 during the week) or via e-mail at cgrymes@gmu.edu.

Official Report

Illuminating Sharpsburg

By Dan Paterson

The 8th annual Sharpsburg Battlefield Memorial Illumination drew thousands of people out into the night to participate in what has become a solemn ritual of remembering the soldiers who fell during the bloodiest fighting of the Civil War. Each of the 23,110 luminaries dotting the main battleground was lit in memory of a fallen soldier. Although I did not participate in the ceremony, I was a guest of Regina and Louise Clark, innkeepers of the Piper House, which had been General Longstreet's headquarters during that battle and now a bed and breakfast.

More than 500 volunteers worked from early morning of a wind-chilled day, trudging over muddy fields and grassy knolls to arrange the luminaries. Our roundtable was represented by Ann Collins and Charlie Thorpe. Our group was mentioned in the program under the list of volunteer groups.

My wife Sherry, friends from Richmond, and I watched the evening service, and a beautiful service it was. A local choir paraded out of Dunkard Church, singing as they walked to the Maryland Monument. A bagpiper played Amazing Grace. A high school band played Taps. Dennis Frye reflected on the meaning of the candles.

And then the tour. From the visitor center a long caravan of cars proceeded through the northern section of the battlefield. What an incredible sight, folks! A MUST SEE. It was breathtakingly emotional.

On another note, I also got to see the spot where Longstreet and his staff manned Miller's batteries, only 80 yards from Piper House and now in the middle of a cow pasture.

The Piper House is a great place to stay; they also have a wonderful collection of books and memorabilia about Longstreet and the Civil War. It was like staying in a museum. Sherry and I stayed in the Longstreet Room, of course, across the hall from D. H. Hill's room. Another outstanding Civil War Weekend.

From the Ranks

Richmun on the Jeems

A soldier, filled with Burbon, lay puling in the street,
From battlefield es-cap-ed, with swiftly running feet;
He'd falled from too much "strychnine," and drowned all
gallant schemes,
And got as far as possible from Richmun on the Jeems!

And one there lay beside him, his comrade in the flight:
They had been boon companions, and frequently got
tight:

And side by side they lay there, indulging maudlin
dreams,
Far from the Libby prison and Richmond on the Jeems!

One said: Old feller, tell me, what think you of this war,
Made by the boastin' rebels, our prosp'rous peace to
war?
Are Lee and Stonewall Jackson such thunderation teams,
As to keep us out of Richmun, ole Richmun on the
Jeems?

Say, do you think that Hooker - they call him "Fighten
Joe" -

Who 'fore the War Committee run down McClellan so-
Will he cross the Rappy-hannick, and carry out his
schemes,
And take us down to Richmun, upon the river Jeems?

Why, when I left old Kaintuck, just eighteen months ago,
My mam and sister Ruby both said I shouldn't go;
But, I ax'd 'em both, and Susan, to think of me in
dreams,
For, I'se bound to go to Richmun, old Richmun on the
Jeems!

You know, through tribulation, we marched on, night and
day,
Through woods, and mud, and dusty roads, and fighting
in the fray;
By smokehouses and chicken coops, and where the biler
steems,
Which cooked our hard-earned rations tow'rd Richmun
on the Jeems.

And, now we're going homeward - me and the other
scamp,
Yet far from old Kentucky, we are obleeged to tramp
And him who's out of postage stamps, there's nobody
esteems,
Een though he's been in Richmun, and seed the river
Jeems!

And then his boon companion convulsively turned o'er,
And grunting an affirmative, straightway began to snore,
Oblivious to war's alarms or love's delightful themes
Or to the fact that Richmond still stands on the Jeems.

Grow on, though "'sour apple-tree," where Jeffy is to
hang
Rejoice, ye running contrabands, for this is your chebang!
No more you'll stem tobacco, thresh wheat, or drive the
teams
Of rebels round the city - old Richmond on the Jeems.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



HOUSTON IN RECRUITS.

Membership Application

Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table runs from January to December. Unless you joined in October - December, this is the last newsletter covered by your dues.

CATEGORIES: \$15- Individual \$25- Family \$10-Student

NAME(s) _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Make check payable to Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Drop it off at the membership table at the next meeting, or mail to Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P. O. Box 196, Centreville, VA 22020.

Preserving a Unique Civil War Site

FORT HOOD

By John McAnaw

The words "Fort Hood" conjure up many memories, pleasant and otherwise, to U.S. Army veterans who endured the heat and dust of Fort Hood, Texas, plus the bountiful hospitality and charm of the "quaint" town of Killeen. Well, I would like to now discuss another Fort Hood.

In November, 1862, Confederate I Corps troops of Maj. Gen. John B. Hood's Division constructed gun emplacements along the crest of a bluff located on the right bank of the Rappahannock River, approximately four miles downstream from Fredericksburg. The purpose of the construction of these fortifications, ordered by Gen. Robert E. Lee, was to prevent upstream passage of Federal gunboats. The name given to these fortifications was Fort Hood, for an obvious reason.

During our reconnaissances in preparation for our round table's November tour of Fredericksburg, Mark Knowles, Dan Paterson and I noticed a State Highway Marker interpretive sign on Rt. 2 (Business 17) concerning Fort Hood. But after quickly checking the nearby area we concluded our unproductive search with the words "Where the hell is Fort Hood?" Now we know.

The fortifications of Fort Hood now represents the sole surviving examples of Confederate river defenses constructed during the Fredericksburg campaign. In 1994 a 5.5 acre easement, including Fort Hood, was donated to APCWS by the Massaponax Corporation and the heirs of Charles Ruffin.

Directions to Fort Hood are as follows:

1. Take Route 2 (Business 17) from Fredericksburg, and proceed approximately four miles.
2. After passing the General Motors Powertrain Plant note the Fort Hood State Historical Marker on the right side of the highway.
3. Continue on Route 2 and take the second left onto Hugh Cosner Drive. Continue on this road until you enter Cosner Park.
4. Park in the lot in front of the community center.
5. Fort Hood is located to the left of the community center. Walk down the only trail along the river's edge, cross a small stream and walk up the steep ridge. The gun pits will be right in front of you. Needless to state, leave the earthworks undisturbed.

Note: We will include a stop at Fort Hood during our next Fredericksburg tour.

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



exp 96

Michael E. Duggan
5531 Winford Court
Fairfax, VA 22032

