

# MEDICINE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Death, injury, poor health - the side effects of war that we all tend to ignore except in the most abstract of terms and statistics. In addition to the emotional and physical effects on individuals and units, they affected army organization and medical practices in ways the Union and the Confederacy never remotely considered in the spring of 1961.

Last year, our January meeting was canceled. That speaker will present an overview of war-related medical problems, unless it snows. Dr. George Hocker is a Leesburg physician who has been active in the North-South Skirmish Association for 35 years, and is also a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table.

DR. GEORGIE HOCKER

Thursday, February 13, 7:30 P.M.
Manassas National
Battlefield Park
Visitor Center

Don't Forget!

RENEW YOUR
ROUND TABLE
MEMBERSHIP

### 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

SECRETARY Marilyn Clark-Snyder 354-2427

ACTING TREASURER Mark Knowles 787-9811

AT LARGE

Charlie Grymes, Chris Custode, Dan Paterson

NEWSLETTER Karen Fojt, *Chairman*, 330-1965; Mike Duggan, Marilyn Clark-Snyder

FIELD TRIP

Chris Custode. *Chairman*, 698-7749, Mike Duggan, Gary Ecelbarger, Charlie Grymes, Mark Knowles, John P. McAnaw, Scott Patchan, Dan Paterson

PRESERVATION
John P. McAnaw, 978-3371

MEMBERSHIP Charlie Grymes, Martha Hendley, John P. McAnaw, Marilyn Clark-Snyder

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

### From the Firing Line

#### Dear Members

The cancellation of our January 'meeting is only the second time in our history. I believe, that the Bull Run Civil War Round Table has not held its regular meeting. The weather was bound to catch us sooner or later. To any who might think we were "wimps" for canceling, we apologize. However excellent or exciting our meetings may be, we just don't believe it is worth risking life, limb, or vehicle to get there. Our speaker, Col. Ring, has promised to reschedule. Andersonville is a subject that has not been presented to us before, and I know many of you were looking forward to his program.

Ironically the first meeting ever canceled was a year ago. That was to have been a presentation on Civil War medicine by Dr. Hocker. Last January not only was the weather not cooperating, but we couldn't be sure that the visitor center would be open due to the government shutdowns. Then on top of that, Dr. Hooker broke a foot. All that was just too much to overcome list year. So we will welcome Dr. Hooker at this month's meeting, well mended and hopefully on a clear, dry evening.

Much of my time lately has been spent at the General Assembly in Richmond. Delegate Marshall's resolution which would have terminated the MIS study on the Western Transportation Corridor did not get out of committee. Sen. Colgan's resolution (S.J.R. 301) which would set up a joint legislative subcommittee to review the study passed the Senate and has crossed over to the House where it will go first to the Rules Committee.

VDOT held a public meeting on the Route 29 Study on January 27. We have included a copy of their comment sheets with their questions for the public with this newsletter for your use. The route which goes over Stony Ridge which was Jackson's encampment behind the unfinished railroad is especially egregious to anyone who values the history of this region. A concurrent study on Rt. 66 has revealed that there will be excess capacity on that road on past 2020. That would seem the logical place to put the Rt. 29 traffic. If you'd like to be on the mailing list for this study or if you would like to call for information or comment, the hotline number for the Rt. 29 Study is I-800-811-4661.

It seems that all of a sudden there are preservation issues right here under our noses. We pass such information along in our newsletter knowing that many of you follow such issues and take individual action on selected items. However for the issues which impact our own neighborhood at Manassas battlefield, the executive committee is considering drawing up a resolution which would express our thoughts collectively, if we can reach a consensus on such matters. We will ask for a straw vote for formulating a position on some of these issues at the February meeting so that we will know whether to move forward with a formal resolution

As always, your obedient servant. *Martha Hendley* 

### **UPDATE**

# Manassas National Battlefield Park General Management Plan

The newsletter outlining the issues and alternatives being considered during the drafting phase of the General Management Plan is very informative. For those who have not received a copy of the newsletter, I would like to summarize in bullet format, its key points:

- Public workshops are scheduled to discuss the park's goals and preliminary alternatives at the park's visitor center: Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
- The Manassas National Battlefield Park covers 5.071 acres (see accompanying map). When established on May 10, 1940, it encompassed 1,604 acres.
- The National Park Service is in the process of preparing a new general management plan and a companion environmental impact statement for the park.
- The purpose of the Manassas National Battlefield Park is to preserve the historic landscape containing historic sites, buildings, objects, and views which contribute to the national significance of the First and Second Battles of Manassas, for the use, inspiration and benefit of the public.
- The Manassas National Battlefield Park is important to the nation for many reasons, including: The two battles were the largest fought in the Western Hemisphere up to the time each occurred. The park is one of the few Civil War battlefields that encompass the majority of the actual battlefield areas where soldiers of both armies assembled, fought and died.
- The Manassas National Battlefield Park Amendments of 1988 (p.l. 100-46) directly affect the general Management Plan. The legislative taking by the U. S. Congress of the Williams Center, an integral part of the Second Manassas Battlefield, expanded the park to 5.071 acres. This legislation also directed that the Secretary of Interior shall:
  - First cooperate with state and local governments to promote and achieve scenic preservation of views from within the park through zoning and other means determined feasible; and
  - Conduct a study, in consultation with the commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal

- Highway Administration and Prince William County, regarding the relocation of Routes 29 and 234 in, and in the vicinity of, the park.
- The new general management plan and environmental impact statement will focus on the next 15-20 years. Their purpose is to provide the basic philosophy and broad direction for long-term decisions, activities and development at the park.
- The planning phases and schedule for the general management plan is:
  - Phase I: Gather data and establish park goals, 1995 Summer 1996
  - Phase II: Develop conceptual alternatives. Summer and Fall 1996
  - Phase III: Prepare alternatives document. Winter 1996 - February 1997
  - Phase IV: Prepare draft GMP/EIS. Summer and Fall 1997
  - Phase V: Prepare final GMP/EIS plus record Record of Decision and begin implementation, Winter 1997 - Spring 1998

The General Management Plan is now in Phase III. Preliminary Alternatives have been developed:

- Alternative A: Continue current practices, with only minor changes to the park.
- Alternative B: The Two Battles of Manassas, a comprehensive understanding of each battle
- Alternative C: The Defining Moments of the Manassas battles, an understanding of the principal events

Alternative A would reflects the status quo. Alternative B presents and interprets the battles as distinct military events. Visitors would develop a thorough understanding of both battles by visiting numerous sites within the boundaries of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Restoration of the historic landscape, circa 1861-1862 (at least to some degree) would be part of this alternative.

Alternative C encourages visitors to travel to two or three sites where watershed events occurred. Interpretation of general events, along with the final results of both battles

and the larger story of the Civil War would be stressed over detailed military tactics.

Personally, I believe Alternative B is the best. However, I do not believe that the three alternatives are mutually exclusive. Much of Alternative B could be subsumed by Alternative C, if that course is adopted. I am, though, concerned that Alternative C might falter on the dangerous rocks of generalization, historical revisionism and political correctness.

Development of the GMP and companion EIS is admirable, but let us not forget that no plan is feasible unless there are the requisite resources to carry them out. That could be another battle. And we must remember that there are other matters that could affect the viability and integrity of the park. Therefore I request that at least some of your volunteer time be devoted to the preservation of the park and protection of our park from degradation by unwise transportation initiatives.

### **Shading the Truth**

The reputations of many Civil War commanders often rest on the timely and energetic actions of able subordinates. Today the public approbation accorded politicians is due to a large degree to the efforts of their staffs. Back in January, a dedicated member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, who is a contributor to a well-known Civil War periodical, found out that Rep. Frank Wolf had scheduled a meeting with Dr. Robert Sutton, the superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, and other concerned individuals, for Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. at the park's headquarters. The round table member called Rep. Wolf's office and asked a staffer if he could

attend the meeting since the agenda items included issues of great interest to round table members. That staffer's answer to his attendance request was "no."

Shortly after the meeting. I called Rep. Wolf's office and asked a staff member why our round table member had been denied permission to attend this meeting. This staffer told me that no one was denied permission to attend and that it had not been a closed meeting. Read this carefully: the staffer told me that all who showed up for the meeting were allowed to attend.

Subsequently, our round table's member again called Wolf's office and spoke to a staffer who handed public relations matters.

Reportedly, this staffer was sarcastic and demeaning in his comments.

Do you see the shading of the truth? On the one hand, a round table member was told he was not invited to the meeting. A second staffer said that everyone who showed up could attend the meeting. I am told that Kathleen Seefeldt the chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, and a newspaper reporter were not invited but showed up anyway and they did attend the meeting.

To understate the problem, at least two members of our round table are disappointed in the actions of several of Rep. Wolf's staff toward his constituents.

### February Birthdays

2 - NATHAN GEORGE EVANS, Brig. Gen., C.S.A. (1824-1868) - At First Manassas. Shanks Evans' 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade of Beauregard's Army of the Potomac manned the extreme left of the Confederate line at Stone Bridge. Detecting McDowell's turning movement, he played a key role in delaying the Federal advance until reinforcements arrived.

6 - JAMES EWELL BROWN STUART, Maj. Gen., C.S.A. (1833-1864) was the unexcelled reconnaissance

officer with a vast aptitude for intelligence reports. He twice led large cavalry operations completely around McClellan's army. Mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern.

18 - Lewis Addison Armistead, Brig Gen. (1817-1863) was supposedly dismissed from West Point for breaking a mess hall plate over the head of Jubal Early. Mortally wounded at Gettysburg, he is buried in St. Paul's Churchyard, Baltimore.

### LEFT HAND/RIGHT HAND: The Stone House Intersection

Public Law 100-46, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, directed that a study be conducted regarding the relocation of U.S. Highway 29 and State Route 234 "in and in the vicinity of the Park."

On January 27, the Virginia Department of Transportation hosted a meeting at Mountain View Elementary School in Haymarket to discussed the proposed U.S. Hwy. 29. Since it was the intent of Congress to eliminate motorized traffic along that section of U.S. Hwy. 29 running

through the battlefield park, and since VDOT has initiated efforts to discuss options for the Rt. 29 bypass, why then the high-pressure activities of Federal, State and County politicians to "improve" the Stone House intersection? Why spend scarce transportation dollars to improve this intersection when the action is in contravention to public law, and when there are also plans for a Rt. 29 bypass? I get no answer from involved individuals when I ask this question.

Are there other reasons, in addition to that of the safety factors cited, for the high pressure tactics to jam the left turn lanes down the throat of the National Park Service? I have to believe the answer is yes.

Please contact your local. State and Federal representatives and express your opposition to construction of left turn lanes at the Stone House intersection.

Senator Warner, (202) 224-2023 Rep. Wolf, (202) 225-5136 Chairman. Board of Supervisors, Seefeldt, (703) 792-4640

# More developments approved around the Manassas battlefield

Look for dramatic changes in the landscape to the north of the battlefield. Prince William County, and Loudoun County in the near future. During the week of January 26, Employees of Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. were observed conducting Phase I archeological work on a tract of land 2.4 miles north of Hwy. 29. The tract is bounded on the east by Bull Run Post Office Road and on the south by Sudley Road. The western boundary or this development will apparently spill over into Loudoun County. It is located just north of the old Cedar Crest County Club (now called Fairfax National Country Club). Appropriately enough, the development will be called Cedar Crest.

Other, already approved, developments on land north of the battlefield were discussed at the "closed/open" meeting held at park headquarters on January 13. Do you think that the expected development of these tracts may have a bearing on the illogical push for left turn lanes at the Stone House intersection and the U.S. Hwy. 29 bypass?

## **Upcoming Events**

FEB 10-11, 7:30 p.m., Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center - meeting regarding the general management plan.

MARCH 8-9, Norfolk Historical Society's Third Annual Monitor-Merrimack Engagement. Saturday, 10-5, engagements at 11, 1 and 3; Sunday 11-3, battles at 1 and 3, (804) 664-6283 (M-F, 9-3) or (804) 625-1720 (weekends).

MARCH 22, Kernstown Battlefield Association observance of Battle of Kernstown, Opequon Church.

MARCH 22-23, Five Forks Weekend, including encampment, anniversary tour of Battle Trail and Tudor Hall at Pamplin Park Civil War Site, Petersburg. (803) 861-2408.

### FROM THE RANKS

# While Food was Scarce, Maggots Were Abundant A Surgeon's Observations

The following was written by Asst. Surgeon H. S. Schell, U.S.A. after the battle at Gaines' Mill. This excerpt is found in "Civil War Medicine: Care & Comfort of the Wounded," edited by Robert E. Denney.

We camped at Gaines' Mill until June 26th, and then marched to Mechanicsville, but did not participate in the engagement. We returned to Gaines' Mill during the night, and were attacked the next day... I remained, during the falling-back of our forces from the battleground of Gaines' Mill, at a house used as a hospital, and situated very near the centre of our lines during the action. In consequence of this position, the hospital was surrounded by dead bodies of men and horses, and, together with its outhouses, was filled to overflowing with wounded. Among the cases, numbering in all one hundred and twenty, there was a large portion of very severe ones, so that nearly, if not full threefourths of them, were unable to move without assistance. These comprised four cases of fracture of the skull, ten cases of wounds of the abdomen, twenty of the chest, six of the pelvis, nine of the larger joints, and thirty-nine cases of fracture of the long bones. For five days after the engagement, we had but three assistants; scarcely enough to carry water; and, in consequence [we were] obliged to use every man who was but slightly wounded only in an arm as a nurse.

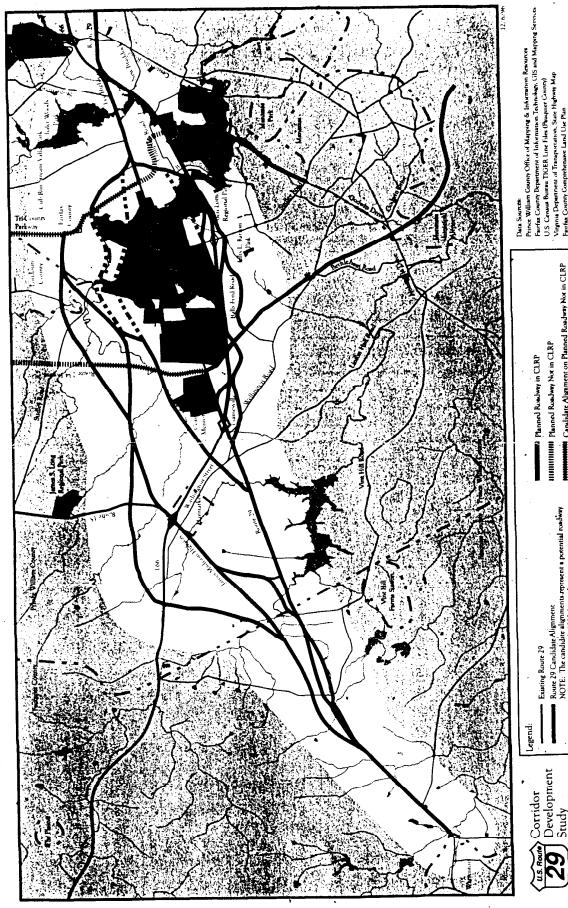
At the termination of the above-named period, we succeeded in obtaining six prisoners, who were paroled but not to escape. These men were detailed for nurses, but a more worthless half-dozen it would have been difficult to find. The ration furnished for the patient by the Confederate authorities consisted of flour and bacon, with a small proportion of beans, salt beef, and salt. The quantity was exceedingly small, and many of the poor wretches forgot the pain of their injuries in the more terrible pangs of hunger.

But while food was scarce, maggots were abundant, crowding and rolling in every wound, and searching beneath the dressings to fasten upon every excoriation. Oil of turpentine and infusion of tobacco and of the flowers of the elderberry were tried, for the purpose of getting rid of this pest; but the most effectual means was found to be dressing forceps; and to keep the wound clean, it required to be examined every two or three hours. A solution of camphor in oil is an excellent remedy, if applied directly to the bodies of the intruders, the secretions of the wound having previously been removed by a piece of sponge. It seems to me that the maggot actually does damage in a wound, although not by attacking the living tissues, but only by the annoyance created by the continual sensation of crawling and irritation which it occasions, and of which the patient often complains bitterly. In certain states of the system, the nervous excitement or irritability thus engendered must react injuriously upon the parts.

The large number of severe cases rendered some crowding necessary, although the men were kept as much in the open air as possible. The fierce rays of a July sun soon started the usual series of changes in the dead bodies of horses and half-buried men, which strewed the earth for a mile around the house. Every hot breath of wind, as it swept over the field, came saturated with the disgusting odor of putrescent animal matter. All night, when the air was quiet, it became, on this account, peculiarly oppressive.

In a few days, a feeling of languor and debility seized upon the surgeons, assistants, and patients. Every fractured leg, or other part of the body that required to be kept in one position, excoriated and sloughed wherever it touched a point of support. Many of the wounds began to look badly; typhus symptoms rapidly developed; operative cases showed little or no disposition to heal; three or four cases of pure typhus occurred, and one half of the whole number of these unfortunate men died during the month.

Route 29 Candidate Alignments



Prince William County Office of Mapping & Information Resources Fairfax County Department of Information Technology, GIS and Mapping Services Vinginia Departinenti of Transportationi, Saire Highwiy Map Fairfaa Gouint Comprehensive Land Use Plan Prince William County Comprehensive Plan ADC Map Books U.S. Census Bureau TIGER Line Files (Pauquier County)

M Candidate Alignment on Planned Roadway Not in CLRP

Route 29 Candidate Alignment Not Recommended for Further Soudy (These options were sherifiled in previous studies conducted prior to the expansion of Manasau Park and are not recommended for further study)

Route 29 Candidate Alignment
NOTE: The candidate alignments represent a potential roadway

Existing Route 29

corridor approximately 1000 feet wide.

\$ \$4

Study

IIIIIIIIIIIIII Planned Roadway Nox in CLRP 2 Planned Roadway in CLRP

### Route 29 Corridor Development Study Warrenton to Centreville Comments, Questions, Suggestions

This is your opportunity to be heard - Before any decisions have been made.

- What do you think should be done with Route 29?
- Is there a need to relocate Route 29 out of Manassas National Battlefield Park?
- Is there a need to upgrade Route 29 west of the park?
- What alignment options do you prefer?
- Are there other alignment options that should be considered?
- What are your primary concerns about alternative locations for Route 29?

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Route 29 Corridor Development Study c/o MMA 814 King Street, Suite 400 Alexandria, VA 22314 PLACE STAMP HERE

# BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



# 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      |                  |              |                           |
|             |                  |              | ZIP                       |
| TELEPHONE   |                  |              |                           |
|             |                  |              | 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.

### WE ARE IN FOR IT!

Boy are we! Gary Ecclbarger's book about the Battle of Kernstown will be published this spring (hopefully before our April meeting, when he is scheduled to speak).

He frequently mentions how much this book is the product of our roundtable, because of the advice and work members of our group have put into it.

Thought you'd like a preview of some of the expert blurbs that the book is getting. Gary's pretty pleased with them, as he should be when someone like Robert Krick suggests that "This will be *the* book on Kernstown for many decades."

Gordon Rhea said that the book "deserves a place on the shelf with the handful of modern battle studies that have reinvigorated civil war literature and breathed new life into the craft of military history."

There are more. Get the book and read them. And three cheers for one of our own.

## KERNSTOWN UPDATE

Larry Duncan of the Kernstown Battlefield Association reports that the trustees have changed. Previously, the property in question was being held by F&M Bank. The Bank of Middleburg recently took over the property.

The KBA is negotating with the Bank of Middleburg and the property's beneficiaries on a price and settlement.

KBA has so far raised \$1.75 million.

March 22 is the anniversary of the battle. The organization will host an anniversary gathering at Opequon Church on that Sunday. Events have not yet been finalized. Details will be published in our March newsletter.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE P. O. Box 196 Centreville, VA 20112



Membership Form Inside! Michael E. Duggan 5531 Winford Court Fairfax VA 22032 exp Dec: 96