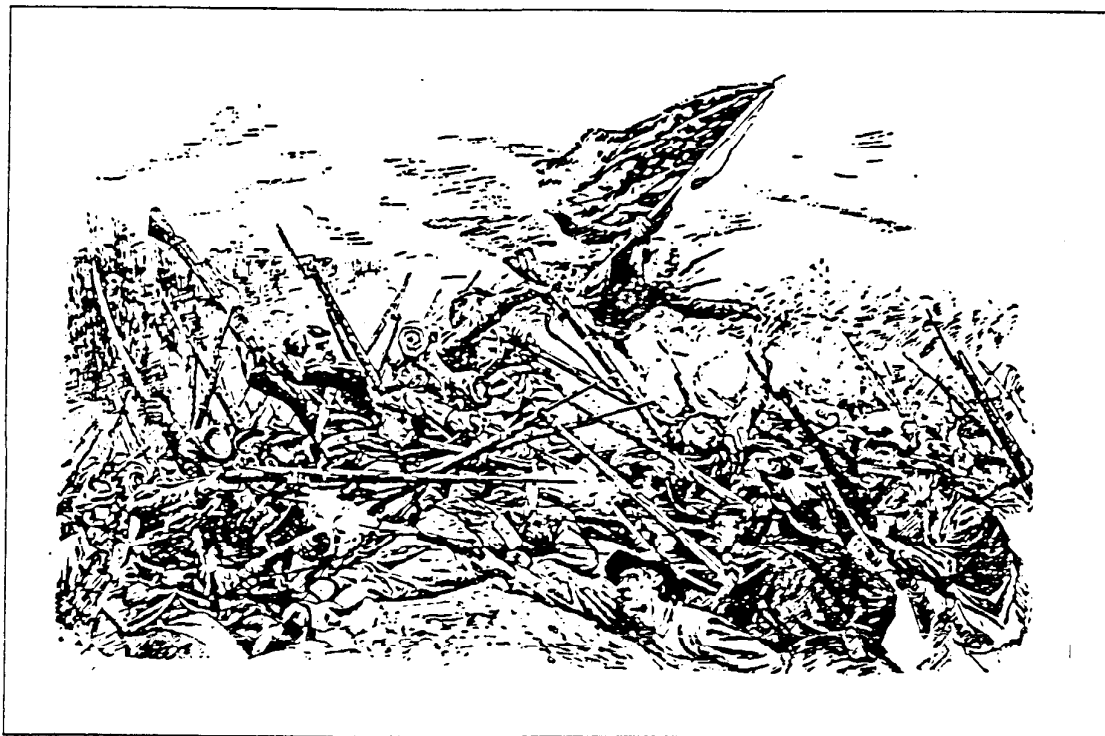


THE BATTLE FOR SPOTSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE



Bloody Angle

GORDON RHEA

“Nothing during the war has equaled the savage desperation of this struggle... and the scene of the conflict, from which I have just come, presents a spectacle of horror that curdles the blood of the boldest. The angle of the works at which Hancock entered, and for the possession of which the savage fight of the day was made, is a perfect Golgotha. In this angle of death the dead and wounded rebels lie, this morning, literally in piles - men in the agonies of death groaning beneath the dead bodies of their comrades. On an area of a few acres in rear of their position, lie not less than a thousand rebel corpses, many literally torn to by hundreds of balls, and several with bayonet thrusts through and through their bodies, pierced on the very margins of the parapet, which they were determined to retake or perish in the attempt. The one exclamation of every man who looks on the spectacle is, “God forbid that I should ever gaze upon such a sight again.” *William Swinton, New York Times, May 18, 1864*

GORDON RHEA
 Thursday, June 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
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SECRETARY
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AT LARGE
Charlie Grymes, Chris Custode, Dan
Paterson

NEWSLETTER
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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

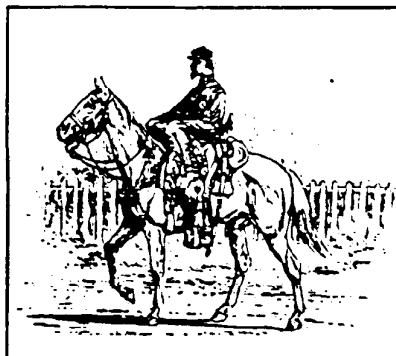
MEMBERSHIP
Charlie Grymes, Martha Hendley, John
P. McAnaw, Marilyn Clark-Snyder

SYMPOSIUM
Scott Patchan and Martha Hendley,
Co-chairmen,

The **STONE WALL** is published monthly by
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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/BRCWRTHP..HTML](http://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRC
WRT/BRCWRTHP..HTML)

From the Firing Line



Dear Members,

One year we are going to compute the number of miles that ED BEARSS puts on the carpet during a presentation. His unique style, depth of knowledge, and generosity in sharing his interest with others always make his subject memorable. Perryville in May was no exception. He enchants us each time he visits.

For June it is a pleasure to welcome back author and lawyer GORDON RHEA. Just a short year ago he illuminated us on the Wilderness and Thursday he will be following up with Spotsylvania Court House. What good timing it is that his book on Spotsylvania Court House was recently published. Such a coincidence is not always easy to arrange. Jason Duberman of Clio's History Bookshop will make a special trip to bring copies of this brand new book.

We're still holding our breath for former president GARY ECELBARGER's publication on Kernstown. But I'm told that in the publishing business, it all takes longer than you can imagine and runs according to certain rigid seasonal schedules.

June is the month for our annual ELECTIONS for officers who will take over the management of the Round Table come September. Four members appointed by the president, the newsletter editor, and the previous past-president comprise the rest of the board. The overlap in the summer allows for a smooth transition.

Since our Round Table meets in an auditorium with a monthly speaker, there is little time for our members to meet and mix other than on field trips. We'll ask you for a show of hands at the June meeting to see if there is interest from the membership in having a summer PICNIC for members and their families one evening this summer on Dogan Ridge at Manassas Battlefield.

I remain as always your obedient servant,

Martha Hendley

THE ROUNDTABLE ELECTIONS

The roundtable votes on its officers during our July meeting. This year's slate includes

PRESIDENT John McAnaw
VICE PRESIDENT Dan Paterson
SECRETARY Marilyn Clark-Snyder
TREASURER Mark Knowles

The remainder of the roundtable board consists of the year's past president, four members appointed by the president, and the newsletter editor.

SECOND EYEWITNESS TO WAR

Living History at Mount Zion Church

June 14-15, 10 - 6

Living history, candlelight tour of the church. Heretofore unmarked graves of 12 identified Civil War soldiers who died in battle there will have a formal dedication of headstones by the Veterans Administration with full military honors.

Call Harriet Condon, (540) 687-5613, or (703) 777-0343.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Jefferson Finis Davis, President C.S.A. (1831-1879) Would have preferred to have been a field commander in the army than president of the Confederacy.
21 James Brewerton Ricketts, Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. V. (1817-1887) Wounded and captured on Henry Hill while commanding an artillery battery during the first battle of Manassas. Was wounded at Cedar Creek by a bullet through the chest.
26 Abner Doubleday, Maj. Gen. U.S. V. 1819-1893 - is said to have aimed the first gun fired in defense of Fort Sumter. But he did not invent the game of baseball.

NOISE

The Bane of our Battlefields

By John McAnaw

When you walk over Northern Virginia battlefield sites in Northern Virginia, listen. You probably didn't hear the sounds of nature; the continuous roar of vehicles punctuated by industrial sounds is too loud.

During the recent Civil War Society's informative Second Manassas Campaign tour, vehicular noise was so bad at Thoroughfare Gap that, even though we were about 350 yards from I-66, we had to gather close to hear tour guide Scott Patchan. At Brawner's Farm, Gary Ecelbarger and John Hennessy were at times completely drowned out by what sounded like the testing of jet engines.

I attended a Memorial Day ceremony at Ox Hill (Chantilly) battlefield, where the noise from Monument Drive, a shopping center, Lee Highway (Hwy. 50) and West Ox was so great that it was difficult to speak to a relatively small group of attendees.

We go to battlefields to contemplate and to think. Both of these very personal actions require a calmness and a silence in our surroundings. Road noise destroys them.

JUNE EVENTS

14-15 Civil War living history and re-enactment at the Trevillian Station battlefield near Louisa Court House. (804) 589 8989.

14 Flag Day at Fort Monroe in Hampton. Soldiers in historical uniforms display flags from the Army's past. Begins at 11 am. Free. (757) 727-3207.

21-22 Civil War Artillery program at Stuart's Hill, part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. (703) 361-1339.

21 Civil War-oriented canoe trip down the Rapidan River. 9 am-5 pm. \$30. Call (540) 373-3448.

25 - 1 Anniversary commemoration of the Seven Days Battles around Richmond. Events scheduled throughout the week. (804) 226-1981.

28-29 Civil War living history, including artillery demonstrations, at Malvern Hill. Call the Richmond National Battlefield Park. (804) 226-1981.

28-29 Civil War Infantry program at Stuart's Hill on the Manassas National Battlefield Park. (703) 361-1339.

JULY

4 Fredericksburg Heritage Festival. The city celebrates its past with living history programs. (800) 678-4748.

19 Re-enactment of Jackson's march to Piedmont Station where his troops caught trains to the Manassas battlefield in 1861. Call Sky Meadows State Park (540) 592-3556

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Pamunkey River to Cold Harbor Field Trip, May 17

By *John McAnaw*

The field trip went off without a hitch despite the extended distance involved and the circuitous route followed (route instructions issued to the drivers were two pages long).

Initially the roundtable caravan followed the route of the Army of the Potomac as it tried to sidle around the right flank of the Army of Northern Virginia following the check of the Union forces at North Anna. After crossing the bridge over the Pamunkey River at the site of Nelson's Ferry, where II and VI Corps crossed, we proceeded to visit a number of historically important locations, including the following: the Summer Hill Plantation; the Hanover Town (crossing point of Sheridan's Cavalry Corps and Union V and IX Corps); Enon Methodist Church; Sites vicinity the razed Bethesda Church; Old Cold Harbor; Beulah Presbyterian Church; and numerous sites within walking distance of the Cold Harbor National Park Service shelter.

We also had the opportunity to visit with some very helpful local residents who passed on their knowledge of the battles around Cold Harbor, the units involved, and nearby fortifications. One keen-eyed and well-informed resident gave us a comprehensive briefing on the identification of small arms and artillery projectiles; we now possess some of his training aids. As anticipated, we could have spent another productive day visiting other 1864 battlefield sites in the area.

I want to personally thank Chris Custode and Dan Paterson, who joined me as tour guides. They thoroughly researched their subject material, conducted thorough reconnaissances, and gave excellent on-site presentations. Further I extend my gratitude to the ten other participants who made the tour a very enjoyable one for me personally.

I spent a considerable amount of time and gas preparing for this tour. I spoke with numerous property owners, either in person or via telephone. Invariably every individual contacted was courteous and happy to give us access to his or her property. This helpful attitude as well as the beauty of spring in the Pamunkey River Valley and the terrain south to Cold Harbor left me a very favorable opinion of the area. Our only regret was we did not have time to attend the fish fry which members of the Enon Methodist Church had invited us to. It was a long day, but it was worth it.

Marching Orders

Cross Keys & Port Republic *Saturday, June 14*

This trip will be an informative but leisurely paced tour of the Cross Key Battlefield, the village of Port Republic and the Port Republic Battlefield. Several stops will be on private property infrequently visited by other tour groups, including the battlefield home haunted by a very convincing ghost.

Assembly Point Dogan's Ridge parking lot at picnic area, on Route 234 north of the Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29 and Rt. 234)

Assembly Time 7:50 a.m.

Move Out Time 8:00 a.m.

Tour Route Detailed strip maps will be provided to all attendees.

First Stop Burger King Restaurant, just west of Elkton on U.S. Route 33.

Lunch In the village of Port Republic, at a site selected by members of the Society of Port Republic Preservationists (SPRP). Either bring your own rations or make arrangements for a box lunch.

Last Stop The Coaling on the Port Republic Battlefield, located north of Port Republic and just north of Grace Episcopal Church off U.S. Route 340.

Tour Length 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Clothing and Equipment Dress appropriate to weather conditions. Hiking shoes and water containers are recommended.

Amount of Exertion Required Light.

Coordination: Final sign up sheet will be on the Treasurer's table on June 12.

Tour Guides Mark Knowles & John McAnaw

For Information Call John McAnaw evenings, (703) 978-3371.

Box Lunch The SPRP has offered to prepare box lunches for our group for \$5 per box. If you'd like a box lunch, see Mark Knowles or John McAnaw at Thursday's meeting. Tell them which kind of sandwich you prefer and pay the charge. We can't take orders for the boxes any later than our June 12 meeting

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Eighteenth Airborne Lands in Cold Harbor

by *Chris Custode*

John McAnaw began our May 17th journey to Cold Harbor at the very overlooked Civil War battle site of University Mall, where 13 intrepid souls gathered at the remarkably preserved Roy Rogers inn for morning rations.

After two hours in our buggies and a latrine break at the equally neglected site of Burger King near King's Dominion (updated from its Civil War appearance), we arrived at the first of several stops on private land that John had arranged--a plantation owned by the same family since 1692 and used as Union headquarters during part of the Cold Harbor Campaign. Here, John handed out maps, discussed plans and background for the day, handed out maps, had the mistress of the premises graciously give us a brief history of the house and grounds, and handed out more maps. We don't know if George Washington slept there, but Generals Grant and Sheridan did.

We moved on to Hanover town, where the Union forces crossed the Pamunkey River. Here we again found ourselves on private land, and John handed out maps and mentioned for the first time that day that the Eighteenth Airborne (known in those revisionist history books as Baldy Smith's Eighteenth Corps) had been summoned by Grant to augment and support the Army of the Potomac.

Accompanied by several beagles and a herd of cattle, we explored the riverbanks, learned that Hanover town had been the capital of Virginia in the 1700s. It was difficult to imagine a town existing on that now dammed-up stretch of river, but we, along with the beagles and cows, tried our best. Of course, a map on the riverbank would have helped, but John did not hand that one out.

We met up again with Dan Paterson and his brother, who had gone gravehunting at the request of the mistress of the 1692 plantation; they were unsuccessful in finding the grave, I was sure, because they lacked the company of beagles and cows, as well as a map.

At this point I reported on the initial cavalry actions of the Campaign, including the hot and heavy seven-hour battle at Haw's Shop (or Enon Church Methodist, not Baptist), handed out a colored-in map, reminded everyone that we had been invited to the fish fry later that afternoon, and was quizzed by John about the cavalry events leading up to this point. John was very happy I'd done my homework and knew that there was another Gordon in the war (James B., the *other* Southern general, killed at Yellow Tavern).

Off to Bethesda Church. After breaking out noon rations in a telecommunications company parking lot near the Bethesda Church battle site, Dan led us through remarkably preserved and little-known breastworks and artillery redoubts behind the telecommunications company, explained the battle of Bethesda Church, and handed out maps. Our resident Longstreet descendant was thorough and balanced during his presentation, making good use of his map throughout. John reminded us again that Baldy Smith's Eighteenth Airborne had been attached to the Army of the Potomac for the Cold Harbor Campaign, referring to a map (already handed out) to show us a position.

I continued the cavalry action at the Old Cold Harbor crossroads on another piece of private land (due north, or 12 o'clock, was the second window to the left of the red door of the gray house), where I handed out two Ed Bearr maps, colored-in. During my presentation I competed with (a) the threat of rain, (b) commentary from the landlord in an old boat (we didn't think Cold Harbor was a harbor; he must

REPORTING ON COLD HARBOR continued

have known something we didn't), and (c) John's reminding us again of Baldy Smith's Eighteenth Airborne. We then moved on to Beulah Church, where I finished my cavalry presentation, referring often to the two Ed Berris maps, colored-in.

When we arrived at the Cold Harbor Shelter on National Park Service land, John spoke to a private land owner across the street, who invited us all to his place for a discussion of the history of his particular part of the battlefield and a walking tour of his land and part of his neighbor's. However, another neighbor, who is a relic hunter, brought out a bucket of Civil War-era bullets (NOT maps) and invited us to help ourselves, free of charge. After we helped ourselves to bullets, there was still hardly a dent in the bucket, perhaps because our pockets were already stuffed with maps.

We hiked the trail around the Cold Harbor Shelter which highlights the infantry events of early June, including the dreadful slaughter of Union troops in the early morning of June 3rd. As we hiked, John commented about infantry strategies, including those of Baldy Smith's Eighteenth Corps (or Airborne), referring to several maps along the way.

As it was getting late, we decided to continue the infantry action another day. John had said there was easily enough material for a two-day tour, and he still had maps to hand out. Also, because of the hour, no one except me wanted to go to the fish fry, although we had maps to get there.

Seriously, thank you again, John, for another wonderful tour.

FORWARD The North Anna Tour

Date Change: August 2

The previously scheduled July 12 tour to North Anna has been postponed to Saturday, August 2.

Mike Miller, who wrote the book, leads us. We meet at Dogan's Ridge and depart at 8 a.m. Pack your own rations for lunch.

We stop at Mt. Carmel Church, Hennigan's Redoubt, Hanover Junction, Jericho Mill, Old Ford

Although Mike leads the tour, he requests that those planning to go do some background reading beforehand so that there can be discussion and comment along the way.

WE ARE IN FOR IT With Bated Breath

Gary Ecelbarger informs me that his book, *We are in for it*, is at the printers. So we can look forward to seeing it bound and covered, instead of in draft form, at the July meeting.

Gary had wanted to see it published this winter, but now he says that the extra time allowed him to make some excellent editing changes and so was well worth it.

AT MANASSAS MUSEUM

Summer activities at the museum include:

July 5 Old Fashioned Independence Day Celebration

July 19 and 20 Civil War Weekend, along with the Ben Lomond Manor House and Manassas National Battlefield

August 2 African American History at the Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial

August 23 and 24 Civil War Weekend

The Interactive Discovery Room for children, which opened in March, will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 14, 21, 28 and July 5. Children can experience 19th century activities such as carding wool, beating a rug, playing with jacks and marbles, and viewing pictures through a stereoscope. Children can also try on reproduction clothing, design a quilt pattern, and use Discovery Boxes which allow children to guess what is inside each compartment using only their sense of touch.

Call the museum, 368-1873, for more information.

AT THE ANGLE, MAY 12, 1864

The 19th Massachusetts was driven out of the fortification along with other units of Brig. Gen. A. S. Webb's brigade and reformed "In the rear of the Landrum House and moved forward to take positions near The Angle." During the roundtable's 1996 Spotsylvania

Rain had been falling for some time and was now coming down in torrents. The storm of bullets was, however, almost as thick as the rain drops, as the regiment took its place outside of the works to the left of where the Brigade had entered them. Settling themselves in the muddy trench, the men began work, loading and firing as rapidly as possible. Some of them were too much exhausted to stand up. These sat down on the edge of the trench and loaded guns for the other men to fire. Two or three were sometimes kept busy loading guns which one man would fire. The smoke hung in a dense cloud all about as the air was too heavy to permit it to rise.

At one time during the fighting at this point Captain J. G. B. Adams struck up the inspiring song, "The Battle Cry of Freedom." It was taken up by the singers of the Nineteenth and other regiments and made to echo over the hills amid the rattle of musketry.

Once in a while the fire slackened and then broke out with renewed vigor as the rebels endeavored to retake their works. Ammunition and hard bread was brought up by pack mules and opened in the rear of the line, the men helping themselves to each.

The scene was one to be remembered. The ditch which had been dug in throwing up the works was crowded with men from different states, belonging to two or three different corps, soaked with rain, their faces so begrimed with powder as to be almost unrecognizable; some standing ankle deep in the red mud, firing, while the edge of the ditch was lined with others sitting and loading as fast as possible and munching hard bread, the crumbs of which were scattered around their smutty mouths and besprinkled their beards. The mud in the ditch was so thick and clung to the boots in such heavy masses that it was difficult to move about. The men's right shoulders were thickly plastered with it from the butts of their muskets. There was a battery in action near the Landrum house which sent shells over their heads, so near as to keep the men in mortal dread. Soon a relieving line came in and the men fell back. Just then a shell came over, struck and exploded just where they had been standing.

The rebel works were well made; on the inner side traverses were built at short intervals for protection from cross fires, - the spaces between these were called by the men "Horse-stalls." A dozen or more men could crowd into each space. The point where lay the Nineteenth marked the division between that held by the rebels and that by the Union men. Right in front of the Nineteenth were the "Horse-Stalls," each occupied by a few rebels, the thickness of the breastwork being the distance separating them from the enemy.

Waite, E.L. (Compiler), History of the Nineteenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Salem Press Co., Salem, Ma. 1906

The Manassas Summer Sounds Concert Series

The Center for the Arts begins its summer concerts on June 21. These alternating Saturday performances begin at 6:30 p.m. on the Manassas Museum lawn. These are very popular, a lot of fun, and free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, a couple of sodas and enjoy yourself.

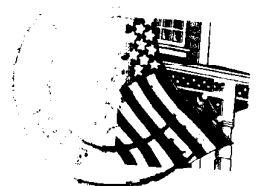
June 21 Quantico Marine Corps Band
July 5 Easy Smith and the Jazzmasters
July 19 The Stonewall Brigade Band
August 2 Andrew Roblin and the Pocono Mountain Men
August 16 National Concert Band of America
August 30 National Concert Band of America.

For more information, contact the Center for the Arts, 330-2787.

Copies of Gordon Rhea's Spotsylvania book and a few of his Wilderness book will be available for purchase and autographing prior to Thursday's meeting. Jason from Clio's Book Shop is bringing a carton of Gordon's book. Jason's read the book already and has been raving about it in his singularly enthusiastic manner.

For those of you who wondered why in last month's *Stone Wall* I chose to put a description of Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle in the introduction to the Cold Harbor field trip, I apologize. John McAnaw was generous enough to get the copy to me a whole month early to put in this newsletter. But as I was suffering from one of the oddest viruses I've ever encountered which consisted of double vision, a fever and a headache for over 10 days, I wasn't seeing the computer screen too straight. Obviously I wasn't thinking too straight either. Of course it occurred to me after I'd given the bundle of newsletters to the postman, but frankly, I was feeling too miserable to care. Now I do of course, but John has been kind enough not to take me to task, even though he did have to go and get another *From the Ranks* excerpt for me. *Karen Fojt*

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



We elect our officers
this month. See the
slate on page 3.

exp. Dec:97
Michael E. Duggan
5531 Winford Court
Fairfax, VA 22032