

## APRIL 2, 1865 Confederate Government Evacuates Richmond Federals Take Petersburg Lines

**A** change in plans for this month: The subject remains the same. But the speaker is different. When A. Wilson Greene was faced with the problem of not being able to appear at our meeting, he arranged for an excellent replacement.

Bill Lazenby is curator of Pamplin Park Civil War Site, the best funded private Civil War park. A Toronto, Ontario native, he's worked at the British Army Museum too. And now he's one of the experts planning the Museum of the Civil War Soldier, expected to open in 1999. He's bringing slides and will also talk about the abundant amount of artifacts he cares for.

**BILL LAZENBY**

Thursday, July 10  
7:30 p.m.

Manassas National  
Battlefield Park  
Visitor Center

---

### August Dog Days ROUND TABLE PICNIC Stuart Hill Contact Center Saturday, August 16, 7 p.m.

**W**e don't have much of a chance to socialize in that half hour before our group gets going. So here we have it. A couple of hours to just chatter, play games, even discuss historical topics if we're of a mind. But no agenda is planned, other than to have fun.

The grills are there. The hot dogs and buns and condiments and iced tea will be provided. The rest is potluck. Bring a dish (a salad or dessert) to share, and soda or lemonade if you wish. Also bring your own chair. The amphitheater behind the Stuart Hill Contact Center won't be finished until the autumn, but it's a great location for a party.

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/BRC  
WRT/BRCWRTHP..HTML](http://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRC<br/>WRT/BRCWRTHP..HTML)

## From the Firing Line



Dear Members,

There is a slight alteration in the arrangements for our meeting this month. A. Wilson Greene was not able to make the presentation on the Breakthrough at Petersburg and Pamplin Park Civil War Site as he is on his way to California to consult with experts in cutting-edge technology for displays. However, he arranged for Bill Lazenby the curator at Pamplin Park, to be his very able and knowledgeable substitute. Mr. Lazenby brings us the story of April 2 at Petersburg not only from the perspective of the characters and events, but also from the perspective of putting together the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier scheduled to open in 1999. The Round Table probably won't wait until that opening to make the field trip to Pamplin Park, as there is plenty to see there already at the best-funded private Civil War site in the country.

Since many of you indicated that you'd be interested in a low-key family gathering this summer, we are planning a picnic for August 16 at the future campfire/amphitheater site at the Stuart's Hill Center. The site won't be ready, but this way we get a preview of what is coming soon. Look forward to seeing you there.

We all let our newsletter editor down this month by not having our material to her in a timely fashion. We owe the newsletter committee a great deal of appreciation for their dedication in getting a mailing out month after month without a break. It's one of those things behind the scenes that makes things work and deserves a lot of thanks.

I remain as always your obedient servant,

*Martha Hendley*

## Friends To Hold Ball to Raise Funds for Manassas Battlefield Volunteer Programs

The Friends of Manassas Battlefield are planning a dinner and dance September 13 to celebrate their first year as an organization and the success of the Manassas Battlefield parks volunteer program. Proceeds will benefit the park's 1998 volunteer and living history programs. It will be held at the Best Western Battlefield Inn. Tickets are \$30. Anyone who believes the volunteer program is a great and essential part of the park is welcome.

Of course, if you can't make the ball, you can still make donations. Send a check, specifying you wish it designated for the volunteer program, to Friends of Manassas National Battlefield Park, P.O. Box 141, Catharpin, VA 20143. For information, contact Karen Fojt, 703. 330. 1965.

## After Action Report CROSS KEYS AND PORT REPUBLIC BATTLEFIELDS

*By John P. McAnaw*

**D**espite "lowering" clouds and the impending onset of rain, a small band of dedicated BRCWRT member set off sharply at 0800 hours, Saturday, June 14, from Dogan Ridge parking area to tour the Cross Keys and Port Republic Battlefields. Many of those who signed up for the tour failed to show up by departure time.

The three-car caravan traveled southwest along U.S. 29 before turning west on State Rt. 230 to the intersection of U.S. 33. As we traveled rainfall increased and fog became more prevalent. The rain increased as we wound our way west on U.S. 33 up through historic Swift Run Gap and the fog blanketed the Blue Ridge Mountain. After descending into the Shenandoah Valley we stopped at the less than historic Burger King restaurant west of Elkton. During the War of Secession Elkton was known as Conrad's Store. At that location we took a short break waiting for several round table members who were to rendezvous with us at Chez Roi Burger. But who showed up instead? None other than the indefatigable Chris Custode, who by a different route known only to inveterate Valley travelers and Turner Ashby's men, joined us at the Chez Roi. By this time the rainfall was steady but light while the fog problem had dissipated. Wispy clouds clunk like windblown angel hair caught in the trees along the forested slopes below the cloud shrouded crests of the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountain. The beauty of the scene was worthy of the talents of photographer Ansel Adams.

The caravan, now four cars, proceeded west along U.S. 33 to State 276 (the Keezletown Road) and turned left (southwest) on State 276. Time constraints prevented us from visiting Chestnut Ridge near Harrisonburg, the site of severe fighting on June 6, 1962. After crossing State 659 (Harrisonburg-Port Republic Road) we halted at the old Union Church located near the intersection of State Rts. 276 and 679. The latter road was part of the old Civil War road from Harrisonburg to Port Republic. This stop put us in the Cross Keys Battlefield when the initial fighting erupted. Following his repulse on June 8, 1862, Maj. Gen. John Fremont withdrew his forces to a line generally along the Keezletown Road, including the terrain around Union Church. Despite the light rain we assembled under the shelter of a large oak. There an overview of the latter part of Jackson's Valley Campaign was presented, along with a rundown on the oppos

## AFTER ACTION REPORT, Continued

ing leaders and forces plus the initial dispositions and fighting between Maj. Gen. R. S. Ewell's Confederates and Fremont's Federals. While at Union Church six individuals traveling three vehicles pulled in after us. This was the first of four occasions throughout the day that we bumped into them. We knew they were Civil War buffs because the license plate on the lead vehicle was *LIL SORRL*.

Our tour traveled southwest along State 679 to Route 659 and hooked left (north) on Rt. 659 to a farm road on the right (east) which led us on to private property formerly owned by Peter Svenson, the author of the excellent book on the Battle of Cross Keys, *Battlefield, Farming A Civil War Battleground*. His 40-acre spread and the adjacent property to the south, Victory Hill, now owned by the Lee-Jackson Foundation, was the site of the decisive combat of the battle of Cross Keys. There Brig. Gen. Isaac R. Trimble's brigade repulsed the Union 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of Brig. Gen. Julius Stahal and cut the 8<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Infantry Regt. to shreds. The new owners were most cooperative. After covering this phase of the fighting we returned to State 659 and turned right (north) to the intersection of Rte. 276 (Keezletown Road) and turned left (southwest). Midway between Rts. 659 and 679 we stopped at the battlefield interpretation signs on the southwest side of the road to study the topography of the battlefield and review the events of June 8, 1862. The caravan then proceeded along the Keezletown Road and turned left (southwest) again on Rt. 679 past Union Church to Route 679 (the modern Harrisonburg Port Republic road). Got you confused, right? In a nutshell we covered this section of the battlefield a second time to better familiarize ourselves with the topography and troop dispositions before heading to Port Republic. Since I had made arrangements with the Society of Port Republic Preservation (SPRP) to open the Turner Ashby House Museum for us at noon, we did not stop en route of the site of the Mill Creek Church.

We arrived at the museum in the Port just prior to noon where we found a SPRP volunteer, Steve Zapton, waiting. His tour was most informative and Mr. Zapton went out of his way to be of assistance. Heavy flood damage on ongoing renovation work in the museum did not detract from the exhibits' excellent appearance. Ashby's body was taken to this residence following his death and laid out in what is now called, you guessed

it, the Turner Ashby Room. This room depicts events around Port Republic in 1862, including Ashby's death and the battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic.

Following our museum visit and acquisition (by some members) of excellent barbecued chicken from across the road, we moved to the shelter in the nearby park along South River, owned by the United Methodist Church in Port Republic. After lunch, Mark Knowles began a series of presentations in the Port on events which transpired on June 8, 1862, including the very near capture of Maj. Gen. T. J. Jackson and his entire staff.

Following a walk along the South River we visited a number of sites including the terrain around Madison Hill (Jackson's headquarters) and the location of the famous covered bridge over the North River.

Mark then led the caravan along Jackson's forces route of early June 9 to the fiercely contested battleground on the flood plain of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River between Baugher Lane and Lewiston Lane. Mark described the combat between Jackson's forces and those of Brig. Gen. Evastus B. Tyler from several vantage points: Shadowing our route was *LIL SORRL*'s contingent of diehards. By early afternoon the rain ceased, raising everyone's enjoyment. The weather steadily improved as the day progressed. Mark Knowles also covered the probable location where Brig. Gen. Richard Tyler's superb Louisiana Brigade, minus the 8<sup>th</sup> La., split off from Jackson's column. We also crossed the South Fork and viewed the battlefield from the high ground north of the river near the antebellum mansion, Bogota.

The final stops of the tour were of the critical terrain feature of the Port Republic battlefield, the toe of a low ridge called "The Coaling" which dominated the low ground to the northwest and west.

Events surrounding the vicious combat at The Coaling and its eventual capture by the Louisiana Brigade, assisted to some extent by Virginia regiments, were covered in some detail. Courtesy of the owners the beautiful home on the top of The Coaling, Bill and Jean O'Brien, we were given access to their property. They were not home when we visited and, thankfully, their huge mastiff watch dog was locked inside. The windows of the first floor literally rattled whenever he let go with a bark. We toured their property prior to a final wrap up of the battles of Cross



Keys and Port Republic, plus an assessment of the overall impact of Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign.

The owners left material for us concerning the haunting of their home which was built in 1886 by Gen. Samuel H. Lewis as a summer house. Originally known as Lewiston, its name was changed first to Battery Hill before it became known as Mapleton. Lewis' five daughters lived there until 1956 when it was sold and converted to a Civil War museum.

In addition to the printed material, I related to the group information the O'Briens had relayed to me earlier concerning the numerous strange and unexplained events that have occurred since they bought the home. Also I passed on the stories relayed to the O'Briens by the previous owners, Larry and Linda Bowers of Harrisonburg. The identity of the ghost is believed to be Sue Lewis Durbee, one of Gen. Lewis' daughters. According to a grandson, Chuch Wynn, Sue Lewis Durbee lamented the passing of the former glory of Mapleton in a poem she wrote on a wall in her bedroom. It read, in part "Your halls are dark and quiet now, where once glad laughter rang."

Following our discussion of the Ghost of Mapleton, the group (with one exception) departed for Northern Virginia. I remained to take care of some business in Staunton and returned to the Chestnut Ridge, Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields the next day. One reason was to determine how I could have done a better job as a tour guide. Another reason was to enjoy the magnificent scenery and traverse every road in the general vicinity of the battlefields. Obviously I enjoy visiting this part of Virginia very much. The genuine hospitality of people like Mapleton's Bill and Jean O'Brien, the cheerful help of SPRP's members Barbara Moore, Wayne Smith, Anita Cumming, Ellen Kayln and Steve Zapton make this a great area to visit.

In closing I want to thank Mark Knowles for his superb performance as tour guide. As always Mark thoroughly researched his subject. My thanks also to the rain-resistant round table members who participated in the tour: Nancy Anwyll, Chris Custode, Andrewjs Lubkans, Will Masumurz, Bev Regeimbal, Fred Schmidtman.

We will be back in 1998.

## A Plug for Preserve Port

Preserve Port is the newsletter of the Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc. In several past issues of the *Stone Wall* I have mentioned their warm hospitality. During our rainy day tour of Cross Keys and Port Republic, members of SPRP again put out their welcome mat. For example, officials agreed to open the Turner Ashby House (a.k.a. Frank Kemper House) Museum for our tour.

For \$5 you and your family can be members of the society, entitling you, to quote the last edition of their newsletter, to newsletters, notification of special events, free museum admission and a fuzzy feeling knowing your helping too. *Remember the past...preserve for the future.*

Last year's late winter floods caused heavy damage to the Port, including the Turner Ashby House Museum. The SPRP needs your support. Please send a contribution to Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc. P.O. Box 82, Port Republic, Va. 24421.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7 Alfred Pleasonton, Bvt. Maj. Gen. U.S.A. (1824-1897) Replaced as head of the Army of the Potomac Cavalry Corps by Philip Sheridan.

19 RICHARD ATKINSON PRYOR, Brig. Gen. C. S. A. (1828-1919) Is said to have declined the honor of firing the first shot at Fort Sumter. Captured at Petersburg, November 1864, and exchanged by Lincoln's personal order shortly before Appomattox.

27 RANALD SLIDELL MACKENZIE, Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. V. (1840-1889). In his memoirs U.S. Grant stated, "I regarded Mackenzie as the most promising young officer in the army." Became a prominent Indian fighter after the war.

## Around Town

### Events planned for the ANNIVERSARY OF 1ST MANASSAS

The battlefield, Ben Lomond Manor House and Manassas Museum are holding living history demonstrations including cavalry, field hospital, infantry and other living history demonstrations July 19 and 20. A concert will be held at the museum 6:30 Saturday evening. Take the trolley between the locations.

### WE ARE IN FOR IT

Yup, Gary Ecelbarger's book will be released July 12, not in time for our meeting, but he'll have it at next month's meeting, and also at the August 2 field trip. In case you've forgotten, it's about the Battle of Kernstown, March 23, 1862 and has gotten some very, very nice reviews. Like Ed Bearss: "Gary Ecelbarger's book is must reading for the Civil War scholar, as well as the buff interested in Stonewall Jackson and his nationally significant Valley Campaign. Researcher Ecelbarger has consulted every conceivable source — published and manuscript — and in doing so has separated the important from the banal and chaff to tell a story that gives new insights into Stonewall Jackson's first five months as the army commander and his first battle in which he called the shots....The nineteen troop movement maps with their focus on the March 23 battle are works of art and compare with those found in John R. Bigelow's classic *The Campaign of Chancellorsville*.

## Forward to NORTH ANNA Saturday, August 2

Mike Miller, who wrote the book, leads us on a tour of the Battle of North Anna on Saturday, August 2nd.

We will 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, Ox 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. I'll have reading materials at Thursday's meeting by the sign-up sheet.

Anyone needing more information call Chris Custode, (703) 698-7749.

---

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



### SPEAKER CHANGE

Something came up and A. Wilson Greene can't make it. But Bill Lazenby can. Related subject, good talk. See front page for details.

Prince William Public Library System  
ASC/ACP Receiving - Serials  
13083 Chinn Park Drive  
Prince William, VA 22192-5073