## PENETRATING THE VOID

Confederate Strategy & Federal Response in the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863

r. Sommers, Chief Archivist-Historian and Assistant Director for Archives of the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Penn., last spoke to our Round Table in 1993. This time he will address the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863 from the perspective of the strategic concepts and options which affected the overall course of operations. His presentation will convey his analysis and interpretation while crediting the significant insights of James A. Kegel.

His publications include the critically acclaimed Richmond Redeemed: The Siege of Petersburg, which was awarded the first biennial Bell Wiley Prize as the best Civil War book in 1980 and 1981 by the National Historical Society. Recent publications by include ten articles in The Biographical Dictionary of the Union (1995); 19 articles in The Confederate General (1991-1992); and "Military Archives" in The Encyclopedia of the American Military (1994).

Dr. Sommers has filled such professional positions as graduate instructor, editorial assistant, research historian, member of the editorial advisory board for the papers of Jefferson Davis (1982 to Present), member of the board of directors, Society of Civil War Historians (1986 to present), instructor at the U.S. Army War College, plus the two positions currently held at Carlisle Barracks.

Also of note, he has been an officer in the Dr. RICHARD SOMMERS Harrisburg Civil War Round Table since 1972 filling, at one time or another, the chairs of President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and Program Chairman. In fact, he has been the Program Chairman since 1973.

Thursday, Sept. 11
7:30 rm

Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

#### Bull Run Civil War ROUND TABLE

P.O. Box 196 Centreville, VA 20122

PRESIDENT John P. McAnaw 978-3371

VICE PRESIDENT Dan Paterson 222-0727

SECRETARY Ann Collins

TREASURER
Mark Knowles
787-9811

PAST PRESIDENT Martha Hedley 754-4181

AT LARGE Michael J. Duggan, Patricia Gallagher, Scott C. Patchan

NEWSLETTER Karen Fojt, 330-1965

FIELD TRIP Scott Patchan

PRESERVATION
John P. McAnaw, 978-3371

MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY
Dan Paterson

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 PM. Web Site of the Round Table is: HTTP://OSF1.GMU.EDU/~CGRYMES/BRC WRT/BRCWRTHP..HTML

## Roundtable Donation Considered

Reading the Graffiti at Ben Lomond Manor House

sites awaiting restoration.

The Ben Lonond Manor House, which is full of graffiti left by soldiers during the Civil War was included on that tour. It is owned by the Prince William County Park Authority which, through donations in a restoration fund, has had the house stablized, an architect to draw up working plans, and a conservator

ome of you participated in the May tour of local Manassas

The efforts to restore the graffiti have brought national attention. The Smithsonian brought equipment to the house to try to enhance the writing with infrared spectroscopy. CNN recently aired a human interest story on it.

to assess the plaster.

Before further restoration can begin, the writing on the walls must be read to the fullest extent possible and documneted. This will be the beginning of the archival research that will put faces and stories to those names.

The Round Table's executive committee recently voted to donate \$250 toward that effort. Per our bylaws, we must announce the consideration of this donation twice before asking for the membership's approval. We believe this is a very worthy cause. We hope you do too.

### COMING UP - THE AUTUMN SPEAKERS

OCT. 9 Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joe Whitehorne Logistical Considerations in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864.

NOV 13 Scott Patchan Phil Sheridan: The Union's Finest Combat Leader

DEC 11 Kevin Rawlings Civil War Christmas

### MARCHING ORDERS

## CEDAR CREEK BATTLEFIELD

Saturday, September 27

**Assembly Time:** 

8:50 a.m., Saturday, 27 September 1997

**Assembly Point:** 

Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, Virginia

Chief Guide:

Scott C. Patchan

Directions:

Take I-66 West to I-81 North; Take Middletown Exit (1st one after you are on I-81; Turn left at end of ramp on to Route 627; Proceed northwest on Route 627 to U.S. 11; Turn right (northeast) on U.S. 11. The college will be on the right a short distance ahead; Meet at the flagpole; Restroom facilities available at the College.

Brown Bag in the field. Bring your own liquid refreshments.

DepartureTime:

9:00 a.m. from Lord Fairfax Community College

It takes approximately one hour to reach Lord Fairfax Community College. BRCWRT is not Notes: responsible for your transportation to, on, or during this or any other event. Drivers travel at their own risk. This tour involves Interstates, U.S. and County Routes, plus gravel roads. This Tour will be a challenging, interactive event. Participants will be encouraged to provide their opinions, views, etc.

#### **ITINERARY**

8:50 am	Assemble at Lord Fairfax Community College		Sheridan's Situation		
9:00 am	Depart College				
9:15 am	STOP#1	Hupp's Hill	Early's Situation		
10:15 am	STOP #2	Bowman's Mill Ford	Early's Attack		
11:00 am	STOP#3	128th NY Monument	XIX Corps		
11:20 am	STOP#4	Belle Grove East	Union Delaying Action		
11:40 am	STOP #5	Belle Grove West	VI Corps		
12 noon	STOP #6	Belle Grove Picnic Area	Lunch		
12:40 pm	STOP#7	Cemetery Hill	VI Corps		
1:00 pm	STOP #8	Miller's Lane	Sheridan's Attack		
1:45 pm	STOP#9	Hites/Chapel Ford	Morning/Afternoon Cavalry Actions		
2:30 pm	End of Tour				

#### RECOMMENDED READING

Lewis, Thomas, A., The Guns of Cedar Creek, Harper & Row, New York, 1988

Mahr, Theodore C., Early's Valley Campaign: The Battle of Cedar Creek, H. E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, Va., 1992 Pond, George E., The Shenandoah Valley in 1864 (Reprint), Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, N.C., 1989 Wert, Jeffrey D., From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864, South Mountain, Inc., Carlisle,

Whitehorne, Joseph W.A., The Battle of Cedar Creek, Self Guided Tour, Center of Military History, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., 1991

### PRESERVATION CORNER

# Continued THE BATTLE TO PRESERVE THE MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

#### A National Treasure

By John P. McAnaw

Last month, I addressed the disastrous impact that proposed Virginia Department of Transportation plans would have, if implemented, on the heart of the Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP), which is the vicinity the intersection of U.S. Highway 29 and Route 234 (the Manassas-Sudley Road). Plans include the construction of 333+ yard left turn lanes; the lowering of the topographic crest of Buck Hill; and, the construction of a retaining wall on cited hill. Driving this effort is one sentence inserted by Rep. Frank Wolf (D-Va.) in the 1998 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill (H.R. 2107). This report language has generated tremendous opposition by Civil War preservationists and many other patriotic Americans. Extracts of three recent articles on the issue follow:

"Friend of Civil War Battlefield Preservation", HERITAGEPAC, August 1997 by Jerry L. Russell

In late June, Rep. Wolf slipped a one-sentence addendum into the 1998 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This sentence weigh in on the side of increased traffic through Manassas National Battlefield Park, and may thwart the valiant efforts of the National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency to stop the widening of the intersection on the old Warrenton Pike at the Stone House, where Va. Routes 234 and 29 cross inside the battlefield.

The committee is concerned above the unsafe conditions of the intersection,' the bill now reads, 'and directs (emphasis added) the National Park Service to cooperate (emphasis added) with (state and federal) transportation officials to make necessary improvements (emphasis added) to the intersection.' Translated, that means, "Cave in! Roll over!"

Rep. Wolf and his backers are trying to make this a safety issue, but it's not. Local law enforcement agencies don't consider this a particularly "unsafe" intersection, but, if it were, they are other ways to build more safety into the Battlefield intersection without widening the roads. The county, the state, and Rep. Wolf are not interested in any of these alternatives.

All they want to do is accommodate local commuters and developers, filling the Battlefield with more traffic, and

delaying, if not destroying, any hope of closing those roads, as called for by the Park's management plan.

It is a question of whether national battlefield land should be sacrificed to support the urban sprawl of northern Virginia, and enrich the builders and developers at the expense of our national heritage.

Rep. Wolf is on the House Appropriations Committee, hence his ability to initiate this now-you-don't-see-it-now-you-do maneuver, which, as part of the massive Department of Interior appropriations hill, has been approved by the House and the Senate committee.

This must be stopped on the floor of the Senate, which reconvenes after Labor Day. The sinister sentence MUST be removed by the Senate."

". . .Four-laning that intersection would be BAD for the Battlefield, not--and never--good. The Park Service has stood firm on this thus far, just as they stood up to the Georgia Department of Transportation and local interests when they tried to four-lane the U.S. Highway which bisects Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield. So now Rep. Wolf is trying to coerce (bludgeon) NPS into submission."

"To the Editor," The Civil War News, September 1997, by Chuck Siegel, Stafford, Va.

Representative Frank Wolf's (R-Va.) `addendum' to the Appropriations bill `directing' the NPS to cooperate in giving up land for the widening of an historic intersection at Manassas (August <u>Civil War News</u>) is just the latest in a string of land giveaways by the federal government to appease local officials and, yes, developers.

In Virginia, the list is distressing: The widening of Rt. 3 through the Chancellorsville Battlefield in the 70s, the placing of traffic lights at Manassas and soon Chancellorsville, the trading of Longstreet Drive to a developer at the Wilderness, and now this addendum. In the coming months, do not be too shocked about plans to widen Rt. 20 through the Wilderness Battlefield and the request for turning lanes at Chancellorsville.

This chipping away of battlefield land makes it obvious that the Federal government has essentially decided that park land is expendable for road improvements or anything else it deems 'important' to the local community around it. Congress seems to have lost sight of the fact that

#### NEVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT

The fight to save cited intersection and the surrounding terrain of the MNBP if far from over. I recommend that, BRCWRT members contact members of the U.S. Senate, including those listed below, and express your views:

#### MEMBER OF CONGRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER

Senator John W. Warner	(202) 224-2023
Senator Charles S. Robb	(202) 224-4724
Senator Dale Bumpers	(202) 224-4843
Senator Jim M. Jeffords	(202) 224-5141
Senator Carl Levin	(202) 224-6221
Senator Lauch Faircloth	(202) 224-3154
Senator Trent Lott	(202) 224-6253
Senator Barbara A. Mikulsk	i (202) 224-4654
Senator Paul S. Sarbanes	(202) 224-4524

The mailing address for these and other Senators is:

The Honorable (use full name)

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

they are custodians of this property for future generations and that the land was given to the government (in some cases by veterans organizations) in good faith with the understanding that they would protect it for all time.

That Congress can toss this responsibility aside with so little regard makes me wonder if preservation organizations donating land to NPS should start putting in special language disallowing government land giveaways or the land reverts back to the preservation organization.

It is certainly not acceptable that millions of dollars are being spent to protect land outside of the NPS, only to find out that the government is quietly destroying supposedly 'saved' battlefield land! Why would we want to donate land to NPS if the Congress can order them to give it up for a highway?

It may be time to try to get a bill passes preventing National Park land from ever being given away for any reason without a two-thirds vote in both houses. It does no good to save Willis Hill at Fredericksburg (who knows, maybe 50 years from now, some congressman from Virginia may want a truck route through Willis Hill (nothing would surprise me) but lose Manassas, the Wilderness and Chancellorsville. Enough of trades, right-of-ways, and giveaways"

People in the Civil War community need to react to this. While this may seem to be a local Virginia issue, it is not local land being talked about. It is United States land. Your land.

Your congressman has the power to block Representative Wolf's attempt at giving his land away. Write them today and express your reaction to Virginia 'taking' land from the people of the United States. If you don't, do not be surprised the next time you visit Virginia and find tractor trailers racing across the historic landscape on a new battlefield parkway.

#### THE STONE HOUSE INTERSECTION...

## Why all the fuss???

By Scott C. Patchan

ometimes organizations undertake efforts to preserve historic sites without fully understanding exactly what occurred there. Struggling to protect historical ground without knowing the historic background of a site is like fighting a battle with blank cartridges. Such is the case with BRCWRT's opposition to a recent plan to widen and "improve" the Stone House intersection for 1,000 feet in all directions. We all know that the intersection is the heart of the battlefield, but do we really understand the true historic value of that site in and of itself?

On August 30, 1 862, General Robert E. Lee loosed Major General James "Old Pete" Longstreet's Confederate legions on that "miscreant" Federal General John Pope. Longstreet's troops pushed Pope's Federals back in one of the bloodiest struggles the war had seen. At length, it appeared that Longstreet's troops would capture the Stone House intersection, effectively splitting Pope's army in half. To do so would mean the loss of Pope's army as an effective fighting force. This would have been a fatal blow to Lincoln's effort to preserve the Union.

At the pinnacle of Longstreet's success. Colonel Henry "Rock" Benning"s Georgia brigade charged through the woods west of Sudley Road (Rt. 234) to within 250 yards of the Stone House. Seeing the Federals rallying upon the hills surrounding the intersection, Benning called out, "Boys, We must get them damn fellows away from yonder!" The 15th and 20th Georgia surged across Sudley Road and ascended the slopes of Henry Hill, closing in on a Federal battery. At that instant, the fate of Pope's army, and in all likelihood the existence of the U. S. as we know it today, looked doubtful.

But Brigadier General John F. Reynolds, the heroic Pennsylvanian who would lose his life at Gettysburg, watched the Georgians approach and called out to his Pennsylvania Reserves, "Now Boys! Give them the steel." Like an avalanche, the Pennsylvanians roared down the western slope of Henry Hill, driving the Georgians back across Sudley Road (Rt. 234) into the woods. Those Georgians closing in on the Stone House fell back to assist their beleaguered comrades in the woods. The Pennsylvanians charged into the woods after Benning's men, but the Georgians rallied, throwing the Federals into confusion.

Waving a bullet-riddled Pennsylvania battle flag, Reynolds galloped among his men in the cut of Sudley Road (Rt. 234), spurring them to action. Reynolds's troops regrouped behind the road embankment and opened a brisk fire on the Confederates, securing Pope's line of retreat and saving the Union from total disaster. The planned intersection "improvements" would bulldoze much of the remnants of these historical road embankments where Reynolds's Pennsylvanians sheltered themselves against the blistering fire of Benning's Georgians.

Just as General Reynolds's rose above Pope's folly to save the Union army from disaster, BRCWRT must overcome modern day "miscreants" who seek to destroy our heritage. As our friend and founder William J. Miller often said, "THIS IS OUR BATTLEFIELD." Now we must rally and save the intersection from destruction just as Robert F. Lee relieved Virginia from Pope's depredations. Informing Americans of the climactic events which occurred at the Stone House intersection is the first step in this process.

"To the Editor," The Civil War News, September 1997, by Chuck Siegel, Stafford, Va.

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## **Sharpsburg Heritage Festival**

## THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

The Sharpsburg Heritage Festival Where History Comes Alive will be held September 13-14. The town of Sharpsburg will open up Main Street to numerous activities, including living history demonstrations, plays, concerts, walking tours, lectures, and workshops. In a ceremony at noon Sunday, Sept. 14, descendants of Civil War veterans will be made honorary citizens of the town. At 3:00 p.m., the U.S. Marine Corps Band will give a concert in the town square.

The opening event for the festival is a barn dance on Friday night (12 September) at the historic Piper Farm on the Antietam Battlefield with music by The Wildcat Band.. For more information, please call: 1-800-228-STAY. According to a spokesman for the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), the sponsoring organization, the Commemoration of the Battle of Antietam will be the biggest Civil War event of the year. Organizers expect 10,000 or more reenactors to attend. The Antietam Reenactment Schedule follows:

#### Friday, Sept. 12

8 am Troops leave for Parade, Preservation March through Hagerstown

9 am Step off for Preservation March/Parade

9 am-2:30 pm School Tours Encampment Stations; U.S. Sanitary Commission; Christian Commission; Displays - Mr. Artz's Collection; Medical Museum of Frederick; Federal Cavalry Demonstration; Ladies Aid Societies; Demonstrations - Children during the Civil War, Military Drills, Camp Tours. Cavalry arrives at reenactment site after 50-mile ride through the mountains.

2:30-4 pm Troops which participated in March/Parade return and go into battle.

#### Saturday, Sept. 13

9 am Demonstrations in Civilian Camp; U.S. Sanitary Commission; Christian Commission; Displays of Mr. Artz's Collection, Medical Museum of Frederick. Ladies Aid Societies; Demonstrations-Children during the Civil War

9-11 am Dress Parade, Company, Brigade Drill

10-11 am Karen Mehaffy - "Mourning in 19th Century America" (Civilian Activities Test)

11:30 am U.S. Sanitary Commission Demonstration (Civilian Activities Tent)

12 noon Cavalry Demonstration

1 pm Clara Barton speaks on her life experiences as a nurse (Civilian Activities Tent)

3 pm A.P. Hill's Attack - Battle Scenario, Medical Demonstration immediately following the Battle

6:30 pm Civil War Wedding

8:30 pm Dance with 97th Regimental String Band

#### Sunday, Sept. 14

Dawn Probably 5:30 a.m. - The Cornfield Battle Scenario

9 am Demonstrations throughout the day in Civilian Activities Camp (see above)

10-11 am Period Church Service

11 am Temperance Rally, starting at the Civilian Camp Headquarters

11:30 am Cavalry Demonstration

1:30 pm The Sunken Road -Bloody Lane Battle Scenario

## Historical Society Open House September 13

The Centreville Historic Society holds an open house 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mt. Gilead in Centreville on Sept. 13. Mt. Gilead dates from the late 1700s when it was a tavern known as "The Sign of the Black Horse." It was also Gen. Joseph Johnston's headquarters, and Confederate earthworks are still visible on the north portion of the property.

The public is welcome to tour the grounds and learn about plans to preserve the area as a historic site. In addition an archeology site will be open and artifacts from several Centreville sites will be on display.

The House is located on Mt. Gilead Road, approximately one block from St. John's Episcopal Church.

## DEDICATION OF IRISH BRIGADE MEMORIAL AT ANTIETAM DELAYED

Unfortunately, the dedication of the longawaited monument to the Irish Brigade at Antietam will not be part of the activities scheduled for the Commemoration of the Battle of Antietam during the period 12-14 September 1997. According to Jack O'Brien, President of the Irish Cultural Society in Prince Georges County, MD, and the individual who led the effort to raise \$150,000 for the memorial, the delay is due to problems in getting the stone from the Bally Knockan Quarry near Dublin, Ireland. Two chucks of rocks, weighing a total of 20 tons, finally arrived at the Rock of Ages stoneworks in Bavve, Vt., six weeks behind schedule.

The 10 foot high monument will be emplaced near the stone observation towner on the high ground overlooking Bloody Lane. Jack O'Brien stated that the dedication has been rescheduled for Saturday, 25 October 1997.

## VISITING PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

By John P. McAnaw

In June I spent several days visiting the Petersburg National Battlefield, including the City Point Unit, the U.S. Army installation at Fort Lee; and a number of other nearby historic sites. The heat and humidity were oppressive--much like they were in June 1864 when the nine and one-half month battle for Petersburg began.

I thought to get an appreciation of some of the hardships endured by the infantrymen involved in the initial stages of the Petersburg Campaign which, by the way, lasted from 15 June 1864 to the night of 2-3 April 1865, I spent the better part of two days walking over the PNB and adjacent terrain on Fort Lee. I carried a pack weight no more than 30 pounds. As each day progressed, the pack naturally became lighter as much of the weight was in water containers. The weather conditions were much like I Corps, Republic of Vietnam, during June and July. However, I thoroughly enjoyed my time traversing the 2,460 acres comprising the Petersburg National Battlefield. I learned a great deal. One lesson relearned was to get off the beaten track and travel as much as possible on foot.

#### Other "relearned" lessons were:

- 1. Check frequently for ticks and other insects;
- 2. Maximize the early morning hours for foot travel; and
- 3. Take hourly breaks and regularly drink liquids.

Well, when it came to preventive measures against the ticks and other insects I came out with a short straw. To put it mildly, the Battlefield was tick infested.

The National Park Service staff at the Petersburg National Battlefield, including the City Point Unit, were very helpful in providing information on specific sites, units, and individuals. Also, impressive was their Living History Program. A 1998 tour of the greater Petersburg area, including City Point and Fort Lee, is under consideration.

### **UPCOMING ROUND TABLE TOUR**

## October 18 Confederate Defenses of Centreville - Union Mills - 1861-1862

Also other sites of interest including:

The Confederate Military Railroad (the first railroad ever built expressly for military purposes). Yes, sections have survived development.

Site of the first Confederate military executions.

Mount Gilead (Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Headquarters).

Confederate cantonment areas around Centreville.

Informational maps on above sites will be provided all tour participants.

For information contact John McAnaw at 978-3371. Sign-up sheets will be at the table before the meetings on Sept. 11 and Oct. 9.

Bull Run Civil War Round Table MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table runs from January to December.							
NAME							
STREET							
CITY		<del>-</del>					
STATE & ZIP							
TELEPHONE							
	ail to Mark Knowles,		it off at the memberhsip table at un Civil War Round Table, 169				

## THE U.S. ARMY QUARTERMASTER MUSEUM AND THE CARE FOR OUR DEAD

The Army's Quartermaster Museum is located at Fort Lee, VA, which is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield (PNB). In fact, there are numerous trenches, bunkers, etc. within the PNB that date not from our War of Succession but from World War I when the 80th Infantry Division and other units trained at Fort Lee. The PNB was not created until o/a 1924.

As background, in 1941 Camp Lee was designated as the principal Quartermaster training center and, in 1962, Fort Lee became the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center. It is fitting that this logistics installation is located in close proximity to City Point which provided the necessary "sinews of war" for LTG U.S. Grant to conduct his siege of Petersburg.

The primary tourist attraction at Fort Lee is the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum. This impressive facility covers the history of the Quartermaster Corps from its creation in 1775 (only two days after the establishment of the U.S. Army) to the present. At one time or another during its history, the Quartermaster Corps was responsible for every service function in the U.S. Army., i.e., food, clothing, transportation, aerial supply, petroleum products, supply and mortuary services. The Museum has exhibits on U.S. military uniforms, flags, heraldry, food service, transportation, and horse equipment.

The equestrian members of the BRCWRT will particularly enjoy those exhibits that emphasize the importance of horses (and mules) to the U.S. Army well into World War II. The saddle used by LTG U.S. Grant during the Civil War is on display. If I remember correctly about 65,000 horses and mules supported the Union Army during the Petersburg Campaign of 1864-1865.

Particularly impressive also were the exhibits concerning Quartermaster Corps responsibilities regarding mortuary services. I took the time to copy the following quote on a placard:

Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure exactly the sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals. -- William E. Gladstone, British Prime Minister between 1868 and 1894.

I pondered that quote and then though of unscrupulous land maulers, their political "water bird" pawns, and certain property owners here in Virginia who couldn't care less about the protection of the grave sites of soldiers who fought and died during the War of Secession. Prime Minister Gladstone was right on the mark.

Bull Run Civil War Round Table P.O. Box 196 Centreville VA 20122



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