

## PHIL SHERIDAN

### The Union's Finest Combat Leader

Our November guest speaker is one of our own, Scott C. Patchan. Yes, the same Scott Patchan who was president of our roundtable and who has been active in our organization since its formation. He is also a perceptive and talented historian.

Scott was born and raised in the Buckeye State. But he attended college at James Madison University, here in Virginia. He's written dozens of articles for *Civil War Magazine* and other periodicals. His first book *The Forgotten Fury: The Battle of Piedmont, Virginia* was critically acclaimed when it was published in 1996. He is a knowledgeable tour guide, having conducted many tours of the Manassas Battlefield and the Shenandoah Valley, where Sheridan gained fame in 1864. He is now historical consultant for Time-Life's *Voice of the Civil War* volume *Shenandoah 1864*. Additionally he is completing a monograph covering the fighting on Chinn Ridge during the Second Battle of Manassas.

Scott's presentation focuses on Sheridan's rise from quartermaster to the Union Army's premier combat commander, giving attention to his upbringing, education and military expertise.

"Like all apparently simple men, Phil Sheridan was in fact the product of a complex mixture of elements, not least of which was a generous, if often challenged, self-regard. And if it is true, as Samuel Johnson maintained, that one hallmark of genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains, then Sheridan in his way was a sort of genius. Far from being the apotheosis of Celtic dash that northern newspapers made him out to be, he was instead the most deliberate and careful of commanders, with an Army-wide reputation for having the best scouts - and sometimes the best spies - of any Union general in the Civil War. Not the least - one might argue the greatest - of his talents was the one he learned first as a fourteen-year-old shop clerk in central Ohio; moving merchandise and keeping records. In military parlance this is quartermastering, the careful marshalling of men and supplies."

Roy Morris, Jr. *Sheridan*, 1992

SCOTT C. PATCHAN

Thursday, Nov. 13, 1997

7:30 PM

Manassas National  
Battlefield Park  
Visitor Center

**Bull Run Civil War  
ROUND TABLE**

P.O. Box 196  
Centreville, VA 20122

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*The STONE WALL is published  
monthly by the Bull Run Civil War  
Round Table. Submissions are  
welcome. Contact Karen Fajt,  
(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://mem-  
bers.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm](http://members.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm)*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First and foremost, I am proud to announce that **Annie Snyder** was awarded the first Life Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable at our October meeting. No one has done as much as Annie to preserve the Manassas battlefields. She has been in the forefront of preservation battles for more than 20 years.

Second, I want to thank the many Roundtable members who took the time and effort to write or call members of the U.S. Congress to express their opposition to the wording of the House Interior Appropriations Bill concerning the **Stone House intersection** (U.S. Hwy. 29 and Rt. 234). While the final conference wording is not all that we wanted, it is much better than that proposed by Rep. Frank Wolf in the House version of the bill.

Despite a rain delay we were able to conduct a worthwhile tour of the Centreville-Union Mills area. I do not believe a similar tour, covering the same terrain, has ever been conducted by another tour group. It was an eye opener for those concerned about government and developer indifference to the protection of our Civil War heritage. We will run this tour again in the spring.

All members are encouraged to attend this month's meeting, when Roundtable member **Scott Patchan** speaks about Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan. Two days later, noted author and historian **Michael Miller** leads us on a tour of Civil War Alexandria. You will thoroughly enjoy this tour.

Now let me address the life blood of our organization - it's dues. It's time to pay your modest 1998 dues. We have a succession of outstanding guest speakers lined up as well as numerous worthwhile, and low cost, tours. I ask you, do your part and pay promptly.

All members are encouraged to participate in our **BRCWRT Logo Contest**. We shall receive our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status soon, allowing us to participate in fundraising activities, for example, T-shirts, souvenirs, etc. Key to financial success will be an appealing, well-designed logo. Thus, send in your design to be judged.

*John McAnaw*

## **ANNIE SNYDER Chosen as BRCWRT's First Life Member**

The redoubtable and indefatigable Annie Snyder, by unanimous vote at the Oct. 9 meeting, was selected to be the first recipient of Life Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. This honor could not have been given to a more deserving individual. For better than two decades, this distinguished former Marine has led (and I mean led) the fight to preserve the Manassas Battlefields. She was also instrumental in the preservation of such historically important battle sites as Brandy Station.

Prior to bringing up the matter of Life Membership at the 9 October meeting, I asked the 53 members in attendance to signify by a show of hands if they knew of Annie Snyder. Virtually everyone raised their hand. This, by itself, is a fine tribute to a truly amazing individual.

More than anyone, Annie is responsible for the incorporation of the Williams Center Tract of some 561 acres (including Stuart's Hill) into the Manassas National Battlefield Park back in 1988.

Like the Confederate combatants who rallied around Stonewall Jackson and his Virginians at First Manassas, Civil War preservationists have rallied around Annie Snyder on a number of occasions to save the Manassas Battlefields. She has received national recognition for her successful efforts to stave off those special interest groups dead set on destroying *our* Civil War heritage and *our* national heritage. We are proud that Annie Snyder has accepted our offer of Life Membership. She has "true grit."

## **SPEAKERS – Coming UP**

**Dec. 11** KEVIN RAWLINGS, *Civil War Christmas*

**Jan. 8** PHILIP T. TUCKER, *The South's Finest: Maj. Gen. John S. Bowen and the First Missouri Brigade, C.S.A.*

## **Roundtable LOGO CONTEST**

The BRCWRT needs a distinctive, well-designed logo to set it apart from other Civil War-oriented organizations. Once selected, this logo will be displayed on Round Table t-shirts, souvenirs, signs, membership cards, stationery, etc.

The Executive Committee of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a contest to determine the best logo submitted by a 1998 member in good standing. The deadline for submitting logo entries is Jan. 15, 1998. All members are encouraged to participate. The judging will take place on Jan. 22 1998, and the winner will be announced in the February 1998 edition of the *Stonewall*. Originality of design is emphasized. Needless to state, copyrighted designs should not be submitted.

The winner will receive:

\$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond

First pick from a selection of Civil War books

Free BRCWRT membership for CY 1999

Two reserved seats at all BRCWRT membership meetings during CY 1998

DEADLINE: Jan. 15

Logo design submissions must be either hand delivered or mailed to: Mark Knowles, Treasurer, BRCWRT, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Virginia 20164

## UPDATE ON THE STONE HOUSE INTERSECTION U.S. Highway 29 and Route 234

**T**he final Conference wording of the Interior Appropriations Bill was printed on/about 24 October 1997. The final language concerning the Stone House Intersection was designed to give the National Park Service more flexibility in addressing the roads issue.

The compromise language is as follows: *The Committee is concerned about the unsafe conditions at the intersection of Virginia State Route 29 (should read U.S. Highway 29) and 234 in the Manassas National Battlefield Park, Prince William County, Virginia, and encourages the National Park Service, consistent with applicable laws pertaining to the management of the park, to cooperate with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration officials as safety improvements to the intersection are considered.*

Please read the above carefully and contrast the wording of Rep. Frank Wolf on the subject in the House Interior Appropriations Bill as contained in the September 1997 issue of the *Stonewall*.

Due to the widespread opposition to the original wording by Civil War preservationists, including members of our Round Table, the following changes were made and incorporated into the final Conference Bill:

1. The word "encouraging" replaced the word "directing" the National Park Service to cooperate;
2. Inclusion of the phrase "consistent with applicable laws pertaining to the management of the park."

3. Change of wording to "as safety improvements to the intersection are considered" instead of a directive "to make necessary safety improvements."

No one I have spoken with is happy about the inclusion of the wording about "unsafe conditions at the intersection" because that comment is not true. However, to quote a Congressional staffer: "We've talked to the Park Service and think the revised language gives them the flexibility they need to work through."

However, I believe the issue of the Stone House intersection is far from over. So keep your guard up and your scouts out. One thing is for sure – Rep. Frank Wolf has lost the respect of many Civil War preservationists and other patriotic Americans.

Finally, I want to thank those who were active in voicing their opposition to attempts to destroy the very heart of the Manassas Battlefield including the following: Annie Snyder, Ann Collins, Boyce Cumbie, Mike Duggan, Pat Gallagher, Bob Hickey, Mark Knowles, Larry O'Brien, Scott Patchan, and Dan Paterson.

### **MORE ISTEAMONEY**

Since the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, cited Act has provided more than \$43 million for the acquisition of battlefield acreage, site interpretation, and other enhancements. Now the good news. On Oct. 1 1997, Congress passed a bill to extend the ISTEA through March 31, 1998.

## BRCWRT WALKING TOUR

# ALEXANDRIA: an occupied city

Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 AM- 3 PM

“Its streets, its docks, its warehouses, its dwellings, and its suburbs have been observed to the thousand uses of war. . .” George A. Townsend, *New York Herald*, 1863.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 15 November 1997

ASSEMBLY POINT: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Parking available.

CHIEF TOUR GUIDE: Michael Miller

LUNCH: 11:45, The Union Street Cafe, intersection of Prince and Union Streets

### STOP 1: Lyceum Museum

Following this initial stop the group will move by foot to see numerous historic Civil War sites, including a number rarely visited by Civil War buffs. Buildings that were used during the Civil War and are still standing include:

*Prince Street Prison - 222 Prince Street*

*King Street Hospital - 200 King Street*

*Mansion House General Hospital, 119-133 N. Fairfax Street*

*City Hall and Market*

*City Hotel (now Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant)*

*Provost Judge's Office - 415 Prince Street*

*Wolfe Street Hospital*

*Military Governor's Residence -209 South St. Asaph Street*

*Baptist Church Hospital*

*Christ Church Hospital*

*Methodist Episcopal Church Hospital*

*Prince Street Hospital - 836 Prince Street*

*Grace Church Hospital*

*Duke Street Prison (Slave Pen) 1315 Duke Street*

*Odd Fellows Hall Prison - 218 North Columbus Street*

*Mount Vernon Cotton Factory Prison (POW) - 515 North*

*Washington Street*

If time permits, we will follow the route taken by Col. Elmer Ellsworth and his New York Zouaves to the Marshall House on May 24, 1861.

LAST STOP: The Lyceum

### TOUR GUIDE - MICHAEL MILLER

Michael Miller is a research historian in the Office of Historic Alexandria and has been associated with the Alexandria historical community for approximately 20 years.

After earning degrees in history, political science, and international relations, Mr. Miller worked for the Federal Government before settling in Alexandria. From 1978-1980, he was the Curator of the Lee-Fendall House Museum. In 1980 he joined the staff of the Alexandria

Library. During the next 15 years, he held a number of positions before becoming a research historian at the Lloyd House. Mr. Miller is the author of 11 books on Alexandria. Since 1987, he has been responsible for the publication of the *the Fireside Sentinel*, a widely read local history journal. As President of the Alexandria Historical Society, he produced a lecture series on Alexandria's historical houses. He is also Editor of Society's journal, *Alexandria Chronicles*.

## CIVIL WAR SITES: Centreville to Union Mills

Inclement weather forced the postponement of the tour from Saturday, 18 October to 25 October. Thirty six individuals signed up to participate on the Oct. 18 tour, a BRCWRT record for a non-bus BRCWRT tour. Come the morning of Saturday, 25 October, clouds were again overhead, but a dedicated band of hard core members showed up at our assembly point at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church. After a silent prayer for dry weather, we moved out on what was an ambitious and very informative day long tour.

Sites visited included:

STOP 1. Confederate breastworks paralleling Union Mill Road. An overview was given concerning the Confederate situation from immediately after First Manassas to the early Fall of 1861 and Confederate defense lines protecting Centreville and Union Mills.

STOP 2. St. John Episcopal Church. Pat Gallagher covered the impact on Confederate and subsequent Union occupation on the village of Centreville and environs.

STOP 3. Centreville Methodist Church (Stone Church). The Church as used on three occasions as a field hospital during the war. The building is now the Traditional Anglican Church of the Ascension. Sr. Warden Thomas Pollard pointed out that the land immediately southeast and south of the church property, now for sale, undoubtedly contains the remains of many soldiers who died before, during, and after treatment.

STOP 4. Confederate fortifications east of Pickwick Road. The construction and alignment of the main Confederate defense line, running from northwest to northeast of Centreville, then south-southeast along the high ground west of Little Rocky Run to Bull Run.

STOP 5. Construction side of Route 28, where the remains of six soldiers were found and exhumed in early 1997. Pat Gallahan, who participated in the exhumation, said that the identity of these soldiers is still unknown.

STOP 6. *Terminus of the Confederate Military Railroad* and the site of the first Confederate executions of Dennis Corcoran and Michael O'Brien, Company 5, Tiger Rifles, 1st Special Battalion, LA Volunteer Infantry, on Dec. 9 1861.

STOP 7. Section of original bed of the Confederate Military Railroad, west of Route 28 and cut in railroad bed.

STOP 8. During lunch, Justin Patton of the Fairfax County Park Authority briefed us on the development at the 1,160 acre Balmoral Tract, south of Compton Road, and the Park Authority's actions to save two

Confederate fortifications. The Great Redoubt or "A" Redoubt and the Ring Fort or "Cannon Fort."

STOPS 9 & 10. The Great Redoubt and The Ring Fort. Construction of an 18-hole golf course destroyed numerous (but not all) Civil War sites.

STOPS 11-12. Civil War sites in the Balmoral area.

STOP 13. Mount Gilead (Historic Centreville). Gen. J. E. Johnston's residence during the Fall-Winter of 1861-1862. Prof. Ted McCord led a tour of the house.

STOP 14. O'Toole's Pub in Centreville.

My thanks to Pat Gallagher, Tom Pollard, Justin Patton (Fairfax County Park Authority), and Ted McCord, for joining me as guides for this tour. They did a fine job. Joining us was Nancy Anwyll, Margaret Carlson, Steve Carlson, Mark Knowles, Andrejo Lubkans, Blake Myers, Bev Regeimbal, Robert Rodeo, Chuck Siegel, and one individual whose name I have misplaced.

One of the tour's objectives was to show how much of *our* Civil War heritage has been destroyed (and still is in the process of being destroyed) in the Centreville-Union Mills area. Even the future of certain historic sites that Fairfax County residents believe have been saved are, in actuality, still in doubt. As an example I cite Mount Gilead. As recent example is the destruction of a visible and known section of the Confederate Military Railroad for a housing development. However, let me state that, despite the wholesale gutting of the historic legacy of the Centreville area, enough sites remain to make Civil War tours of the area worthwhile.

It is tragic that so much Civil War heritage of the Union Mills area (terrain bounded on the west by Bull Run; the north by Compton Road; the east by Union Mill Road; and the south by the Norfolk Southern Railroad) has been lost or is in the process of being lost forever. In conclusion, future BRCWRT preservation efforts to save Civil War sites in the areas described above are priority # 2, right behind efforts to protect *our* Manassas Battlefield.

NOTE: *Next spring we will conduct another Centreville-Union Mills tour. Please join us and assess the situation for yourself.*

## **ANTIETAM ILLUMINATION December 6**

Five more roundtable members can volunteer to place and light the candles in preparation for the Antietam National Battlefield Illumination Tour, Dec. 6, 9:30-4:30.

ASSEMBLY POINT: Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center

ASSEMBLY TIME: 9:30 AM

LUNCH: Red Byrd, Keddysville

This is an all day outing and it's liable to be cold and raw, so warm clothes are essential. A thermos of coffee or hot chocolate is advisable.

Volunteers view the park 4:30-5:15.  
Public viewing begins at 6.

CONTACT: Ann Collins at Thursday's meeting

## after action report

### **DEDICATION OF THE IRISH BRIGADE MONUMENT**

Sharpsburg, Maryland

*By Robert J. Hickey Jr.*

Ominous rain clouds did not deter 1,900 individuals (National Park Service count), many of Irish birth or descent, from attending the dedication of the Irish Brigade Monument at Bloody Lane on the Antietam Battlefield, October 25. The Irish Brigade assault at Bloody Lane on 17 September 1962 cost this renowned unit 540 casualties. The four North Carolina regiments who faced this deadly assault suffered heavy casualties as well.

The monument, the last to be permitted on the Antietam battlefield, was the inspiration of the Irish Cultural Society founded by John A. O'Brien.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archdiocese for Military Services, was the principal celebrant at the Battlefield Mass. Speakers at the dedication included: RADM Gerard J. Flannery, USN (Ret); Matthew J. Hannon, Irish Cultural Society; Lt. Col. Kenneth H. Powers, Historian, 69th Regiment, NY ARNG; Professor John F. McCormack, Irish Brigade Historian; Ron Tunison, Monument Sculptor; Edward J. Wallace, National President, Ancient Order of Hibernians; Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, USA (Ret.), Keynote Speaker; The Hon-orable Sean O'Huiginn, Irish Ambassador to the United States.

Also of note, Ms. Gloria Holt of Baltimore, MD, laid the wreath at the Irish Brigade Monument. The ten-foot-high monument, made from granite quarried in County Wicklow, Ireland, features bronze sculptures of Brig. Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher and the scene of Irish soldiers lifting the group's fallen green flag from the arms of a fallen comrade.

Colors were presented by the Color Guard of the 69th Regiment, New York, Army National Guard, and reenactors from the 28th Massachusetts Regiment, Volunteer Infantry. Music was provided by a wonderful band from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Wildcat Regimental Band (105th NY Infantry), led by P.I. Pino. Mark Ryan's Irish Pop Band led by Drum Major Frank Larkin also did an outstanding job.

The Color Guard of the Father William Corby Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Fairfax Station, Virginia, also presented colors plus a salute to another hero of the Irish Brigade on that fateful day, Father William Corby, C.S.C., Chaplain of the Irish Brigade.

Fittingly, a flock of geese flew over the monument and the assembled crowd during the ceremony. The passage of the geese brought to mind what the term "Wild Geese" means to the Irish. The "Wild Geese" were Irishmen who left Ireland; many served in foreign armies. Like the migrating geese, it was hoped that these warriors would return home.

## HEADS UP!

### Your Roundtable Subscription Is About to Expire

#### DUES

INDIVIDUAL \$15

FAMILY \$25

STUDENT (AGE 22 OR UNDER) \$10

See Mark Knowles before the meeting or mail a check to: Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Attn. Mark Knowles, Treasurer, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Va. 20164

\_\_\_\_\_  
*NAME*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*ADDRESS*

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*CITY, STATE and ZIP CODE*

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*TELEPHONE*

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*TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP & Amount*

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nov **Andrew Atkinson Humphreys**, MG USV (1810-1883)  
2 Nov **Bryan Grimes**, MG CSA (1828-1880)  
3 Nov **Jubal Anderson Early**, LTG CSA (1816-1894)  
5 Nov **Benjamin Franklin Butler**, MG USV (1818-1893)  
8 Nov **Samuel Wylie Crawford**, Bvt MG USA (1829-1892)  
8 Nov **Oliver Otis Howard**, MG USV (1830-1909)  
9 Nov **Ambrose Powell Hill**, LTG CSA (1825-1865)  
13 Nov **Joseph Hooker**, MG USV (1814-1879)  
14 Nov **James Birdseye McPherson**, MG USV (1828-1864)  
18 Nov **Franz Siegel**, MG USV (1824-1902)  
19 Nov **James Abram Garfield**, MG USV (1831-1881)  
19 Nov **Fitzhugh Lee**, MG CSA (1835-1905)  
21 Nov **Richard Brooke Garnett**, BG CSA (1817-1863)  
28 Nov **Lawrence O'Bryan Branch**, BG CSA (1820-1862)  
30 Nov **Jedediah Hotchkiss**, Engineer CSA (1828-1899)

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BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
P.O. Box 196  
Centreville, Va. 20122