

## The South's Finest The First Missouri Confederate Brigade And MajGen John S. Bowen

**O**ur guest speaker on Thursday, 8 Jan. 1998, will be the widely-known historian of war in the Western Theater, Dr. Phillip Thomas Tucker. A native of Missouri, he received his doctorate from St. Louis University and is the author of many articles on the War of Secession in the West. He is also the author of two critically acclaimed books, *The Confederacy's Fighting Chaplain, Father John B. Bannon* and, you guessed it, *The South's Finest. The First Missouri Confederate Brigade*.

Dr. Tucker spent more than 20 years researching the history of this superb fighting unit. The esteemed historian, Albert Castel, highly praised this book which tracks the brigade from its beginning as a motley group of raw volunteers through the Vicksburg Campaign. By the beginning of the siege of Vicksburg, this unit had become, to quote Dr. Castel, "one of the most fearsome and feared brigades in the entire Confederate army." The story of this little known unit and its leaders and stalwart men in the ranks is the topic of his presentation. Without question, you will find Dr. Tucker's presentation informative and stimulating.

The following are a few extracts from his book:

*The Missouri soldiers had a distinctive physical appearance which impressed many observers. Even among the hardened Rebels of the Missouri State Guard, Missouri Brigade members were viewed as being rough looking and 'a damned hard set.' Southerners wrote that the Missouri soldiers appear 'more intelligent and finer-looking, as a whole, than the men from the states further south.' Missouri Brigade members were healthier and more hardy than the average Southern soldiers. Therefore, the Missourians were more likely to survive wounds and disease, which assisted them in becoming the Confederacy's most dependable troops in the West.*

*Fueled by a fanatical desperation, the Missourians' desire to win the day at Champion's Hill (16 May 1863) almost bordered on madness. Many of the wounded soldiers refused to retire, advancing onward through the thick layers of smoke as best they could in a last gasp for victory. Hopping forward from tree to tree with make-shift bloody bandages hastily tied together, injured soldiers continue to ram minie balls down muskets and blast away.*

*Battle-toughened Colonel Riley could hardly believe 'some of the men receiving two wounds before quitting [sic] the field' and seeking medical treatment.*

PHILIP THOMAS  
TUCKER

Thursday, Jan. 8  
7:30 PM

Manassas National  
Battlefield Park  
Visitor Center

Dr. Tucker is currently the Historian for the 11th Wing,  
Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

**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 wel-  
come. 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://members.aol.com/brcwrt/  
index.htm](http://members.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm)*

## **WEATHER ALERT!**

If you have any doubt whether our meeting will be canceled due to weather conditions, call *on the date of the meeting* either

Manassas National Battlefield Park's visitor center, (703) 361-1339 between noon and 5 pm, or

John McAnaw, (703) 978-3371 between noon and 7:15 pm.

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## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**I** hope everyone had a very enjoyable holiday respite. Now get out for what I believe will be a very worthwhile 1998 for roundtable members. We have an imposing list of guest speakers plus stimulating low-cost tours lined up.

Please take the time to read the articles in this newsletter - they contain information important to all Civil War enthusiasts.

However the importance of these issues is dwarfed by Scott Patchan's article about historian and former National Park Service employee, Theodore C. Mahr. Some of you remember Ted as the author of a superb book on the Battle of Cedar Creek. He needs our help, and your generosity would be truly appreciated by Ted and his family. Any one of us can face his situation.

If you have not paid your 1998 membership dues, you are now officially in arrears. Please write your check now to cover your 1998 dues and send it to treasurer Mark Knowles. We are a low budget organization and need your support. Also, as a reminder, the deadline for submissions to our roundtable logo contest is Jan. 15.

*John McAnaw*

## **COMING UP**

**Feb. 12**

**MICHAEL E. DUGGAN**

*The Army Congressional  
Medal of Honor  
during the Civil War.*

# DISABLED CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR IN NEED!

*by Scott C. Patchan*

Ted Mahr, author of *Showdown in the Shenandoah: The Battle of Cedar Creek* has been seriously ill for almost nine years. Doctors had diagnosed him with Lyme Disease but, unfortunately, Ted is one of a small group of people who does not respond to treatment. His symptoms are similar to those described by the *Boston Globe* in a recent article on Lyme Disease. The *Globe* reported that a small number of Lyme patients experience "loss of movement similar to multiple sclerosis or major stroke."

Due to his disability, Ted has spent virtually all of the last nine years at his home on Dayton, Ohio, after coming down with the disease while working as a historian at the Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Ted also worked as a seasonal employee and intern at the Manassas National Battlefield in the 1980s. He is currently writing a book on the 1864 Cavalry Battles, including the battles of Yellow Tavern and Trevillian Station. In spite of his difficulties, he is slowly but surely plugging away with the help of family and friends.

Led by Tom's wife and mother, a group of family and friends recently pledged funds to purchase a van equipped for the disabled. When they finally located an appropriate van in their price range,

they came up \$1,000 short and had to borrow money to cover the difference. Additionally, the van purchased was previously used by a family with a disabled child and will require some modifications to accommodate an adult.

Ted is unable to work and his wife currently works six days a week to make ends meet. They live from paycheck to paycheck. Many of you know how difficult it is to get by in today's economy with two working adults. The Mahr's fall into the cracks of the so-called modern "societal safety net"--that is, in order to qualify for governmental assistance, they have even been told that they should sell his wife's car and their household appliances. It's the same old story--those who struggle to get by get no help from the government.

As the Civil War community has often raised millions of dollars to save battlefields, let us now band together to help Ted and Esther Mahr in their time of need. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks (please do not send cash) or money orders payable to Ted Mahr, write BRCWRT-Van on the memo line, and mail directly to Ted Mahr, 1210 Pritz Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45410. Thank you.

# MORE

## On the Stone House Intersection & the Western Transportation Corridor

by **John P. McAnaw**

Two articles appeared in the *Manassas Journal Messenger* Dec. 15 1997 issue and both deserve quoting.

The first was written by reporter Jim Sacco and was titled "Don't pave over American history." It is an excellent article by a patriotic American who cares about the preservation of our nation's military heritage. He praised the Department of the Interior for refusing to cave in to efforts by VDOT, certain special interest groups, and Rep. Frank Wolf to add turn lanes at the Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29 and Route 234) in the heart of the Manassas National Battlefield.

To quote Jim Sacco:

*I feel that there is no way that any sort of expansion should take place upon the Manassas National Battlefield.*

*There is a light at the intersection that clearly goes from red to yellow to green and then back again. If you have a drivers license and you are behind the wheel of your car you know that on red you stop, yellow you prepare to stop, and green you go. You know that when turning left on a green light you must yield to oncoming traffic and those behind you should know that they must be patient and wait for you to make your turn.*

So much for the scare tactics by the special interest groups concerning the intersection.

The second article is by Seth Meixner, also a *Manassas Journal Messenger* reporter, is titled "Western road gets state commission's thumbs down." The article states in part:

*The report, compiled by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of the General Assembly, found that VDOT allegedly misused the major investment study process - recently completed and approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.*

*The primary problem with the process used in this case is that VDOT has used what is intended to be a planning process to select a specific location corridor for a major highway,' the report states. 'This approach is inconsistent with the intent of the major investment study process.'*

*Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, a Washington, D.C., based development reform group, said the investment study was only supposed to identify a need for such a roadway, and not supposed to determine a location without considering alternative corridor areas."*

## Manassas National Battlefield Park Threatened by Wetlands Creation Proposals

by John P. McAnaw

**B**efore I begin, I refer the reader to the famous Civil War photographs taken in March 1862 vicinity the site of the Stone Bridge which was destroyed earlier that month by withdrawing Confederates. Please note the devastation of the tree stands on the western slope (toward the Stone House Intersection) of Bull Run. Many stumps, tree trunks and limbs are visible in the photographs. These trees were cut down by Confederates who spent the winter of 1861-1862 in the area. Thus it can be safely stated that there were many trees present in the area described when the First Battle of Manassas was fought on 21 July 1861. Now temporarily file those photographic images away.

Construction is now underway for the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum (NASM) vicinity Dulles International Airport. This facility will be built, at least in part, on wetlands. Why the Smithsonian Institution was given this exception is another story. To compensate for the lost wetlands acreage, the Smithsonian commissioned Dames & Moore to conduct a study to recommend potential "Wetland Mitigation Sites" to replace the wetlands lost at the NASM Dulles site. The draft of this study was completed in the Fall of 1997.

For the record, the address of this consulting firm is Dames & Moore, 7101 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 700, Bethesda, Md. 20814-4870, Tel. No. (301) 652-2215, Fax No.: (301) 656-8059.

To summarize this draft report, five "Potential Mitigation Properties" were selected for study. They were:

Location	Preference
Manassas Battlefield	1
Bull Run	2
Algonkian Regional Park	3
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park	4
Smithsonian Conservation & Research Center	5

Thus, once more, *our* Manassas National Battlefield Part (MNBFP), ranked #1, is under attack. But before addressing what Dames & Moore recommended for the hallowed ground comprising our battlefield, let me discuss the last choice (#5) of the Dames & Moore consultants, the Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center (CRC). It is located in Front Royal, Va. approximately 40 miles from the NASM Dulles site and outside the affected watershed area. Thus the geographic location of the CRC made it unsuitable, according to the Dames & Moore report. If an exception can be made for the Smithsonian to build on wetlands at

the NASM Dulles Center property, then why can't an exception be made to establish a wetland mitigation site at the CRC in Front Royal? Or better yet, why not restore the wetlands which once covered the Mall area in Washington, DC, around the original Smithsonian Museum?

The Dames & Moore draft report stated that roughly 20 to 25 acres of wetlands can be established at 10 wetland creation sites (WCS) within the boundaries of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. These proposals include sites within what is called the Williams Center Tract which, thanks to the efforts of many Civil War preservationists led by the redoubtable Annie Snyder, was legislatively taken (by the U.S. Congress) and added to the MNBP back in 1988.

Many battlefield preservationists, including myself, believe that the 560+ acres comprising the Williams Center Tract should be restored, as far as practicable, to its physical appearance circa 1861-1862. There is no place on this tract for artificially created, "mea culpa", wetland creation sites.

Now to the other recommended location for wetland creation that has made Civil War preservationists, veterans' organizations, naturalists, and others burning mad. You guessed it - the historic area vicinity of the Stone Bridge over Bull Run! Misinformation has been circulated by proponents of wetland creation at this site. For example, statements have been made that there were no trees in this area around the Stone Bridge at the time of the First Battle of Manassas. As pointed out at the beginning of this article, Civil War photographs taken in March 1862 prove that this is not true. Open conditions did not exist throughout this area when the battle was fought. Further the Dames & Moore report recommends a WCS in the area around the Stone Bridge where *no* wetlands existed during the Civil War!

Currently flooding and wet conditions exist near the Stone Bridge approximately 2 to 3% of the time each year. To create the proposed wetlands,

this figure will increase to at least 5% per year! This increase from 2 to 3% to 5% will kill existing vegetation, including the mature trees that add so much to the scenic beauty of the area and are so important to the ecosystem.

Actions in recent years by the Smithsonian Institution have incensed veterans' organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the American Legion. For example, do you remember the outrage expressed by Veterans concerning the proposed Enola Gay exhibit? The feeling by many veterans is that certain officials of the Smithsonian have gone out of their way to diminish the importance of our nation's military heritage and the accomplishments of the U.S. Armed Forces in its museum exhibits. Now a Smithsonian-sponsored study threatens one of the most cherished and well preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation!

Already word of these wetlands proposals is spreading among veterans' organizations. For example, the matter will be discussed at the upcoming district and state meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States here in Virginia. And based on the outstanding response of Civil War preservationists (including many from BRCWRT) regarding the Stone House Intersection (Route 234 and U.S. 29), I am confident preservationists will again respond decisively to stop the threat to the integrity of the MNBP. Please call/write your elected representatives, the Secretary of the Dept. of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and the Superintendent of MNBP to express your opposition to the wetland proposals outlined in the Dames & Moore report.

Our beloved Manassas National Battlefield Park should not be treated as an experimental playground by other agencies seeking to make amends for damage done elsewhere to our environment. No degradation of this magnificent testament to our nation's fighting men should be permitted.

## DEDICATION

### Monument to Gen. James Longstreet

The dedication of the monument to Lt. Gen. James Longstreet will take place Jan. 10 in North Augusta, S.C., not far from the Savannah River and the Georgia line.

The granite monument was erected at the birthplace of this famous Confederate general. At least 54 wreaths will be laid around its base by various organizations, including our roundtable. Longstreet's great grandson, and our vice president, Dan Paterson, will be an honored guest. The keynote speaker is noted historian, Dr. William G. Pison.

This is an impressive event. If you need directions to the dedication site, contact Dan or Karen Fojt (see their telephone numbers on page 2).

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## LOGO CONTEST

DEADLINE: Jan. 15

Winner receives \$50 savings bond, first pick from a selection of books about the Civil War, free 1999 roundtable membership, and two reserved seats at all 1998 meetings. Hand deliver or mail designs to Mark Knowles, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Va. 20164.

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## JANUARY BIRTHDATES

by Michael E. Duggan

The trivia questions at our General Membership Meeting on 8 Jan. 1998 will be on these distinguished individuals:

- 5 Jan Joseph Brevard Kershaw, MG CSA (1822-1894)
- 7 Jan Daniel Tyler, BG USV (1799-1882)
- 8 Jan James Longstreet, LTG CSA (1821-1904)
- 14 Jan Matthew Fontaine Maury, CDR CSN (1806-1873)
- 14 Jan (Hugh) Judson Kilpatrick, MG USV (1836-1881)
- 15 Jan John Cabell Breckinridge, MG CSA (1821-1875)
- 15 Jan Lafayette McLaws, MG CSA (1821-1897)
- 16 Jan Henry Wager Halleck, MG USA (1815-1872)
- 17 Jan Robert Edward Lee, GEN USA (1807-1870)
- 21 Jan Thomas Jonathan Jackson, LTG CSA (1824-1863)
- 24 Jan John Pegram, BG CSA (1832-1865)
- 27 Jan Richard Taylor, LTG CSA (1826-1879)
- 28 Jan George Edward Pickett, MG CSA (1825-1875)
- 29 Jan William McKinley, But Major USV (1843-1901)
- 30 Jan Edwin Vose Sumner, MG USV (1797-1863)
- 30 Jan Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, MG USV (1816-1894)

## 1997 Antietam Illumination

By Ann Collins

The Round Table was again represented this year by a few hearty souls who braved the cold and wind to participate in the 9th annual Antietam Illumination on December 6. Among the hearty was Bev Regeimbal, Charlie Thorpe, my 9 year old niece Lisa, Dan Paterson and his wife Sherry and their 12-year-old son Shane. After getting our field assignment (the same cow pasture as last year, still chock full of cow pies), we hooked up with the 7th MD reenactors to place the candles on the field. The 7th MD is a great group of not only guys portraying soldiers, but ladies portraying civilians including kids to the delight of Lisa. After getting all 600 candles placed approximately 15 feet apart we broke for lunch, heading to Keddysville's Red Byrd Inn for a cheap but home-cooked and warm lunch.

We then moseyed on over to the visitor's center and hooked up with the Patersons. Lisa stayed with Sherry and Shane to check out the film while the rest of us hiked on over (cars had to be parked by this time for the illumination) to the Bloody Lane to check out the new Irish Brigade monument. If you haven't seen it, its quite handsome. Its also numbing to read the high casualties they suffered on the "bloodiest day." We hiked to our cow pasture to begin the lighting at 3:00 pm. Believe it or not once finally lit (there was a LOT of wind), the candles burn for over 14 hours! We had our field lit by 4:00 but then to our shock noticed that the neighboring group had abandoned their field! Luckily we had 2 hyper kids (not to mention pyromaniacs!) who played "dodge the cow pies" and finished lighting the neighboring field. We headed to the Maryland monument and waited for the opening ceremony. Unfortunately, some not-too-bright person decided to cut through the battlefield and had a head-on collision in front of the visitor's center, which held up the ceremony 40 minutes. By now the 2 kids, myself and Sherry decided we'd forgo the speeches and get warmed up in the car. We then proceeded through the battlefield with our lights turned off. What a sight to see 23,000 candles lit knowing that each candle represents a man who died or was wounded. Dan, our intrepid photographer, took some shots of the monument and the illumination and promises to get me copies to put on the website. We headed home for a nice hot bath and a good nights sleep. Its a lot of work but well worth it to honor the men of both the blue and the gray. I'd like to thank Bev, Charlie, Dan, Sherry, Shane and Lisa and the 7th MD for helping out this year. My niece Lisa definitely wants to help next year and will no doubt remind me of it!

# Bull Run Civil War ROUND TABLE

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Family \$25      Individual \$15      Student \$10

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable runs from January to December. Make checks payable to Bull Run Civil War Roundtable. Drop it off at the membership table at the next meeting, or mail it to Mark Knowles 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Va. 20164.*

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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

P.O. Box 196 Centreville VA 20122

exp. Dec:98  
Michael E. Duggan  
5531 Winford Court  
Fairfax, VA 22032

