

# STONE WALL

MARCH 1998

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## THE STAFF RIDE

### TRAINING THE ARMY'S LEADERS

#### BG John W. Mountcastle, U.S.A.

We are honored to have as our guest speaker on 12 March, Brigadier General (BG) John W. Mountcastle. He is the Chief of Military History and Commander, U. S. Army Center of Military History, located in Washington, DC. His topic, "The Staff Ride", is one that is of great importance relative to the training of the Army's leaders.

Beginning around 1900, the U.S. Army spearheaded efforts to mark and preserve Civil War battlefields. One key reason for this initiative was to use cited battlefields and the historical routes traveled by opposing forces to these battlefields as outdoor classrooms to train the Army's leaders. This practice ended when the U.S. Army War College closed down at the outbreak of World War II. Staff rides over Civil War battlefields were reinstated by the U.S. Army War College in 1982 and continue to the present day. Other military organizations also conduct staff rides.

Staff rides on Civil War battlefields are outstanding vehicles to train students on leadership, tactics, strategy, and decision-making. In his Preface to the U. S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Gettysburg, published in 1982, then Chief of Military History, BG William A. Stofft, wrote that "Senior leaders recognize that most warfighting skills do not change radically even though the outward features of war are transformed. . . . When historical sources allow some one who fought the ground to speak to us of his battle on the spot where we stand, we all come much closer to understand the essence of war."

BG Mountcastle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the Virginia Military Institute in 1965, and began active service as an Armor officer in 1966. His military education includes numerous schools, including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He also holds both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D in History from Duke University.

During his distinguished military career, BG Mountcastle has had a wide variety of command and staff assignments. His numerous troop assignments include two combat tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. During assignments to Germany, he commanded an armor company, an armor battalion, and an armor brigade. Among other prestigious assignments, BG Mountcastle served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command, and as Director of the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Following the latter assignment, he assumed the duties of Chief of Military History in October 1994.

His decorations include the Silver Star; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; and the Army Commendation Medal.

Do not miss BG Mountcastle's presentation. It will be an educational and memorable experience!!

**THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 1998, AT 7:30 P.M.**

**MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD VISITORS 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

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Patricia Gallagher  
Scott C. Patchan

**NEWSLETTER**

Karen Fojt  
330-1965

**FIELD TRIP**

Scott C. Patchan

**PRESERVATION**

John P. McAnaw

**MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY**

Dan Paterson

The **STONE WALL** is published by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Submissions are welcome. Contact Karen Fojt, 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 p.m. Web Site of the Round Table is: <http://members.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm>

**DISABLED CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN/AUTHOR IN NEED**

For the past three months, there has been an article in our newsletter concerning the plight of historian and author, Theodore C. Mahr, who has been disabled and seriously ill for almost nine years. He and his wife extend their sincere thanks to those BRCWRT members who sent donations to him for the purchase of a specially equipped van. He is still in need of financial assistance. But for the grace of God, you or I could be in the situation confronting Ted and his wife. Please send your check to the address below and write BRCWRT-Van on the memo line.

Theodore C. Mahr  
1210 Pritz Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45410

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMBERSHIP - CY 1998**

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Family: \$25.00 - Individual: \$15.00 - Student: \$10.00

Make checks payable to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Either drop the check off at the Membership Table at the next meeting or mail it to Mark Knowles, 160 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Virginia 20164.

\* \* \* \* \*

**UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS**

**General Membership Meetings  
Begin at 7:30 p.m.**

**9 April 1998  
Dr. Joseph L. Harsh  
Confederate Tide Rising**

\* \* \* \* \*

**14 May 1998  
Ed Bearss  
Red River Campaign of 1864**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John P. McAnaw

Do not miss BG John W. Mountcastle's presentation at our General Membership Meeting on 12 March. It will be very informative. Please read the article on recent developments concerning the Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29/Route 234) located within the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Superintendent Robert K. Sutton deserves our full support for fighting to maintain the integrity of the MNBFP. Also included is an update containing good news on proposed wetlands on the battlefield.

The BRCWRT will have an information/recruiting table at the Civil War Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association, 4-5 April, at Capital Expo Center in Chantilly. We need volunteers to help man the table. Please sign up at our 12 March meeting or contact Vice President Dan Paterson evenings at 222-0727.

For your information, this issue contains a complete list of guest speakers from September 1997 through December 1998. I hope that you will use this list in recruiting friends and acquaintances into our Round Table.

Lastly, I take full responsibility for any errors contained in this newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

### LOGO CONTEST WINNER - MIKE SHANNON

Mike Shannon is the winner of our Round Table Logo competition. For this effort, Mike will receive:

- o \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond,
- o First pick from a selection of Civil War books,
- o Free BRCWRT membership for CY 1999, and
- o Two reserved seats at all BRCWRT Membership Meetings during CY 1998.

Honorable Mention goes to Sean O'Brien (age 11), the son of Larry O'Brien. Congratulations, Mike and Sean. Well done!!

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### WEATHER ALERT!

If you have any doubt whether the monthly meeting will be cancelled due to inclement weather, call one of the following on the day of the meeting.

- o Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitors Center - (703) 361-1339 between Noon and 5:00 p.m.
- or
- o John McAnaw - (703) 978-3371 between Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING BRCWRT TOURS**  
**AND**  
**OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS**

The line-up of tours and other events for period March through May 1998 is as shown below. Note that the Gettysburg tour, set for April, has been replaced by a tour of First Manassas.

- 28 Mar 98                   **CIVIL WAR SITES IN CENTREVILLE AND UNION MILLS**  
**Assembly Location:** St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church  
Parking Lot by the Basketball Courts (Union Mill and  
Compton Road Intersection)  
**Assembly Time:** 8:15 a.m.  
**Tour Duration:** 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Point of Contact:** John McAnaw - (703) 978-3371
- 4-5 Apr 98                   **NORTHERN VIRGINIA RELIC HUNTERS ASSOCIATION - CIVIL WAR**  
**SHOW - (BRCWRT will have a table) - Volunteers Needed**  
**Dates and Times:**  
Saturday - 4 April - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 5 April - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Capital Expo Center (North Building) 4320  
Chantilly Shopping Center (Intersection Route 28 and U.S.  
50)  
**Point of Contact:** Dan Paterson - (703) 222-0727
- 18 Apr 98                   **FIRST BATTLE OF MANASSAS**  
**Assembly Location:** Parking Lot at Dogan's Ridge Picnic  
Area located in the Manassas National Battlefield Park  
(0.5 miles north of Intersection of U.S. 29 and Route  
234, aka the "Stone House Intersection")  
**Assembly Time:** 8:20 a.m.  
**Tour Duration:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Point of Contact:** Scott Patchan - (703) 803-2927
- 9 May 98                   **CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA**  
**Assembly Location:** The Lyceum Parking Lot, 201 South  
Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria  
**Assembly Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Tour Duration:** 9:05 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Point of Contact:** John McAnaw - (703) 978-3371

Other Tours and Events that are tentatively scheduled include:

Cold Harbor to Petersburg - 11-12 June (2 days)  
BRCWRT Picnic - 25 July

BRCWRT member involvement in the tours described above, either as a Tour Guide or participant, is strongly encouraged. Join us on our "Staff Rides" over prominent Civil War sites. Sign-up sheets will be available at the 12 March 1998 General Membership Meeting. Also, there will be a Sign-up sheet for volunteers to man our table at the Civil War Show on 4-5 April.

## RALLY ROUND THE SUPERINTENDENT

On 25 February 1998, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf sent a letter directly to Mr. Robert J. Williams, Acting Inspector General of the Department of the Interior. In the letter, Representative Wolf requested Mr. Williams' evaluation, on or before 1 April 1998, of the Manassas National Battlefield Park's "...resource management and land use practices, specifically with an eye toward administrative abuses, inconsistencies, and public safety deficiencies." The routing of the letter is puzzling since requests on such matters are normally sent to the General Accounting Office or, I would think, to the Secretary of the Interior and then down the chain of command.

The real issue driving Wolf's letter is the firm stance taken by Superintendent Robert K. Sutton of the MNBP opposing the construction of turn lanes and other "improvements" at the U.S. 29 and Route 234 intersection (Stone House Intersection). Rep. Wolf stated that improvements are needed for safety reasons. This intersection is located at the very heart of the MNBP. The Director of the National Park Service, Robert G. Stanton, is solidly behind Superintendent Sutton.

Back in 1988, the so-called "Williams Center Tract", comprising some 561 acres, was legislatively taken by the U.S. Congress. This acreage was an integral part of the Second Manassas Battlefield. Further, it was intent of Congress that routes through the MNBP, e.g., U.S. 29 and Route 234, should be closed to all but local traffic. Rep. Wolf supported this legislation. Now ten years later, there are "hard ball" efforts to make major road "improvements" within the battlefield and to increase through traffic on U.S. 29 and Route 234.

The "copy furnished" line of Rep. Wolf's letter included "Members of the Press". One of the newspapers that published an article on Rep. Wolf's letter was the Potomac News (15 March 1998). It was written by Mike Fuchs. He quotes Martha Hendley, President of Citizens Against Roads for Developers, as stating that Rep. Wolf's safety statistics are outdated since the recent construction of additional lanes on I-66 between Manassas and Gainesville has markedly reduced traffic at the intersection. In the same article, the redoubtable Annie Snyder, Chairman of the Save the Battlefield Coalition, Inc., made this comment about Rep. Wolf's letter of 25 February 1998, "My blood is boiling." She stated that developers who have supported Wolf in his election campaigns have pressured him to widen cited intersection and make other road enlargements in western Prince William County.

Superintendent Sutton deserves our wholehearted support for his firm commitment to preserve one of the real jewels in the NPS's crown - The Manassas National Battlefield Park. Express your support by contacting:

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior  
Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service  
Robert K. Sutton, Superintendent, MNBP  
Your Senator/Representative  
Representative Frank Wolf  
Editor of your newspaper

Copies of Rep. Wolf's letter will be available at the 12 March General Membership Meeting.

**PRESERVATION CORNER  
(Cont'd)**

**HISTORIC AREA SPARED FROM LIST OF POTENTIAL  
"WETLAND MITIGATION SITES"**

In the December 1997 issue of our newsletter, I presented an accurate status report on the study by the consulting firm of Dames and Moore concerning the selection of "Wetland Migration Sites". Dames & Moore was hired by the Smithsonian Institution to study and recommend "Wetland Mitigation Sites" to replace wetlands that will be destroyed to build the National Air and Space Museum near Dulles International Airport.

Five areas were studied by Dames & Moore. The Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNNBP) was #1 on the Dames & Moore preference list. Potential "wetland creation sites" (WCS) included terrain vicinity the historic Stone Bridge over Bull Run and various locations within the 561 acre William Center Tract that was incorporated into the MNNBP back in 1988.

On 5 March, I spoke with MNNBP Superintendent Robert K. Sutton who advised me that the terrain around the Stone Bridge is no longer under consideration as a wetland creation site. The foci of current studies are locations within the Williams Center Tract. At present I have no information on these WCS.

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**CIVIL WAR LANDMARK IN FAIRFAX CITY THREATENED**

Blenheim is the remnant of an old estate located less than a mile from the Old Fairfax County Court House. The estate was originally owned by the Wilcoxon family. It includes a well preserved Georgian and Classical Revival home built in the 1850s, a cemetery, vestiges of old gardens, and second growth trees located on Old Lee Highway. The long time owner of this 12 acre estate, William Scott, died in 1997 and his brother is seeking to sell the estate.

During the War of Secession, Blenheim was used as a hospital. The plaster walls in the house's attic are covered with drawings, poems, messages, and signatures of Union soldiers.

A group of more than 50 Northern Virginians have banded together and formed the "Citizen Coalition for the Preservation of Blenheim" in an effort to save the historic property. The next public meeting will beheld on 19 March at 7:30 p.m. in the John C. Wood Center, Room 7, on Old Lee Highway in Fairfax City. All are welcome.

For more information contact:

Jim Gillespie - (703) 352-4857 (H); (703) 441-8606 (O)  
or  
Bill Jayne - (703) 352-1534 (H); (202) 565-6152 (O)

## **BRCWRT SPEAKERS' PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 1997 THROUGH DECEMBER 1998**

We believe our guest speakers are one important reason why those interested in the American Civil War should join and maintain their membership in our round Table. For your information, the complete list of guest speakers from September 1997 through December 1998 follows:

### 1997

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GUEST SPEAKER AND TOPIC</u>
11 Sep 97	Dr. Richard J. Sommers - Penetrating the Void. Confederate Strategy and Federal Response in the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1862
9 Oct 97	LTC (Ret) Joseph W. A. Whitehorne, U.S.A. - Logistical Considerations in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862
13 Nov 97	Scott C. Patchan - Phil Sheridan: The Union's Finest Combat Leader
11 Dec 97	Kevin Rawlings - Civil War Christmas

### 1998

8 Jan 98	Phillip T. Tucker - The South's Finest. The First Missouri Confederate Brigade and Major General John S. Bowen
12 Feb 98	Michael E. Duggan - The U.S. Army Medal of Honor in the Civil War
12 Mar 98	Brigadier General John W. Mountcastle, U.S.A. - The Staff Ride Training the Army's Leaders
9 Apr 98	Dr. Joseph L. Harsh - Confederate Tide Rising
14 May 98	Ed Bearss - Red River Campaign of 1862
11 Jun 98	Frank O'Reilly - The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson: The Legend of a Hero
9 Jul 98	William J. Miller - Lee and Jackson: The Peninsula Campaign of 1862
13 Aug 98	Gary L. Ecelbarger - Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign Revisited
10 Sep 98	Michael Riley - MG John F. Reynolds at Gettysburg
8 Oct 98	Brian Pohanka - Fire Zouaves at First Manassas
12 Nov 98	Gordon Shay - Leadership at the Round Tops
10 Dec 98	David Smith - LTG John C. Pemberton During the Vicksburg Campaign

The list of speakers and topics speak for itself. Hard to beat.

## WIFE TO JOIN MG GEORGE E. PICKETT AT HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

On 21 March 1998, the ashes of LaSalle Corbell Pickett, wife of Major General George E. Pickett, C.S.A., will be reinterred next to her husband on Gettysburg Hill located at Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. This section of Hollywood Cemetery was reserved for those who died during the Battle of Gettysburg.

MG Pickett was a division commander in LTG James Longstreet's famed I Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Prior to his death in 1875, MG Pickett asked to be buried among his men on Gettysburg Hill.

Mrs. Pickett passed away in the early 1930s and wanted to be buried with her husband at Hollywood Cemetery. However, the Hollywood Ladies Memorial Society, which controlled the Gettysburg Hill section, would not permit it. Thus, Mrs. Pickett was interred in Army Mausoleum next to Arlington National Cemetery.

In the last 35 years, the Mausoleum suffered from neglect and damage caused by vandals. Consequently, plans were implemented to remove the remains of all 284 individuals interred in the Mausoleum and close the building permanently.

Pickett family members are expected to attend the reinterment ceremony plus the rededication of the refurbished monument over MG Pickett's grave on 22 March. Descendants of several other Confederate generals including LTG James Longstreet are also expected to attend. The Vice President of the BRCWRT is Dan Paterson, a great grandson of LTG Longstreet. He and his wife Sherry will be in attendance. BRCWRT members are strongly encouraged to attend these ceremonies.

For more information on cited events, slated for 21-22 March, at Hollywood Cemetery, contact Dan Paterson evenings at (703) 222-0727. Some of the information in this article was obtained from an article by Deborah Fitts in the February-March 1988 issue of The Civil War Times.

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### SELECTED MARCH BIRTHDATES

by  
Michael E. Duggan

The Trivia questions at our General Membership Meeting on 12 March 1998 will be on these distinguished individuals:

#### MARCH BIRTHDATES

2 Mar	Carl Schurz, MG USV (1829-1906)
4 Mar	John Buford, MG USV (1826-1863)
6 Mar	Horatio Gouverneur Wright, MG USV (1820-1899)
6 Mar	Philip Henry Sheridan, MG USA (1831-1888)
11 Mar	Marsena Rudolph Patrick, Bvt MG USV (1811-1888)
16 Mar	John Pope, MG USV (1822-1892)
16 Mar	Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, MG CSA (1828-1864)
22 Mar	Braxton Bragg, GEN CSA (1817-1876)
23 Mar	Don Carlos Buell, MG USV (1818-1898)
24 Mar	Isaac Ingalls Stevens, MG USV (1818-1862)
26 Mar	Herman Haupt, BG USV (1817-1905)
28 Mar	Wade Hampton, LTG CSA (1818-1902)
29 Mar	Robert Emmett Rodes, MG CSA (1829-1864)



# SOLDIER LINGO

by

John P. McAnaw

If appropriate, match the letter in **COLUMN B** with the appropriate number in **COLUMN A**. Please note that some letters may not match a number in Column A. These words/terms were used by Confederate and/or Union soldiers during the War of Secession. The information listed below was obtained from multiple sources.

## COLUMN A

1. tent peg ( )
2. whang ( )
3. sinker ( )
4. wagon dog ( )
5. squashmolished ( )
6. deadhead ( )
7. lamppost ( )
8. katydid ( )
9. tiger ( )
10. mudscow ( )
11. forty rod ( )
12. layout ( )
13. sheep dip ( )
14. fire and fall back ( )
15. beehive ( )
16. dog robber ( )
17. old horse ( )
18. cabbaging ( )
19. How come you so? ( )
20. sowbelly ( )
21. pumpkin rind ( )
22. sloper ( )
23. mud lark ( )
24. Snotty-nosed Yank ( )
25. hop, step, and jump ( )
26. pie eater ( )

## COLUMN B

- a. faro
- b. bad whiskey
- c. corned beef
- d. Union lieutenant
- e. intoxicated
- f. cook
- g. New York soldier
- h. vomit
- i. deserter
- j. knapsack
- k. noncombatant
- l. two-wheeled ambulance
- m. bullet
- n. farm pig
- o. skulker/battlefield coward
- p. crude temporary shelter
- q. Army shoe
- r. cheating at cards
- s. Loyal League member
- t. young Confederate
- u. artillery projectile
- v. bad hangover
- w. rural Yankee soldier
- x. bayonet
- y. stealing
- z. bacon

Correct matches will be announced in the next newsletter.

## NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NRHS) BANQUET

The Washington, D.C. Chapter, NRHS, will have its annual banquet on Saturday, March 21, 1998, at the Fort Myer Officers Club, Arlington, Virginia. BRCWRT members are invited to attend. The guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Potter, Chief Archaeologist for the National Park Service, Capital Region. His slide illustrated presentation, "Virginia's Iron Horses at War, 1861-1865", will examine the use of railroads in the Old Dominion during the War of Secession.

Banquet schedule is as follows:

6:30 p.m. - Cocktails  
7:30 p.m. - Dinner (Hand Carved Roast Beef or Chicken Rotisserie,  
Vegetables and Dessert)

The cost is \$30.00 per person. Send a check payable to "Washington, D.C. Chapter, NRHS" to the following address. Please include your name, address, and telephone number.

Mark Piotrowski  
6106-11 Turnabout Lane  
Columbia, MD 21044-3041

**Bull Run Civil War Round Table**  
**P. O. Box 196**  
**Centreville, Virginia 20122**



Mike Duggan  
5531 Washington Ct  
Fairfax,  
VA 22032