

STONE WALL

MAY 1998

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

THE RED RIVER VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1864

Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus
National Park Service

We are honored to have as our guest speaker on 14 May 1998, the distinguished historian, lecturer, and tour guide non pareil -- Ed Bearss. Without a doubt, Civil War buffs rank him as their favorite lecturer and battlefield tour guide. He has become a legend in his own time.

During World War II, Ed Bearss served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps, first with the 3d Marine Raider Battalion, commanded by COL Harry "The Horse" Leversedge, and then with the 7th Marine Regiment. While serving with the latter unit, he was severely wounded at Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain. Following a convalescent period of 26 months, he entered Georgetown University. After earning an undergraduate degree at that institution, Ed spent three years working at the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, MD. He then enrolled at Indiana University where he earned a graduate degree in History.

In 1955, Ed joined the National Park Service (NPS). By sheer merit, he worked his way up the promotion ladder to become the Chief Historian of the NPS. Ed retired from the NPS in September 1995. Since then he has been busy as a guest speaker and running tours to innumerable battlefields. These tours cover American conflicts from the French Indian War through World War II. In fact, in 1999, Ed will be leading a tour group that will visit World War II battlefields in Europe.

As his topic for our Round Table, Ed will speak on the controversial Red River Campaign of 1864 which lasted from 10 March through 22 May. Following the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson in July 1863, MG Henry W. Halleck considered the conquest of Texas as his top priority in the Western Theater. President Lincoln, who wanted the U.S. flag planted somewhere in Texas, supported Halleck's plan for the main Union thrust to ascend the Red River to Shreveport and beyond into East Texas. As senior department commander (Gulf), MG Nathaniel Banks was directed in January 1864 to put together a joint operations plan with two other department commanders -- MG W. T. Sherman (Mississippi) and MG Frederick Steele (Arkansas). The implementation of this operations plan resulted in one of the most interesting campaigns of the war. Do not miss Ed Bearss superb presentation on this campaign!

THURSDAY, 14 MAY 1998, AT 7:30 P.M.

MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD VISITORS CENTER

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**

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NEWSLETTER
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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 five 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 following 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, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, Virginia 20164.

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

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

**AT THE 14 MAY 1998 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
CEREMONY FOR ANNIE SNYDER**

**Presentation of the first BRCWRT
Life Membership Award
to Annie for her
Outstanding Accomplishments
in Battlefield Preservation**

**11 June 1998
Frank O'Reilly
The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson -
The Legacy of a Hero**

**9 July 1998
William J. Miller
Lee and Jackson:
Peninsula Campaign of 1862**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John P. McAnaw

May is a special month for the BRCWRT. Of interest, all three of the individuals who will be featured at our monthly meeting are either active or former Marines. Ed Bearss has been our guest speaker in May for so many years that his annual appearance has become a tradition with the Round Table. His presence at our monthly meeting on 14 May will guarantee a stimulating presentation and a large turnout.

Also, this month we will honor a patriotic American, Annie Snyder, who, despite heavy odds, successfully led the fight to preserve an integral part of the Second Manassas Battlefield (the Williams Center Tract) from development. Her courageous efforts resulted in an upwelling of support by countless Americans to save the tract from land maulers. The end result was the legislative taking by the U.S. Congress of the Williams Center Tract back in 1988. In September of that year, President Ronald Reagan signed the document that made the Williams Center Tract part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Annie has also been involved in many other efforts to preserve our Civil War heritage. And, by the way, Annie is, like Ed Bearss, a former Marine.

That leads me to another distinguished Marine who is a member of the Round Table--Rick Wolfe. He is currently stationed at Quantico. For years Rick has been involved in supporting various Round Table activities. His interest in and knowledge of the many facets of Civil War history has made him invaluable as a tour guide on our numerous visits to Civil War battlefields. He will retire at the end of May and return to his beloved West Virginia. Rick, on behalf of all the members of the BRCWRT, I wish you continued success and thank you for your unfailing support of our organization. We will miss you. Good luck!

Included in this issue is a superb After Action Report written by Blake Myers of our tour of First Manassas. I strongly recommend that every member, who in the future may be involved in conducting a similar tour, should read this comprehensive report. It is very good. I extend my thanks to the 17 dedicated members who participated in this tour and, particularly to the following members who did such a great job as Tour Guides:

- John DePue
- Mike Duggan
- Blake Myers
- Rick Wolfe (Remember him?)

Recently Ted Mahr sent me a letter thanking those Round Table members who have contributed toward the purchase of a specially equipped van for him. I, too, thank those of you who have sent donations to him. He informed me that he wrote most of his excellent book on the Battle of Cedar Creek while confined to a hospital bed. Now, though still disabled, this courageous historian is working on an extensive revision of his book. While we cannot solve all the world's ills, I ask you to be generous to a single, courageous individual who sorely needs our financial support.

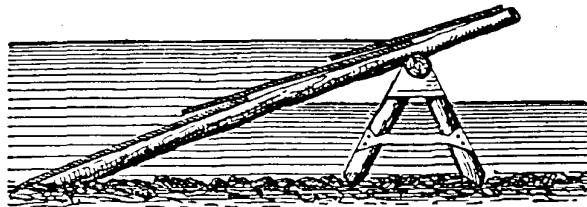
Mark your calendars for 13-14 June 1998. During those two days, the BRCWRT will conduct an overnight tour covering the Cold Harbor to Petersburg part of the Overland Campaign of 1864. For more information, read the relevant article in this newsletter.

SELECTED MAY BIRTHDATES

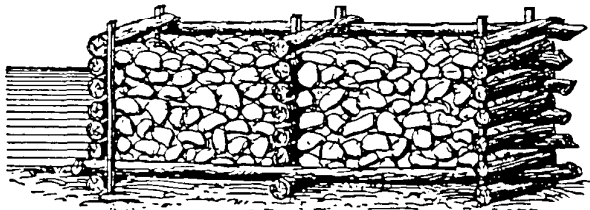
Michael E. Duggan

The Trivia questions at our General Membership Meeting on 14 May 1998 will be on these distinguished individuals:

- 1 May John Bankhead Magruder, MG CSA (1807-1871)
- 3 May ~~Montgomery Cunningham Meigs~~, Bvt MG USA (1816-1892)
- 6 May George Sears Greene, Bvt MG USV (1801-1899)
- 7 May Varina Howell Davis, First Lady, CSA (1826-1905)
- 8 May Frank Wheaton, Bvt MG USA (1833-1903)
- 9 May John Brown, Abolitionist (1800-1859)
- 9 May William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones, BG CSA (1824-1864)
- 10 May James Shields, BG USV (1810-1879)
- 14 May George Pierce Doles, BG CSA (1830-1864)
- 15 May Isaac Ridgeway Trimble, MG CSA (1802-1888)
- 16 May Edmund Kirby Smith, GEN Provisional Army, CSA (1824-1893)
- 23 May Ambrose Everett Burnside, MG USV (1824-1881)
- 26 May Edward Porter Alexander, BG CSA (1835-1910)
- 27 May Robert Frederick Hoke, MG CSA (1837-1912)
- 28 May Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, GEN CSA (1818-1893)
- 29 May Erasmus Darwin Keyes, MG USV (1810-1895)
- 29 May Solomon Meredith, Bvt MG USV (1810-1875)
- 29 May Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox, MG CSA (1824-1890)
- 29 May David Bell Birney, MG USV (1825-1864)
- 31 May William Henry Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee, MG CSA (1837-1891)
- 31 May Stephen Dodson Ramseur, MG CSA (1837-1864)



SECTION OF THE BRACKET DAM.



CRIB OF STONE AND BRICK.



SECTION OF THE TREE DAM.
FEATURES OF THE RED RIVER DAM.

PRESERVATION CORNER

FRANK WOLF MEETS WITH CONCERNED CITIZENS TO DISCUSS STONE HOUSE INTERSECTION

Scott C. Patchan

On Thursday, 16 April 1998, Congressman Frank Wolf met with several citizens from his district, and representatives from the National Park Service (NPS), Federal Highway Safety Commission (FHSC), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to discuss the situation at the Stone House Intersection. This meeting was the direct result of Past-President Martha Hendley's efforts to preserve the Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP). Martha's polite manner and diplomatic bearing convinced Congressman Wolf that there was indeed another side to the Stone House Intersection debate. Until now, Congressman Wolf had been reluctant to discuss this issue. Many thanks are due to Martha Hendley. At Wolf's request, she arranged this meeting for concerned citizens of Wolf's district and the aforementioned government agencies.

Congressman Wolf explained his deep and longstanding concern for safety and his more recent developed interest in Civil War preservation. A representative of the Federal Highway Safety Commission expressed deep concerns for safety over the MNBP's planned relocation of the Stone House parking lot to the east side of the house. The MNBP's staff currently is adamant about relocating this parking lot. The FHSC official practically begged National Park Service officials to leave the parking lot where it is because to move it would cause dire safety problems.

VDOT remained firm in its position calling for turning lanes in all directions at the Stone House Intersection. The NPS officials disagreed, noting that the NPS mission is not to move traffic. One VDOT representative said that commuters have certain "expectations" as to speed and how long it should take to get through an intersection. When these "expectations" are not met, people take actions which cause accidents. Past-President Scott Patchan then asked, "If because some drivers violate traffic laws are we supposed to destroy the MNBP's historic setting?" Patchan added that a sign should be placed at all entrances to the MNBP denoting it for what it is "a road through a historic park" and urging caution. Patchan then went on and gave a descriptive account of the fighting which occurred along Route 234 on 30 August 1862.

In the end, Wolf set up a committee, with Martha Hendley as the Chair, to study the issue further.

Of related interest, a prominent preservationist looked into the death of Supervisor Ed Wilbourn's daughter in a 1993 accident in the MNBP. Wilbourn had publicly blamed the "intersection" for this tragedy. However, newspaper reports state that the accident was caused when the victim pulled out into the left lane to pass a slow moving vehicle and struck an oncoming vehicle head-on. This accident did not occur at the Stone House Intersection but 3/4's of a mile north of it. Like most accidents, driver error and impatience were the cause, not the intersection.

AFTER ACTION REPORT BRCWRT TOUR - 1ST BATTLE OF MANASSAS

Blake Myers

At 8:30 a.m. on Saturday the 18th of April, a hardy group of 17 Civil War enthusiasts assembled at the historic Stone Bridge over Bull Run for what would prove to be a thoroughly enjoyable day studying the 1st Battle of Manassas. The first major battle of the War, fought on 21 July 1861, changed the face of war for many of the participants, and served as a training ground for many future senior leaders of both armies. Many thanks to Tour Guides Rick Wolfe, John DePue, Blake Myers, and Mike Duggan for their tour preparation, insightful analysis and flexibility.

Our first stop was at the Stone Bridge where Rick Wolfe got everyone organized and explained the plan for the day. Rick gave a short overview of the battle and discussed why the battle was fought, the general condition and level of training of both armies, and the initial plans of the opposing commanders, BG McDowell and BG Beauregard. Rick then led the group in discussing the difficulties both armies had in executing their respective commander's plans with a focus on McDowell's plan--originally to envelop the Confederate right flank, and subsequently modified to envelop the Confederate left via Sudley Ford. The group then walked along the southern bank of Bull Run to Farm Ford, crossing site for the brigades of COL W. T. Sherman and COL Erasmus Keyes, and then up the hill to the site of the Van Pelt House and COL "Shanks" Evan's original position guarding the Stone Bridge crossing. At both locations, Rick led insightful discussions of pertinent key events and personalities, including the route of Hunter's and Heintzelman's Divisions around the Confederate left flank, the initial Federal "attack" at Stone Bridge initiated by the firing of Haynes' 30-pounder Parrot rifled gun, Evan's movement to block the threat on his left, and the critical role of Confederate CPT Edward Alexander's signal stations.

The group then moved by vehicle to the picnic area/parking lot at Dogan Ridge and walked to Matthews Hill where John DePue assumed direction of this phase of the tour. John gave an excellent overview of the Federal crossing at Sudley Ford and the subsequent actions and fighting that occurred on Matthews Hill. Specific discussion centered on the actions of the Confederate units under COLs Evans and Bartow, BG Bee, and MAJ Wheaton, and the Federal units under COLs Burnside and Porter and the decisive role played by Reynold's Rhode Island Battery. John then led the group on a walking tour of the Matthews Hill positions of the opposing forces. John also led the first of several discussions concerning Civil War artillery (technology, capabilities, servicing the piece, and movement techniques).

We next walked back across Sudley Road, through the Dogan Ridge picnic area to the initial positions occupied by Ricketts' and Griffin's Batteries on Dogan Ridge. Blake Myers led the discussion from this vantage point, which provided a clear view across the Warrenton Turnpike to Henry Hill. Blake explained the importance of this position in providing Federal artillery support against the infantry forces of Bee and Bartow, and Bee's artillery battery on Henry Hill (commanded by CPT John Imboden). Again an artillery discussion ensued, this time focusing on the basic differences between smooth-bore and rifled artillery and the decided range advantage enjoyed by the Federal artillery batteries.

At this point, we "jumped ahead" in the battle timeline and Mike Duggan discussed the movement of COL O. O. Howard's Brigade to Chinn Ridge. Mike's focus was Howard's route down Dogan Ridge, across the Warrenton Turnpike, and

BRCWRT TOUR - 1ST BATTLE OF MANASSAS (Cont'd)

on to Chinn Ridge--a route easily seen from our vantage point on Dogan Ridge. Mike led the discussion and addressed the condition of Howard's Brigade after having already marched eight miles under a July, mid-day sun, and the difficulties Howard encountered in getting his tired, thirsty, green troops on the move.

The group "broke" for lunch at this point, planning to meet at the Henry House Visitors Center at 12:20 p.m. to continue the tour. While most of the group enjoyed a picnic lunch at Dogan Ridge, some departed to sample the local cuisine in Manassas. So far, so good for our tour--the weather was perfect (sunny, but cool) the discussions had been very good, the walking enjoyable, and we were slightly ahead of schedule--important due to our expectation of a large crowd at Henry Hill for a scheduled afternoon Park Service tour.

Promptly at 12:20 p.m., the group reassembled at Henry Hill where Blake Myers led the group through a discussion of the see-saw battle on Henry Hill. Once the group was reassembled, Blake reviewed BG Beauregard's original battle plan, his request to Jefferson Davis for reinforcements once he knew McDowell's Army was on the move from Washington, DC, the use of the Manassas Gap railroad to transport GEN Joe Johnston's Army from the Shenandoah Valley, the command relationship between Beauregard and Johnston, why Beauregard's offensive plan failed, and the Confederate generals' actions once they realized the plan had run amok and that their left was in danger. We then walked to the sites of CPT Imboden's Battery (Staunton Artillery), Bee's Brigade and the Robinson House. From these vantage points, Blake led the discussion of the critical role played on Imboden's Battery and Wade Hampton's South Carolina Legion in stemming the Federal advance and buying critical time for Beauregard, Johnston, and Jackson to establish a cohesive defense on Henry Hill.

The group then proceeded to the approximate center of Jackson's initial line of defense on the southeast side of Henry Hill. From this vantage point, Blake led a discussion of T. J. Jackson's use of terrain in positioning his forces, the role of key Confederate commanders (Hampton, Bee, Bartow, Beauregard, Johnston) in rallying forces retreating from Matthews Hill, Johnston's role in establishing his headquarters at Portici, and directing forces arriving from Manassas Junction to strengthen the Confederate right and extend the Confederate left along Chin Ridge, McDowell's inaction during the early afternoon, and the birth of a legend and the sobriquet "Stonewall" Jackson. Blake then discussed the events surrounding McDowell's order to lead the Federal advance on Henry Hill with artillery and the subsequent movement of Ricketts' and Griffin's Batteries to Henry Hill. This led to another discussion on Civil War artillery tactics and capabilities.

We next walked to the Henry Hill positions of Ricketts' and Griffin's Batteries and Griffin's two guns (under LT Hazlett) where Blake led a discussion of the raging, see-saw battle for these artillery pieces. The discussion focused on the piecemeal Federal attacks directed by COLs Wilcox, Franklin, and Sherman, Confederate counter-attacks directed primarily by Jackson and Beauregard, and the inherent difficulty in exercising command and control on the battlefield (compounded by the confusion generated by non-standard uniforms on both sides and similar designs on the national flags carried by units of both armies). Even with the inherent difficulty in understanding and following specific battle actions and units in the fight for Henry Hill, the group gained an appreciation of the swirling melee of units fighting for control of these eight Federal artillery pieces in the

BRCWRT TOUR - 1ST BATTLE OF MANASSAS (Cont'd)

midst of a dusty, acrid smoke-filled battlefield littered with dead and wounded horses and soldiers.

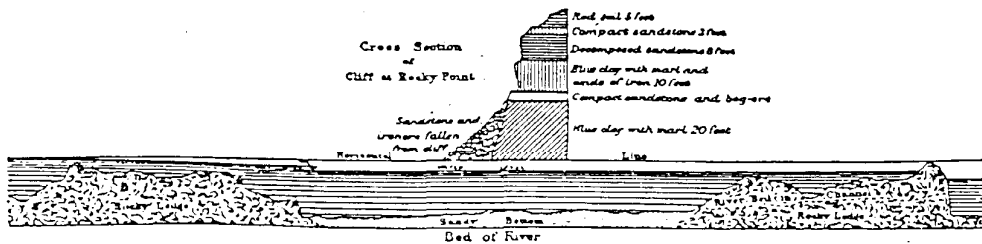
Our group's next and final stop was on Chinn Ridge where Mike Duggan led the discussion of the action on Chinn Ridge, the Federal retreat back through Centreville to Washington, and a final wrap-up of the battle and the day's tour activities. Mike's discussion focused on COL Howard's Brigade's advance across the Warrenton Turnpike to Chinn Ridge where he was met by the brigades of BG E. Kirby Smith (COL Arnold Elzey) and COL Jubal Early, Howard's rapid defeat (which turned the Federal right) and retreat back across the Warrenton Turnpike, and the subsequent overall Federal withdrawal/retreat and Confederate attempts at pursuit. Mike's excellent summary of the battle highlighted the day's critical events and decisions, why commanders on both sides experienced successes and failures, and the major lessons learned (both strategically and tactically) from this first major battle of the Civil War.

As the group, somewhat tired but still enthusiastic, departed for return trips back to homes and families (and, in some cases, to the Henry Hill Visitors Center), a cold front moved in, the temperature dropped, and the rain sprinkles began. Another informative and successful BRCWRT battlefield tour had accomplished its objectives--and beat the weather in doing so. Once again, many thanks to the Tour Guides and to John McAnaw for helping us get organized and for his valuable insights in developing our plan for the tour.

See you on May 9th for T. Michael Miller's tour of "Civil War Alexandria".

CREDITS - RED RIVER CAMPAIGN ILLUSTRATIONS

The maps and sections of the Red River dams were taken from Johnson, Robert U. and Buel, Clarence C. (Editors). Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, New York. The Century Co., 1884, 1888, Volume IV, pp. 358-359.



MAP AND SECTIONS OF THE RED RIVER DAMS ABOVE ALEXANDRIA.

BRCWRT TOUR OF CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA

John P. McAnaw

Despite the Irish spring-like weather, 20 stalwart members of the BRCWRT enjoyed an absolutely superb tour on 9 May 1998 of Civil War Alexandria. The Chief Tour Guide was T. Michael Miller, the Historian with the Office of Historic Alexandria. The tour began at 9:00 a.m. with a slide presentation at the Lyceum and ended at 4:45 p.m. at St. Paul Episcopal Cemetery on upper Wilkes Street. This tour is a sine qua non for any serious student of the War of Secession. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Miller for taking the time out of a busy schedule to devote a full day with our group. He is the acknowledged authority on Historic Alexandria, and he provided us with invaluable insights into Alexandria's Civil War history. Additionally, he discussed the many battles (some won and some lost) to preserve the historic treasures of one of the most interesting cities in the United States. Time and space limitations prevent further discussion of the many sites visited.

The following individuals participated in this extraordinary informational tour: T. Michael Miller, Chief Tour Guide, Nancy Anwyll, Joseph Bixio, Loren Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Harriet Condon, Robert Ford, Bobbie Ford, Oliver Jones, Mark Knowles, Yvonne Knowles, Emily Knowles, Andrejs Lubkans, John McAnaw, Blake Myers, Dan Patterson, Bev Regeimbal, Mike Shannon, Chris Soester, Trisha Soester, and Keith Young.

Feel free to ask these participants what they thought of the tour. If there is sufficient interest among our members, we will run this tour again. Also, as a suggestion, stop by the Union Street Cafe the next time you visit Alexandria. We ate lunch there and the food was excellent.

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MARCHING ORDERS FOR NEXT BRCWRT TOUR 13-14 JUNE 1998: COLD HARBOR TO PETERSBURG

John P. McAnaw

- Round Table members have the option of participating in this tour for one day or two days.
- Sites to be visited include the Cold Harbor Battlefield, Flowerdew Hundred/Windmill Point, City Point, Depot Field Hospital, Baylor's Farm, U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Petersburg National Battlefield, Blandford Church/Confederate Cemetery, and other battle sites vicinity Petersburg.
- Overnight lodging: In a clean, safe, and reasonably priced motor inn in the Hopewell-Petersburg area (approximately \$25.00 each for double and \$50.00 for single occupancy).
- Assembly location: Parking lot of Historic St. Mary Catholic Church in Fairfax Station. It is located on Fairfax Station Road about 175 yards west of the intersection of Route 123 (Ox Road) and Fairfax Station Road.
- Assembly time: 7:00 a.m., 13 June 1998, with departure time at 7:10 a.m.

MARCHING ORDERS (Cont'd)

- First Stop: 8:55 a.m. at National Park Service Visitor Center, Cold Harbor Battlefield (Route 156).
- To qualify for a group discount, we need to know how many will spend the night of 13 June in Hopewell/Petersburg by 17 May.
- Sign-up sheet will be at 14 May 1998 General Membership Meeting. This tour will be discussed at cited meeting.
- More information, contact John P. McAnaw at (703) 978-3371.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Michael E. Duggan

- 16 May Reenactment/Living History: "First Blood" reenactment of the first skirmish of the War in Fairfax, Van Dyck Park, Fairfax.
- 17 May Battles on both days. Sponsored by the 17 VA and the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center. Information: (703) 273-6130.
- 23 May Luminaria: 2nd Annual Memorial Day Luminaria at Fredericksburg. 15,300 candles will be lit in honor of those buried in the National Cemetery on Marye's Heights from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Rain Date: 24 May. Sponsored by Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park, Commonwealth Council Girl Scouts, and Rappahannock District Boy Scouts. Information: (540) 898-2698.
- 24 May Dedication: Memorial Wall "To Name the Fallen". Unveiling of the names of 520 Confederates recorded on the granite wall around the 1877 Confederate Monument, Warrenton Cemetery, Warrenton, 2:00 p.m. Black Horse Chapter, UDC. Information: (540) 347-4408.
- 30 May Tour: Moor Green home/grounds (Manassas) was used as a hospital by both sides from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Music, living history, silent auction, and refreshments. Proceeds benefit restoration of the Mayfield/Cannon Branch Civil War earthworks/ surviving Civil War fortifications in Manassas. Information: (703) 368-1873.
- 6 Jun Encampment: Union soldier encampment and cannon firing demonstrations. Monocacy National Battlefield. Info: (301) 662-3515.
- 7 Jun
- 13 Jun Living History: 3rd Annual "Eyewitness to War" event at Historic Mount Zion Church, Aldie, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Skirmishes, living history, talks, cemetery service, and children's activities. Torchlight tour at 8:45 p.m. Info: (703) 437-5400.

10

Bull Run Civil War Round Table
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Michael E. Duggan
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