

STONE WALL

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JULY 1998

SPECIAL EDITION

LEE AND JACKSON: THE SEVEN DAYS

William J. Miller

Our guest speaker at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, 9 July 1998, will be none other than the founder of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table--William J. Miller. The BRCWRT was formed back in 1991, due directly to the efforts of this distinguished historian.

Bill Miller is currently the editor of Civil War, the Magazine of the Civil War Society, based in Berryville, VA. Also, during period 1994-1998, he edited the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 Journal, consisting of three volumes. He has additionally authored three first rate books on the Civil War.

- o "The Training of an Army. Camp Curtin and the North's Civil War." White Mane Publishing Company, Inc., 1990.
- o "Mapping for Stonewall: The Civil War Service of Jed Hotchkiss." Elliott and Clark, Washington, DC, 1993.
- o NPS Guidebook on the Peninsula Campaign of 1862.
- o "Fallen Soldier. The Memoir of a Civil War Casualty". Elliott and Clark, Washington, DC, 1997.

NOTE: This last book has not received the attention it deserves. It is about the experiences of an unbelievably tough Scot named Andrew Roy, a member of the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves, who lay untreated on the Gaines Mill battlefield without treatment for 16 days with a severe groin wound. The book records his two year fight to get treatment for his wound. Roy survived the ordeal to become one of Ohio's leading geologists.

General Robert E. Lee and then MG Thomas J. Jackson worked together for the first time during the Seven Days Battles of 1862. The results of their collaboration were mixed. Both Lee and especially Jackson have been criticized by historians for their failure to launch coordinated attacks on the vulnerable forces of MG George B. McClellan before Richmond. Bill Miller will look closely at Lee's offensive plans and examine the circumstances under which they were implemented. Further, he will state his conclusions as to whether Lee believed that Jackson had failed him.

Do not miss this thought provoking presentation by one of our own as well as one of the leading experts on The Peninsula Campaign of 1862.

Would you care to hazard a guess where this former resident of Prince William County now lives? His home for the past two years is the former residence of Jed Hotchkiss, located eight miles west of Staunton. Hotchkiss bought the home in 1859. His family lived there during the War of Secession while he was on active service. Following the war, in July 1865, Jed Hotchkiss and his family moved to Staunton. As the infantrymen used to say in the Republic of Vietnam, Bill is in "Fat City".

**THURSDAY, 9 JULY 1998, AT 7:30 P.M.
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD VISITORS CENTER**

DISABLED CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN/AUTHOR IN NEED

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**

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330-1965

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PRESERVATION

John P. McAnaw

MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY

Dan Paterson

The **STONE WALL** is published by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

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>

The officers of the BRCWRT will not give up their efforts to assist Theodore C. Mahr who has been disabled and seriously ill for nine years. For the past seven months, we have asked, on behalf of Ted and his wife, for donations to assist this stricken historian/author. All donations will be used to purchase a specially equipped, used van for Ted. 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.

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UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

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

* * * * *

9 July 1998
William J. Miller
Lee and Jackson: The Seven Days

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13 August 1998
Gary L. Ecelbarger
Jackson's 1862
Valley Campaign Revisited

* * * * *

10 September 1998
Michael Riley
MG John F. Reynolds at Gettysburg

* * * * *

8 October 1998
Brian Pohanka
Fire Zouaves at First Manassas

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John P. McAnaw

The slate of BRCWRT officers for 1998-1999, recommended by the Executive Committee, was presented at the General Membership Meeting held on 11 June 1998. The membership unanimously voted in these officers for a one year term, commencing September 1998. The elected officers for next year are:

Dan Paterson - President
Scott Patchan - Vice President
Mark Knowles - Treasurer
Ann Collins - Secretary

I congratulate Dan, Scott, Mark, and Ann on their election and wish them success this upcoming year.

The BRCWRT conducted its first ever two-day battlefield tour on 13-14 June 1998. In fact, the tour was set up so that members who were only able to join us for one day could also participate. The full tour covered numerous sites, ranging from Cold Harbor to Petersburg. I thank every participant for making this two-day tour a very enjoyable one.

The BRCWRT differs from many other Round Tables in several ways. First, we are a very active organization that operates year round. The quality of our guest speakers is second to none. We conduct numerous, low cost field trips using, for the most part, knowledgeable members as tour guides. And, of great importance, members of our organization have been very active on Civil War battlefield preservation front. We get involved. For the last reason, please take the time to read PRESERVATION CORNER so that you are aware of events affecting the Manassas National Battlefield Park. We have a long term fight ahead of us to protect our beloved battlefield.

I ask you to continue your efforts in publicizing our Round Table. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Our Web Site contains a great deal of information on the BRCWRT. Please advise your non-member friends and acquaintances to pay a visit to our Web Site <http://members.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm>.

Please read the UPCOMING EVENTS column by Mike Duggan. There are a number of activities planned at the MNBFP for 18-19 July, the Anniversary Weekend of the First Battle of Manassas.

Lastly, I wish everyone who is taking off for the summer, or part thereof, to have an enjoyable and refreshing vacation period.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Michael E. Duggan

- 18 Jul Memorial Dedication: At Washington, DC. Dedication of African-American Civil War Memorial--"Spirit of Freedom" sculpture at new Memorial Plaza, 10th and U Streets, N.W. 10:00 a.m. Reenactor's Parade Salute to U.S. Colored Troops. 2:00 p.m. Unveiling of memorial and park. Information: (202) 667-2667.
- 18-19 Jul Anniversary Weekend of the First Battle of Manassas: At Manassas National Battlefield Park:
- Living History Programs:
- 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.: Infantry tactics and musket firing demonstrations. A 30 minute program at Stuart's Hill Visitor Center.
- 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.: Cavalry tactics and weapons firing demonstration. A 30 minute program at "Portici".
- Guided Walking Tours:
- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.: Opening shots. This 90 minute tour will cover the opening shots of the First Battle of Manassas. The tour will begin at Stone Bridge (**TOUR STOP #12**).
- 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.: The fight for Matthews Hill. This 60 minute tour will highlight the Confederate attempt to delay the advancing Union Army (**MEET AT TOUR STOP #3--DOGAN RIDGE**).
- 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., and 4:15 p.m.: The fight for Henry Hill. This 30 minute program provides an overview of the First Battle of Manassas with an emphasis on the climatic fight for Henry Hill. Meet at Henry Hill Visitors Center.
- 26 Jul Living History: 2nd Annual Rally for the Valley. Outdoor event including food/music, Winchester. Proceeds to benefit Kernstown Battlefield Association and its efforts to acquire Kernstown Battlefield. Information: KBA, P.O. Box 1327, Winchester, VA 22604.
- 1 - 2 Aug Living History: Confederate soldiers reflect on the Valley Campaign of 1864 and their role in the Battle of Monocacy. Monocacy National Battlefield. Information: (301) 662-3515.
- 1 - 2 Aug Reenactment: Battles of Dranesville and Ball's Bluff at Ida Lee Park, Leesburg. Saturday 10 to 4:30; Sunday 10:30 to 3:00. Seminars, Civil War market; Saturday night camp tour with dance and music by Potomac Thunder. Information: (703) 777-1368.

UPCOMING BRCWRT TOURS

John P. McAnaw

15 AUG - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Tour of the Bull Run Fords - From Island Ford to Yates Ford, plus Other Civil War Sites Near This Historic Stream

- o These sites will include fortifications, the crossing point over Bull Run of the Confederate Military Railroad, the block house protecting the Orange and Alexandria's railroad bridge, and more.
- o This will be an eye opening and leisurely paced tour that will require a moderate level of physical activity. Only those in average or better physical condition should participate.
- o Light (day-tripper) pack recommended.
- o Bring your own water, food, and insect repellent. Carbonated beverages are not recommended. Also, bring an extra pair of sneakers for crossing Bull Run at designated fords to see sites on the Prince William County side.
- o **Assembly Point:**
Parking lot at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park near original Yates Ford Road (strip map showing specific locations will be issued to all those who sign up).
- o **Final Stop:**
Same--Parking lot at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park near the original Yates Ford Road.
- o Volunteers are needed to drive tour participants from the Assembly Point to Shelter vicinity Island Ford in Bull Run Regional Park. This will be the first stop on the tour. Upon completion of tour, drivers will also be needed to transport individuals back to their vehicles in Bull Run Regional Park.
- o Latrine facilities will be available only at Bull Run Regional Park and Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.
- o Tour Guide reconnaissance of tour route is set for Saturday, 1 August, at 8:30 a.m. Assembly Point is Parking Lot of Hemlock Overlook Regional Park near original Yates Ford Road.
- o Sign up roster will be at the Membership/Book Table at the July and August General Membership Meetings. If you sign up but later find you are unable to make the tour, notify John McAnaw promptly. For more information, see John McAnaw at the July or August General Membership Meeting or contact him at (703) 978-3371.

UPCOMING BRCWRT TOURS (Cont'd)

DATE Petersburg Battlefields of Summer - Fall 1864
TBD

- o Member interest in this one or two day tour will be requested at the 9 July General Membership Meeting. A great deal of time, study (including on-site reconnaissance, meetings with various property owners, etc.) will be required to prepare for this tour which will visit important, yet little known, battlefields, forts, and other sites of interest. We will conduct a tour of this fascinating area of the War of Secession only if sufficient membership commitment is present.
- o In addition, the Petersburg Siege Museum will be included in the tour.
- o If interested, yet unable to attend the 9 July General Membership Meeting, contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371.

UPCOMING BOOK PUBLICATION BY BRCWRT MEMBER

Robert L. Hemphill: "Platoon: Bravo Company", Sgt Kirkland Press, Fredericksburg, VA

John P. McAnaw

Member Bob Hemphill was the real life company commander of Oliver Stone. The much ballyhooed movie, "Platoon", was supposedly based on Stone's experiences in the Republic of Vietnam with Company B, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. If you want to know what really happened when Stone was in Bob's Company and get an accurate portrayal of the experiences of an Infantry Company Commander in combat during the critical years of 1967-1968, then buy Bob's book. I read the final draft and it is first rate! The cost is \$26.08 (includes tax); add \$4.00 for shipping and handling. For more information contact:

Robert L. Hemphill
9718 Swift Creek Court
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039
Telephone No. (703) 643-1220/1219

Bob will sign copies of his book at the 10 September 1998 General Membership Meeting.

SELECTED JULY BIRTHDATES

Michael E. Duggan

The Trivia questions at our General Membership Meeting on 9 July 1998 will be on these distinguished individuals:

- 1 Jul Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert, Bvt MG USA (1833-1890)
- 4 Jul James Johnston Pettigrew, BG CSA (1828-1863)
- 5 Jul David Glasgow Farragut, VADM USN (1801-1870)
- 7 Jul Alfred Pleasonton, Bvt MG USA (1824-1897)
- 8 Jul Alexander Hays, Bvt MG USV (1819-1864)
- 8 Jul Benjamin Henry Grierson, MG USV (1826-1911)
- 12 Jul Daniel Harvey Hill, LTG CSA (1821-1889)
- 13 Jul Nathan Bedford Forrest, LTG CSA (1821-1877)
- 19 Jul Richard Atkinson Pryor, BG CSA (1828-1919)
- 21 Jul David Hunter, MG USV (1802-1886)
- 23 Jul Darius N. Couch, MG USV (1822-1897)
- 27 Jul Ranald Slidell Mackenzie, Bvt MG USV (1840-1889)
- 30 Jul Elton John Farnsworth, BG USV (1837-1863)
- 31 Jul William Clark Quantrill, COL CSA (1837-1865)



CHARGE OF CONFEDERATES UPON RANDOL'S BATTERY AT FRAYSER'S FARM.

The contest for this battery was one of the most severe encounters of the day. The Confederates (the 55th and 60th Virginia Regiments) advanced out of formation, in wedge shape, and with trailing arms, and began a hand-to-hand conflict over the guns, which were finally yielded to them.

AFTER ACTION REPORT: COLD HARBOR TO PETERSBURG

John P. McAnaw

The BRCWRT tour of 13-14 June 1998 was a very successful. This two day tour was the most ambitious ever conducted by our Round Table. The tour was arranged so that members, who had only time for the 13 June part of the tour, could also participate. Based on comments, I believe that all participants had an enjoyable and informative time on the tour. At our 9 July 1998 meeting, they will speak for themselves. Mark Knowles and Dan Paterson joined me as Tour Guides. They did a first rate job and I thank them for their efforts.

The attitude and input from the following participants made the tour one of the most enjoyable that I have been on. They are: Nancy Anwyll, Bryce Cumbie, Bob Ford, Bob James, Oliver Jones, Mark Knowles, Yvonne Knowles, Emily Knowles, Andrejs Lubkans, John McAnaw, Jack Nance, Scott Newman, Ernie Packer, Dan Paterson, Jim Paterson, and Charlie Thorpe. Please advise me of any corrections to this list.

I also thank the following individuals who assisted us during our tour: Jim Gates, Volunteer, Cold Harbor Unit, Richmond National Battlefield Park; Libby Myrick, Manager, Flowerdew Hundred Plantation; Terry Driscoll, Staff Member, Flowerdew Hundred Plantation; Jim Lester, Ranger, City Point Unit, Petersburg National Battlefield (PNB); Chris Calkins, Chief Historian, PNB; Randy Watkins, Ranger, Fort Stedman/Colquitt's Salient and The Crater, PNB; and an Unknown Volunteer, Blandford Church.

Previously published information for this tour was adhered to until Noon on 14 June when a change was made for the afternoon activities. Briefly the tour went as follows:

13 June

STOPS 1 - 8	Cold Harbor
STOPS 9 - 10	Flowerdew Hundred
STOPS 11 - 12	City Point
STOP 13	U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum, Fort Lee, VA
STOP 14	Innkeeper Motor Inn, City Point

14 June

STOP 15	Baylor Farm
STOPS 16 - 25	Petersburg National Battlefield Park (including the Visitors Center, Battery 5, The Dictator, Fort Stedman/Colquitt Salient/Hare House site and The Crater)
STOP 26	Lunch - Petersburg (near the Flank Road)
STOPS 27 - 31	Blandford Church and Cemetery (including Memorial Hill)

AFTER ACTION REPORT: COLD HARBOR TO PETERSBURG (Cont'd)

Tour participants particularly enjoyed the following:

- o Flowerdew Hundred Plantation on the James River. We visited Windmill Point which is located on this beautiful property.
- o U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum.
- o Petersburg NBP Visitors Center.
- o The artillery and mortar demonstrations at Fort Stedman.
- o The Crater.
- o Blandford Church and the Memorial Hill section of the Cemetery. The church, complete with its Tiffany glass windows, is magnificent. The luminescent quality of the glass reminded one of the paintings of El Greco.
- o Baylor Farm. The rustic beauty of this site inspired everyone.

Summing up, we had a good time. Wish you were there.

**COLD HARBOR-PETERSBURG TOUR PARTICIPANT
NOMINATED FOR GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS**

Emily Katherine Knowles participated in our Cold Harbor-Petersburg tour of 13-14 June 1998. This was her third BRCWRT tour since Spring. Centreville-Union Mills and Civil War Alexandra were her other two. You may ask what is so special about completing three tours in three months? Well, you see, she is only eight months old. Her proud parents are Mark (our Treasurer) and Yvonne Knowles. She was a perfect trooper--never complaining and always cheerful. Research has concluded that she is the first eight month old to participate in three tours in three months and not cry or grouse at least once. Everyone was impressed by her amiable disposition. What a keen listener! I will let you know if Emily's accomplishments are recognized by the Guinness folks.

MEMORIAL HILL - THE 9TH OF JUNE

John P. McAnaw

If you walk east down the ridge from Blandford Church to a road appropriately named Arch, you will confront an impressive monument designed by a Petersburg architect, Richard Munder. It was completed in 1913 by the construction firm of Burns and Campbell. It is called, you guessed it, "The Arch". Two smaller walk through arches flank the higher central arch over the road. High on the central arch are the words "OUR CONFEDERATE HEROES". On the opposite side of the main arch are the words "AWAITING THE REVEILLE".

The "Arch" beckons all to pass through and visit the beautiful expanse of trees and fields beyond. The terrain is relatively flat on the north (left) side of Arch Avenue while a low ridge, replete with winding footpaths and circular flower gardens, lies to the south (right) of cited thoroughfare. This ridge is called Memorial Hill. There are a number of small granite shafts, regularly spaced, on both sides of the road. They identify sections wherein Confederates from a specific state lie in unmarked graves. An estimated 30,000 Confederates are buried around and on Memorial Hill!! The remains of many of these fallen Southerners were moved to Memorial Hill after the war, thanks to the efforts of the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg.

Arch Avenue ends at the intersection with A. P. Hill Avenue. The latter road courses southeast to the top of the ridge where it intersects with Memorial Avenue. This road runs southwest into the heart of Memorial Hill.

The Victorian Bandstand is located just north of the intersection of Memorial and Monument Avenues. It was dedicated by the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg on 30 July 1909. That date marked the anniversary of "The Battle of the Crater", a major Confederate victory against heavy odds. In fact, ceremonies sponsored by the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg on Memorial Hill go back to 1866. For many years after its dedication, the names of the casualties suffered on 9 June 1864 were read to the ranks of Confederate Veterans assembled on Memorial Avenue. These Veterans have all "gone west" but the annual ceremony is still held--now in Blandford Church. The names of the fallen are read and the haunting notes of "Taps" are still sounded. In the words of the poet Clifford Harrison,

"Dare we forget the aged sire
And beardless boy who braved the fire
 Of foes in fierce bravado thrown
 To topple roof and alter stone
And make of Petersburg a pyre?
Or Graham's guns, in righteous ire-
Bold voiced, exulting victor choir-
 Re-echoing down the years their tone,
 Dare we forget?
Let other days cease to inspire,
But raise the Stars and Bars still higher
 Above old Blandford's graves bloom-strown.
 The Ninth of June's our very own!
Our ideals blacken in the mire
 If we forget!"

MEMORIAL HILL - THE 9TH OF JUNE (Cont'd)

A short distance southwest from the Victorian Bandstand on Memorial Avenue is The Soldiers Monument. Atop the impressive granite column is a bronze statue of a Confederate infantryman looking north. Inscribed on the granite below the soldier are the words "Gloria Victis". This monument was dedicated by Lucy Lee Hill, the daughter of LTG Ambrose P. Hill. Also recorded on the monument are the date of the "Battle of the Crater" (30 July 1864), the names of the states comprising the Confederacy, and a list of those who fell during the battle fought on 9 June 1864. On the base of the monument are chiseled the words,

"Plant the fair column o'er the vacant grave
A hero's honors a hero have."

A minute's walk beyond The Soldier Monument on Memorial Avenue (and on the same side) is an Egyptian-style mausoleum. This is the final resting place of one of the Confederate heroes of the Petersburg Campaign. Above the entrance is a five pointed star with the letter "M" inscribed within the star. And every Petersburger knows who "M" was. But, of course, as the old saying goes, "You really can't be a Petersburger until you have three generations buried in Blandford."

Before completing this article, permit me to address what happened on 9 June 1864 and why it so deeply affected the residents of Petersburg. At about 9:00 a.m., the sounds of cannon fire and musketry startled Petersburgers. The City Hall bell began ringing, summoning all militiamen to assemble and march to Fletcher Archer's camp located about two miles south of the city along the Jerusalem Plank Road. All told, 125 individuals, including many elderly men and boys, gathered at the assembly point. Some were released from jail on their promise to fight the Yankees. They represented virtually all that was left of Petersburg's available manpower pool.

On that date, Petersburg was under attack by three columns of Federal soldiers. One column of 1,300 Union cavalrymen, commanded by BG August V. Kautz, moved north up the Jerusalem Plank Road toward Petersburg. Vicinity Battery 27 of the Dimmock Line, these citizen soldiers made their stand under the command of MAJ Archer. They repulsed several Federal probes, thus allowing more time for Confederate reinforcements, under BG Henry A. Wise, to react. However, at about 1:15 p.m., BG Kautz launched an attack that crumpled the defenses manned by the Petersburgers. Before the Union cavalrymen withdrew under pressure from Confederate reinforcements, a total of 15 Petersburg militiamen were killed and another 18 wounded. Also, 45 more were captured. All told, 78 of the 125 participants were casualties of engagement on 9 June 1864. No wonder that the gallant sacrifices of these gallant militiamen are still remembered by residents of the Cockade City. To again quote the poet Clifford Harrison, ". . .The Ninth of June's are very own."

Some of the information contained in this article concerning Blandford Cemetery was taken from Kay Hawkins Carwile's excellent booklet titled, "Blandford Cemetery", printed by Plummer Printing Company in 1993.

PRESERVATION CORNER

THE CONTINUING FIGHT TO PRESERVE THE MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

John P. McAnaw

At our memorable General Membership Meeting on 14 May 1998, Annie Snyder received the first Life Membership ever awarded by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. While accepting the award, Annie asked all those in attendance to get involved in stopping the construction of a 50-acre shopping mall planned for the west side of Route 234 between I-66 and the southern boundary of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. She asked those present to write to the following individual and express their objections to the proposed mall:

Mr. Mike Hopper
AIG Shopping Center Property
1900 International
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

I sincerely hope you honored Annie's request.

There are legitimate reasons for opposing this 320,000 square foot mall which will include a 14 screen cinema complex. Increased vehicular traffic, caused by ingress/egress to and from the mall, will markedly increase traffic congestion vicinity Route 234 and I-66. Secondly, the backside of this box top mall will be in very close proximity to the boundary of the Manassas National Battlefield Park, thus literally "bear hugging" the battlefield. Despite promises by cited developer to construct a berm, plant trees, and paint the back wall of the mall with a natural appearing color, the mall will detract from the setting of the battlefield. By the way, the height of the mall will be 39'!

Thirdly, problems that are associated with a mall of this size, e.g., drug dealing, gang activity, etc., are bound to spill over into the battlefield proper. The MNBFP has enough policing problems already.

A fourth reason can be found by studying the Troop Movement Maps (TMM) accompanying John J. Hennessy's book titled "Return to Bull Run", Simon & Schuster, New York, 1993. Look at TMM Nos. 15 and 16. The mall site is on part of the Second Manassas Battlefield. Elements of LTG James Longstreet's command, i.e., MG Richard H. Anderson's Division, attacked through cited property on 30 August 1862. Of note, severe fighting did occur on that date on what is now the campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), located across Route 234 from the mall site.

Now that I have stated some of the reasons why a mall should not be constructed at the site described, let me sadly note that the mall, named Parkridge Center, is a "done deal". According to recent newspaper articles, site preparation is slated to begin by 1 July 1998 for this mall.

Despite the above, I ask you, on behalf of Annie Snyder and other BRCWRT battlefield preservationists, to "fight the good fight" and, if you have not done so already, write Mr. Mike Hopper of AIG Shopping Center

PRESERVATION CORNER (Cont'd)

Property, plus the Chairman and other members of the Prince William Board of Supervisors, to express your opposition to the construction of "Parkridge Center".

As information, another building is proposed by a developer in the Battlefield Business Park, located just south of the NVCC campus. Also, a six-story hotel is planned on the south side of I-66 near Route 234. There are undoubtedly other construction projects in the mill that I am not aware of that will affect the MNBP. And what does this impending construction south of the MNBP, coupled with development west, north, and east of the MNBP all mean to the future of our battlefield? For certain, it will mean significantly more traffic on Route 234 and U.S. 29.

The increased traffic, described above, will intensify demands by realtors, developers, Rep. Frank Wolf, other politicians, and frustrated motorists to construct four 1000' left turn lanes at the Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29 and Route 234). If this ever occurs, next will come pressure to widen Route 234 to four lanes through the entire battlefield. If successful, this will be followed by more demands to widen U.S. 29 to four lanes through the battlefield.

The key to the preservation of the Manassas National Battlefield Park is the Stone House Intersection. The BRCWRT is on record opposing proposed "improvements" (i.e., 1000' turn lanes) at this location. I ask you for your continued support of MNBP Superintendent Robert K. Sutton, Director Robert G. Stanton, the BRCWRT, and other organizations in opposing the heavy handed efforts to destroy the heart of the MNBP with major road construction at the Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29 and Route 234). The MNBP belongs to all Americans. It should not be turned into a playground for greedy individuals more concerned about making money than trying to preserve a magnificent Civil War battlefield that is an integral part of our national heritage.

Again, I remind the reader that, back in 1988, when the legislative taking by the U.S. Congress of the William Center Tract occurred, it was the intent of Congress (including Rep. Frank Wolf) to draw all but local traffic off of those portions of U.S. 29 and Route 234 within the MNBP. What happened?

**E-MAIL UPDATE ON PLANS TO
"DESTROY THE PARK A LITTLE AT A TIME"**

On 12 June 1998, our Web Site received the following E-Mail from an individual deeply concerned about the future of the Manassas National Battlefield. His letter is provided below. Please read it. You will find it informative and very disturbing.

"Hi, my name is Tom Phillips, a past member of the round table, and a Confederate reenactor with the 42nd VA. Last Wednesday [10 June 1998], I took part in the town-hall meeting organized by Ed Wilbourn. I was on the panel. Well, I was shocked by what I saw and heard. Nothing short of total disrespect for the battlefield and history. While those who want to add turn lanes talk about safety, the real intent is to get rid of the park all together. We talked about economics almost as much as safety. . . .a friend of Wilbourn's handed out a letter he is going to send Shirley Ybarra-Secretary of VDOT. In it he outlines how the VDOT, if the Park Service does not provide the adequate right-of-way and other required land for proposed improvements that VDOT and the State should acquire the land by eminent domain. He also outlines that both 234 and 29 be widened by 4 lanes!!!!!!!!!!!! This cover of safety must stop. This is for development reasons only. What these folks want is to destroy the park a little at a time, and have the taxpayers pay for it so development can go in. While this seems right now a far fetched plan, it gives us a very clear message as to what the plans and intentions these folks have.

I know that the round table is keeping an eye on things, yet we need to do more than just watch. What we need is to rally the troops once and for all and put a stop to this. I think if we show how these folks want to destroy the battlefield we can stop this once and for all. I am also contacting other groups in the areas as well as nation-wide. As for the turn lanes, most of the local elected politicians support this measure. Yet, we might be able to change some minds by showing this letter as evidence as to the real intent of Ed and his greedy gang. However, national support is far more important.

Sorry to ramble, please let me know if the round table is interested in taking an active role.

Sincerely

Tom Phillips

P.S. I am more than willing to pass on copies of the above mentioned letter as well as others to the round table."

GOOD NEWS ON THE UNION MILLS FORTIFICATIONS (OR AT LEAST TWO OF THEM)

John P. McAnaw

On 25 October 1997 and 28 March 1998, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table conducted day long tours of Civil War sites in the Centreville-Union Mills area. Tour guides emphasized the tremendous cost to our Civil War heritage as the result of development. The importance of preserving extant sites of historic value was stressed. Also, I asked for a commitment from participants to get involved and to "fight the good fight" to preserve these sites. I received this commitment and, judging from recent events, your (meaning tour participants) efforts have borne fruit.

A representative of the Cultural Resources Section, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), Justin Patton, agreed to accompany us on both tours and permitted us to visit two fenced-in fortifications of great historical value that are located in the Balmoral Tract. This area is currently undergoing over-development. The tract is situated south of Compton Road, west of Union Mill Road, and north of the original Union Mills. We were the only organized group to visit (twice) these Confederate fortifications after they were turned over by the developer to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (FCBOS) several years ago. These sites are:

- o The Great Redoubt" aka the "A-Fort" (due to its shape), and
- o The "Ring Fort", aka the "Artillery Fort".

Both of these fortifications were constructed by Confederates during the period they occupied the Centreville-Union Mills area following the Battle of First Manassas until their withdrawal on 9 March 1862. Other members of our Round Table and myself have visited the sites described above, plus others vicinity the Union Mills, on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, some of these sites have fallen victim to the land maulers. Several members photographed the destruction of a section of Confederate breastworks located south of the "Ring Fort" during our tour on 28 March 1998. I believe this well-built section of breastworks was built by men of BG Jubal Early's Brigade.

In a page A1 article of The Fairfax Journal, writer Brent Heupel quotes Richard Sacchi of the Cultural Resources Section of the FCPA as stating, "The fort and its earthworks are the only fortifications of their kind left in the Fairfax County area with all of the development and everything else, they escaped." Justin Patton added that "They're certainly the only complete forts in Fairfax County."

For many years, members of the Round Table have been fighting for the preservation of these sites, plus others in the Union Mills area. One key goal was to get these fortifications on the National Register of Historic Places. Well, good news, both fortifications, described above, received that recognition on 17 June 1998!! These sites, comprising 25 acres, were also granted a State certification by the Virginia Landmarks Register. The FCBOS, led by Chairman Katherine Hanley, supported the designation. Also, the Fairfax County Park's bond referendum, slated to be on the ballot in November 1999, will include money for these two fortifications. Another key goal is

PRESERVATION CORNER (Cont'd)

for the FCPA to have title to the property in and around these two fortifications. This has not yet occurred. Title to this land still resides with the FCBOs. The future of the Union Mills fortification will be more secure if cited property is owned by the FCPA. I ask you for your continued efforts to "lock in" the preservation of the "Great Redoubt" and the "Ring Fort". Also, permit me to add that title to the historic Mount Gilead property and the last remaining section of the Confederate Military Railroad, that ran from near Centreville to Manassas Junction, is still with the FCBOs. I ask for your continued efforts to have all of the properties listed above come under the ownership of the Fairfax County Park Authority--and the sooner the better!

GOOD NEWS FROM FAIRFAX CITY BLENHEIM

John P. McAnaw

On 13 August 1704, during the War of Spanish Succession, combined English and Austrian forces, under the First Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Austria, won a resounding victory over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim, located on the left bank of the Danube near Hochstadt, Bavaria. Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874-1965) was directly descended (on this father's side) from the First Duke of Marlborough. The name of his country estate was Blenheim in honor of the triumph achieved, in part, by his illustrious forbearer.

There is also a Blenheim in Fairfax City. This estate, at one time encompassing 200 acres, is now reduced to 12, yet beautiful, acres. This estate, located off Old Lee Highway not far from St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church, was originally owned by a member of a prominent Fairfax and Prince William County family--the Wilcoxens. There is not doubt that this pre-Civil War estate was named in recognition of the English-Austrian victory at Blenheim in 1704. At present, it includes a well-preserved Georgian and Classical Revival home built in the 1850s, a four generation cemetery, vestiges of old gardens, and an impressive stand of hardwood trees.

During the Civil War, Blenheim was used as a hospital for Union forces. Some of the patients wrote their names on the walls in the attic. The earliest date found, thus far, was March 1862.

The long time and well-respected owner of this 12 acre estate, William Scott, passed away in 1997. A neighbor informed me that the octogenarian, Mr. Scott, loved animals and took great pleasure in feeding the wild red foxes and other animals who inhabited his 12 acre retreat. Since his death, his brother has been seeking to sell the estate. The Blenheim estate has an assessed value of \$1.48M.

On Tuesday, 13 June 1998, the Fairfax City Council members, to the loud applause from a packed gallery in City Hall, voted to create an historic district around the Blenheim estate--much to the chagrin of the lawyer representing the estate's owner. As Dominic Bonaiuto, writer for The Fairfax Times, stated in his 25 June 1998 article on Blenheim, "Designation as a historic district does not bar development, but it does create special development requirements. The Board of Architectural Review would have to approve any development plan and future architectural and landscape changes. In addition, the move by the council prohibits demolition of the house."

GOOD NEWS FROM FAIRFAX CITY - BLENHEIM (Cont'd)

There are two other historic districts in Fairfax City:

- o The downtown area, and
- o Old Fairfax Elementary School. In the 1930s, the building was the headquarters of the Klu Klux Klan. The KKK newspaper was printed on the first floor, and meetings were held on the second floor. The Fairfax Museum is now located in the building.

Congratulations are in order to the hard-working members of the Citizens Coalition for the Preservation of Blenheim, because, without their efforts, Blenheim, like the nearby Farr estate, would have been lost to land maulers. This group has been successful in making residents of Fairfax City aware of the importance of Blenheim and the necessity of preserving what remains of the city's green space.

PETERSBURG - THE CRATER A FORGOTTEN HERO - VICTOR JEAN BAPTISTE GIRARDEY

John P. McAnaw

At 4:44 a.m., 30 July 1864, the Union IX Corps mine exploded beneath the Confederate fortifications occupied by BG Stephen Elliott's South Carolina Brigade. The effect of the explosion was devastating. The thinly manned Confederate line protecting the southeastern approaches to Petersburg was ruptured. Only through quick and decisive action of several Confederate leaders plus the unbelievable gallantry of outnumbered Confederate infantrymen and artillerymen was Petersburg saved.

Most Civil War buffs know of the outstanding performance of BG William "Billy" Mahone but very few remember another great hero of that desperate battle. He was Victor J. B. Girardey, a native of Lauw, France.

From 25 June 1862 until 21 May 1864, Girardey served as a captain and assistant adjutant general on the staff of BG Ambrose R. "Rans" Wright's George brigade. During this period, CPT Girardey developed an enviable reputation for bravery and professional excellence. He then transferred to the staff of BG William "Billy" Mahone's Division.

As BG "Billy" Mahone organized the badly outnumbered Confederates of COL David Weisiger's Virginia Brigade and LTC Matthew R. Hill's Georgia Brigade (no more than 1,500 all told) for an attack to retake the Crater (Elliott's Salient), he yelled at CPT Girardey, "Tell Weisiger to forward." (That is the correct wording. The word "go" was not used.) The time was about 9:15 a.m.

To quote, BG Mahone, "CPT Girardey, like the brilliant officer he was, never failing to do precisely the right thing at the right time, rushed with uplifted sword to the front of the brigade himself, repeated the command "forward" and led the brigade, which, as if on dress parade, and with the steadiness and resolution of regulars, and regulars they were in that every sense which makes the soldier effective, moved forward to meet the desultory advance of the Federal host. Reserving their fire they pushed on, when the enemy turning, the Virginia brigade, with a plunging fire went into the works pell mell. Here and now the fight was hand to hand and the work of death by the bayonet and the butt of the musket went on till all of Gen's Johnson's line was retaken." This attack turned the tide of the battle and led to the disastrous defeat of Union IX and X Corps troops at The Battle of the Crater. As information, COL Weisiger's gallant brigade was composed of the 6 VA, 12 VA, 16 VA, 41 VA, and 61 VA.

So important was CPT Girardey's contribution to this victory that four days after the battle he was promoted from Captain to Brigadier General! This is the only time in the history of the Confederate Army that such a "four jump" promotion occurred.

Ironically, BG Girardey then took over as commander of his old outfit where he served for over two years--Wright's ~~Georgia~~ Brigade. Tragically, this superb warrior was killed soon after while commanding his brigade on 16 August 1864 at Fussell's Mill. He is buried at Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta, GA, with BG E. P. Alexander, BG "Rans" Wright, and three other Confederate general officers whose names escape me.

Bull Run Civil War Round Table
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exp. Dec:98
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