

STONE WALL

AUGUST 1998

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

THE HEART OF THE VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1862

Gary L. Ecelbarger

As Stonewall Jackson led his defeated army away from the northern Shenandoah Valley the day after the Battle of Kernstown, he came across LTC John M. Patton of the 21st VA Infantry and briefly engaged him in conversation. Stopping in the Valley Turnpike's stone-walled corridor, the two discussed the battle fought the previous day. "A grim smile then broke over his face," remembered Patton, "and he jerked out in his peculiar way, 'Colonel, I heard you charged them yesterday!'" Patton quickly corrected Stonewall, explaining that the circumstances on the field prevented him from conducting a charge. Although disappointed at the battle revision, Jackson assured Patton that he was perfectly right in not exposing his men in a headless assault, then he rode away. "What struck me," Patton noted, "was the lighting up of his countenance at the idea of a voluntary charge."

Throughout the first 13 months of the Civil War, all of Stonewall Jackson's battles--Manassas, Kernstown, and McDowell--were fought on the defensive. That would all change during the most significant days of the campaign. Beginning on May 23, 1862, Stonewall Jackson sustained a tactical offensive for the first time in the war, not only briefly clearing his adversary out of the Shenandoah Valley, but initiating a series of events that severely hampered Union General George B. McClellan's Peninsular Campaign.

Gary Ecelbarger will lead the BRCWRT through the heart of Jackson's campaign, from 23 May to 1 June, 1862. He will analyze these ten vital days at the strategic and tactical levels, as well as evaluating the "operational art" of Jackson's performance. He will explode some of the myths that have for so long shrouded this campaign and provide a more factual interpretation of the events that made Stonewall Jackson the most name recognized military figure on the face of the earth.

A former president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Gary L. Ecelbarger has published more than a dozen articles and reviews for Civil War and historical periodicals, and was a consultant and contributing writer for two volumes of Time-Life Books, Voices of the Civil War, series. Ecelbarger's first book, "We Are In For It!" The First Battle of Kernstown, was the History Book Club's featured Civil War selection in November 1997. He has a biography under review by LSU Press, and is currently in the midst of researching for a future book encompassing the history of the battles of Front Royal and First Winchester. He is a board member of the Kernstown Battlefield Association, and was recently hired as a historical consultant for the Glass-Glen Burnie Foundation, a joint effort to convert more than 600 acres of battlefield property to an interpretive park. He lives in Sterling, Virginia, with his wife and three children.

**THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 1998, AT 7:30 P.M.
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD VISITORS CENTER**

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**

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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](http://members.aol.com/brcwrt/index.htm)

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

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

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10 September 1998
Michael Riley
General John F. Reynolds
at Second Manassas

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8 October 1998
Brian Pohanka
Fire Zouaves at First Manassas

* * * * *

12 November 1998
Gordon Shay
Leadership at the Round Tops

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10 December 1998
David Smith
General John C. Pemberton During
the Vicksburg Campaign

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MEMBERSHIP

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 to: Mark Knowles, 169 Applegate Drive,
Sterling, Virginia 20164.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John P. McAnaw

This is my final newsletter prior to standing down as the President of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. I hope that it was obvious to you, the reader, that I thoroughly enjoyed the past 12 months. Thanks to the efforts of the Round Table's officers and many of our members, we had a very successful "Operational Year" 1997-1998.

Paid membership is at an all-time high. Our treasury is in excellent shape. And, our tours of Civil War battlefields and other sites were very successful. One thing is for sure--you can not beat the price of these tours! The great majority of our Tour Guides were drawn from our own ranks--demonstrating once again the high level of professional competence of our membership. Also, the quality of our guest speakers was outstanding. There were a number of memorable presentations.

Further, I am proud of our record regarding battlefield preservation. Our first priority is the preservation of the Manassas Battlefields. The fight to save this crown jewel in the National Park Service's crown is far from over. As the founder of the BRCWRT, William J. Miller, pointed out at last month's General Membership Meeting, battlefield preservation has been of critical importance to this organization since its beginning in 1991. Our genuine commitment to battlefield preservation is one of the reasons we differ from the vast majority of other Civil War groups. We get involved! (See Ed Bearss letter on the subject elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Despite the fear of leaving deserving individuals off my list, I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the following members of the BRCWRT Executive Committee: Dan Paterson, Ann Collins, Mark Knowles, Martha Hendley, Karen Fojt, Mike Duggan, Patricia Gallagher, and Scott Patchan. Also, I extend a special thanks to Susie Duvall who was of great help in the preparation of my newsletter material. And, I can't forget our renowned Tour Guides who were responsible for the success of our visits to various Civil War sites. Some have been mentioned already but for completeness sake, they are: Art Candenuist, John DePue, Mike Duggan, Bob Ford, Pat Gallagher, Mark Knowles, Dave Molumby, Blake Myers, Scott Patchan, Dan Paterson, Bev Regeimbal, and Rick Wolfe.

Also, I want to thank all of those who manned our table at the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Show in Chantilly, Virginia. It was our first try but our table attracted a lot of attention and comments.

Please excuse any omission of recognition on my part. It was unintentional. Again, thank you for a memorable year. Keep the faith!

SELECTED BIRTHDATES FOR AUGUST

Michael E. Duggan

The Trivia questions at our General Membership Meeting on 13 August 1998 will be on these distinguished individuals:

1 Aug Maxcy Gregg, BG CSA (1814-1862)
1 Aug Robert Todd Lincoln, CAPT USV (1843-1926)
3 Aug Thomas Francis Meagher, BG USV (1823-1867)
7 Aug Evander McIvor Law, BG CSA (1836-1920)
8 Aug Nelson Appleton Miles, MG USV (1839-1925)
18 Aug William Farquhar Barry, Bvt MG USA (1818-1879)
21 Aug Williams Barksdale, BG CSA (1821-1863)
22 Aug George Stoneman, MG USV (1822-1894)
23 Aug Rufus Ingalls, Bvt MG USV (1818-1893)
24 Aug George Hume "Maryland" Steuart, BG CSA (1828-1903)
25 Aug John Newton, MG USV (1823-1895)
28 Aug James Alexander Walker, BG CSA (1832-1901)
27 Aug Emory Upton, Bvt MG USV (1839-1881)
31 Aug FitzJohn Porter, MG USV (1822-1901)

BOOK SIGNINGS BY BRCWRT AUTHORS

John P. McAnaw

- 13 Aug Gary L. Ecelbarger. "We Are In For It!" The First Battle of Kernstown. This was the featured Civil War selection of the History Book Club in November 1997. To quote William C. Davis' review in the History Book Club newsletter, "History may tell the story of old events, but it can itself be very 'new' in its approach and findings, and "We are in for it." is new history in the best mold."
- 10 Sep Robert L. Hemphill. "Platoon: Bravo Company". Bob was an infantry company commander in the Republic of Vietnam during the critical years of 1967-1968. The much ballyhooed movie "Platoon" was supposedly based on Oliver Stone's experiences while serving in Bob Hemphill's company--Company B, 3d Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Read this to get an accurate portrayal of the experiences of a combat commander and to find out what really happened when Stone was in Bob Hemphill's unit. I read the final draft of the book and strongly recommend it to all students of American military history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Michael E. Duggan

- 15-16 Aug Encampment of Company C, 2 MD Volunteer Infantry Regiment, CSA. Recreation of Confederate camp life, including military drills, 1:00 to 4:00 pm each day, at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD, located just south of intersection of MD Routes 450 and 197. Admission charge. Information: (301) 809-3089 or 809-3088.
- 22-23 Aug Artillery Program: "Artillery Through the Ages" at Malvern Hill. Evolution of artillery from Revolutionary War to present. Loading and firing demonstrations. Information: (804) 226-1981.
- 28-30 Aug Anniversary of the Second Battle of Manassas: At Manassas National Battlefield Park. Information: (703) 361-1339.
- 29-30 Aug Living History Programs (29 and 30 Aug, Stuart's Hill)
- 11:00 am - 1:30 pm: Soldier life and musket firing demonstration.
 - 11:45 am and 2:15 pm: Civil War medicine demonstration (additional program at 4:30 pm, 29 Aug).
- 29-30 Aug Cavalry at the Second Battle of Manassas:
- 11:00 am and 1:00 pm: Cavalry tactics and weapons firing demonstration. Meet at "Portici". Additional program at 3:00 pm, 29 Aug).
- 29-30 Aug Guided Walking Tours:
- 10:30 am and 1:00 pm: Stuart's Hill Walking Tour. This 20-minute program will provide an introduction to the Second Battle of Manassas. Tours begin at the Stuart's Hill Visitors Center.
 - 1:00 to 2:00 pm: Stonewall Jackson at Second Manassas. Walking tour of Brawner Farm Battlefield. Meet at the Brawner Farm entrance on Route 29.
 - 2:00 to 4:00 pm: Stonewall Jackson at Second Manassas. Walking tour of Jackson's 2-1/2 mile battle line. Meet at Brawner Farm entrance on Route 29.

Upcoming Events (Cont'd)

- 28-30 Aug Special Programs:
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 28 Aug: The Battle of Brawner Farm. The opening fight of the Battle of Second Manassas. Meet at Brawner Farm entrance on Route 29.
 - 7:30 - 9:30 pm, 28 Aug: Candlelight tour of the historic Stone House.
 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm, 29 Aug: Historian and author John Hennessy will speak on General Robert E. Lee's command decisions during the Second Battle of Manassas. Meet at the Stuart's Hill Amphitheater. Come early and bring a picnic dinner. After the program, tour a military encampment by the light of campfires.
 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm, 30 Aug: Walking Tour of Chinn Ridge. Join local historian Scott Patchan as he shares his recent research on this pivotal moment during the Second Battle of Manassas. Meet at Stop #9 (Hazel Plain (Chinn House)).
- 12-13 Sep Hikes: Ranger-led hikes on Antietam Battlefield. Part of the 136th battle anniversary observation. Information: (301) 432-5124.
- 12-13 Sep Reenactment of the Battle of South Mountain: Hosted by 7th MD Volunteer Infantry Regiment (USA). Over 3,000 reenactors expected. All donations to the Central Maryland Heritage League to preserve South Mountain Battlefield. Points of Contact:

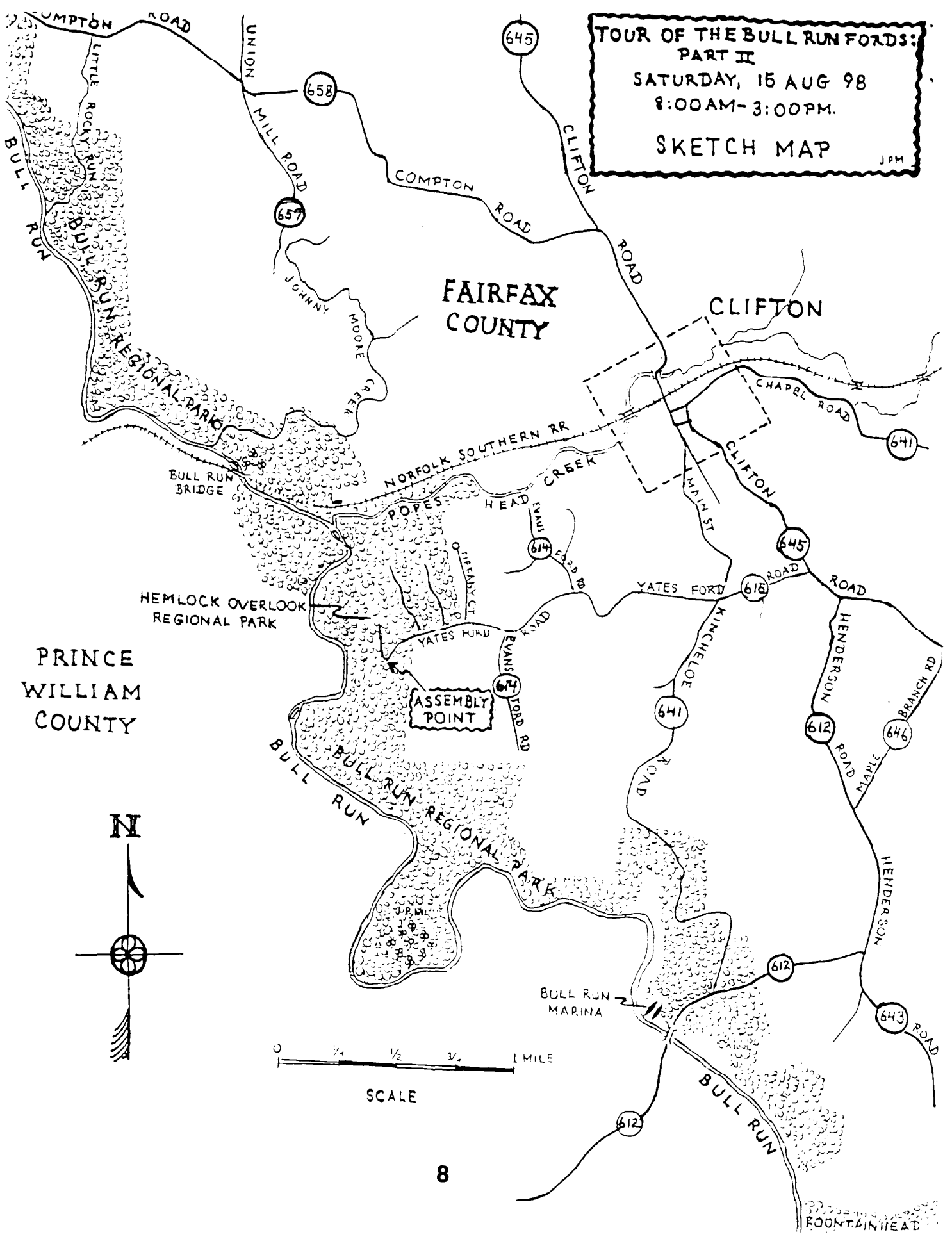
Russ Richards - (301) 241-4707 or Web Site:
<http://www.cmhl.org/html/reenact.html>
Ann Collins - (202) 624-5307 - Office
- 17 Sep Ceremony: 136th Anniversary Ceremony at 6:00 pm on Antietam Battlefield near the Dunker Church. Lecture in Visitors Center Theater at 7:00 pm. Information: (301) 432-5124.
- 17-20 Sep Heritage Festival: 7th Annual Sharpsburg Heritage Festival. Civil War concerts, living history, walking tours, quilt and artifact displays, craft fair, Christmas shop, and lectures.
- 19-20 Sep Living History: Programs at Antietam Battlefield for the 136th Anniversary observance. Free Saturday night torch light tour by reservation. Information: (301) 432-5124.

BRCWRT TOUR OF THE BULL RUN FORDS - PART II

John P. McAnaw

- Date/Tour Length: 15 August 1998 (8:00 am to 3:00 pm). Tour will be conducted at a leisurely pace and cover approximately 6.8 miles.
- Tour Objectives:
 - Enjoy the scenic beauty along Bull Run.
 - Visit principal fords used during the Civil War along Bull Run, ranging from Island Ford downstream to Yates Ford plus other nearby historic sites including Confederate fortifications, the Orange and Alexandria RR bridge over Bull Run, the site of the block house protecting cited bridge, and more.
- Assembly Location: Western terminus of Route 615 (Yates Ford Road) where road turns north into George Mason University complex at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (see accompanying map).
- Assembly Time: 7:55 am by large park sign at end of Route 615 (Yates Ford Road).
- Tour Concept:
 - After short briefing and head count, designated drivers at the Assembly Point will transport all tour participants via Clifton Road (Route 645), Compton Road (Route 658), and Bull Run Post Office Road (Route 621) into Bull Run Regional Park. Group will then proceed along Bull Run Drive and park in the parking lot just south of the swimming pool (drivers will be furnished a strip map).
 - Tour will commence at nearby footbridge on the Bull Run Trail.
 - Tour will end at the original Assembly Point. Designated individual will transport drivers to their vehicles at the swimming pool parking lot in Bull Run Regional Park.
- Expected Weather: Temperature o/a 88 degrees F, with high humidity.
- Recommended Equipment/Personal Items: Light daytripper pack and good hiking shoes/boots. Bring minimum of 2-1/2 quart of water, lunch, and trail snacks (no carbonated beverages). Also sweat rag, insect repellent, and toilet paper. **NOTE:** Based on our trail recon on 1 August 1998 (under optimum weather conditions), there will not be enough time to wade any of the Bull Run fords. Thus, an extra pair of sneakers will not be needed. TRAVEL LIGHT!
- Special Instructions:
 - Only individuals in average or better physical condition should sign up. Those with past histories of heat stroke/exhaustion or other health problems, should not participate.
 - Latrine facilities are available only at Bull Run Regional Park vicinity the swimming pool and Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.

TOUR OF THE BULL RUN FORDS:
PART II
SATURDAY, 15 AUG 98
8:00AM-3:00PM.
SKETCH MAP



BANKS' STATE OF MIND

From the Files of:
Gary L. Ecelbarger

On the morning of 24 May 1862, less than twelve hours after receiving the catastrophic news about the fate of the Union garrison at Front Royal, MG Nathaniel Banks, stationed with most of his force twelve miles east of Front Royal, sent his wagons northward to Winchester. As the bands played, "Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?", Banks' infantry and artillery followed at 8 a.m. Minutes before he joined his force, Banks penned what he believed to be his last letter to his family:

Strasburg, Virginia
24 May 8 a.m.

My Dear Wife,

Today we are very likely to have an encounter with the enemy, and I may not write you again soon. Yesterday our troops were badly beaten at Front Royal. They were few in number, two regiments only, and the enemy six or seven thousand. Thus they mass their men upon us while our govt. separates its forces in little powerless squads without power ever to crush the foe--anywhere. This policy must be changed or our government and people are destroyed.

Kiss the dear children for me. I love them and their mother greatly. Dear Birney, how I should love to hug her once more--and Fremont and Maud. Darling children, how I love them. I want them all to be just. It is the terrible injustice of our people to each other, the terrible lying they indulge in on all sides that has destroyed us. I want our dear children to be just, to be trustful. That embraces everything. Nobody is wise who is not just. Teach them to be just.

Dear [wife], you know how kind you have been to me and how I have stood in need of your great courage and support...Take good care of our dear children. They are very fine creatures. It would be a pleasure to live if only to watch them, but life is not worth much. Remember me affectionately to my mother, my brothers and sisters. I need not write anymore.

Our poor toddling government--how I wish it was stronger. Good Bye dear wife--Good Bye my darling children--how much, how dearly, how truly I love you all. Good Bye. I am in good health and in good spirits--the best. Have perfect confidence in our getting through our difficulties. I have not had a doubt about it and have not now, but it overcomes me when I think of my dear family. Thank Emma for her kindness to us all. Good Bye.

N. P. Banks

PRESERVATION CORNER

ED BEARSS SPEAKS OUT ON BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

John P. McAnaw

As stated in the President's Column, commitment to battlefield preservation is the hallmark of the BRCWRT. This sets us apart from the vast majority of other Civil War organizations.

The distinguished Civil War historian and tour guide par excellence--Ed Bearss--recently commented on the lack of interest in battlefield preservation. Below is his recent letter on the subject:

June 1998

Dear Friend of Civil War Battlefield Preservation:

During the course of the year, I have the privilege of leading many, many groups over Civil War battlefields. Almost all of those groups are disappointed and dismayed to learn of the preservation problems facing most of those battlefields.

I also have the privilege of receiving newsletters from many Civil War groups all over the country, and I continue to be disappointed and dismayed to see no notice of battlefield preservation news in many of those newsletters.

There are a few, of course, who have a regular column on preservation, for which much information is available from a variety of sources.

But the majority of these Civil War-oriented newsletters do not even mention the continuing battles for preservation at many important Civil War battlefields.

I am writing you to make a personal request that at least some space in your group's newsletter be devoted to battlefield preservation on a regular basis. If you don't feel you receive enough information for a regular column, drop me a note and I'll see to it that you do receive plenty of battlefield preservation information. Thank you in advance for your continued commitment to the study of Civil War history and to the preservation of its hallowed ground.

Sincerely,

Edwin C. Bearss
Historian Emeritus

PRESERVATION CORNER (Cont'd)

**THE PRESERVATION OF THE
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK**

The July issue of our newsletter included an E-Mail letter from Tom Phillips, the President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Heritage Preservation Association. He described what happened at a town hall meeting held by Gainesville Supervisor Wilbourn on 10 June 1998. The MNBP is unfortunately in Wilbourn's district. Tom pulled no punches when he wrote, "Well, I was shocked by what I saw and heard. Nothing short of total disrespect for the battlefield and history. With those who want to add turn lanes talk about safety, the real intent is to get rid of the park all together... 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." Tom also informed attendees on the threats to the MNBP at our General Membership Meeting on 9 July 1998. Efforts are on-going to publicize nationally the threats to the MNBP and to schedule a meeting on the subject in the near future with concerned preservationist groups. The BRCWRT will participate in cited meeting.

The Stone House Intersection (U.S. 29 and Route 234) is the heart of the MNBP. The construction, as proposed by Rep. Frank Wolf and other politicians (heavily financed by realtors and developers), of four 1000' left turn lanes at the Stone House Intersection will destroy the historic setting and integrity of the Park. Cited construction will lead to further road "improvements" such as the creation of four lane highways east-west (U.S. 29) and north-south (Route 234) through the MNBP.

I ask you to show your opposition to the construction of the four 1000' left turn lanes at the intersection by writing letters to the area newspapers and politicians cited in previous newsletters. Also, show your support for MNBP Superintendent Robert Sutton and Director Robert Stanton of the National Park Service for their determined stand not to allow the construction of turn lanes at the Stone House Intersection.

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REAUTHORIZATION OF ISTEA

In the event you missed the news, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) was reauthorized by Congress on 22 May 1998 and signed into law by the president on 9 June. Called "TEA-21", the Transportation Equity Act is a \$217 billion, six-year public works bill that will provide funding for improvements to highways and bridges throughout the country. Critics call "TEA-21" one of the worst pork barrel bills passed by Congress in recent years. Rep. Frank Wolf was a co-sponsor of the House Bill.

PRESERVATION CORNER (Cont'd)

A total of \$15 billion dollars will be taken over a three-year period, from the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget to fund "TEA-21". Needless to add, the Veteran community is up in arms over this "highway robbery". But what did you expect? This is an election year.

The good news, relative to historic preservation, is that the original ISTEA provision for funding transportation enhancement projects remains in the Transportation Equity Act ("TEA-21"). Such projects could include acquisition of scenic easements, scenic or historic sites, operation of historic transportation facilities, etc.

According to one estimate, transportation enhancement funds for "TEA-21" will average \$630 million per annum, or a 46.5% increase over the amount received yearly through ISTEA (\$432 million). According to information compiled by The Civil War Trust, more than 50 Civil War sites in 12 states have been funded with ISTEA money since 1991. Approximately \$23.6 million in ISTEA funds and \$20.2 million in matching funds has been expended to preserve and interpret Civil War sites, including battlefields.

Here is what "TEA-21" will mean to the preservation of our Civil War heritage here in Virginia:

- o The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission will get \$500,000 from the Highway Trust Fund over the next two years to develop a plan for the interpretation and protection of ten Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley.
- o In 1999, \$1 million will be expended to rehabilitate the Tredegar Iron Works which will then serve as the new visitors center for the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

If you care to learn more about "TEA-21", contact The Civil War Trust at (703) 516-4944. Information regarding this article was obtained from The Civil War News, Battlefield Update (the newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program) and The Civil War Trust.

* * * * *

HARPERS FERRY AND CEDAR MOUNTAIN

Assistant Editor Deborah Fitts of The Civil War News authored two articles of interest to Civil War preservationists in the August issue (page 18).

First, she advised of efforts by the Friends of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HFNHP) and Dennis Frye, president of the

PRESERVATION CORNER (Cont'd)

Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) to add 2,074 acres to cited park. Currently, the HFNHP consists of 2,505 acres. About 1,600 acres of the proposed expansion are on Schoolhouse Ridge.

Deborah Fitts stated that the proposal to expand the boundaries of HFNHP by 2,074 acres received mixed reviews at a Jefferson County public hearing on 10 June 1998. However, Scot Faulkner, president of the Friends of HFNHP, stated that legislation expanding the park's boundary could be voted on by Congress as early as the fall of 1998.

The second article by Deborah Fitts addressed the acquisition by APCWS last April of a 152 acre tract on the Cedar Mountain battlefield. The cost for this acreage, which includes a monument to General Charles Winder, CSA, was \$290,000. Funds for this purchase came from a \$5.4 million APCWS bond issue which also provided the money for land acquisitions at Brandy Station and Third Winchester. All of these battlefields are of special interest to members of our Round Table.

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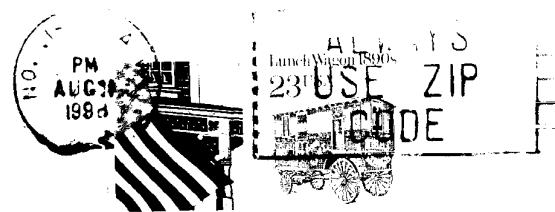
REVISED CIVIL WAR PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM THE CIVIL WAR TRUST

John P. McAnaw

The third edition of The Civil War Trust's "Official Guide to the Civil War Discovery Trail" is now on sale. It has been completely revised and updated. Four more states and 94 new sites have been added. All told, over 500 Civil War sites in 28 states are described in the "Official Guide." Also, valuable travel information, including detailed maps are included in the book. The cost of the guide book is \$13.95 plus shipping and handling. To order your copy, call 1-888-CW-TRAIL. To complement the "Official Guide," a brochure, featuring a national map showing the location of all sites on the Discovery Trail on one side and information on various aspects of the Civil War on the other, can be obtained by contacting:

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