

STONE WALL

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

LONGSTREET'S ATTACK

August 30, 1862

Scott Patchan

For the last several years, Scott Patchan has studied the action which took place on Chinn Ridge, and is completing a monograph which minutely examines this phase of the Battle of Second Manassas. The following are excerpts (out of order to suit the smaller space availability in newsletter format as well as to introduce the topic) from John Hennessey's forward to Scott's publication.

No portion of the Second Manassas campaign more deserves a closer examination than the fighting on Chinn Ridge. On Benjamin Chinn's Farm occurred some of the most intense sustained combat of the war – fighting that sucked a stream of Union and Confederate regiments in and expelled them as bloody remnants. What happened there that Saturday afternoon resolved the entire Second Manassas campaign, determining the magnitude of Confederate victory (or Union disaster, for those so inclined). Few pieces of landscape hallowed during the war can claim such an obvious, decisive connection to the outcome of a major battle.

Beyond the site's significance, the complexity of the fighting also demands a closer look than has been given till now... Scott Patchan has stepped into this historical morass armed with new sources, a detailed knowledge of the ground... and a fresh perspective. He has forged a monograph that clears much of the mud, sharpens the detail, and removes much of the guesswork involved in previous works dealing with the climactic clash at Second Manassas.

Moreover, he takes this epoch of battle and views it incessantly through personal eyes, weaving accounts rarely used, previously missed, or not used at all.

John Hennessey

Thursday, January 14, 1999
7:30 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center



Greetings members & friends.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I'm looking forward to face 1999's challenges. 1998 was a special year for myself and my family; I look forward to continuing to work with the Longstreet Society to aid them in their project of restoring the general's Piedmont Hotel.

1998 had no shortage of preservation issues that our organization confronted, and 1999 should be no different. We will continue to keep you informed. Our speakers programming will continue to be what I think is the best, compared to what I have seen with other local organizations; we have not only topics of local interest but also a wider range of topicality, and great speakers, including some of our own members.

I want to start off the New Year with a membership drive. If any of you have a friend with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them as a guest. Most visitors end up joining us, and the best way to spread the word about our excellent programs is through word of mouth from the round table's own members.

For those who have already renewed, thank you very much. For those who have not, please do so as soon as possible so we can continue to get the newsletter out.

Looking forward to seeing you. *Dan Paterson*

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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second Thursday of each month at the
Fairfax County Government Center, 7: 30
p.m.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Joseph Brevard Kershaw MGen CSA, 1822-1894. Served with distinction as a brigade and division commander - mostly with the 1st Corps. Captured at Saylor's Creek.

7 Dan Tyler Bgen USV, 1799-1882. At 1st Manassas, his Federal 1st division's slow movement along the Warrenton Turnpike clogged the road and delayed deployment of the flanking column, allowing time for the Confederates to detect their presence and react.

8 James Longstreet LGen CSA, 1821-1904. As a child was given the nickname Pete. He roomed with John Pope for a time at West Point. Longstreet graduated 54th in a class of 56 in the class of 1842.

14 Matthew Fontaine Maury, Cmdr CSN, 1806-1873. The Pathfinder of the Seas was a renowned oceanographer, he was the first to describe the Gulf Stream and to mark routes across the Atlantic Ocean. He was a Confederate agent in London 1862-1865, where he was instrumental in obtaining warships.

14 Judson Kilpatrick, MGen USV, 1836-1881. The first Regular officer to be wounded in action, at Big Bethel, June 10, 1861.

16 Henry Wager Halleck, MGen USA, 1815-1872. Lincoln's military advisor and general in chief. Lincoln regarded him as "little more than a rate clerk" and Stanton characterized him as "probably the greatest scoundrel and most bare-faced villain in America."

PRESERVATION

Touring the Centreville fortifications with Ed Bearss

By John McAnaw

Historian Edwin C. Bearss is considered by many as the foremost authority on the War Between the States. I asked Mr. Bearss to join BRCWRT members on a tour of fortifications that are threatened by development in Centreville.

These earthworks are located on a 14.33 acre wooded tract slated for townhouse development in 1999. The tract is bordered on the west/northwest by the Old Centreville Road, on the north by townhouses west of Braddock Creek Road and south of Braddock Road, on the east/southeast by townhouses west of Little Rocky Run Circle, and on the south/southwest by townhouses north of Sunset Ridge Drive.

Despite a knee injury that kept him hobbling, Mr. Bearss joined Dan Paterson, Bev Regeimbal and myself on December 21 for an afternoon tour. Unfortunately Mike Miller and Scott Patchan were unable to join us.

The first earthworks we visited appeared to be part of the main Confederate defense line covering Centreville that was built during the fall/winter 1861-1862. These

fortifications are approximately 110 yards in length and run in a relatively straight line on a magnetic azimuth of 16-196 degrees. Evidence of refacing of these fortifications is quite apparent, suggesting subsequent construction. The refacing work was designed to defend against attacks from the **north/northwest**.

The second line of fortifications that we visited is located about 160 yards northwest of the first set of earthworks. This line of breastworks is also about 110 yards long and parallels the first works. These run on a magnetic azimuth of 17-197 degrees and were laid out to defend against attacks from the **west/northwest**.

If you are familiar with the layout of the Confederate defense line around Centreville that was constructed during the fall and winter of 1861-1862, you must realize that there was no Union threat from the west/northwest. Mr. Bearss stated that evidence indicates that these fortifications represent at least two periods of construction by both Union and Confederate forces. He added that the refacing of the works and the construction in

the line of works occurred probably immediately after the second battle of Manassas in August 1862 and/or right after the battle of Bristoe Station in October 1863. Thus, in both instances, the fortifications would have been part of the Union fallback position that was intended to thwart General Lee's advance against Centreville.



Photo of John McAnaw, Ed Bearss and Bev Regeimbal at the Trenches, taken by Dan Paterson

These fortifications are located in the midst of a high density townhouse section of Centreville. They are unique and include the last surviving unprotected section of the Confederate defense line in the vicinity of Centreville. Mr. Bearss stated that the earthworks were "quite impressive" and had a good degree of integrity. He also added that they require further investigation. This view is, of course, shared by Dan Paterson, Bev Regeimbal and myself, as well as historian Mike Miller and Scott Patchan who had accompanied me on a previous tour of these fortifications. In conclusion, these endangered fortifications should be protected. Your support of Round Table efforts would be greatly appreciated.

Late Breaking News – Jan 3 excerpt from Wash. Post.....

"Civil War Buffs Again Up in Arms, Tower Called Threat to Va. Battlefield"

By Dan Eggen Washington
Post Staff Writer
On the brow of a gentle hill in Manassas National Battlefield Park, a Pale stone obelisk stands in memory of a Confederate brigadier general named Barnard Elliott Bee. The South Carolinian is immortalized not so much for

what he did but for what he said, bestowing a lasting nickname on fellow Gen. Thomas J. Jackson. "Look," Bee told his scattered troops just before he died. "there stands Jackson like a stone wall!"
Now, 137 years after the First Battle of Manassas and about a mile to the east of that hilltop, one of Bee's descendants hopes to erect a monument of his own.

Elliott Harrigan, owner of Virginia Towers LC of Richmond, wants to build a 199-foot-tall cellular-telephone tower near a quarry just outside the park, in neighboring Fairfax County. The steel-lattice structure would stand 30 times taller than the memorial to his ancestor, and would be visible from several key Civil War sites on the Manassas battlefield.

The plan has prompted stern opposition from the park's superintendent and many preservationists, who argue that a looming telephone tower would undermine attempts to restore and recreate history at the 5,100-acre preserve north of Manassas. Part of the point, they say, is to let people see what the scene was like at two pivotal battles, which will be difficult with a modern tower dominating the horizon.

The clash also underscores the growing demands on National Park Service officials, from California's Santa Monica Mountains to West Virginia's

Harpers Ferry, to allow communications facilities on or near nature preserves and historic sites -- which often represent lucrative opportunities in the burgeoning world of wireless communications.

Dozens of towers already are located on federal parkland nationwide, and hundreds more are under consideration. The Park Service and other federal agencies are required by presidential edict to "accommodate" such requests and are free to collect rent. One tower disguised as a tree was erected recently at Mount Vernon, another spire has been allowed with limitations at Harpers Ferry, and officials are still arguing with Bell Atlantic Mobile over two proposed antennas in Washington's Rock Creek Park. "We are under increasing pressure because those companies want to complete their networks nationwide, and we have a lot of open land that they have their eye on," said David Barna, public affairs chief for the Park Service. "These are considered prime locations for the communications industry."

Barna, of course, has a cell phone in his briefcase, one of an estimated 65 million wireless telephones now in service nationally. Communications companies are adding 1,000 geographic "cells" each month just to keep up, which usually requires building new towers

or monopolies such as those sprouting along the interstates in Northern Virginia. The structures can either be built by the telephone carriers or by entrepreneurs who rent out antenna space. Harrigan's fledgling firm, for example, has five spires built or planned throughout Virginia and is working on proposals for more. But the company's maiden project, the \$250,000 tower near the Manassas battlefield, has yet to reach the construction stage.

The proposal has run into stiff opposition not only from preservationists who fear the visual impact on the park, but also from Fairfax County planners, who view the tower as a "speculative business venture" that is taller than it needs to be. Assistant Planning Director David Marshall said the county fears the structure will become a 20-story white elephant marring the countryside, since Virginia Towers has no firm contracts with carriers.

But Harrigan said four telephone and pager companies -- Cellular One, Nextel Corp., Sprint PCS and Skytel -- and Fairfax's own police department have signed letters of intent to locate on the tower, and there is no way to get firm contracts until the structure is formally approved. "I wouldn't do it if I didn't think there was demand," he said. The Fairfax Planning Commission is scheduled to vote on the matter Jan. 13, with a final

decision up to county supervisors.

The other, more passionate, objections come from defenders of the neighboring Manassas battlefield, a historic site of such symbolic importance that activists have used it to beat back proposals for shopping malls, roads and, most famously, a Disney theme park. Battlefield Superintendent Robert K. Sutton and his allies fear that allowing a cellular tower would send the wrong signal about what is acceptable. The First Battle of Manassas in 1861 -- what Yankees call the Battle of Bull Run -- was the first major land battle in the Civil War. Another clash in the same area the next year marked the peak of Confederate power and prepared the way for Gen. Robert E. Lee's drive across the Potomac River. "You can still stand there on Henry Hill and envision 1861 with out a lot of clutter," said Martha Hendley, past president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and a longtime preservationist. "One little thing [such as a tower] might not seem like much, but one little thing leads to another little thing, which leads to another little thing, until it's all just too much."

But to Harrigan, a self-described preservationist who sits on the board of the Historic Richmond Foundation, his proposal is better than the alternatives for the battlefield. In addition to being related to

Bee on the Confederate side, Harrigan said several of his other relatives fought and died for the Union on the same ground. "I'm not insensitive to the battlefield's history; it's my own history," Harrigan said. "But I believe there will be increased pressure for a cell site somewhere in that vicinity, and it's going to be very difficult to find a site that isn't visible from some part of the park. A lot of them could be a lot worse than what I'm proposing."

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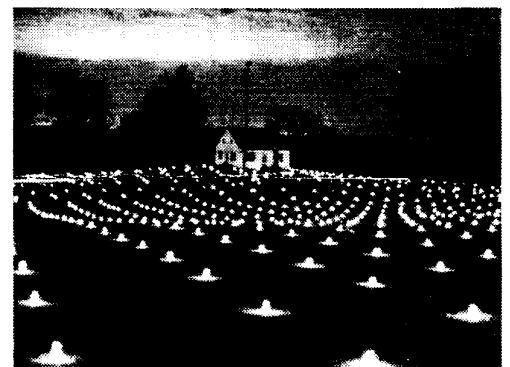


photo of 1998 Antietam Illumination by Dan Paterson

more illumination photos are up on our website -

<http://members.aol.com/brewrt/index.htm>

For sale MOSBY HOUSE

Asking price \$ 495,000

Warrenton considers purchase

One of Northern Virginia's favorite local heroes, John Singleton Mosby, lived for several years after the war on Main Street in Warrenton. The current owner, Charles Shepherd, has placed Mosby's property on the market.

In early December representatives of Partnership For Warrenton and the Chamber of Commerce asked the Warrenton Town Council to purchase the property to use it as a museum . The Warrenton/Fauquier Visitor's Center, now located near the bypass, could also be housed there.

Council members intend to make a decision at their January work session, after studying the proposal and holding a public meeting.

The possibility has raised considerable interest. Several council members have voiced their approval, and the neighbors have indicated a preference to preserve the property as an historical structure.

Meanwhile, even if the council does vote to purchase the property, a further \$350,000 must be raised to restore the building. Donations are being pledged.

The council meets the second Tuesday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table runs from January to December. If you have not as yet renewed, your membership is about to expire!

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

NAME _____

STREET, STATE & ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Make check payable to Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Drop it off at the membership table at the next meeting or mail to Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 196, Centreville VA 20122.

BEVERLEY MILL

Efforts to Restore Structure Begin

The fire by arson that destroyed one of Northern Virginia's most important historical structures has done little to cool the enthusiasm for restoring it. A new organization, Turn the Mill Around Campaign, has been formed and has appointed Ellen Percy Miller as its executive director.

The first item on the organization's agenda is to apply for a TEA-21 grant, which would be used

to stabilize the walls and begin rebuilding. Deadline for the grant application is late February.

Donations are, meanwhile, being accepted. Street address: the Friends of Bull Run office on Beverley Mill Drive. Mailing address: Turn the Mill Around Campaign, P.O. Box 207, Broad Run, Va. 20137. Telephone: 703.753.3273.

Exhibits

Ongoing. **Every Kind of Wound and Disease: The Confederate Medical Department.** New. Hospitalization methods during the war, advancements in medicine, and the reality of death and disease. Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond. 804-649-1861.

Through October 1999. **Forage Caps and Feathered Hats: Headgear of the Civil War.** Headgear of Union and Confederate officers and enlisted men. Free. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Alexandria. 703-838-4848.

To January 1999: Richmond, Va.. **Lost Daughter of the Lost Cause: Varina Anne Davis** exhibit. Museum of the Confederacy, 804-649-1861. Richmond, Va., **Medicine Lost Daughter of the Lost Cause: Varina Anne Davis** exhibit. Museum of the Confederacy, 804-649-1861.

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exp. Dec:99
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