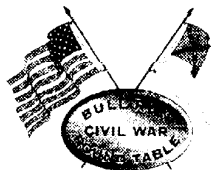


May 1999



STONE WALL

The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Ed Bearss

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA

May 13, 1999, 7:30 PM
Fairfax County Government Center

*The sharp, clear crack of rifles, and the deep
Loud thunder of artillery; the flash
Of bayonets, and the arrowy sweep
Of keen-edged sabres; the most fearful clash
Of meeting squadrons, and the pride
Of hostile banners! How they fought who died
By the River of Death!*

Thus opens the poem by Mollie E. Moore entitled "Chickamauga" a battle that Glen Tucker described as *The Bloody Battle in the West*. More recently Peter Cozzens described it as *This Terrible Sound*.¹ Lieutenant Ambrose Bierce, Topographical Engineer, Gen. Hazen's staff described it in this way: *To my astonishment I saw entire country in front swarming with Confederates; the very earth seemed to be moving toward us! They came on in thousands, and so rapidly that we had barely time to turn tail and gallop down the hill and away, leaving them in possession of the train, many of the wagons being upset by frantic efforts to put them about. Chickamauga was a fight for possession of a road.*

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought September 19-20, 1863, along Chickamauga Creek on the Georgia-Tennessee border. Although Confederate General Braxton Bragg and his Army of Tennessee are generally credited with defeating the Army of the Cumberland under Federal General William S. Rosecrans, the overwhelming tactical victory actually belonged to General James Longstreet and the two divisions he brought with him from the Army of Northern Virginia, who turned the tide of battle on the second day. Texas troops made up part of Longstreet's Corps (General John Bell Hood's famed Texas Brigade) were also part of the Army of Tennessee under General Patrick Cleburne.

Chickamauga, the creek that gave the battle its name, means "River of Death" or "Bad Water" in the local Indian dialect. The most legendary battlefield guide in America ... former Chief Historian and current historian emeritus of the National Park Service, author of numerous important works on the Civil War, decorated Marine Corps veteran. Mr. Ed Bearss will address the Bull Run Civil War Round Table on the bloodiest two-day battle in American history. He has appeared on many TV series including Ken Burns' CIVIL WAR and has lectured extensively all over the United States and currently lives in Arlington, Virginia.

**BULL RUN
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ROUNDTABLE
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Centreville VA 20122**

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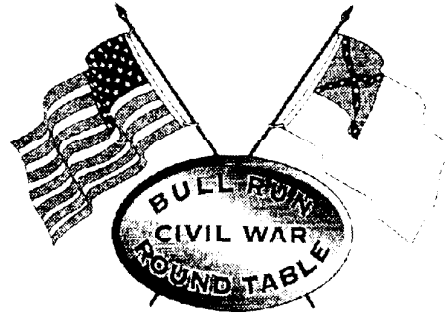
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*The Stonewall is published
monthly by the Bull Run Civil
War Roundtable. Sub-
missions are welcome.
Contact Karen Fojt, 330-1965.*

*The Bull Run Civil War Round
Table meets the second
Thursday of the month at the
Fairfax County Government
Center, 7:30 PM. Website of
the Roundtable is
[http://members.aol.com/brcwr
t/index.htm](http://members.aol.com/brcwr/index.htm).*



Greetings Members and Friends.

I initially want to thank all members who attended Dr. Piston's presentation on 8 April. His talk was well received and he was impressed with our organization. This is a feather in our cap, as he will undoubtedly go back to SW Missouri State and share his experiences. On the day after his talk, John McAnaw myself and member Margaret Blough took Dr. Piston on a tour of the Civil War Sites of Centreville. We then took him around the Manassas battlefield itself and he had a great time. Many thanks to John McAnaw for taking the time to give Dr. Piston a personalized tour of the area that we covered in another successful tour on the 24th of April. He enjoyed seeing the sites around Centreville and the battlefield as he hadn't seen it for over twenty years¹. I look forward to his book on the Missouri State Guard that is to be published in November.

The subject of our monthly meeting this month is a battle that I have been familiar with since the sixties. On our annual trip to north Georgia, we made frequent trips to the Chickamauga/Chattanooga battlefield and it became a regular visit, as did Gettysburg. It was one of the major battles of the war and I could not think of a better speaker to discuss it than Edwin C. Bearss! I am sure it will increase everyone's knowledge of the battle and be entertaining as well.

I have been very fortunate to become more acquainted with Mr. Bearss over the last several years through his support of the Longstreet Memorial Fund. I, in fact, had to follow his rousing speech about the General at the Memorial Service held, July 2nd, 1998. Speaking on our family following a standing ovation to Mr. Bearss was an experience in itself.

My fondest memory of him occurred at the 135th Antietam Reenactment in September of 1997. It was the final battle of the weekend, the Bloody Lane. As a Confederate Staff officer, I was assisting the general officers there during the Union attack on our lines and assisted an artillery battery with retiring their piece to the rear to prevent it from being captured. At the conclusion of the event, who walks up to me but none other than Ed Bearss who proceeded to congratulate me on a job well done! Needless to say, that made the whole weekend worthwhile. Having Ed Bearss acknowledge me personally is a memory that will last a lifetime and having him discuss the battle of Chickamauga will be an event not to be missed.

Dan Paterson, President

**The Round Table's JUNE MEETING is scheduled
one week later than usual. (This is due to the Fairfax County Fair.)
It will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center
on THURSDAY, JUNE 17.**

MARCHING ORDERS for the Roundtable Tour

We Invade Pennsylvania! To Tour Gettysburg

Saturday May 22, 1999

Assembly

Either the Capital Expo Center at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 28 in Chantilly at 0800. Or meet at the Gettysburg Visitors Center.

This is a day trip but I am sure some will want to stay. We will consolidate vehicles at the Expo parking lot and then reconsolidate again at the Gettysburg Visitor's Center parking lot. We have to meet at the Visitor's Center to pick up our permit.

Depart 8:10 A.M. Vehicle convoy.

Agenda

- Attack at the Peach Orchard
- Walking Pickett's Charge
- Waiking Hood's attack through Devil's Den to LRT
- Longstreet Equestrian Monument at Pitzer's Woods

Food & Clothing

Members should bring a bag lunch to eat along the way to save time. There will be some walking but we're not going to do the countermarch. So wear a comfortable pair of walking shoes. Also, bring plenty of water.

Dinner

For those members interested, we will be having dinner at Lee's HQ. More details will be provided after we rotate the sign-up sheet clipboard at the next meeting.

Sign-up deadline Sign up sheets will be at the meeting.

Contact Dan Paterson, (703) 222-0727

UPCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Thru Oct 99. **FORAGE CAPS AND FEATHERED HATS: HEADGEAR OF THE CIVIL WAR.** Free exhibit of Union and Confederate headgear for officers and enlisted men. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Alexandria. (703) 838-4848.

22 May "Medicine for the Soldier," at the National Museum or Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. 11am-3pm. Presentations by a period steward and civilian caregiver about Confederate medicine and civilian contributions. Medicine demonstrations. (301) 695-1864.

29 May Confederate General and Statesman James A. Kemper at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. 11am-3pm. Presentation by Joe Shelton. (301) 695-1864.

29 May Luminaria honoring the 15,300 buried in Fredericksburg National Cemetery, 8pm-11pm. (540) 373-6122. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!!

5 June "Meeting Johnny Yank" at the National Museum or Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. 11am-4pm. Presentation by Adrian Tudor about all aspects of Union soldier life. (301) 695-1864.

LECTURES

15 May "Music and Medicine in the Civil War" at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, MD. 10am-2pm. Presentation by George Wunderlich about music's role in medical care during the war. (301) 695-1864.

10 June Talk by National Park Service historian Elsa Lohman on the history of Fredericksburg National Cemetery. (540) 972-9954.

27 June Talk about Civil War photography by George Anthony. Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp's Hill Strasburg. 3pm. (540) 465-5884.

TOURS

22 May – BRCWRT tour of Gettysburg.

LIVING HISTORY

30 May "Aftermath and Retreat," living history program 12-5pm, at Crystal Caverns at Hupp's Hill, Strasburg (540) 465-8660.

5-6 June "Federals at Monocacy," artillery demonstrations and living history programs at Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD. (301) 662-3515

REENACTMENTS

15-16 May 135th anniversary Battle of New Market on the original battlefield. New battle scenario in addition to historically correct reenactment. Living history both days at New Market Battlefield State Historical Park and town of New Market. (540) 740-3212.

<http://www.svtca.org/new-market/>

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 - John Bankhead Magruder, MGen CSA (1807-1871). Gained the nickname "Prince John" for his courtly manner and reputation for lavish entertainment while stationed at Newport, RI.

3 - Montgomery Cunningham Meigs, Bvt MGen USA (1816-1892). Served as quartermaster general of the US Army from May 1861 until his retirement in 1882. Responsible for establishing a cemetery on the grounds of the Custis-Lee estate in Arlington -- later to become Arlington National Cemetery.

6 - George Sears Greene, Bvt MGen USV (1801-1899). Graduated second in the West Point class of 1823 and was one of the oldest field commanders during the war. One of his sons was executive officer of the Monitor in her fight with the Merrimac (Virginia).

7 - Varina Howell Davis, First Lady, CSA (1826-1905)

8 - Frank Wheaton, Bvt MGen USA (1833-1903). His father-in-law was General Samuel Cooper -- the ranking general in the Confederacy. The brother of his mother-in-law was Senator James Murray Mason of Virginia who, along with John Slidell, was involved in the Trent Affair which brought England and the United States to the brink of war. (Slidell was a paternal uncle of Bvt MGen Riald Slidell Mackenzie.)

9 - John Brown, Abolitionist (1800-1859) William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones, BGen CSA (1824-1864). Had the reputation of being the "best outpost officer" in the cavalry. Killed at the battle of Piedmont.

10 - James Shields, BGen USV (1810-1879). Once, as a result of newspaper criticism, challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel. Reportedly the only man to represent three different states in the US Senate -- Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri.

14 - George Pierce Doles, BGen CSA (1830- 1864). Killed by a sharpshooter near Bethesda Church, VA.

15 - Isaac Ridgeway Trimble, MGen CSA (1802-1888). Lost a leg and captured during Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

16 - Edmund Kirby Smith, Gen, Provisional Army, CSA (1824-1893). Only man to receive the permanent rank of General in the Provisional Army. (John Bell Hood was promoted to full general with temporary rank in July 1864, but was relieved at his own request following the Tennessee campaign (January 1865) and reverted to his permanent rank of lieutenant general.) Last survivor of the full generals of the CSA.

23 - Ambrose Everett Burnside, MGen USV (1824-1881). Onetime commander of the Army of the Potomac. Described by Grant in his memoirs as "...an officer who was generally liked and respected. He was not, however, fit to command an army. No one knew this better than himself."

26 - Edward Porter Alexander, BGen CSA (1835-1910). Averted disaster at the battle of First Manassas by detecting the Federal flanking movement. One of only three Confederate officers to attain the rank of brigadier general of artillery. (The others were Armistead Lindsay Long and Reuben Lindsay Walker.)

27 - Robert Frederick Hoke, MGen CSA (1837-1912). Promoted to major general as a result of the capture of Plymouth, NC and its garrison.

28 - Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, Gen CSA (1818-1893). Graduated second in the West Point class of 1838. The "Hero of Fort Sumter" was second in command to Joseph E. Johnston at the battle of First Manassas.

Memorial on the Slain at Chickamauga

Herman Melville

Happy are they and charmed in life
Who through long wars arrive unscarred
At peace. To such the wreath be given,
If they unfalteringly have striven --
In honor, as in limb, unmarred.
Let cheerful praise be rife,
And let them live their years at ease,
Musing on brothers who victorious died --
Loved mates whose memory shall ever please.

And yet mischance is honorable too --
Seeming defeat in conflict justified
Whose end to closing eyes is hid from view.
The will, that never can relent --
The aim, survivor of the bafflement,
Make this memorial due.

PRESERVATION CORNER BY JOHN P. McANAW

Threatened Centreville Earthworks

On the following page is a copy of the letter our distinguished speaker Edwin C. Bearss sent me concerning the national importance of the Civil War earthworks located on a wooded, 14.33 acre tract in Centreville. This is the site of a planned 126 townhouse development called Deerfield Ridge. It is located on the east side of Old Centreville Road at its intersection with Centreville Road (Route 28).

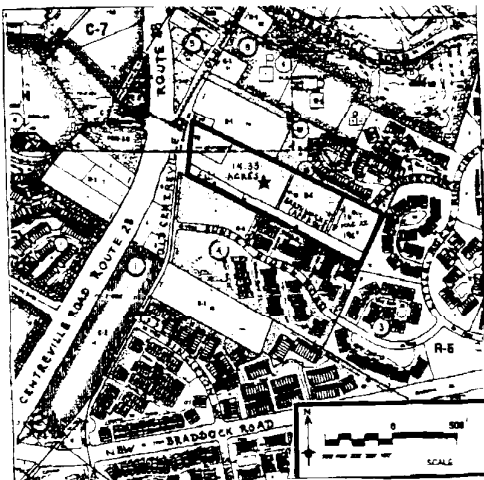
Space limitations prevent me from including letters from other leading Civil War historians notably Dr. Joseph Harsh and J. Michael Miller, that address the importance of the two sets of earthworks. I ask each member to show Ed Bearss' letter to as many individuals as possible and get them to sign petitions that request the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve the earthworks and the entire 14.33 acre tract as a county park. The need for "green space" in this part of Centreville is obvious. Copies of cited petition will be available for pick-up at the general membership meeting on 13 May 1999. Don't forget to get the petitions notarized. Speaking of petitions, member Les Esmond informed me that hundreds of residents near the earthworks have already signed the petition.

On 27 April, several members of the Little Rocky Run Home Owners Association and I spent almost an hour discussing the preservation of the 14.33 acre wooded tract and the earthworks with Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Kate Hanley. She listened carefully to what we had to say and advised us that she would get back to us regarding our comments. As she left the room, Chairman Hanley stated that she felt like she had just been to the dentist. Later on the same day, several attendees went to Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey's office to set up a meeting with him. By chance, they bumped into Mr. Frey and expressed their determination to preserve the wooded tract, including the earthworks therein, and to solicit his support. The date of a formal meeting with Supervisor Frey has not been set but the sooner the better.

There is sufficient information (including a map) in recent issues of our newsletter to draw upon in writing letters supporting the preservation of the earthworks and the entire 14.33 acre tract. **Now is the time** to send your letters to the following members of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors:

1. Your District Supervisor
2. Chairman Katherine K. Hanley, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530, Fairfax, VA 22035-0071. Phone (703)324-2321, Fax (703) 324-3955
3. Supervisor Michael R. Frey, Sully District, Fort Hill Building, 5900 Centreville Road, Suite 205, Centreville, VA 22020. Phone (703) 378-9393. Fax (703) 803-9216

Further, **now is the time** to send letters, FAXes, etc. on the subject to local, regional, and national newspapers. Don't count on someone else to fight this battle of "national importance" for you. Get involved and do your part. We are fighting for the preservation of our national heritage. Unless we turn back the running tide of destruction of civil war sites here in Northern Virginia **now**, tangible evidence of that conflict and interest in those critical years of 1861-1865 will rapidly decrease. When history becomes an abstraction, devoid of physical proof of past events, the battle to preserve our past and raison d'etre is lost.





IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Received 21 April 1999
J. P. M.

The remaining Centreville earthworks are of national significance for three reasons:

A. They are among the few tangible resources associated with the first of the four winter encampments of the Army of Northern Virginia (known that first winter as the Confederate Army of the Potomac).

B. The publicity given by the Northern press to the large number of Quaker cannon emplaced in these works, recently evacuated by the Confederates, proved embarrassing to General McClellan and undercut his credibility with the Lincoln administration at the beginning of his Peninsula Campaign.

C. Refaced and reinforced by the Federals, these earthworks were utilized by Union armies on two occasions:

1st, from 31 August through 1 Sept. 1862 following the shattering defeat at Second Manassas.

again, from 14-19 October 1863, when the Union Army retired behind Bull Run following the Battle of Bristoe Station.

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian Emeritus
National Park Service

Report on the Arlington National Cemetery Tour

The BRCWRT touring season opened with an auspicious start last month when our own Mike Duggan led 34 Round Table members & guests on a fascinating journey through the myriad headstones of the Arlington National Cemetery.

We arrived at the Fort Myer gate around 8:45am with approximately 12 vehicles eagerly awaiting permission to access the army post. Mike had provided the post with a list of tour participant names weeks prior to our arrival to ensure that we would have smooth access onto the base. Mike even confirmed with the Provost Marshall's office that they had received the list of names two days before our tour date. The office replied 'affirmative' & would provide the list to the guards at the gate on the day of our tour. In what appeared to be a non-typical military process snafu, the list never made it to the guards at the gate. We had a momentary halt, while the guards contacted the main office to verify that the BRCWRT tour was on the authorized entry list. The Provost Marshall's office happily replied " Yes. we have the list right here". When the guards had confirmation, they waved us through. We had created quite a little traffic jam on what appeared to be a quiet road onto the post.

We made our way around the post, passing enormous Victorian-like brick houses that are the homes to some of our current Military generals. The grounds were well maintained & had a peaceful Spring air about them. We arrived at the West Gate parking lot & entered the Arlington National Cemetery via this gate.

Our first tour stop was at the grave site of George Washington Parke Custis. Mike provided the group with a handout that showed some of the Custis ~ Washington family tree and described how Robert E. Lee became involved with the "Arlington House". From there we took the Arlington House tour. The view from the columned front porch over looking Washington DC was magnificent. One could close their eyes and easily imagine, after tuning out the incessant airport traffic, helicopter patrols, & gravel footsteps of a few thousand tourists, what it must have been like to witness the burning of DC during the War of 1812 from the peaceful Arlington House setting.

Mike gathered our group together after the house tour and began the march that would take us to no fewer than 50 burial sites. Mike continued The Round Table's fine 'Off the beaten trail" tradition by taking us to some of the lesser known sites that make Arlington a special place for all Americans. For example, we visited the grave site of the first person buried at Arlington [Mary Randolph], the first service man buried [Private William Christman], the first officer buried [Capt. Albert H. Packard] and the first 'drafted' man [William Reeves].

Mike's thorough research uncovered the location of the only known "Unknown Confederate Soldier" grave marker that isn't with the rest of the Confederate headstones at the Confederate Memorial on Jackson's Circle. The mystery surrounding this head stone & why it isn't with the rest of the Confederate burials may some day be solved.

Our group paid their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, reflecting on the sacrifices that so many men & women have made defending our country as we watched the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony. We continued our tour visiting the ground that made up the Freedman's Village in the vicinity of Miles Drive. The last stop on the tour was in section 27. Part of this section contained the burial sites of 'contrabands'. Their status in death was reflected on the tombstone with the word "Citizen".

Members of the tour can appreciate the tremendous amount of time & effort Mike put into his research to make this tour a fascinating learning experience. Thank you Mike!

We would also like to thank Dan Paterson for being Mike's official easel throughout the day. Dan held up the pictures of the individuals at each grave site while Mike provided the biography. We all left the tour with a new appreciation of the Arlington National Cemetery...and a little sunburn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Knowles

The Bearss Brigade

by Ann Collins

I just finished Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation", which made me admire even more people like my Dad. Just like the veterans in the book, my Dad is modest about his involvement in the war, and talks only about funny things like getting yelled at by General Patton for not having his helmet on.

One person Tom Brokaw should have interviewed for his book would have been Ed Bearss, a marine who was wounded during the invasion of Guadalcanal.

Back in March, the Washington Post printed an article on Ed entitled "He Brings Civil War to Life; Tour Guide Transfixes With Tales of Blue. Gray", of which I will have copies for you at the meeting. In the article it mentions people who've taken a dozen or more of Ed's tours as "Bearss' Brigade".

I wish I could boast of that many (I'm up to 5) but I'm working on it! I have initiated 2 future members, my nieces 5 year old Rachel and 10 year old Lisa. Rachel (age 5) has come to describe Ed as "the cybil war grand-dad who teaches little kids and adults about history. He's cool and he has a neat stick he uses to point out the battlefield with. He's a great man and I like him". Lisa (age 10) remarked "he's athletic cause for 75 he's in good shape, he doesn't get tired! He's really smart and funny. He's not boring like other history people. Plus he's brave, he's been in a war and understands what the soldiers went through"

They both noticed on tours that Ed shares a sweet tooth with them, and insisted we bake him a cake for this month's meeting. Lisa won't be able to make it but I will be bringing Rachel.

Don't be too shocked to see yours truly in her 19th century re-enactment dress. My young civil war buff insisted that both she and I wear our "cybil war clothes". Probably the best investment I've ever made was taking them on tours with Ed. Their descriptions of him are priceless.

As Dr. James McPherson has said, Ed is a National Treasure.



(5 year old Rachel watches Ed through Binoculars at the Stone Bridge. 8-98, photo by Ann Collins)

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 196
Centreville, VA 20122

exp. Dec:99
Kevin Anastas
6306 Drill Field Court
Centreville, VA 20121

