



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIII, Issue 9—Dec., 2006 & Jan. 2007

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIAN DISCUSSES THE HORSE ARTILLERY UNITS WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

By John McAnaw

On 23 May 1865, the Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac was held in Washington D.C. The Cavalry Corps, including its brigade of horse artillery, was accorded the place of honor in the parade in recognition of their successes during the Valley and Appomattox Campaigns. Cavalrymen and members of the horse artillery in the Cavalry Corps were placed at the head of the marching units, immediately behind Army Commander MG George G. Meade.

The capabilities and status of the Union cavalry had come a long way from when the Cavalry Corps was organized in February 1863. And...its assigned horse artillery batteries materially contributed to the Corps' successes. The history of these horse artillery units, including the Sixth NY Independent Battery, will be the subject of Richard Griffin's presentation. In fact, Richard is the author of a book by the University of Tennessee Press, in April 2006, entitled *Three Years a Soldier*. The book is based on his great-grandfather's Civil War diary and correspondence. That individual, George Perkins, served with the Sixth New York Independent Battery.

Mr. Griffin is a 1965 graduate of Miami University, Oxford, OH, where he was commissioned as an ensign through the NROTC Program. In 1977 he was awarded a Masters Degree in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Also of note, he earned a non-resident degree from the Naval War College in 1981.

All told, Richard served on active duty for a total of 12 years as a surface warfare-qualified officer on ships in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and on shore duty. He also served in the Republic of Vietnam as an advisor to Vietnamese Navy units involved in riverine and coastal operations. After leaving active duty, Richard continued in the Naval Reserve for another 18 years in various positions in Washington, DC, Norfolk, VA, and Pearl Harbor, HI. During his 30 years of service, he received numerous awards, including a Bronze Star Medal (with Combat V). He retired as a Captain.

As a civilian, Richard worked for various contracting firms before traveling to Hawaii in 1985 to work for the Navy at Headquarters, Pacific Command. In 2002 he moved to Washington, DC, and took a position with the Department of Defense. His major responsibilities at

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

RICHARD GRIFFIN

TOPIC:

Horse Artillery in the Army of the Potomac: Including the 6th NY Independent Battery as a Case Study

Book Sales & Autographing

DOD included strategic planning, acquisition planning/management, plus various project oversight and coordination functions. Richard retired from the federal civilian service in August 2005. He now works part-time as a policy analyst with a consulting firm.

Join us on 14 December for our annual "Cheap and Proud" Christmas Party right before the meeting and a thoroughly informative presentation on horse artillery units in the Army of the Potomac by a very talented historian.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY HANUKKAH

HAPPY NEW YEAR



TWO HOUR OX HILL TOUR 9 DEC.
WITH ED WENZEL [see Page 3]

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The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes *The Stone Wall*.

General Membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at:

The Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2299
703.803.2223

For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the WEBSITE:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

In This Issue

Ox Hill Tour with Ed	Page 3
Stafford Winter Camp Saved	Page 3
Connecting To Our Past	Page 4
Chancellorsville	Page 5
Encampments AAR	Page 6
Vandiver January Speaker	Page 8
Events	Page 8
Ox Hill Update	Page 9

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DATE:

Thursday 11 January

GUEST SPEAKER:

E. B. Vandiver III

TOPIC:

Civil War Sites of the
North Atlantic Blockade

ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank You.

JOIN US AT THE BORDER CAFE

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early for dinner? Join the BRCWRT board and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting at The Border Cafe at 5:15 p.m. just across Lee Highway from the library. **Space is limited so RSVP** to Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net or 703.734.3244 no later than Tuesday before each meeting.

Of course, it's always Dutch treat for the 'cheap and the proud'! Bring cash to get us in and out quickly.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE For February 2007 Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, Jan. 29

To scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by deadline, please call Saundra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.752.9500 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.



The President's Column By John P. McAnaw

This is my last column for the year. Thus, I want to thank every member of the Round Table who in one way or another contributed to the success that we achieved this year.

Deserving of special recognition are the members of the Executive Committee who went to great lengths to insure the effective functioning of our organization. I believe that the tempo and quality of our activities exceeds that of other Round Tables in the region. Examples include the quality and range of our field trips, our speakers' program, our superb newsletter and our involvement in preservation efforts, not only here in Northeastern Virginia, but also elsewhere in the Commonwealth, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and Louisiana. Lastly, our organization functions 12 months a year, without a summer respite.

Summing up, for the reasons stated above, kindly pay your CY2007 dues. They have not changed since the formation of our Round Table on 9 May 1991 by historian Bill Miller.

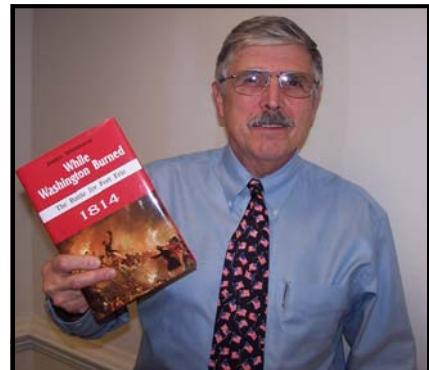


Photo by Janet Greentree

I would be remiss if I did not comment on Joseph Whitehorse's presentation at our November monthly meeting, regarding Gen. W.W. Averell's 1863 Raid on Salem, VA. He stressed the debilitating impact that this December raid had on involved Confederate cavalry units assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia and to Department of Western Virginia. Only 20% - 40% of the participating horses ever saw active service again. The 2,500 Union raiders too suffered severely. The great majority of their horses were rendered unserviceable. Also, many of the raiders had their health either impaired or ruined as the result of their raid. Lastly, the raid made the Confederate government divert scarce resources to protect the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad and nearby depots for the remainder of the war.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a healthy and productive 2007!



TWO HOUR TOUR OF OX HILL BATTLEFIELD 9 DECEMBER 2006

Ed Wenzel regularly briefs Round Table members on matters relevant to the Ox Hill Battlefield, a.k.a. the Chantilly Battlefield. An important part of that battlefield is owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Unfortunately many Round Table members have not yet visited the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Consequently, a short tour for interested members has been scheduled for the morning of 9 Dec 2006. For Christmas shoppers, several malls are within rifled musket range.

CHIEF TOUR GUIDE: Ed Wenzel

ASSEMBLY TIME/DATE: 10:00 AM, Saturday
9 December 2006

ASSEMBLY LOCATION: At Kearney and Stevens

Monuments on Ox Hill Battlefield, located in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of West Ox Road and Monument Drive. Fairfax Towne Center Mall is located immediately North of the battlefield on the other side of Monument Drive.

PARKING: Very limited along Monument Drive. Plentiful in Fairfax Towne Center.

TOUR DURATION: 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

PHYSICAL EXERTION: Very light.

IN EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: Contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371. There will be no rescheduling of tour in December 2006.

SIGN UP: Contact John McAnaw—703.978.3371. Voice mail sign up okay if John is not at home.

UNION 5th CORPS WINTER CAMP SAVED IN STAFFORD COUNTY

Builder C. T. Park, Inc. of Stafford will deed easements to the county of its Forbes Landing tract which will protect the 1862-1863 winter campsites of Union regiments near Falmouth east of Jeff Davis Highway. The property will be handed over within three years, will be the largest and first complete winter camp preserved in Stafford county and will be open to the public.

As Round Table members know, Union troops lived in Stafford County for eight months during the winter of 1862-1863. 'Camp Humphreys' is named after the 3rd Division Commander and is well documented. Orderly depressions of former hut and tent sites are still visible. Working with C. T. Park executives are the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites and the Fredericksburg's Dovetail Cultural Resource Group. For detailed information including a war time sketch of Camp Humphreys, go to <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2006/112006/11162006/236941>

Source: *Free Lance Star*, Week of Nov. 20, 2006 "Civil War Camp Saved In Stafford" by Clint Schemmer.

CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

MEET KEN JONES



Ken has been a member of our Roundtable since 2003 and has served as an at-large member of the Executive Committee since March, 2006. Ken also is a member of the *Stone Wall* staff and types lots of the handwritten articles for our paper. He's also in line to take over our website when Maureen Quinn gives it up.

He and his wife, Toni, have three married daughters and four and a half grandchildren. Ken has been a Northern Virginia native since 1950. A few months after the Cuban missile crisis, he began his career working for the Navy doing research in submarine acoustics, structural dynamics, and vibration control. At that time, the sense of urgency and national pride within the submarine silencing community especially for a young engineer was "positively intoxicating" he says, and it sustained his interest in the field until retiring 42 years later. He has a BS and MS in Physics and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Ken lists his hobbies as photography and woodworking.

What got Ken interested in the Civil War was reading an article about the Battle of Ox Hill after the battlefield had been lost to development. He says it made him sick to realize that, although he had lived in nearby Greenbrier for years, he had already missed the opportunity to walk on the hallowed ground and experience the vistas seen by the thousands who fought there.

Ken says he doesn't have any ancestors that he knows of that fought in the Civil War but he has two great-grandpas on his father's side that grew up in Greenbrier County in western Virginia. One was only seventeen when the war ended and escaped being drafted into the Union Army. He was a Reb at heart although not passionate enough to volunteer. Rebel forces camped for a time near his farm, and he peddled walnuts to the soldiers. In one case, he accepted a Rebel hat as payment for the walnuts. The next year, the Yankees camped nearby, and his great-grandpa sold walnuts to the Yankees, and made sure each day he wore his Rebel hat. It was said that he did a brisk business as the Yankees bought walnuts on the condition that he stop wearing that Rebel 'Secesh' hat. The story has been passed down that he would stuff that hat in his back pocket, move on through the camps, and then put it back on. A true Rebel at heart! How wonderful to have a story passed down like that. The other great-grandpa was eighteen, but he disappeared into the hills and re-emerged after the war. Good thing for Ken, otherwise he might not be here. Ken, like his great-grandpas, says he leans towards the Confederate side

and his favorite commanders are the Confederates.

The last Civil War book he read was the *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*.

Ken, along with BRCWRT President John McAnaw, is collaborating with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority on a Civil War Heritage Trail guidebook. In addition, Ken produces the highly legible McDowell Map reprints that the Round Table sells as a fundraiser. He's visited a lot of battlefields but not all of them he says.

Ken is currently sidelined after a heart attack but is coming along and hopes to be back to full speed soon. He says he's led a clean life, ate the right things, kept his weight down, and if he'd known he would end up with a heart attack anyway, he might have enjoyed himself a little more. Get well soon Ken! We missed you at the November meeting.

* * * * *

PERSONAL STOREFRONT MUSEUM OPEN TIL DEC. 17

For a VERY short time, history is on display in downtown Warrenton.

Don Sharpe, owner of one of the finest collections of Civil War flags, uniforms, weapons, documents and just about anything else, has opened a museum to display a portion of his collection, located just one half block from the historic Fauquier County Courthouse.

The storefront museum is titled Liberty Heritage Society, and is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 4. But if you want to see this incredible collection---act fast. The museum's current display will close its doors on December 17.



RICHMOND DAILY DISPATCH CIVIL WAR YEARS NOW ON LINE

Jerilyn Polson with the Centreville Regional Library advises that the University of Richmond has digitized the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* during the Civil War years through an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant in collaboration with Project Perseus at Tufts University. The newspaper is now available for use and exploration. There are currently 1,384 issues of the paper available online ranging in date from November 1860 through December 1865.

The newspaper's homepage is <http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>.

A BATTLEFIELD PRESERVED AT CHANCELLORSVILLE

By Harvey Simon

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table joined the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and a chorus of Spotsylvania County residents in a successful appeal to preserve 74 acres of hallowed ground. On November 14th, the Spotsylvania Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) voted unanimously to protect this historic land. This critical vote concluded over four years of intense negotiations and hard decisions that had previously rescued an adjoining 140 acres from impending development. This combined 214 acres comprises the site of the First Day of conflict at Chancellorsville.

At the heart of the approved application is an agreement wherein the Toll Brothers, a national development firm, will sell the 74 acres to the CWPT for a cool \$1 million dollars (the property had been assessed at \$2.3 million dollars, a clear win for the CWPT). Toll Brothers is now free to build and market 33 up-scale homes on adjacent, non-historical property while actually being praised as preservationists by the community at large (a rare win for any developer). The BOCS avoids a nasty controversy, benefits from generous profits and future real estate tax revenue (a series of wins for Spotsylvania County).

Even so, the action the BOCS would take was in doubt right up to their vote. For one thing, county staff had recommended tabling the application to provide more time to work on the agreement. Even the most dedicated supporters acknowledged the agreement was not perfect. One problem was articulated by a handful of current development residents who objected on the grounds that they had purchased their homes in an HOA community that was to be exclusively comprised of 2½ acre residential lots. Approval of the application before the BOCS would nullify their agreement with Toll Brothers, and allow the additional 33 houses to be built on less than 1/2 acre lots.

I found it impressive that everyone who spoke, including the dissenters, voiced their support for preserving the historic 74 acres. Credit for this unanimity of public preservationist zeal must go to the tireless dedication of the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition. Everyone who forged this agreement deserves praise: the CWPT for its expertise and guidance as well as its financial leverage, the Spotsylvania BOCS for its leadership and willingness to make hard decisions, the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition for successfully building community support for preservation, and finally the Toll Brothers for their willingness to negotiate for the preservation of hallowed ground.



IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES, PLEASE PAY AT THE DECEMBER MEETING OR MAIL A CHECK TO THE TREASURER'S ADDRESS ON THE NEWSLETTER COVER.

GOOD NEWS! UPDATE ON REZONING OF THE "RICE PROPERTY" VICINITY CENTREVILLE HISTORIC OVER-LAY DISTRICT

By John P. M-Anaw

The Public Hearing before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) re the NVP Inc. request to rezone the 3.68 acre "Rice Property" (Application Number RZ 2004-SU 029), scheduled 4 December 2006 has been postponed until 4:30 PM on Monday 22 January 2007 (at the earliest). As you know, the "Rice Property" contains important Civil War sites, including a large portion of the last known Confederate regimental winter camp in Fairfax County.

This postponement does not necessarily mean that the meeting scheduled for 22 January 2007 will take place. Other actions may make cited meeting "overcome by events". The "Rice Property" is key to the creation of a County-owned Gateway Heritage Park that combines an appealing passive recreation area with the preservation of nationally important Civil War sites. Such a park will be a first class tourist attraction and also will be welcomed by the residents of the surrounding communities.

Sully District Supervisor, Michael Frey, informed me that on 20 November 2006 he discussed the "Rice Property" with other members of the Fairfax County BOS. He requested and received the support of the Board, for the County to commence negotiations with the owner (NVP Inc.) of the "Rice Property", with the intent of the County acquiring cited tract. This is a very positive development.

On 28 November Supervisor Frey hosted a tour of historic sites within and near the existing Centreville Historic Overlay District (CHOD). Supervisors Sharon Bulova, Penny Gross and Linda Smith participated, along with representatives from various interested organizations, including the BRCWRT. Dale Maschino and Keith Young represented the Round Table.

The tour group, led by Supervisor Frey, visited the main historic sites vicinity the CHOD. All were very impressed by what they observed on the "Rice Property". I ask for the continued support of interested BRCWRT members in making a County-owned Gateway Heritage Park, encompassing all the important remaining Civil War sites within and near the CHOD, a reality.

UNION ARMY WINTER ENCAMPMENTS 1863 – 1864 After Action Report

By Mark Knowles

In compliance with orders, I have the honor to submit the following report on the operations of the Bull Run CWRT detachment on 4 November 2006 under Bud Hall's command to various ford and winter encampment sites of the Army of the Potomac in the vicinity of Brandy Station and Stevensburg, VA. The tour was a continuation from the one we participated in during April.

The morning was cold, the sky was clear, and the sun was bright. A light frost had descended upon the region during the night. A perfect day for touring.

Our eager army met once again at the quaint McDonald's 'tavern' in the town of Opal to consolidate vehicles. As you will recall, Opal was known as Fayetteville during the civil war.

The first stop was at the meadow above Beverly's Ford where the image of the April Confederate 'cowvalry' charge was still fresh in our minds. We proceeded with 'cowtion' walking beside the original road to Beverly's ford, following General Buford's route, keeping an eye on the cows. They were a friendly bunch. The herd followed us all the way to the upper gate. At the crest of the hill, Bud recounted the various landmarks (Beverley's Ford, Fleetwood Hill and Yew Ridge) to orient our group. Per Bud, this was the spot where the Gettysburg campaign started.

Mr. Hall led our group down the hill to the site of Beverly's Ford on the Rappahannock River. We crossed over the old Beverley Dam & Guard Lock canal, navigated thru the thicket of briars and brush to get to the edge of the river. The only sign of the canal are the remnants of a dam that once crossed the Rappahannock River and the dry canal bed. The canal was in use prior to the civil war and went to Fredericksburg, VA.

We proceeded downstream in single file. If you ever wondered why the round table disavows all responsibility and has tour participants sign a waiver, this part of the tour should have answered the question. The exhilaration of walking and stumbling along the narrow pathway bordering the cliff like bank, inches from certain wetness couldn't be compared. We arrived at the ford crossing without casualty. As we stood under a sky of blue, with leaves falling around us, Bud pointed out it was at this ford that Confederate cavalry pickets Fleet & Bob James (Grumble Jones Company A 6th VA) were stationed. In the early morning hours of 9 June 1863, Fleet's horse's ears began to twitch & its legs began to prance, signaling that something wasn't right. The approaching sounds of Col. Benjamin Davis' 1st Cavalry Brigade (Buford) might have been masked by the water rushing over the damn just upstream a little ways. Fleet & Bob fired their guns in the air warning the rest of the

Confederate army that trouble was afoot. Col. Davis gave the command to "charge like foragers", driving down the road in a flying wedge. This was the beginning of the Battle of Brandy Station.

We executed a perfect retrograde and found our cars without incident. The second stop on our tour was on Hansbrough Ridge, just east of Stevensburg, VA. The site was also known as "The Ridge", "The Fort" and "The Devil's Hoof". The terrain has retained its appearance over the last 143 years. The quartermaster supply roads were evident; the winter hut sites were sprinkled liberally around the top of the ridge and the outer and inner trench lines were clearly visible. This is due to the lack of development, farming or logging as well as the vigilant caretakers who pride themselves on allegedly shooting at unwanted trespassers.

The land was owned by the Hansbroughs. Peter, born in 1769, was an investor in real estate. He purchased the Cole's Hill Estate, almost a 1,000 acre plantation in 1812. Peter's son Blucher was born in 1814. Blucher became a wealthy farmer in the 19th Century. He was known for his fancy clothes, his passion for women and fondness of parties. Blucher had an interesting relationship with his half brother Charles, a slave Blucher purchased from his father Peter in 1831. But that's another story.

We hiked a mile or so deep into the dense woods, passing several hunting stands high up in the trees silently guarding the hallowed ground. It was hard to imagine what the view would have looked like from the top of the ridge with all the trees gone in 1863. We arrived at the Union hospital site used by the II Corps in 1863. The II Corps left this site in May of 1864 with 22,000 men. It was the beginning of Grant's overland campaign. This is one of the II Corps hospital pictures Bud showed us during our stop.



Our third stop was for lunch & facilities at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station, VA. We had the pleasure of arriving just in time to witness the 1st Stuart Horse artillery demonstrating the firing & servicing of their 2 gun section. One was a 6 lb. bronze cannon and the other a 3 inch ordnance rifle.

SEE AAR, Page 7

AAR [Continued from Page 6]1st Stuart Horse Artillery in action

Bud shared more of his civil war images he's collected over the years. Both Bud & Round Table member Mike Block have begun collaboration on a series of projects concerning Culpeper County and the events that have taken place there. We look forward to the published results of their collaboration.

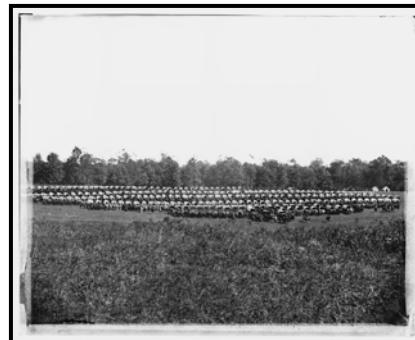
After lunch, Bud led us to Welford's Ford. Once again, Bud's "foot cavalry" was put into motion, walking down a farm lane that split the rolling green pastures. We passed an old stone sided barn owned by the Bott's family during the war. We were challenged by a new set of cowvalry pickets. But this time was different. They appeared to be led by a "General Bull" who had no interest in tangling with our troops. They immediately beat hooves in the opposite direction of our advance, keeping a keen eye on us. We also surprised a couple of local hunters nestled down in the rows of bailed hay, waiting for an unsuspecting deer.

Our foraging party waited out in the open field while Bud cleared the woods in front of the hunters' field of fire, ensuring our groups safety. We proceeded down the same steep road bed that was used by Jackson & Longstreet during the 2nd Manassas campaign and by the Union VI Corps during the Gettysburg campaign. We reached the bottom and the ford crossing on the Hazel River. This site also had remnants of a dam across the river. There was a carved out pool along the river's bank that was used by the Welford Mill. Bud showed us an image taken in the winter of 1864 reflecting a pontoon bridge & dam across the river where we stood.



Our Round Table had the honor of being the first formal tour group Bud had brought to this site. Bud related a couple of humorous anecdotes when he brought David Roth (Blue & Gray Magazine) to the site in preparation for an article and artist Don Stivers for research

on a painting commissioned by the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA . We retraced our steps back up the hillside to the fields that once contained the VI Corps wagon park.



Note: The lower image captures the field, but not the exact angle, as the upper original.

The last stop of the day was at the Welford house, also known as Farley. The house was used as Rooney Lee's HQ during the Battle at Brandy Station and later used by Union Major General John Sedgwick, VI Corps, during the winter of 1863. Local legend has it that the house might be haunted. The grounds contain two interesting structures. One, a large pit used to store ice, ladder included; the other was the two chimney remnants standing like sentinels over a former slave cabin site. A butternut hat was passed among our group with everyone giving generously. John McAnaw presented the donations to Bud Hall. Bud continued the spirit of giving by turning the donations over to Mike Block for use by the Brandy Station Foundation.

Once again, Bud Hall delivered a highly informative and 'off the beaten trail' tour that continues to be a trademark of our Round Table. Thank you Bud! Did I hear Bud volunteer to show us more fords and sites in 2007 . . .

Tour participants: John McAnaw, Patty Wheeler, Janet Greentree, Norm Cooper, Nancy Anwyll, Jill Hilliard, Dale Maschino, Mark Knowles, Jack Nance, Jim Lewis, Bob Eldridge, Lyle Loveall, Howard Ewing, Cecil Jones, Todd Berkhoff, Bud Hall, Mike Block, Chuck Siegel, John DePue, Ed Essertier

VANDIVER GIVES PRESENTATION ON SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLOCKADING SQUADRON

By John McAnaw

On 12 January 2006, E.B. Vandiver III spoke to our Round Table on Civil War sites of the South Atlantic Blockade. His presentation was very well received and drew a large audience, including several distinguished historians. This will be "Part II" of his well researched and superbly photographed saga of U.S. Naval Operations along the Atlantic coast during the period 1861-1865. And, by the way, Mr. Vandiver is a BRCWRT member

At the present time, Mr. Vandiver heads the U.S. Army Center for Army Analysis (CAA). The mission of this influential Field Operating Agency of the Chief of Staff, Army, is to conduct analyses of Army forces in the context of joint and combined operations. He has been the Director of CAA, located at Fort Belvoir, VA, since 1984.

Mr. Vandiver was born in Kennett, MO. In 1956 he graduated from Culver Military Academy, Culver, IN. He then attended the University of Missouri at Columbia where he received a B.S. Degree in Physics in June 1960. On the date of his graduation he was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, having successfully completed the Senior ROTC program. Mr. Vandiver then continued his education at "Ole Miss" where he was awarded a M.S. Degree in Physics in 1962. Since then, Mr. Vandiver has pursued university studies in military history, Russian history, and computer science. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Education Program run by the Federal Executive Institute and also the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

Of note, Mr. Vandiver served on active duty from 1962-1964, as a lieutenant, U.S. Army Chemical Corps, at Fort McClellan, AL, with the CBR Combat Developments Agency. After leaving active duty he became an Operations Research Analyst for the Combat Operations Research Group (CORG) at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Since then (except for a three-year period) Mr. Vandiver has been on active federal service. Unfortunately, space limitations prevent me from listing the challenging senior positions that he has held plus the many prestigious awards that he has received. Let it suffice to state that Mr. Vandiver is, indeed, an individual of rare merit and many accomplishments.

Mr. Vandiver is a serious student of the American Civil War. Few buffs can match the number of Civil War sites that he has visited. His presentation to members and guests of the BRCWRT on 11 January has been many years in the making. This will be the first time that his talk on North Atlantic Blockade sites will be given to a Civil War group.

I urge every member to join us for a thoroughly informative presentation on a topic that has not been

previously addressed in the 15 plus year history of our Round Table.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted please e-mail Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net.



9 Dec – Living history "A Civil War Christmas at Liberia Plantation," soldier encampment, music and other Christmas traditions at this Manassas landmark. 5-9 pm. \$15. Call 703-368-1873 or, www.manassasmuseum.org.

9 Dec – "Christmas in Camp", a special program including decorations, traditions, refreshments, music, tours (weather permitting) and more, at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria. Noon-4 pm. Adult suggested donation is \$2. Call 703-838-4848, or www.fortward.org.

10 Dec – Richmond, "Court End Christmas," annual open house at Richmond's Court End museums, including the Museum of the Confederacy. Refreshments, living history and more. An afternoon event. Free Call 804-649-1861 or www.moc.org.

10 Dec – Elkton, Christmas open house at the Miller-Kite Museum (Stonewall Jackson Headquarters). Noon-5 pm. Call 540-298-1717.

10 Dec – Fredericksburg, special programs commemorating the anniversary of the battle for Fredericksburg. Living history and special tours and talks at the National Battlefield and activities throughout the downtown area. Call 540- 373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

11,18 Dec – Richmond, Gallery talk, staff experts explore topics in the galleries at the Museum of the Confederacy. 11:45 am Free with admission. Call 804-649-1861, or www.moc.org.

17 Dec – Fredericksburg, Open house, annual event at Chatham (NPS), a Union headquarters across the river from downtown Fredericksburg. 2-4 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or, www.nps.gov/frsp.

8, 15, 22, 29 Jan – Richmond, Gallery talk, "Behind the Glass Case" staff experts explore topics in the galleries at the Museum of the Confederacy. 11:45 am Free with admission. Call 804-649-1861, or www.moc.org.

25 Jan – Lecture, "Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War" A. Wilson Greene talks about and signs his new book at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$5. Call 804-358-4901 or, www.vahistorical.org.



OX HILL INTERPRETATION STUCK ON KIOSK PROBLEM, WAYSIDE MARKER CHANGES

By Ed Wenzel

The Fairfax County Park Authority's planning for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park is presently at a standstill. There is no resolution yet to the latest questions about what and how much information should be presented to visitors at the park's "kiosk", or visitor contact station. The kiosk itself is a problem. It was not designed for this park or the interpretive topics we have, and was recently downsized. And the decision to limit the topics and panels there to a maximum of six is another problem.

We're talking a difference here of three panels—six versus nine. It would seem that three attached kiosk units, each having six sides, could certainly accommodate three more panels facing either inside or outside. But the Park Authority insists that six panels are the most we can have. And to get by with only six panels, the Preliminary Action, the Battle and the Aftermath have to be squeezed onto a single "Overview" panel. This requires a very brief and overly general narrative that deletes critical information. The park staff thinks visitors should go home and look up the missing information on a web site. However, the visitors are at the park. Why send them to a web site when we can tell them the story right there. It doesn't make sense.

Four months ago the writer sent a letter to Interpretive Team leader Mike Henry raising concerns about the kiosk's interpretive panels and texts. Receiving no response, I phoned Mike in August and was told that the text as written was "fine". Then, in early October, learning that this inadequate text was going to be the "final" text, I again sent Mike a letter pointing out precisely (again) what was wrong with the text and pleading for better information in the kiosk. I also questioned the design of the kiosk because the layout restricts the presentation and the number of panels. No response or acknowledgement was received. Nor has the team leader acknowledged the wayside marker review I sent more than a month ago, which noted problems with some of the changes they made in the wayside marker texts.

Copies of the Park Authority's "final" interpretive texts, along with copies of the above letters and correspondence have been sent to all trustees of the Kearny and Stevens monuments, and to officers of the BRCWRT. All interested parties are being kept informed of this situation.

It's important to remember that six court-appointed trustees, not the Park Authority, own the Kearny and Stevens monuments (erected in 1915), as well as the 50 x 100 ft lot that surrounds them at the park. As adjoining historic property owners, the trustees have a vested interest in, and legal standing, to influence the kind of interpretation that the Park Authority puts in place at Ox Hill. Without the Kearny and Stevens

monuments there would be no battlefield park. As a trustee, and as an officer of the Chantilly Battlefield Association, we assembled virtually all of the research on this battle and shared it with the Park Authority. And we expect that after 20 years of continuous volunteer effort, whatever interpretation is finally installed at Ox Hill will be done with our backing and approval, that it will be first class, and that it will appeal to people of all ages and to visitors of all backgrounds.

The park staff is anxious to wrap up this planning, as we all are. But the trustees' interest here is not in restricting the presentation, omitting important information, or using vague generalizations. What the trustees want is a succinct interpretation with substance and background information that doesn't beg questions.

And now the latest bulletin: After all of the problems noted above, a possible compromise might be on the horizon. Interpretive Team member, Liz Crowell, just informed me this morning that it might be possible to use our three-part 'Overview' text by moving some of the themes out of the kiosk. A topic like the Union wounded left at the Millan House, for instance, might be put on a wayside marker. If this could be done with two other themes, then the Park Authority could keep its six-panel limit. This might work. Liz suggested that the idea be explored at the next meeting in mid December. I'm all for it, and I'm also for taking a hard look at the kiosk design and seeing if we couldn't have a structure built specifically to accommodate the interpretation we want. Either way, if the kiosk problem can be fixed, then we're close to resolving this issue.

In the end, we owe this—Fairfax County owes this—to our citizens and visitors. Except for this five acre park, the Ox Hill (Chantilly) battlefield is gone. The field where fifteen hundred men fell and sacrificed in the only major battle fought on Fairfax soil is no more. This park is all we have. We need to do this right or not at all. The Ox Hill story must be told at the park on as many panels or markers as it takes. Our citizens, our visitors and future generations deserve no less.

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