



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol XIII, Issue 2 — March 2006

DON ERNSBERGER PADDY OWEN'S REGULARS A HISTORY OF THE 69TH PA "IRISH VOLUNTEERS"

by John P. McAnaw

I can think of no better way to celebrate March (Irish History Month) than to have Don Ernsberger speak to us about a distinguished Union unit that was composed largely of men who were either Irish by birth or by descent—the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Until Don Ernsberger's two-volume history on the 69th PA was published in 2004, the only other history on cited unit was a brief account authored by two 69th veterans, Anthony W. McDermott and John I. Reilly, published in 1889. In contrast Don Ernsberger's grand opus consists of 1091 pages, 350,000 words and 58 photographs. It is truly an impressive regimental history. According to reviewer and fellow historian, Michael Kane, Don's history "is the best treatment of the Irish soldier in the American Civil War ever written. This is a work so well researched that we will never see its depth."

Do you remember that section of the movie "Gettysburg" that dealt with the assault of Pickett's Virginians and the Union defense behind the low wall and forward of the "copse of trees"? And the "Green Flag" waving in the face of the attackers? That was the regimental flag of the 69th PA—the only unit of the Philadelphia Brigade that held its position at the wall

Don Ernsberger was born in Fremont, OH, and is descended from ancestors who served in Ohio and New York infantry units during the Civil War. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Penn State in 1969. Following graduation, Don commenced a teaching career that lasted for 30 years. During this period he earned a MA Degree and a PhD from Temple University.

For 12 years he taught U.S. History in the Bucks County (PA) Public School System. This was followed by a lengthy stint of 18 years at Penn State where the focus of his labors was on "Political Philosophy, 1900 to the Present." Following his retirement from teaching, Don embarked on a new career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Since 2000 he has been the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California.

It is an understatement to label Don as a Civil War buff. He is a member of the Gettysburg Battlefield Guide Association and the Gettysburg Chat Room. Not surprisingly, Don is the Chairman of the 69th PA Reen-

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
9 MARCH 2006**

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

Guest Speaker: Don Ernsberger

SUBJECT:

**Paddy Owen's Regulars
A History of the
69th Pennsylvania
"Irish Volunteers"**

BOOK SALE & SIGNING

**C-SPAN will be filming the
presentation**

Actors. (Don is a private and his son is a corporal.) Don informed me that his unit has one of the largest number of reenactors in the region.

Copies of Don Ernsberger's books on the 69th PA, plus two interesting CD ROMs, that he prepared, will be available for sale and autographing at our monthly meeting, commencing at 7:00 PM on Thursday, 9 March 2006. Top of the evening to you!

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BRIAN POHANKA AND THE 69TH PA IN THE MOVIE "GETTYSBURG"

by John P. McAnaw

The memorial ceremony last year at the Manassas National Battlefield Park for Brian Pohanka was very impressive. One of the eulogists recalled how Brian helped save the movie "Gettysburg" from becoming a disastrously inaccurate depiction of the battle. As many of you know, Brian was a stickler for historical accuracy. According to the eulogist, Brian made many recommendations that were incorporated into the movie by the film crew. Among others, Brian insisted that the 69th PA and its distinctive "Green Flag", be included in the movie's footage. The film crew complied.

NEW 7:00 P.M. MEETING TIME

INCLEMENT WEATHER SOP

In the event of inclement weather during the winter and spring months, the following procedures will be followed:

GENERAL

If, on the date of a scheduled meeting or tour, adverse weather conditions exist or are imminent, take one of the following actions to determine whether or not the meeting or tour will be held as scheduled:

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1. Call John McAnaw at 703.978.3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller, or
2. Call the Centreville Regional Library at 703.830.2223. A staff member will tell you if the meeting is on or not.

TOURS

1. Contact the Chief Tour Guide. The name, email address and/or telephone number of the Chief Tour Guide for each tour will be published in the monthly newsletter.
2. In the event that the Chief Tour Guide cannot be reached, call John McAnaw at 703.978.3371. Either he or a recorded message will provide the requested information.

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!



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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>

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
For APRIL 2006 Issue**

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3

To scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by April 4, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 703.913.9890 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.

The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

A total of 78 members attended our monthly meeting on 9 February to listen to BRCWRT Immediate Past President and member **Keith Young's** superb presentation on Civil War Prisons. I extend my thanks to Keith for a most informative talk.



Photo By Janet Greentree

THANKS KEITH FOR A SUPERB PRESENTATION ON CIVIL WAR PRISONS: AMERICA'S SHAME

I urge all members to attend **Don Ernsberger's** presentation on 9 March. He will discuss a Union unit, which until recently has not received the recognition that it deserved – the Irish 69th PA Vol. Inf. Regt. I assure you that you will be thoroughly enlightened by his presentation.

As winter relaxes its debilitating grip, the tempo of activities of the BRCWRT has begun to increase. Already 32 members have signed up for our **tour of the Brandy Station Battlefield** on 25 March. Bud Hall will lead the tour. If you have not done so, sign up quickly before the cut off of 44 is reached.

Again, I remind those readers who have failed to do so to promptly pay their **dues for 2006**. Otherwise, the April 2006 newsletter will be the last one that you will receive. We need your support.

Lastly, and most importantly, I want to thank everyone who sent me cards and letters, offered prayers for my recovery and/or donated blood in my name at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Thus far, I have received a number of blood transfusions and will be receiving medical treatment for some time to come. **Words cannot express how much your acts of kindness have meant to me.** Again, thank you.

**Do you value your BRCWRT membership?
Please renew now!**



UPCOMING MEETINGS

13 APRIL 2006

GUEST SPEAKER:

Jay Jorgensen

SUBJECT:

The Battle of the Wheatfield at Gettysburg



11 MAY 2006

GUEST SPEAKER:

Ed Bearss

SUBJECT:

Gettysburg Day 2

Note: 15th Anniversary of the Founding of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

JOIN US AT THE LONE STAR

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 meet at 5:15 p.m. in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star located in Centreville Square near the library. **Space is limited so RSVP** to Dale Maschino at fsainc@netzero.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'!



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 fsainc@netzero.net.

9-12 Mar – Newport News, Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend at the Mariners Museum. Features keynote speaker James McPherson with a variety of living history, tours, lectures and much more. Call 757-591-7739, or link to www.mariner.org.

11 Mar – Atoka, VA, "Cavaliers, Courage, and Coffee". Presentations by the Grey Ghost Interpretive Group on several Mosby episodes. First person discussions of Mosby. At historic Caleb Rector House in Atoka (near Middleburg) sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. Free. Call 540-687-6681 or, www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

11 Mar – Baltimore Harbor, Lecture, "CSS Shenandoah and the Final Shot of the Civil War". At the USS Constellation, Pier 1, in the Baltimore Harbor. Noon, Free with admission. Call 410-539-1797 ext. 3, or www.constellation.org.

16 Mar – Richmond, lecture on "Art in the Civil War South", at the Virginia Historical Society. Co-sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy. Noon. \$5. Call 804-649-1861, or www.moc.org.

25 Mar – College Park, MD. Annual Symposium of the Abraham Lincoln Institute at the National Archives II. Presentations include "Lincoln's Other White House," "Lincoln's Constitution," and "Lincoln's Melancholy." 9 am-5 pm. Free. Registration required. Call 202-572-0769, or Email secretary@lincoln-institute.org.

25 Mar – Fredericksburg. Civil War Relics Show. Artifacts, books, prints and more at the Eagle's' Lodge, 21 Cool Springs Road. 9 am- 5 pm. \$5. Call 540-372-6709.

25 Mar –Kernstown. Anniversary tours of the First Kernstown Battlefield, south of Winchester. Tours at two different parts of the field are offered. A walking tour of the Prichard-Grim Farm (earlier phase of the battle) is scheduled for 10 am, and the Rose Hill section (later phase) tour begins at 1 pm. The Prichard-Grim farm is open 9 am-noon, Rose Hill open noon-4 pm. Tickets for the tour are \$5 per site. Free for children 12 and under. More information at www.shenandoahmuseum.org.

31 Mar – Brandy Station. Annual Foundation Dinner with special presentations on WHF "Rooney" Lee and Maj. HB McClellan, at the Brandy Station Fire Hall. 6:30 pm. \$20. Reservations suggested. Checks to: BSF, PO Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714. Also, www.brandystationfoundation.com.

1 Apr – Richmond, "Civil War Day at the Tredegar Iron Works". National Park Service tours and talks, exhibits, music, and more at the Richmond Civil War Visitor Center on the James Riverfront. 10 am – 4 pm, Free. Call 804-226-1981, or www.nps.gov/rich.

8 Apr – Bus Tour, "Leesburg to Antietam with the Army

of Northern Virginia," includes Whites Ford, South Mountain and much more on Lee's 1862 Maryland Campaign. Begins at Claude Moore Park (Sterling) visitor center at 9 am. \$67.50. Registration and info at 703-444-1275.

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BRANDY STATION BATTLEFIELD TOURS

The Brandy Station Foundation offers a series of tours starting Sat. Apr 8 and continuing every other Saturday to Nov. 4. Each tour begins at 10:00 A.M. at Graffiti House and ends there at noon. Admission is \$5 for adults; children under 12 are free; proceeds benefit the Foundation's efforts to preserve the Brandy Station Battlefield and the Graffiti House. No Advance reservations necessary. The tours are: **Beverly Ford and St. James Church** (Apr. 8, June 3, Jul 29, Sept 23); **Kelly's Ford and Stevensburg** (Apr 22, June 17, Aug 12, Oct 7; **Fleetwood Hill** (May 6, July 1, Aug 26, Oct 21); **Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge** (May 20, Jul 15, Sept 9, Nov 4)

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION PURCHASES EIGHT ACRES AT KELLY'S FORD

The Brandy Station Foundation is pleased to announce the purchase and preservation of eight acres of riverfront land along the Rappahannock River near Kelly's Ford in northern Culpeper County. The land was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Steve Walker, owners of the Rappahannock River Campground.

The Foundation would like to thank the Civil War Preservation Trust and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for providing the majority of the funding that made this purchase possible. BSF also obtained a loan from the Second Bank and Trust of Culpeper to cover part of the cost and is seeking tax deductible donations from its members and the community to cover the loan.

The historic property is located beside Route 620 (Edwards Shop Road) on the south side of the Rappahannock River. Hundreds of thousands of troops crossed Kelly's Ford during the Civil War, making it perhaps one of the most significant river crossings of the war.

Early in the morning of June 9th, 1863 Colonel Alfred Duffie, 2nd Cavalry Division, crossed the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford, headed towards the conflict that would become known as the Battle of Brandy Station. The infantrymen, "some of who splashed and frolicked as they waded through the waist-deep water", followed him. Brigadier General Gregg, Commander of the 3rd Cavalry Division, crossed last. The successful crossing of Kelly's Ford played a pivotal role in the outcome of the Battle of Brandy Station. Other major battle actions occurred at the Ford on March 17 and November 7, 1863. The Foundation would like to make improvements to the land that would make the property more accessible to visitors, including a walking trail loop, passing the remnants of the Civil War rifle pits and the old millrace from the Kellysville Mill.

Source: BSF Press Release

CWPT RECEIVES MAJOR BEQUEST FROM LATE HISTORIAN, PRESERVATIONIST BRIAN POHANKA

Brian Pohanka's spirit of generosity lives on in latest donation to Civil War Preservation Trust.

(Feb. 24 Washington, D.C.) - In a statement released today, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) announced a major gift from the estate of historian and ardent preservationist Brian C. Pohanka, who passed away in June 2005. In his will, Pohanka left CWPT – with whom he has been associated since its earliest days – a bequest totaling \$1 million earmarked for land acquisition.

In acknowledging the gift, CWPT President James Lighthizer said that the donation is telling of the innumerable contributions Pohanka made to the cause of historic preservation over the years.

"From the very beginnings of the Civil War battlefield preservation movement, Brian Pohanka led the charge," remarked Lighthizer. "He not only gave of his time and talents, but frequently and generously reached into his wallet as well. We at the Civil War Preservation Trust are proud to carry on the work he began nearly two decades ago."

Pohanka's generosity to battlefield preservation was unequalled. In addition to the \$1 million bequest, he and his wife Cricket quietly donated an equal amount to CWPT in 2004. Over the years, Pohanka gave generously to CWPT and countless other local battlefield preservation groups – in his will, he also set aside money for the Central Virginia Battlegrounds Trust (\$500,000), the Richmond Battlefields Association (\$500,000), and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (\$200,000).

In recognition for Pohanka's outstanding contributions to battlefield preservation, in 2004 he was named CWPT's Preservationist of the Year during ceremonies in Nashville, Tenn. At the ceremony, one of Brian's last public appearances, he urged the preservation community to continue the struggle to save this nation's irreplaceable hallowed battlegrounds.

Cricket Bauer Pohanka, who recently agreed to join CWPT's Board of Trustees, said she is confident that the bequest would be used to create a legacy of which he would be proud. "Brian placed an immense value on the preservation of our Civil War

battlefields," she said, "and to see the sites he so cared about perpetually protected will be a fitting tribute to his life and his work."

According to Lighthizer, Pohanka was frequently quoted as saying the inspiration for his tireless efforts was the idea that a century from now a child might become as interested in the Civil War as Brian was in his own youth. That child, Pohanka often said, must still have the opportunity to visit our battlefields, our hallowed grounds, and absorb their lessons. "With this gift, Brian has truly made that vision a reality, giving us the power to protect more of that ground for generations yet to come," Lighthizer said.

Lighthizer concluded his remarks by stating: "Author, living historian, preservationist, consultant, friend; Brian touched us and our work in so many ways. He is truly missed, but we will make sure that his dedication and his contributions will not be forgotten."

With 75,000 members, CWPT is the largest non-profit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's remaining Civil War battlefields. Since 1987, the organization has saved more than 22,000 acres of hallowed ground. CWPT's website is located at www.civilwar.org.

Source: CWPT Press Release

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ORRISON NEW BRENTSVILLE SITE MANAGER

BRCWRT Member **Rob Orrison** is the new Site Manager for Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. His current main focus will be the restoration of the buildings.

Rob says, "Eventually, we will be open to the public on a regular basis. I will be overseeing the museum operations etc... Hopefully you will hear good things from there in the future!" Rob is really excited to be involved with the Prince William Historic Preservation Division. They have done a lot of good things of which he is happy to be a part.

For the past two and one-half years, Rob has been the Historian at Sully Historic Site and has been instrumental in erecting several Virginia Civil War Trails signs.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL HALL MUSEUM UPDATE

Letter from: Sam Hood, Chairman

Memorial Hall Foundation Relief Fund

The Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum recently held its first post-Hurricane Katrina meeting. The museum is scheduled to reopen, on a limited basis, on Saturday, January 7. The museum will be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

As all of you are aware, the resident population of New Orleans has been drastically reduced, and tourist traffic is virtually nonexistent. The city is recovering very slowly, and it is extremely difficult for businesses and other public facilities, including our museum, to anticipate traffic, and plan their operations. Initially, we will be open on a truncated schedule, and adjust as circumstances dictate.

As you have been previously informed, the museum is in a perilous financial state. The museum receives absolutely no public (governmental) funding, and relies solely on visitor admissions and donations for its operating revenue. Consequently, the museum has been without any admission income for over five months, and it is anticipated that future visitor traffic will be only a fraction of normal in the coming months, and perhaps years. In 2004, the museum received 5,372 visitors from August through December, and in 2005 that number was of course zero. In a normal year the museum receives approximately 8,000 visitors from January through June, and that number will certainly be drastically reduced in the next six months, after the museum reopens.

Additionally, the Annual Gala, normally scheduled in the winter months, has become a major fund raising event, raising approximately one-fourth of the museum's annual income. Unfortunately, the 2006 Gala has been canceled.

Regardless of whether the museum is open, expenses are still incurred such as taxes, utilities, insurance, building maintenance, and administrative costs.

You have been previously asked to consider donating to the special Relief Fund that was established after the hurricane, and many of you have responded. To those who have come to the aid of the museum, the Board of Directors and staff cannot thank you enough. In addition to the financial assistance which the donations provide, *the members of the Board and staff also receive much*

needed moral renourishment every time a donation is received. Fighting the recent property seizure attempt by the University of New Orleans and now contending with the hurricane-induced crisis is very trying ordeal for the Board and staff. When will our challenges subside?

The Board of Directors and staff sincerely thank those who have donated, and implore those who have yet to contribute, who cherish Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, to please consider contributing to the special Relief Fund, and help us keep the doors open during these trying times. The Relief Fund address is: *Memorial Hall Relief Fund, 6658 Youree Drive, Suite 180-Box 278, Shreveport LA 71105.*

ROUND TABLE MEMBER A WINNER IN CWPT CONTEST



BRCWRT member and *Stone Wall* photographer, **JANET GREENTREE**, won third place in the Civil War Preservation Trust Photo Contest in the 'Close-Up' category with her photo of Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead's statue located at the Masonic Memorial in front of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg. Janet's prize was a CWPT baseball hat, a \$100.00 gift certificate to the History Channel store, plus having her picture published in the Summer issue of CWPT's magazine, *Hallowed Ground*.

"1861 A TIME FOR GLORY"

Author Robert Greenwalt will be on hand at our 9 March meeting to introduce & sell his new novel

"1861 A Time For Glory". The Hardcover 1st Edition is \$24.95. Robert will offer the book to our roundtable at the pre-publication discount (\$5 off the cover price). For more information, you can call 1 866 891-2821 (Toll Free) or send an email to bluegraypress@yahoo.com.

BLOOD FOR JOHN McANAW

As many of you know, John is having some serious health issues, has been in and out of the hospital for tests including bone marrow operations from his hip and another from his sternum.

Many have asked if blood could be donated to John's account. Your blood type doesn't matter! If you would like to do this, here is the information provided by Inova Blood Donor Services:

Most healthy people can be blood donors. In about one hour, donors complete a short medical history; have temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin measured; recline comfortably for 5-10 minutes while donating; and enjoy refreshments before leaving. Only disposable, single-use products are used to collect blood. You cannot get AIDS giving blood.

Please eat a meal and drink extra fluids within the 6 hours before donating.

Donor Eligibility Age Requirement: (no maximum limit)

Health: Generally in good health, you must be well for 3 days (no symptoms of illness including colds)

Weight: 110 pounds minimum

Identification Photo ID (such as driver's license) must be presented

Inova Blood Donor Services is open Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can schedule an appointment by calling 703.698.3885. Tell them you are donating to the replacement credit account of John McAnaw at Inova Fairfax Hospital and mention this again when you give blood. You can also just show up, but there could be a waiting period.

Inova Blood Donor Services, 3289 Woodburn Road, Suite 010, Annandale, VA 22003. It's just below Inova Fairfax Hospital off of the I-495 Beltway and Gallows Road.

John has done so much for the Round Table. Here is our opportunity to help him! Also, please keep him in your prayers!

MARCHING ORDERS!

Tour of the Brandy Station Battlefield

DATE: Saturday, 25 March 2006

ASSEMBLY POINT: Parking lot of the Centreville Regional Library. Carpooling encouraged.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 7:55 A.M.

CHIEF TOUR GUIDE: Bud Hall

TOUR LENGTH: 9:00 A.M.-3:45 P.M.

DESTINATION: McDonald's Restaurant in Opal, VA. located on west side of U.S. Hwy 29 at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 17.

DESTINATION ARRIVAL TIME: 7:45 A.M. We will meet Bud Hall at McDonald's.

IN EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: See SOP on Page 2.

ATTIRE: Study footwear and warm layered clothing recommended.

LUNCH: Bring brown bag lunch, water and energy snack.

DEGREE OF EXERTION: Light to low moderate.

THE BATTLE OF CHANTILLY (OX HILL) MOVIE PREMIERE

Don't miss the premiere this [Saturday, March 4](#), at 10:00 am at the Cinema Arts Theatre, at Main Street and Pickett Road in Fairfax, VA. Admission is \$5.00.

The Cinema Arts Theatre is located in the Fair City Mall, Fairfax Va., at the intersection of Main Street (Rt. 236) and Pickett Road, 1.7 miles east of the Fairfax Court House. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

DVDs of the movie will be available for \$19.99 (\$21.00 including tax) before and after the show. Visa and MasterCard accepted. The movie is 58 minutes long.

"The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)" is a compelling, historical documentary. A must see for anyone who lives in Fairfax County." Lynne Garvey Wark, Chairperson, Fairfax County History Commission

"The movie shows the violence of the war and how it affected the men who fought at Chantilly (Ox Hill)", Don Hakenson, author of "This Forgotten Land"

OX HILL PLANNING NEARS COMPLETION; TRAIL ALIGNMENT, MARKER TEXT QUESTIONED

By Ed Wenzel

The Ox Hill Battlefield Park Project Planning team, led by Michael Rierson, met on January 24th at Fairfax County Park Authority headquarters in Fairfax. At the meeting, Debbie Robison of SWSG Engineering, presented Draft #3 of the park's Site Plan, and Interpretive Team leader, Mike Henry, presented written interpretive text for six of Ox Hill's eight wayside markers and one kiosk panel.

Both the site plan and the marker text left unresolved several issues that were raised by the writer following the last meeting in October. Also, new concerns arose. Consequently, I sent a letter and six pages of comments, criticisms and suggestions to eight Project Team members and six Kearny-Stevens Trustees, urging that the comments be addressed before the plans progress any further. The issues include:

Handicapped trail alignments in the restored areas of the park, particularly the trail width and location within the Kearny/Stevens monument lot. Despite having an unobtrusive "GrassPave2" surface, this "trail" will be six feet wide with two-foot shoulders on either side and will be engineered like a ten-foot wide road. In fact, it seems more a road than a "trail" and its 1,220-foot length, alignment, grade and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance have dominated the site plan concerns at this historic battle site.

Suggestions have been made to substantially narrow the trail and shoulders in order to keep its intrusion on the restored battlefield to an absolute minimum.

Interpretive marker text that is too limited and generalized in describing the attacks of Union forces under Generals Isaac Stevens and David Birney. Park Authority personnel have steadfastly insisted that the Ox Hill battle cannot be interpreted for Civil War buffs or heritage tourists, but instead must limit and minimize the story for uninformed people who would otherwise be bored and would not trouble themselves to read more.

I have tried to make the case that lowering the interpretation level to the most disinterested and uninformed people would be a disservice to everyone else in Fairfax County, including all the out-of-state tourists who will visit Ox Hill. It has been

suggested, at the very least, that a compromise be reached to include certain historical details and information that are necessary for a good accounting of the battle action.

Site Visit. The Project Team should visit the park with site plans in hand and look at the ground. In some cases what is shown on the plans does not look right when examining the actual site, so key trail alignments and marker and monument locations should be staked prior to the visit.

Lastly, I have again requested that history-minded individuals and representatives of Civil War groups be consulted on these plans, especially those who advised the Master Planning Task Force, such as the BRCWRT. Advice and input from the Civil War and historical communities should have been a priority at these project-planning sessions given the nature of this park.

WELCOME NEW BRCWRT MEMBERS!



Russel Marsh, Jim Lewis, Richard
Stallings, George Franks, III,
Henry Hansen, Patty Wheeler,
Barbara Welch, Gwen Wyttenbach,
Joseph Loughran, Jeanette Studley,
Leo McDonnell, Matthew Cosner

BATTLE OF DRANESVILLE VA CIVIL WAR TRAILS SIGN

Four years ago **Mike Shannon** stopped **Mark Trbovich** outside the library following our monthly meeting and asked if a sign could be put up in Dranesville to honor the Pennsylvania Bucktails who fought there during the Battle of Dranesville 20 December 1861. Mark passed it to his Fairfax County leader, but it sat unfunded. After three years of nothing much happening, Mark emailed member **Rob Orrison** with Sully Historic Site who was working on Sully's Virginia Civil War Trails sign, "and bingo...Rob gets the job done." The October and November 2005 issues of the *Stone Wall* cover Mark and Rob's efforts for Virginia Civil War Trails signs at Greenwich, Ewell's Chapel and Sully.

Although the battle is generally unknown today, the Federals under Brig. Gen. O. C. Ord claimed a victory as Confederate Brig. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart withdrew from the field. Dranesville was a considerable morale boost for President Lincoln, the government and the Union soldiers after the dismal showing of Union forces at Manassas and Ball's Bluff. The results were widely published, including a two page drawing in *Harpers Weekly* which is displayed on the sign. Rob with Mark's assistance wrote the text, and the sign was put up just recently.

Thanks Mark and Rob for your continued efforts to preserve our Civil War heritage. As Mark says, "I'm driven with a passion to honor those who died for their causes and mark these areas for future generations to never forget their ultimate sacrifice. Dranesville will always be Hallowed Ground, and the sign will carry on long after we have gone home. You can't help but get excited."

The Battle of Dranesville sign is in the parking lot of Dranesville Tavern just off Route 7 and was funded by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

DON'T MISS MIKE SHANNON'S ADJOINING ARTICLE ABOUT HIS ANCESTOR WHO FOUGHT AT DRANESVILLE



**New VA Civil War Trails Sign with Dranesville
Tavern in the background**

BRCWRT MEMBER'S ANCESTOR SPARKS DRANESVILLE VA CW TRAILS SIGN

By Mike Shannon

My great great grandfather, Henry Peoples, enlisted as a private at the age of 19 in Company B of the 9th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps (PRC) on May 1, 1861 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

As a young soldier, he moved through a series of training camps (Wilkins, Wright and Curtin) in Pennsylvania before being deployed to Tenallytown in Washington D.C on Aug 5, 1861 where the PRC constructed Fort Pennsylvania.

On 9 October 1861, Henry and the rest of the Pennsylvania Reserves under the leadership of Brigadier-General George McCall marched south to Chain Bridge and set foot for the first time upon "the sacred soil of Virginia," to the tune of "Dixie's Land." They marched past Fort Marcy and onto Langley, Virginia where they established Camp Pierpont on the extreme right of the Union defenses surrounding Washington.

Henry and his comrades in arms learned the art of war until December 20, 1861 when they had their first taste of battle. Several regiments of the PRC went on a foraging expedition to the area around Dranesville where they encountered Confederate forces under the command of General Jeb Stuart in what became known as the **Battle of Dranesville**.

The 9th was assigned to a position on the right side of the Union line and handled themselves well under fire, suffering minimal casualties. In the after action reports of the battle, General McCall and other senior officers recognized Henry's regiment for their gallantry and discipline during the battle.

After the victory at Dranesville, they returned to Camp Pierpont where they remained in winter quarters until March 10, 1862 when the PRC departed for the Peninsula.

Henry served with the 9th as it fought in numerous battles such as the Seven Days, Fredericksburg, Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg. Their three year enlistment ended in May 1864 and the 9th was pulled out of the line in front of the Wilderness and returned to Pittsburgh where Henry was mustered out on May 13, 1864 at the age of 21.

He survived the war unscathed except for losing his hearing during the Seven Days Battle due to the 9th's support to the Union artillery. He married Kate Mayer on October 2, 1864 and had seven children. He raised tobacco in the North Hills section of Pittsburgh and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He died on July 23, 1916 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Kate survived him by several years before she too died in February 1929. They are buried together in a plot in the Evergreen Cemetery in Troy Hill area of Pittsburgh, surrounded by three of their seven children.

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST UNVEILS MOST ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS REPORT

Actor, commentator and preservationist Ben Stein joins CWPT to reveal plight of America's hallowed battlefields

Feb. 28, 2006 (Washington, D.C.) - A once sleepy crossroads town in Pennsylvania where the blood of 50,000 Americans was shed, a fertile valley in Virginia where armies clashed for four long years, and a little-known New Mexico battleground known as the "Gettysburg of the West," were today announced as some of the nation's most endangered Civil War battlefields.

At a news conference this morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlefields. The report, entitled *History Under Siege: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields*, identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them.

"Today our Civil War battlefields are being destroyed at an alarming rate," warned CWPT President James Lighthizer during the news conference. "Hallowed ground, where more than 600,000 Americans gave their lives, is being paved over in favor of shopping malls housing tracts, and even gambling casinos. These endangered battlefields are irreplaceable treasures and now, more than ever, we must work to preserve and protect these sites because once they're gone, they're gone forever."

Joining Lighthizer at the news conference was writer, economist, commentator and well-known actor Ben Stein. In addition to appearing in dozens of movies, and hosting Comedy Central's Emmy award winning quiz show, "Win Ben Stein's Money," Stein is an active battlefield preservationist.

In his remarks, Stein echoed Lighthizer's concerns. "I came to be fascinated by the Civil War at an early age, as a child growing up down the street from the Maryland house where Confederate General Jubal Early made his headquarters during his 1864 raid on Washington. The Civil War was our bloodiest conflict but also the densest concentration of courage ever shown on this continent. America's Civil War battlefields are where that courage is best memorialized. Let's keep them, and keep them glorious and beautiful, keep them above commerce."

Also participating in the news conference was Dr. Libby O'Connell, Chief Historian of The History Channel. O'Connell, who developed and oversees *Save Our History*, The History Channel's campaign for historic preservation and history education, is also a Trustee of the CWPT and a member of the Board of Advisors of the National Council for History Education. O'Connell stressed the urgency of the report when she said, "These endangered Civil War battlefields are the places where many Americans made the greatest sacrifice for their country. They must be protected."

History Under Siege is comprised of two parts: the first section cites the 10 most endangered battlefields in the nation, with a brief description of their history and preservation status; the second section [see www.civilwar.org] lists 10 additional "at risk" sites that round out the top 20 endangered battlefields in the country.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania will always be synonymous with the Civil War. It was not only the site of the largest and most costly battle ever fought in the Americas, but also the inspiration for one of the most famous speeches in our nation's history. Although the park is the most visited battlefield in the country and is the cornerstone of the local economy, the Gettysburg that millions of Americans have come to know and love is threatened by a proposal to build a massive, 3,000-slot gaming facility. If approved, the casino will be located just one mile from East Cavalry Field.

From the very beginning of the war until its tragic end, the **Shenandoah Valley of Virginia** was one vast battlefield. Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson won immortal fame in the Valley for his series of victories in the Spring of 1862. Later in the war, Federal General Phil Sheridan would clinch Union victory in a series of battles culminating at Cedar Creek. Today, Cedar Creek and ten other Civil War battlefields are threatened by the proposed widening of I-81, a major transit artery that runs the entire length of the valley. CWPT and a coalition of conservation groups have proposed a rail solution as an alternative to widening the road, which is already a magnet for sprawl.

At **Glorieta Pass, New Mexico**, federal forces were finally able to turn back the Southern invasion of New Mexico. The battle ended when a detachment of blue infantry burned a Confederate supply train and forced the Rebels to retreat back into Texas, ending dreams of a Southern republic that stretched to the Pacific Ocean. Today, safety concerns about heavy traffic along State Route 50, which runs through the heart of the battlefield,

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keeps much of the site closed to visitors, who can only view it out their car windows. In addition to Gettysburg, Pa., the Shenandoah Valley, Va., and Glorieta Pass, N.M., *History Under Siege* includes: **Chattahoochee River Line, Georgia.** Revolutionary in its design and formidable in its strength, the line stretches along the northern banks of Georgia's Chattahoochee River, where Joseph E. Johnston's Confederates took up defensive positions following the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. As late as the 1950s, a person could still walk the length of the River Line, but immense suburban development has devastated the site, and most of the River Line's features have been destroyed by property owners who feared that historic details would impede development plans.

Circle Forts, Washington, D.C. Erected to protect the Union capital from the threat of Confederate assault, the Circle Forts are a ring of 68 fortifications scattered around Washington. On July 11, 1864, the city was defended only by a motley crew of short-term recruits and convalescents -- but Federal reinforcements arrived just in time to save the city. Watching the action from the ramparts of Fort Stevens was President Abraham Lincoln, the only time a sitting American President has faced direct enemy fire. Today, the ring of fortifications has largely been absorbed by growing neighborhoods, and, although each fort has faced a different fate, none are preserved as thoroughly as their rich heritage deserves.

Fort Morgan, Alabama. Despite the Union blockade, Mobile Bay was still a hot spot for smuggling supplies into the beleaguered Confederacy until late in the war. In the summer of 1864, a Federal fleet under Admiral David Farragut arrived on the scene, intent on capturing the port and closing it to all illicit traffic. Faced with a withering fire from the fort, as well as other defensive tactics, as he attempted to pass the fort on August 3, Farragut proclaimed, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" Although it was able to withstand an 18-day Union bombardment before it surrendered, today Fort Morgan has fallen into significant disrepair. Portions of the property are closed to the public due to safety concerns and the site's future management is uncertain.

Glendale, Virginia. The savage fighting at Glendale (also known as Frayser's Farm) led to 6,500 casualties and marked the fifth day of the famous 1862 Seven Days Campaign around Richmond. Located near rapidly growing Richmond, Virginia, only 262 acres of the 7,888-acre Glendale battlefield is preserved. Currently, construction has begun on three housing projects in the area immediately surrounding the battlefield, with three more in the planning stages.

New Orleans Forts, Louisiana. In the spring of 1862, two forts staggered on opposing banks of the Mississippi River seventy miles south of New Orleans, were the only obstacles standing between a powerful Union fleet and its plan to cut off Southern ports to all trade. The two garrisons were able to hold Admiral David Farragut's flotilla at bay for a week before the Union gunboats broke through, ensuring the capture of New Orleans.

Today, immense damage caused by Hurricane Katrina has compromised the structural integrity of these sites to the point that it is entirely uncertain when some will be safe for the public.

Raymond, Mississippi. Raymond was a major turning point in Union General Ulysses S. Grant's brilliant Vicksburg Campaign. Today, only 65 acres of the 1,000-acre battlefield are protected. Development pressure along State Highway 18, which connects the battlefield to the nearby Jackson suburbs, remains the principal threat to the battlefield.

Wilderness, Virginia. The first clash between Civil War legends Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant took place in this wooded area west of Fredericksburg, Virginia. After two days of intense fighting, more than 25,000 dead and wounded were left in the Wilderness. Today, Orange County is transforming itself from a largely rural area to a suburban community with immense population growth and proposed home construction, which threaten areas of the battlefield not protected by the Park Service. The sites mentioned in the report range from the famous to the nearly forgotten. However, all have a critical feature in common - each one is in danger of being lost or spoiled forever. The battlefields were chosen based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats.

Source: CWPT Press Release



**Jan. 2006
White Oak,
Virginia**

Dear Mark,

I have waited until all the holiday mail is over to send you this letter. I wish to thank you and the Bull Run Round Table for the donation of \$200.00 towards the museum. This will be a great help to the museum towards fuel oil this winter!

I wish again to thank you all with all of my heart.

**D. P. Newton
White Oak Museum**

[Letter received by Round Table Treasurer Mark Knowles]

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2005 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM

We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!

Annual dues are:

Individual—\$15.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.

Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the President or Treasurer at the General Membership meeting. Or mail it to:

Mark Knowles, Treasurer

169 Applegate Drive

Sterling, VA 20164

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