



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 1—February 2007

ROUND TABLE HISTORIAN KEITH YOUNG ADDRESSES SIGNAL CORPS OPERATIONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

By John McAnaw

We are honored to have one of our own, Keith Young, as our February speaker. He is the Immediate Past President of our Round Table and currently serves on our Executive Board. Keith has spoken to us previously on a variety of Civil War subjects.

Keith was born in Colorado and raised in Arizona. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and retired with the rank of Captain. During his distinguished career, he served as the skipper of an attack nuclear submarine.

Our guest speaker developed an active interest in American history at an early age. His interest in the Civil War came from the fact that he had two great-grandfathers that served during that conflict – one on each side. This interest led him to write two books for family members that covered the Civil War service of these two great-grandfathers. Keith was the Unit Histories Section Advisor for the CompuServe Civil War Forum. He also was a contributor to the Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference published in 2002.

For the past several years, Keith served as a co-chairman of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Graves Registration Committee. This committee completed in 2006, its project objective of identifying the names and units of some of the Civil War soldiers and other military veterans buried in the two cemeteries on the grounds of this historic Washington D.C. hospital.

Presently, Keith is the Commander of the Department of Maryland, Sons of Union Veterans. This Department includes the States of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, plus the District of Columbia.

Keith's presentation on 8 February will be of great interest to students of the American Civil War. He will discuss how the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the Confederate Signal Services were organized and how they accomplished their respective missions. He will also cover signal equipment, plus the use of codes and ciphers to secure communications. I assure you that you will leave our February meeting with a thorough understanding of signal operations and an appreciation of the contributions of "flag floggers" on both sides.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, FEB. 8

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Keith Young

SUBJECT:

Sending the Word:
Signal Corps Operations
During the Civil War

NEW BRCWRT WEBMASTER

By Maureen Quinn

I thought you'd like to know that **Ken Jones** is assuming the duties of Webmaster for our Round Table and I am moving to an "at-large" role on the Board. When I first took on the challenge of the website, I figured it could be a vehicle to keep members informed of our activities. However, because of your enthusiasm, input, and terrific participation, our website has grown to include a good deal of pertinent Civil War information. I believe Ken will take this to the next level. The Webmaster duties now include maintaining the website, coordinating the online tour signups, maintaining the mail lists, and sending out notices. Since I will be Ken's backup, you may still hear from me from time-to-time, but for the most part, you'll be hearing from Ken.

It has truly been my pleasure to serve the Round Table for the past few years and I'm happy to pass this position to someone who is both willing and eager to tackle the Webmaster duties. You can reach Ken at KJones111@cox.net. If Ken's not available, you can reach me at MRMQuinn@Verizon.net.

* * * * *

**THANKS MAUREEN,
FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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
703.830.2223

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

<http://bullruncwrt.org>



INCLEMENT WEATHER SOP

If adverse weather conditions exist or are imminent, and you wish to determine if the meeting will be held, call the Centreville Regional Library (703.830.2223) or President John McAnaw (703.978.3371).

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UPCOMING MEETING

MARCH 8

GUEST SPEAKER:

Charles V. Mauro

TOPIC:

**The Civil War in Fairfax County:
Civilians and Soldiers**

**Chuck will be selling and signing his
new book**

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 smasch1verizon.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 out quickly.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE For March 2007 Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, Feb. 26

To scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by deadline, please call Sandra 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

First, on behalf of all Round Table members, I extend our condolences to Past President Dan Paterson and his family on the passing of his father, William Daniel Paterson, on 19 December 2006. Please remember Mr. Paterson and the Paterson family in your prayers.

Please take the time to carefully read this issue of the *Stone Wall*. It contains important information about upcoming events, e.g. speakers, field trips, etc. along with objective assessments of the interpretation of the Ox Hill Battlefield and the preservation of Civil War sites in the vicinity of the Centreville Historic Overlay District.



January Speaker E.B. Vandiver

Before continuing, I want to thank E.B. Vandiver III, for his extremely informative presentation on the Civil War Sites of the South Atlantic Blockade. A total of 65 members and guests attended. I also extend my compliments to Ed Wenzel for conducting two tours of the Ox Hill Battlefield on 9 December 2006 and 13 January 2007. These two "two hour tours" were thoroughly enjoyed by a total of 47 members. Ed set a Round Table record for the number of quality handouts issued to participants. We now have a solid nucleus of informed members who know the issues regarding the interpretation of the Ox Hill Battlefield.

On Saturday, 17 February, the Round Table will conduct a three hour tour of important Civil War sites in the vicinity of the Centreville Historic Overlay District. The purpose of this tour should be obvious. It is to develop a solid nucleus of informed members who know the historical importance of the sites visited; the status of preservation efforts regarding them; and the need for a County owned "Gateway Heritage Park" to protect these nationally important sites. (Have you heard this before?).

Don't forget to also mark your calendar for our Trevilian Station Battlefield Tour on 14 April and the Gettysburg Tour on 12 May.

We have an impressive list of guest speakers lined up for CY 2007. In addition to well known members of our Round Table, i.e. E.B. Vandiver III, Keith Young and Chuck Mauro, the list includes such distinguished historians as the inimitable Ed Bearss, Frank

O'Reilly, Don Ernsberger, John Quarstein, Greg Mertz and others.

Summing up, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table gives its members a great return for its very low dues (unchanged since its formation on 9 May 1991). Therefore, I ask all members who have not yet paid their CY2007 dues, to please do so. Lastly, I want to recognize member Bill Olson of Prince William County for his generous donation to the Round Table. Thank you, Bill.



UPCOMING TOUR OF THE TREVILIAN STATION BATTLEFIELD

By John McAnaw

Preparations are now underway for the BRCWRT tour of the Trevilian Station Battlefield of 11-12 June 1864. Weather permitting, the cited tour on Saturday, 14 April 2007, will mark the first visit by our Round Table to this very important battle site in Louisa County. By the way, some historians such as W.G. Ryckman, call it the Battle of Trevilians, after a local family of the same name.

Historians consider Trevilian Station as the largest all cavalry battle of the Civil War. Over 9000 Union and roughly 6700 Confederate cavalymen participated in this two day battle. Also, in terms of personnel losses, it was the most costly cavalry battle of the war. Estimated casualties (killed, wounded and captured/missing) for both sides, range from approximately 1800 to slightly over 2000.

Many of the prominent cavalry leaders in the Eastern Theater participated in this fiercely contested battle which, by the way, included Custer's "First Last Stand". Trevilian Station is a fascinating battle study. Many years after the war, Major James H. Kidd of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade wrote that "The planning and fighting of the battle, with its artful maneuvers and tactical stratagems, have been compared to a game of chess. To my mind, no cavalry engagement of the Civil War had more points of resemblance to the moves of knights and pawns upon the chessboard than did the first day at Trevilian Station."

Recommended reading: Wittenberg, Eric J. *Glory Enough For All: Sheridan's Second Raid, The Battle Of Trevilian Station*. Brassey's Inc., Dulles, VA 2001. (First paperback edition 2002).

THE LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDE EXAM OR THE FINAL BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

By Maureen Quinn

When I first thought of taking the Licensed Battlefield Guide test at Gettysburg I figured that I'd sign up, then go up to Gettysburg for a day and take the test. Wrong, wrong, wrong! It turns out, this process is much longer and more intense than I EVER expected -- and often it was akin to full-emersion learning -- sort of a "Baptism by Data"!!

The process starts when you receive the info from the Ranger in charge of the Guides, Clyde Bell. And the VERY first message you receive is that you're not REALLY needed!! Clyde makes it clear that 1) They only need a limited number of Guides at any given time and 2) You cannot make a living as a Guide. That he had to state #2 from the get-go sounds like he must be harangued by some people who expect to rake in the bucks all year -- and complain when they don't. So anyway, that's the first step.

In the first letter, you also receive a daunting reading list, which to me looked like another message that says "If you're not at least familiar with all of these works, don't bother continuing". The list is about two pages long and includes most of the well-known writings on Gettysburg. Pfanz -- and especially Coddington -- are emphasized throughout the study period.

Somehow, I found out about courses that were being offered in Gettysburg. The classes started in mid-August of this year and ended right after Thanksgiving (right before 'The Test'). Since it looked like there was a Wednesday and a Sunday class, I decided to go for the Sunday class for the obvious reasons. But I misunderstood. The CLASS was on Wednesday but there was also a corresponding tour the following Sunday. So it was Gettysburg every Wednesday and Sunday for 3 months -- and sometimes it was more if you counted the weekends that I spent there too. You have not lived until you've done Day 2 in a 4-hour tour!

One of the main problems with the course/tour format is that by the middle of the semester, you feel like you can't catch your breath! There were some times that I just wanted to turn off the flow of information and go hike the battlefield alone. But we carried on and, towards the end, many in the class were on overload with major brain fatigue.

Speaking of the class, this was truly the highlight for me. There were so many knowledgeable, friendly, funny people in the class -- and many of us constantly traded notes and information. Many of the "students" were repeating the class and the test -- some were on their third (or fourth -- or fifth) try! I call that either perseverance -- or insanity!!

The classes were taught by Licensed Battlefield Guides, who also led the tours. Most of the instructors

were excellent and provided useful notes and maps along with some very colorful commentary.

As opposed to what you may think, the test is not really about the battle. Certainly, you have to know things about the battle but the test focuses on the type of information that you would provide to tourists who barely know anything about Gettysburg -- or think they know the battle because they've watched the movie, like, a gazillion times.

THE TEST is usually given every two years, on the first Saturday in December, from 9:00 - Noon. This year it consisted of 225 questions (3 of which were disqualified) that included multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank (LOTS of these!), and True/False questions. There is also a set of photographs of officers and a whole bunch of monument pictures that you have to identify. The monument pictures are VERY important, as is a location map marked with certain sites that you have to know. Everybody know where the Forney Farm is?? Sometimes there are also matching questions that give you the name of a regiment and you match the nickname, or you are given a list of officers and you match them to their unit. What Regiment is the Corn Exchange? (118 PA); How about the Schoolteachers Regiment? (151 PA). Anybody know who Eppa Hunton was? (8th VA) or William Lilly? (149th NY). There are also essay questions. This year we had to pick 3 out of 5 offerings. The essays included: Explain the pros and cons of Sickles' move to the Emmitsburg Rd; Describe at least three types of cannon on the battlefield and discuss at least three types of ammunition used; Give reasons why Lincoln came to Gettysburg to give his speech (uhhh -- he was invited??); Discuss the role of women during the Civil War. The essays had to be only one page long and under NO circumstances could you write on the back of the page. Brevity and clarity are the gold standard here. By the way, the Forney Farm is on Oak Ridge, just southwest of the Peace Light.

Some of the fill-in-the-blanks caused headaches among us: Who was the artillery commander for the First Corps (Charles Wainwright); Where on the battlefield will you find the 43rd NC monument (East Confederate Ave, base of Culp's Hill); Where were the Union troops located who faced Iverson's troops on the 3rd Day (Long Lane); Name the two division commanders of the Third Corps (Humphries & Birney); True-False: The Texas monument is located on West Confederate Ave. That's False. It is located on SOUTH Confederate Avenue. Where was the 1st California Regiment raised? (Pennsylvania). They were the 71st PA).

Of the 130-or-so people who took the test, ONLY the top 20 scores made the cut and scores ranged from 17 to 221. After reviewing the tests and making a couple of cuts, Clyde selected the 20 best, and those are the ones who are called for an oral exam sometime in the next 2 years. Being called for the oral is no guarantee that you're in! In the last class, the person who received the highest mark, and those who placed 6th

See FINAL BATTLE , Page 10

THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph G. Swanson

A *magnum opus* is a person's greatest work or undertaking--a masterpiece--such as in literature or art. In 140+ years of Civil War literature, one seminal work truly deserves this honorific: Allan Nevins' *Ordeal of the Union*. In 8 volumes, Nevins plumbs the roots and course of Civil War in America, from 1847 to 1865.

Few authors have attempted a multi-volume treatment of the war. The Book Corner has recommended Bruce Catton's *Centennial History of the Civil War*, in three volumes, as the best overview history for the beginning student. Shelby Foote's three-volume effort, made famous by the Ken Burns PBS TV series, is also worthy. These, however, are exclusively war histories, covering 1861-1865. For those seeking the deeper origins, still unclear about those underlying forces behind our bloody, transforming national conflict, only *Ordeal of the Union* will answer. Be warned, this veritable mountain of literature should only be climbed by the most committed Civil War student.

Allan Nevins, born in 1890, was the Dewitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University and published over 50 books on political and business history. He was known for his exhaustive research and comprehensive historical treatments. *Ordeal of the Union*, begun in 1947 and completed just before his death in 1971, is every bit of that and more.

Volume One, *The Fruits of Manifest Destiny, 1847-1852*, begins at the end of war with Mexico. The western lands taken from Mexico (now our states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico) quickly became controversial. And what was that controversy? Of course, it was that nagging, "foul contagion" in our history--the "harlot" slavery.

To be sure, slavery was an explosive issue even at our Constitutional Convention in 1787. Then it was quietly deferred through compromise. Later, (1820) an artful power balance--the Missouri Compromise--addressed lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase and suppressed the inevitable conflict. In his first volume, Nevins takes us through all the desperate new efforts to address slavery again in the newly acquired lands--the Wilmot Proviso, extension of the Missouri Compromise line to the west coast, and, finally the important, but flawed, Compromise of 1850.

The unending debate was whether Congress had authority to legislate slavery in the territories. Northern interests believed that where slavery went, free labor could not follow; southern states opposed any limits on the spread of its peculiar institution. Regardless of the issue, the controversy was always the same--only the context changed. Nevins weaves all the relevant facts together in such a cogent and fluid style that American history will leap from every page with head slapping clarity.

Senator Stephan A. Douglas, Democrat of Illi-

nois, dominates the first few volumes. For many years he was the most powerful senator in the nation, and of course, he burned for the presidency. Douglas believed, like most political leaders of his day, that slavery was the natural condition of the black man and that Congress had no authority whatsoever concerning it in the unorganized territories. As chairman of the powerful Committee on Territories, Douglas ruled the fate all legislation pertaining to the organization of new states.

All the while, the forces of sectionalism grew ever more ominous. Culturally, economically and socially, the nation drifted apart, north from south. In Volume 2, *A House Dividing 1852-1857*, Nevins describes the growing split in chapters dealing with industrialism, immigration and a clash of northern and southern cultures. During this period, Douglas introduced his Kansas-Nebraska Act containing "popular sovereignty," whereby voters of each territory would determine the slavery issue at the time of statehood. While Douglas honestly believed "pop sov" a fair compromise, Kansas exploded in sectional violence and the nation moved inexorably toward separation. Far from his intent, Douglas' bill was probably the single most divisive political cause of our Civil War.

In Volumes 3 and 4, growing political chaos and weak presidential leadership split the Democrats, opening the way for a new Republican Party and its rising star. Abraham Lincoln, never an abolitionist and no particular friend of the black man, differed from Douglas only in believing that Congress did have power to exclude slavery from the territories. It may seem a trivial distinction, but Lincoln believed that only by limiting slavery to where it then existed, would it eventually die out. The issue was argued in the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, at an intellectual caliber and eloquence that surpasses anything we hear today.

Lincoln understood that slavery was not just a southern issue. The north had an early and important role in the slave industry and had profited handsomely from traffic in human beings. He believed deeply in a responsibility to help the south end slavery in a manner that did not destroy the nation.

Nevins' presents his most important political causes of the war in Volume 4: 1) failure of the Compromise of 1850; 2) the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854); 3) the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision (1857) that repealed the Missouri Compromise; and 4) the Lecompton (Kansas state) Constitution, a gross political fraud that inaugurated "Bloody Kansas." These issues so polarized our nation that the south came to believe it would never be accommodated.

The war volumes are not battle histories. Rather, Nevins places the battles in the political, social, cultural and economic context of a nation in civil war. His theme in these last four volumes is the increasing organizational efficiency of the north which eventually overpowered the south. Northern losses in manpower

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REQUEST FOR GRANT MONEY TO ACQUIRE CIVIL WAR SITES IN HISTORIC CENTREVILLE

John McAnaw

At least three Round Table members, Ed Wenzel, Keith Young and myself wrote letters in support of Fairfax County Park Authority efforts to obtain grant funds for the purpose expressed in the title of this article. My letter follows. It contains background information of value to the preservationist members:

10 January 2007
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
Attn: Mr. Joseph Maroon, Executive Secretary
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street, Room 302
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Maroon,

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table was founded on 9 May 1991. The organization has more than 200 dues paying members. Throughout its existence the BRCWRT has been heavily involved in efforts to preserve Civil War sites, not only in Northern Virginia, but throughout the Commonwealth. Cited Round Table meets year round and has an excellent guest speaker program. It also conducts numerous tours each year throughout Virginia and to bordering states.

The terrain in and around Centreville, Fairfax County, contains Civil War sites that are of national importance. There are enough surviving sites to make this area a first class tourist attraction to history buffs and other visitors, that is if the sites are protected from development.

Distinguished historians, including Edwin C. Bearss, Benjamin F. Cooling III, Joseph L. Harsh and the late Brian Pohanka are on record corroborating the importance of the sites addressed above and the need to preserve them. In fact, during the 1930s the National Park Service tried to acquire the land encompassing the above locations and add them to the acreage of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Only the lack of funds during the Great Depression prevented this from happening.

Fortunately, numerous photographs taken during the Civil War support my statement as to the importance of these unprotected sites. For the record, they include fortifications locally known as the "Middle Fort"; the "Covered Way"; the "Apex Fort"; and the "Wharton Road Fort"; a.k.a. as the "West Fort". Other sites include the last known Confederate winter camp of regimental size in Fairfax County and a military cemetery. The photographic record of the Civil War shows also that there were many other winter huts in the area. Existing historic structures in this immediate area include Mount Gilead; St John's Church; the "Stone

Church", the Havener House; and the Harrison House. Also the ruins of the antebellum Royal Oaks Manor and a private cemetery are located south of St Johns Church.

All of the sites discussed above are included in proposed plans to expand the Centreville Historic Overlay District (CHOD). However, inclusion in the CHOD does not, by itself, protect historically important sites from development. At present only the Mount Gilead tract, most of the "Covered Way" and part of the "Apex Fort" are owned by either the County Park Authority or the County Board of Supervisors.

I believe that the only way to permanently protect historically important undeveloped land, thereby preserving badly needed green space within the CHOD, is to create a "Gateway Heritage Park", owned and managed by the County. One key property parcel that must be saved is the 3.68 acre "Rice Property". This tract is centrally located within the proposed boundaries of the CHOD and is of immense historical (and possibly archaeological) importance. Funds are desperately needed to acquire this acreage. Assistance from the VLCF would be most welcome.

Summing up, the members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table wholeheartedly support the grant request by the Fairfax County Park Authority for funds to acquire historically and archaeologically important land within the proposed expanded Centreville Historic Overlay District.

Very Respectfully
John P. McAnaw
President



WELCOME NEW BRCWRT MEMBERS

Rick Bayless
Scott Bellefeuille
Robert Spindle



PSST!
HAVEN'T
RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
2007 DUES ARE PAST
DUE!

CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

Meet Nancy Anwyll

Our first woman to be profiled in this series was born in Iowa, raised in Indiana, and lived in Michigan before moving with her family to Virginia in 1973. She has a son who lives with his wife and three children in Burke. She is a retired school teacher who taught various social studies courses at Chantilly High School and Thomas Jefferson Science & Technology High School. She has a BA Degree from Purdue University and a Master's Degree from George Mason University.

Nancy's love of history fueled her desire to learn more of Virginia's history when she moved here from Michigan. About the time Ken Burns' PBS Civil War documentary was first aired, she was getting started with her family's genealogy and discovered she had ancestors that were in the Civil War. She's been reading, studying, and learning ever since. Her Confederate ancestors include a maternal great-great grandfather, two of his brothers, two of his brothers-in-law, and several of his cousins. The picture below is of her great-great grandfather, **Private John Eye**, who served with Company K, 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiment from western Virginia [now West Virginia]. His regiment served mostly under Generals Imboden, Early, and Breckinridge and was in the Battles of New Market, Cold Harbor, and Cedar Creek as well as many other skirmishes. In late October, 1864, her ancestor joined a cavalry detachment to raid a Union camp at Beverly, WV to replace jaded horses. He and several others were captured and sent to Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio where he remained until the end of the war.



Pvt. John Eye 62nd VA Mounted Inf., CSA in 1890. Nancy Anwyll at an ancestor's gravesight in WV in 2005.

Her Union ancestors include a maternal great-great grandfather, his two brothers, and several other relatives. Her great-great grandmother had a brother-in-law in the 8th Illinois Cavalry and also several cousins that served in various Ohio infantry regiments. Her great-great grandfather, **Private Abel Jewett**, enlisted in Co. K, 24th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment from Jones County, Iowa in August of 1862. The regiment was transported by boat down the Mississippi River to He-

lena, Arkansas in October, 1862. Conditions on the boats were so unhealthy that by the time the boats arrived at Helena, many of the men had become sick and died. One of those who never fully recovered was her great-great grandfather who died Dec. 13, 1862, and was buried near the camps at Helena. So Nancy has CW blood from both sides coursing through her.

Nancy's favorite person in the CW is Abraham Lincoln. The last book she read was *Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Edward Johnson, CSA*, by our October speaker, Gregg S. Clemmer. Nancy does just about all the battlefield tours with the BRCWRT as well as other organizations, and often stops to see CW battlefields and sites on vacation and day trips. In addition, she goes to reenactments and living history events, tours museums with CW exhibits, takes history classes on the CW, attends movies and plays with CW themes, does research on ancestors that were in the CW, and finds CW soldiers buried in cemeteries. She's read many CW books and has a collection of about 300 CW books in her library. In an effort to preserve battlefields, she's written letters, donated a little money, and spoken at government meetings.

Nancy lists visits to all of the battlefields in VA, MD, PA, and most of those in WV and TN, and says she's seen many of them several times. In addition, she's visited Perryville, Corinth, Chickamauga, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Bentonville, Fort Sumter, Charleston, Olustee, and Buffington Island.

She was Secretary of the BRCWRT from 2000 to 2005 and has helped with the newsletter the past three years. She also organized a BRCWRT tour to Baltimore in November, 2005 doing a fantastic job. Nancy and I have spent many hours on the road looking for something CW related or historic plus she endures my passion for finding CW Generals in cemeteries and is an excellent map reader to boot. Ask her to tell you the story of us getting locked in Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore in less than a "nice" neighborhood. It is also entirely possible that our ancestors knew each other since both of them fought under Imboden and both were captured and sent to Camp Chase, Ohio. Nancy is a wonderful addition to our Round Table family.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY LECTURE

As part of a lecture series on local history and preservation efforts, **BRCWRT member Mark Trbovich** will speak March 22 on "First Blood: The Battle of Blackburn Ford, July 18, 1861, the Prelude to Manassas." Hear how Centreville and the Blackburn, McLean and Union Mills Fords were a very important "front", plus the Battle of Grigsby Hill. Also information about Manassas Battlefield Park that many may have never heard. The lecture is free and held at 7 p.m. at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Avenue. To reserve your seat, call the Historic Preservation Division at 703.792.5632.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mark Knowles

Congratulations! You were part of the Bull Run team that had an exemplary performance in 2006. As previously mentioned during last month's meeting, your donations and support, totaling almost \$1,900 through our books & memorabilia sales, helped the round table invest in our country's preservation of historic battlefield sites and museums.

The following organizations and museums gratefully acknowledged our donations (alphabetically): Brandy Station Foundation, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, Civil War Preservation Trust, Friends of Laura Ratcliffe House, James Kelly Memorial Monument, Longstreet Society, Memorial Hall Foundation, Stones River NPS, and White Oak Museum.

We look forward to providing you with another year of entertaining and thought provoking presentations in the finest tradition.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND PRISON

BRCWRT Member Barbara Welch advises there is a very interesting article in the winter edition 2006-2007 of American Archaeology magazine on Johnson's Island prison in Ohio that was used to hold Confederate officers from 1862-1865. It has been excavated by archeologist David Bush from Heidelberg College for over 17 years and he has uncovered some interesting artifacts and features. The article covers the history of the prison, its current situation, and is well illustrated.



A THANK YOU THAT MEANS A LOT

By John McAnaw

Members who have participated in our visits to the superb White Oak Museum in Stafford County will appreciate the following letter:

8th Dec 2006
White Oak, Virginia

Dear Everyone of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table,

Today I received your very kind donation to the White Oak Civil War Museum. I wish to thank all of you for what you have done.

I will make every dollar count for use in the museum.

Thank You All Very Much!!!
D. P. Newton
White Oak Museum

THANKS FROM DAN PATERSON

Thanks to Round Table members for your thoughts, prayers, cards and emails of condolences in regard to the passing of my Father, Bill Paterson (1931-2006). Thanks also to Nancy Anwyll, Ed Wenzel and Keith Young for representing the Round Table at the funeral 23 December. It was nice to have the Round Table represented.

My Dad was an Army Ranger from 1952-1954 and graduated from Penn State University in 1956 with a degree in Agricultural Economics then worked for the USDA for 44 years before retiring in 1996.



The Patersons with Ed Bearss at the May 1999 BRCWRT Monthly Meeting

When I was president of the Round Table in 1999 and 2000, my parents came to a number of meetings when we met at the Fairfax County Government Center. He was ever supportive of the Longstreet Memorial Fund (Gettysburg Monument) and the Longstreet Society's efforts to restore the General's Piedmont Hotel in Gainesville, Georgia. As a native Pennsylvanian, he took being referred to as a Yankee so well over the years. It was always in jest and with much love. After all he was the grandson-in-law of James Longstreet and I'm sure the general would have been proud of him. I know I am.

ROUND TABLE MEMBER A WINNER IN CWPT CONTEST — AGAIN!

GOOD NEWS! *Stone Wall* column writer and photographer, **Janet Greentree**, won second place in the Civil War Preservation Trust Photo Contest in the 'Close-Up' category with her photo of the angel atop the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg. Last year she won third place with her photo of Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead's statue at Gettysburg.

BAD NEWS! Janet broke her ankle New Year's Eve and will be in a cast from 6 to 8 weeks. She missed the January meeting but hopes to see everyone in February.





PARK AUTHORITY SHUTS OFF DEBATE ON OX HILL INTERPRETATION

By Ed Wenzel

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Ox Hill Battlefield Park Interpretive Planning Team met on 7 December 2006 at Colvin Run Mill Park. In attendance were Team Leader, Mike Henry, and team members Matt Devor, Paula Elsey and the writer.

The encouraging news at the end of November, that a compromise might resolve problems with the interpretation and kiosk, proved less than expected. Only six interpretive panels will be permitted in the kiosk (three two-sided panels—three viewable from inside the kiosk and three viewed from outside. The three "inside" panels will be: 1) Introduction, 2) Overview part 1, Pre-liminary Action, 3) Overview part 2, The Main Battle, with aerial photo showing troop positions. The three "outside" panels will be: 4) The Wounded Left Behind, 5) Biographical Information, and 6) Other Civil War Sites in Fairfax County and the region.

Overview part 3, the Aftermath of the battle, will not go in the kiosk with parts 1 and 2. There's no room for it. It will go on a wayside marker at the end of the trail. Also, there will be no panel or marker devoted to "The Thunderstorm"; that subject has been eliminated.

The above compromise drops the simplistic Overview panel that the team originally wanted and now provides the 3-part overview with better information. Part 3, the Aftermath, is separated from the first two parts; but that's the price of the compromise.

Next, Mike went over the list of historians and others, including the BRCWRT, who will review the final version of the interpretive texts. The meeting was then declared over. The team refused to look at the wayside marker texts, saying that the October 11th text was the final version. My review of that text, October 24th, pointing out unacceptable deletions and other changes and calling for corrections, was ignored. No one even read it! Paula said that I had approved the final text. No one was interested in any objections. End of meeting.

Because of space limitations, this is an abbreviated report. A complete report will be e-mailed to BRCWRT members.

Note: The photo of Ed was taken by Janet Greentree during the 9 December Ox Hill Battlefield Park tour.



UPDATE ON THE LAURA RATCLIFFE HOUSE

By Mark Knowles

The Friends of the Laura Ratcliffe House (The Friends) gathered on a chilly January evening to review and discuss the mission and goals of the organization. The chill was removed by the fellowship of friends as we gathered in Laura's former dining room.

We all took note of the significance of the room and of the group that gathered there. We were sitting in the same dining room that former Confederate spy Laura Ratcliffe used to entertain family and friends. The dining room is the oldest part of the current house, built approximately 1820 - 1830.

Win Meiselman, current owner, led the evenings discussion by recapping the status of filing for the National Registry and the potential sale of the property. The application is making good progress and a judgment should be rendered by March 7, 2007. Win noted the Lauanders Trust, which includes the Ratcliffe House, has found a buyer for part of the property. A Texas based company is planning to purchase the property in February, 2007.

Win gave a brief summary on the results of the architectural report prepared on the house. An estimated \$600,000 is needed to rehabilitate the home to meet standards for turning the house into a self supporting public entity. However, this amount is based on turning the entire building into offices and may be more than is necessary.

The Friends discussed the possibility and benefits of becoming a formal 501(c3) legal entity to help raise funds for preserving the house. Everyone agreed that it would be in the best interest of The Friends to become incorporated.

Officer nominations were made and motions seconded to elect a board of directors.

The results were: President – Win Meiselman, Treasurer - Bill Etue, Secretary – Teresa McCarthy. President Meiselman appointed Terry McCarthy as Vice President to act as principal agent for the corporation.

The meeting concluded after The Friends enjoyed a decadently rich chocolate cake Win shared with us.

On March 7, as stated above, the decision will be made in Richmond regarding the acceptance of the house on the National Registry. It would be very helpful to have representatives there to speak as to the value of preserving the house. If you would like to attend, please contact Win at (home) (703) 713-0124. If you would like to become a friends member, you can contact Win or Mark Knowles. There is no cost to become a member at this time.

BOOK CORNER [Cont'd from Page 5]

and equipment could easily be replaced; southern losses, even in victory, could not.

Get ready to devote a year or more of steady reading to this literary adventure. To maintain momentum, don't be afraid to skip a chapter here and there that does not interest you. As Nevins says at one point, it is the force and course of water flowing down a gorge that is important, not the rock that throws up an occasional spray. Take this advice from an outstanding Professor of History and do not be deterred. You will learn so much from Nevins about American and Civil War history (which is one of the prime criteria for making it to **The Book Corner**). He has sifted thousands of sources, and analyzed a tremendous weight of historical evidence. And the rewards for his monumental efforts are all ours.

Until next time, keep reading.

BRENTSVILLE RECEIVES COMMUNITY APPEARANCE AWARD

The Prince William County Department of Public Works, Historic Preservation Division has been awarded a 2006 Community Appearance Award for the restoration of several buildings at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre including the Courthouse and Union Church. The award was presented by the Community Appearance Alliance of Northern Virginia in a ceremony held today, January 11, at 2 p.m. at the offices of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission in Fairfax.

LITTLE KNOWN FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE CIVIL WAR EVENTS DISCUSSED



Don't miss the program at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, Wednesday, 14 February, from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. Ed Trexler, noted local historian and publisher, will be discussing many interesting but little known events that occurred near the Fairfax Court House during the Civil War. For instance, did you know that the largest troop review by Pres. Jefferson Davis occurred at the Fairfax Court House on 3 October 1861? Civil War and history buffs will delight in his presentation as he discusses this parade and other events and activities as well as the relationship between the court house and the train station. The Fairfax Station Rail Road Museum is at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call (703) 425-9225 for more information. Free, but donations appreciated.

FINAL BATTLE [Cont'd from Page 4]

and 11th did not pass the oral. That means they have to repeat the entire process! By the way, the oral exam is a two-hour tour that you give to a Guide and a Ranger. You must cover the entire battle in that time and you absolutely cannot go over time. The oral is not given to everyone at the same time. In a given year, there may be 5 orals. So if your placement is higher than 13 or so, there is a good chance that you won't be called for the oral during the next two-year period. If you are not called, you have to go through the process again.

Although this was certainly a daunting task, I have to say it was an enriching experience. What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon? And the Wednesday night classes with a bunch of witty, bright, studious people definitely made the trips worthwhile. Being able to stand on the battlefield with a Guide for 3 hours, just firing questions and taking notes, really helped advance my knowledge of the battle. So I guess you're interested in how I did? I did not make the cut this time, missed it by 16 questions. Back to the drawing board? We'll see. I've got two years to decide if I want to wage this battle for a second time!



HELEN DORTCH LONGSTREET'S "Lee and Longstreet at High Tide" Republished

Helen Dortch Longstreet's book about Gettysburg in Light of the Official Records, is now available again with a new forward by BRCWRT member Dan Paterson, General Longstreet's great grandson and a director of the Longstreet Society, with additional photographs also supplied by Dan.

The book was originally published in 1904 by Helen, James Longstreet's second wife, who began writing her defense of her husband prior to his death in 1904 and completed it afterwards. Her work is notable for including unique glimpses into the General's personal life and it offers commentary from others such as Dan Sickles, President Theodore Roosevelt, and other admirers of Longstreet who wrote to her after James' death.

Orders can be placed now and will ship the end of August. The price will be \$30 for Longstreet Society members and \$40 for all others. Add four dollars for shipping. Orders can be placed by mail to the **Longstreet Society, PO Box 191, Gainesville, GA 30503** or on-line at www.longstreet.org under the secure order tab on the left of the screen. All proceeds go to the Longstreet Society.

Dan will have books to sell at the March meeting.



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CENTREVILLE TOUR 17 FEBRUARY 2007

For many years the BRCWRT has been deeply involved in efforts to preserve and to properly interpret Civil War sites of national importance vicinity the present day Centreville Historic Overlay District. Our tour will visit these sites and discuss their historical significance plus on going efforts to preserve them. All earthworks in the area will be visited, plus the 3.68 acre Rice Property which is threatened by rezoning. If you want to know what is going on out in Historic Centreville, then participate in this tour.

CHIEF TOUR GUIDE: John McAnaw

ASSEMBLY TIME/DATE: 10:00 AM, Saturday 17 February 2007

ASSEMBLY POINT: In front of McDonald's Restaurant located at the Colonnade at Union Mills Shopping Center in Centreville. This shopping area is located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Union Mill Road and Braddock Road.

PARKING: Plentiful at Assembly Point. Maps will be provided drivers showing route to prearranged parking site in the Centreville Historic Overlay District.

TOUR DURATION: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (and not a minute longer!!)

PHYSICAL EXERTION: Light

IN EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: Contact John McAnaw at (703) 978-3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise caller of status of scheduled tour.

SIGN UP: Via E-Mail to Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net or at the Round Table meeting on 8 February.

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.

3-4 Feb – Fairfax, VA Chocolate Festival. This large city-wide event includes access by the public to several historic buildings where volunteer docents will provide history discussions, including the home of Antonia Ford, Civil War spy for Jeb Stuart. Call 703-591-2450 or, www.chocolatefestival.net.

5, 12, 19, 26 Feb – Gallery talk, "Behind the Glass Case", staff experts explore topics in the galleries at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11:45 am. Free, with admission. Call 804-649-1861, or www.moc.org.

7 Feb – "The Footsteps of Lee", a travelogue of Fredericksburg-area places associated with Robert E. Lee, at the Salem Church Library, 2607 Salem Church Road, west of Fredericksburg. 7:30 pm. Free, Call 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

10 Feb – "The Fireside Mosby", part of a series presented by the Mosby Heritage Area at the Rector House in Atoka, four miles west of Middleburg off Route 50. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 540-687-6681, or www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

18 Feb – Leesburg Lecture, "The Post-War relationship Between John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant", and "Facing the Civil War: The Family of Col. John Fairfax of Oak Hill 1861-1865", by Dave Goetz at Oak Hill in Leesburg. 3 pm. Free. Call 540-687-6681, or www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

18 Feb – Lecture, "Confederate General Alleghany Johnson", at the American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. 7 pm. \$5. Call 703-250-8705 or, email to stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

24 Feb – Richmond Symposium, "The Answers They Were Born To Make: Choosing Sides In The Civil War", at the Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street. Co-sponsored by the Museum of The Confederacy. Panelists include Emory Thomas and William C. Davis. \$45, Reservations required. Call 804-649-1861 ext. 28, or email troane@moc.org.

2 Mar – Brandy Station Foundation annual dinner with speaker, at the Brandy Station Fire Hall. \$20 advance tickets, Call 540-727-7718, or www.brandystationfoundation.org.

TWO TOURS CONDUCTED AT OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK

After Action Report By Ed Wenzel

With the Ox Hill Battlefield Park's Interpretive Planning entering its final stages, President John McAnaw asked the writer to lead tours of the Ox Hill site on 9 December and 13 January for interested (and concerned) Round Table members.

What a day it was on 9 December! With a sunny blue sky and temperatures 10 degrees below freezing, twenty-two of our finest, outfitted in heavy jackets, gloves and earmuffs, gathered at the park's Monument Drive entrance at 10 a.m. The tour, which was billed at two hours but ran nearly three, began with an introduction and orientation to the park and the Ox Hill/Chantilly battle.

Many already knew the basics of the battle and were aware of the park's planning situation from monthly updates in the *Stone Wall*. Standing beside Monument Drive, (the Confederate line of battle), the writer recounted the many reasons why the Ox Hill battle is so compelling, including the unusual number of dramatic incidents and events associated with it. We talked about the ferocity of the thunderstorm; the loss of two of the three Union division commanders; that the battle was an unplanned clash where neither side knew the intentions of the other, the concentrated Union attacks supported by artillery; Confederate troops hurriedly brought up, then shuffled about in the gloomy woods and moved out of position at inopportune times; the confusion, rain and darkness; the wet ammunition; the severity of the fight and the free use of the bayonet.

We discussed Ox Hill as a bloody stalemate and the last battle of the enormously successful Second Manassas Campaign. How in a period of 90 days Lee's army had driven McClellan from the gates of Richmond; then marched to confront Pope's army; out maneuvered and defeated Pope at Second Manassas, then out maneuvered him again and tried to cut his line of retreat near Fairfax. All this, and the collision at Ox Hill, before ultimately forcing Pope back on the fortifications of Washington—a truly remarkable campaign and a 180-degree turn of events that enabled Lee to take the war into Maryland.



9 Dec. group at Kearny/Stevens Monuments. Photo by Janet Greentree

Moving on to the Kearny/Stevens monument lot, the group examined photographs of the first marker stones put there by ex-Confederate John Ballard in the 1880s to mark the place where General Stevens fell. Ballard and his wife, Mary Reid Thrift, then deeded the 50x100 ft. lot in 1915 for the erection of monuments to Generals Kearny and Stevens and to "any Confederate or Federal soldier who fell in the battle". While at the monuments, we looked at aerial photo enlargements of the battlefield from 1937, 1986 and 1994, along with map boards showing the preliminary action, main battle etc.

Next, we walked to the southeast part of the park and assembled near the future parking area and visitor contact station, or "kiosk" as the Park Authority calls it. We talked about the uniqueness of the Ox Hill park, and that we have to interpret the action and events that took place across hundreds of acres of battlefield, and do it all from this five acre park.

We talked of the kiosk providing an introduction, overview material, and an up-to-date aerial photograph with troops and regiments superimposed over highways and surrounding development, plus other topics of interest. This contrasts with the wayside markers that will be located around the park. The wayside markers will be site specific, will be oriented toward the scene of the action, and will describe the battle and other topics in greater detail.

We discussed our kiosk problem, how the kiosk will be composed of three, prefabricated, ten-foot wide, hexagonal units joined together. Each six-sided unit will be allowed one interpretive panel on one wall only. No additional panels will be permitted. Each panel will have a front and back side. So three panels will be viewable from inside the combined structure, and three will be viewed from outside, for a maximum of six panels. I then explained the problem of trying to fit our introduction, 3-part overview and other topics into a structure that wasn't designed for this interpretation, And since the kiosk units have been downsized to the smaller ten foot model, it's now even more difficult, and important topics are being omitted.

From the kiosk site, we traced the route of the planned handicapped trail, a loop trail that will encircle the park. We followed the trail alignment to each of the proposed wayside marker stops, visiting first "The Attack and Death of General Stevens" (Stevens' troops charged over this very ground toward the Confederate line at Monument Drive); continuing, we paused briefly to look at a draft design of the future Union "Chantilly" monument, funds for which will be raised privately. We then proceeded to marker #2 "The Battlefield: Then and Now", and then to #3 "The Attack of General Birney" where we discussed the direction of Birney's attack. We then crossed through an imaginary zigzag fence into the cornfield area and stopped, to read marker #4 "The Death of General Kearny".

SEE OX HILL TOUR, Page 13

OX HILL TOUR [Continued from Page 12]

Continuing, we passed the proposed Confederate "Ox Hill" monument site (viewing the draft design) and then climbed over fallen trees and through brush to the Kearny/Stevens Monument lot and the following markers: #5 Boulders and Quartz Stone: The Place Where General Stevens Fell"; #6 "Kearny and Stevens Monuments"; and #7 "'Kearny's Stump' Monument".

Finally, we trooped down the slope to the east end of the park and marker #8 "Action East of the Ox Road", which will face a high-rise office building across the six-lane highway. The building is situated near the site where the 21st Massachusetts was ambushed and nearly slaughtered by Trimble's brigade. Off-site markers are planned near this building and at five other locations on the north side of Monument Drive in the neighborhood surrounding the park. One such marker near Fair Ridge Drive, will tell the story of the South Carolina soldier of Gregg's brigade, whose remains were found at the north end of the cornfield during townhouse construction in 1985. His state funeral and reburial were held in Columbia, S. C. in November 1986.

By this time it was 12 noon, the tour was supposed to be over, and some of our cold and numbed troops had to depart. But the remaining hardy troops, 14 individuals, retrieved our cars and drove down to the Cedar Lakes development where we would view the sites of the Reid-Ballard house and family cemetery. In this area, Cedar Lakes Drive roughly parallels the original lane to the Reid House. Stevens formed his division for attack in the field south of this street, an area now covered by condos and apartments in Cedar Lakes and Fair Lakes. Parking our vehicles, we walked through a minefield of goose droppings beside a storm water retention pond and viewed the Civil War Trails marker highlighting the Reid-Ballard House and the Ox Hill battle. The marker was placed 140 yards east of the actual house site on the only open ground the developer had available.

Next, we looked at tax maps and overlays showing the Reid-Ballard House, outbuildings, fences and the cemetery superimposed on the current dense development. We then walked down the street past Cannon Ridge Court and Sutler Hill Square to a very narrow Stevens Battle Lane. There we turned left and proceeded to the site of the historic house, now occupied by a row of townhouses.

After pausing for a group photo by our intrepid, official photographer, Janet Greentree, we continued on past Benjamin Hill Lane to the end of the street and an open area bordered on two sides by more townhouses. The northwest corner of this open space was once a part of the old Reid-Ballard cemetery. It was here, in January 1999, that contractors digging a trench for a gas line, unearthed human remains and coffin hardware practically on the doorsteps of the unfinished townhouses.

The group examined photographs of the grave shafts outlined in red tape as the County Archeologist and his crew rake the earth in the bottom of the trench. The townhouses cover three-fourths of the old cemetery. The remains were later re-interred in Fairfax Cemetery in the same plot with other Reid-Ballard remains exhumed in 1965. It is worth noting that in 1989 the writer told both the county and the developer of the location of the former cemetery and advised that any new construction in that area be monitored for un-exhumed graves. Of course, as time passed, the developer flipped the property to other developers and county employees forgot or retired.

Thus ended the Ox Hill tour. Participants were advised that if they continued on through the Cedar Lakes development, they would come out on Monument Drive on the west side of the battlefield, in the area where Birney attacked the right of A.P. Hill's division. Branch's North Carolina brigade defended that flank. Also, in driving through the development, they would see more street names memorializing a battlefield that is no more—names like Zouave, Kearny and Thomas Brigade Lanes; Branch Brigade Lane, and Fields Brigade Road; Birney Lane and Red Patch Lane. And toward West Ox road they'll find Wheeled Caisson Square, Trimble Court and Mozart Brigade Lane. Few of these names are in the proper locations and some are fanciful, but all are recognition of the past and the battle of Ox Hill.

The twenty-two participants in the 9 December tour were John McAnaw, Charlie Balch, Sandra Cox, Ken Jones, Eric Jones, Jeff Silverstein, Keith Young, Jim Lewis, Matt Cosner, Tim Duskin, Janet Greentree, Joe Clark, Mark Knowles, Bud Porter, Jack Nance, Chuck Mauro, Bev Regeimbal, Kevin Anastas, John Peyton, John Pearson, Janet Buck and Ed Wenzel.



This 9 December group photo was taken in front of the actual site of the former Reid-Ballard House. Photo by Janet Greentree.

The 13 January tour, (conducted on a warm, overcast day with 60-degree temperatures) included twenty-four more stalwart members. They were John McAnaw, Patty Wheeler, Nancy Anwyll, Mark Labeda, Phil Pruna, Gerald Froelke, Bev Regeimbal (again!), Gwen Wyttenbach, Rob Orrison, Alan Houpt, Lyle Loveall, Jill Hilliard, Randy Moller, Rose Nelson, Bill Johnson, Mike Buckley, Scott Bellefeuille, Bob Spindel, Larry Gordon, Brian McEnany, Lillian McEnany, Jim Anderson, Dennis Feldt and Ed Wenzel.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

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2006 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM

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