



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 4—MAY 2007

ED BEARSS SPEAKS ON THE STRUGGLE FOR EAST CEMETERY HILL, CULP'S HILL AND THE EAST CAVALRY FIELD

By John McAnaw

May marks the apex of our organizational year. This is for two reasons. First, at the May meeting we celebrate the founding of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table by historian and first president, Bill Miller on 9 May 1991. Second, May means that our guest speaker will be the matchless Civil War historian, lecturer, tour guide and preservationist – Ed Bearss. This meeting also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of Ed's birth date slightly ahead of the event. This June, Ed will be 84 years young. We are indeed fortunate to have an American legend as a friend of our Round Table.

During World War II, Ed Bearss served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps, first with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion commanded by Col. Harry (The Horse) Leversedge, and then with the 7th Marine Regiment. While serving with the latter unit, he was severely wounded at Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain. Following a convalescent period of 26 months, he entered Georgetown University. After earning an undergraduate degree at that institution, Ed spent three years working at the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, MD. He then enrolled at Indiana University where he received a Master's Degree in History.

In 1955, Ed joined the National Park Service (NPS) and worked his way up the promotion ladder to become the Chief Historian of the NPS. In that position, he gained the respect of innumerable Congressmen and members of the Executive Branch.

Following his retirement in 1998, Ed became a much sought-after guest speaker and tour guide to battlefields where Americans fought. These tours cover armed conflict ranging from the French and Indian War through World War II, including both the European and Pacific theaters of operation.

We anticipate a large turnout for Ed Bearss' presentation to our Round Table on 10 May 2007. Members are encouraged to come early, meet Ed Bearss, and participate in our pre meeting celebration.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 10**

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Ed Bearss

SUBJECT:

Gettysburg: East Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill and the East Cavalry Field

Happy 16th BRCWRT!

6:45 P.M. Refreshments

OX HILL UPDATE: SITE-PLAN QUESTIONS; WAIVERS CAUSE HEADACHES; TEXT REVIEW IN PROGRESS; EASEMENT CHANGES

By Ed Wenzel

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Project Team leader for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park, Michael Rierson, responded last week to questions about certain details on the park's site-plans. The plans, he said, are too far along in the review process to make any changes to the protective fence enclosures around John Ballard's quartz marker stone and mound of rocks. He has forwarded my written comments and concerns to the site engineer, but says the size of the enclosures, their proximity to the zigzag rail fence, and whether or not to use protective fences at all, can be determined later at the site. The misalignment of the rail fence can also be corrected on site. [Note: the site-plans, drafted last June, were not released to the writer until a few weeks ago]

See OX HILL UPDATE, Page 7

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**Executive Committee****President:** John McAnaw— [703.978.3371]**Immediate Past President:** Keith Young

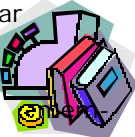
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Newsletter Team:Nancy Anwyll, Dale Maschino, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones,
Andy Kapfer and Janet GreentreeThe Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.**General Membership meetings** are held at 7:00
p.m. on the second Thursday of the
month at:**The Centreville Regional Library**
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2299
703.830.2223For specific meeting dates and information,
please visit the WEBSITE:<http://bullruncwrt.org>**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.**In This Issue**

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UPCOMING MEETINGS**14 June 2007****Steve Hull****SUBJECT:****Danger Between The Lines: Hunter Mill Road
During The Civil War****12 July 2007****Frank O'Reilly****SUBJECT:****General Robert E. Lee: Marching Out Of Step****9 August 2007****John Quarstein****Subject:****The Peninsula Campaign of 1862****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 lim-
ited 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 June/July 2007 Double Issue**

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, June 4

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

A total of 85 Civil War buffs turned out for our monthly meeting on 12 April to listen to Don Ernsberger speak on a subject close to his heart, *At The Wall: The 69th Pennsylvania "Irish Volunteers" at Gettysburg*. The above is also the title of Don's new book. He had the complete attention of his audience throughout his presentation. Through the clever use of training aids, everyone was able to follow, phase by phase, the Confederate assault on 3 July 1863 against the 69th PA (Irish Vols) "At the Wall". Don received a rousing round of applause upon the completion of his presentation. Sales of his new book and his DVDs were brisk.

To repeat what I wrote on page 1, show up early for next month's meeting on 10 May or you may not get a seat. Not only is it the 16th anniversary of the founding of The Bull Run Civil War Round Table, but also the legendary Ed Bearss "Himself" will be our guest speaker. He will speak on three combat zones that we will visit two days later on our annual Gettysburg tour. Your attendance on 10 and 12 May 2007 is strongly encouraged.

Speaking of tours, the BRCWRT recently completed trips to Civil War Washington D.C., and to the Trevilian Station Battlefield and the Westend Plantation in Louisa County. I extend my thanks to those who worked hard to make these tours successful, particularly Peter MacNeill and John Pearson. Also I want to express my gratitude to the following individuals for their assistance:

Ray Ely, President of the Green Springs Historic Landmark District

Henry and Claire Taylor, owners of Westend Plantation

Mike Seaton, President of the Louisa County Historical Society

Gerald Harlow, President of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation

Marilyn V. Basham, Principal, Trevilians Elem. School

Richard Lyons, Caretaker of Clara Barton's Office/Quarters in D.C.

Col. Walbrook Davis Swank (Ret), Historian

We are still short of our CY 2007 goal of 207 members. I request that all Current members assist VP John DePue, our Membership Chairman in reaching cited figure. As I have stated before, numbers do count regarding the preservation of our Civil War heritage and the maintenance of our influence with governmental organizations at all levels – from national to local. Most importantly, we need the non-monetary contributions that these new members will make to our organization. In return, I assure all members that we will continue to be the most active, year round Civil War round table in the region.

BRCWRT 2007 SPRING TOUR

GETTYSBURG, ODDS & ENDS

Culp's Hill, Cemetery Hill, East Cavalry,
Farnsworth's Charge



BG Elon Farnsworth

DATE: Saturday 12 May 2007

ASSEMBLY LOCATION/TIME: Carpoolers, meet at the Centreville Library parking lot – we will depart at 7:00 AM sharp. If you choose to drive on your own, meet in the parking lot south of the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center. We will depart the Visitor's Center parking lot at 9:00 AM for the tour. (Driving time from Centreville is about 1 hour 45 min).

TOUR DURATION: 9:00 AM until about 3:00 PM.

LUNCH: We will return to the area around the Visitor's Center for lunch. Please pack a sandwich and join us for a picnic. You can also walk across the street for fast food if you choose.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: We will send out a weather cancellation notice via e-mail the morning of the tour. If you do not have e-mail, call Kevin Anastas.

TOUR GUIDES: Kevin Anastas Cell: (703) 431-2569. E-mail kka2@cox.net. Maureen Quinn, (703) 263-1881. E-Mail mrmquinn@verizon.net

PHYSICAL EXERTION. Moderate to high. We will be walking up some steep slopes (Culp's Hill, Cemetery Hill). We will provide information on linkup points if you don't want to walk the steep parts.

SIGN UP. Please sign up using the link on the BRCWRT website—bullruncwrt.org. The sign up list will be available at the May meeting.



CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

MEET ED ESSERTIER

Ed is a native of Hackensack, New Jersey, and was born in 1921. Ed graduated from Princeton University in the class of 1943. Along with most of his class, he graduated five months early in January, 1943 so they could enter military service during World War II. Ed served just under three years as an enlisted man in the Army during WWII which included twenty months overseas in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). Most of his overseas service was with the XIX Corps, where he participated in five major campaigns from the beaches of Normandy to the Elbe River in Germany where his unit linked up with the Russians. One of Ed's jobs was writing, editing, and publishing a Corps newspaper, *The Tomahawk*, which was credited with being the first free press in Germany since Hitler's regime started.

After the war, Ed got a job as a reporter on a semi-weekly newspaper in Ridgewood, N.J., and took night courses at Columbia School of Journalism. After a year he became a reporter on a daily paper, *The Passaic Herald-News*, where he worked about 18 months covering all beats. Ed was married right after his discharge in February, 1946 to Mimi Keir, a former member of the WASPS, women pilots of WWII. By September, 1948 the couple had one son and another on the way. Ed and Mimi decided after one of the worst snowstorms ever to hit northern New Jersey that their future lay in the West. Ed sent letters to about 70 newspapers in California, and received three offers. The best offer came from the *Pasadena Independent*, so Ed and Mimi moved to California in 1948 to begin their new life.

After three years as a reporter on the *Independent*, Ed went to the *Los Angeles Times* as a reporter. He worked on the *Times* for about a year, and then was hired by the *Independent* to be city editor. He worked up to become managing editor of the *Independent*. In 1955 he was appointed an assistant to California Republican Congressman Edgar W. Hiestand. Ed handled constituency service and press, and alternated during election seasons as his campaign manager. It was a great experience, living part-time in Washington and part-time in California, but Ed says it was rough on his wife and children. By 1958 Ed and Mimi had four sons and a daughter. Hiestand told Ed in 1958 that he did not plan to run for re-election, so Ed accepted a job as a deputy to a Los Angeles County supervisor, again handling press and constituent service. He worked there from 1958 to 1962. One of their goals was the reduction of smog in the L.A. basin. Ed's supervisor managed to convince the Federal Government that air pollution was a major problem in urban areas, resulting in the first National Conference on Air Pollution in about 1959. Eventually Congress passed legislation to study the

problem, with the result some years later that the EPA was created by Executive Order of President Nixon.

Ed left County government in 1962 to take a job as assistant public relations director of Forest Lawn Memorial Parks. After two years there he decided to start his own public relations business and dabble in politics. Ed's clients included a businessman who was running for Congress, Ed Reinecke, who won a primary campaign and eventually was elected to Congress. A few years later Reinecke became lieutenant governor of California under Gov. Ronald Reagan, although Ed was not involved with that part of his career. While running his PR business he worked nights at the *Pasadena Star-News*, but the night job soon became a full-time job at the paper when he was appointed editorial writer. In 1966 he became editor of the paper and remained there four years, until 1970 when Ed's friends convinced him to run for an open seat in Congress following the death of Rep. Glen Lipscomb. After Ed entered a crowded primary campaign field, he was appointed Director of Information for the Department of the Interior in Washington.

Sadly in 1967 Ed's wife Mimi died, and in 1969 Ed married again, to Margo Engerran, who had three children of her own. They moved to Virginia with her three children and two of his own so Ed could take the job at Interior in the Nixon administration. The Interior Secretary was Walter Hickel, former governor of Alaska. Nixon fired him in November 1970, and Ed faced the dilemma of quitting Interior or applying for a career job in the Information Office. Ed chose the latter, won the job and wound up serving 15 years in what became the Office of Public Affairs, specializing in the energy field. Ed retired from the Federal Government in 1985.

After retiring from the Department of the Interior, he did consulting work for the American Petroleum Institute, took part in the DC City Council's efforts to bring baseball back to Washington, wrote a baseball newsletter, and worked on other projects in retirement, including part-time work in a funeral home. Ed sure has had a varied career, hasn't he? Ed's volunteer activities have included serving as president of his class at Princeton for five years, serving in various offices of VFW Post 8469 in Fairfax, including a year as commander, writing the VFW Post's newsletter for seven years, and other duties.

Ed's second wife Margo died in 1995. Ed remarried, to the former Shirley Barrows, and they are buying a home in Culpeper. Ed says they chose Culpeper because of its history, its semi-rural setting, its friendly atmosphere, its less-pressured life-style, and its lower living costs, but not necessarily in that order. Their home was chosen for the annual Christmas Home Tour in 2006 when they featured Civil War paintings. John McAnaw and Ed Wenzel of the BRCWRT came to their home to be tour guides with particular emphasis on the significance of the paintings. More than 100 people visited their home and enjoyed John and Ed's knowledge of the area's history as depicted in the paintings.

See ESSERTIER, Page 5

ESSERTIER [Continued from Page 4]

Ed got interested in the Civil War about 35 years ago through his late brother, Harland Essertier, who lived in New Jersey but was a frequent visitor to battlefields and other historic sites. Living in Northern Virginia and Culpeper, and associating with people knowledgeable about the war, including members of the National Park Service while he was at Interior, heightened his interest, and it continues to grow. Ed's wife Shirley is a landscape painter who collects Civil War paintings.

Ed's not certain if he has Civil War ancestors, but has been told that his grandmother, who died before he was born, had brothers who fought for the Confederacy. She lived in Arkansas. Ed's mother, who was born in New Jersey, probably had ancestors who fought for the North, but he's not sure. Ed has some family pictures that show men in Civil War uniforms but he doesn't know who they are. Wouldn't it be a great idea if everyone labeled their photos for future generations?

Ed's favorite person in the Civil War was Abraham Lincoln. The last book he read was *Company Aytch*, or "a Side Show of the Big Show," written by Samuel Rush Watkins, who was a private in Company H of the First Tennessee Regiment. Ed enjoys reading, viewing paintings and exhibits, and BRCWRT tours when he has a chance to take them. Ed has probably visited ten Civil War battlefields including those in Northern Virginia, Gettysburg, Antietam, and western Tennessee when he took a tour that included Ed Bearss, whom he met when he served in the National Park Service.

Ed helped edit and format the *Stone Wall* for five issues in 2005. Ed humbly says his knowledge of the Civil War does not begin to compare with that of the speakers, authors, and other authorities who have been so much a part of the BRCWRT since its founding. Ed is another wonderful addition to our Roundtable family.

* * *

AFTER ACTION REPORT: BRCWRT TOUR OF CIVIL WAR WASHINGTON, DC - 31 MARCH 2007

By John McAnaw

All told, 32 Round Table members and guests participated in our tour of Civil War locations in Washington, D.C. on the last day of March, 2007. The tour lasted from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, with an hour off for a welcome lunch at Harriet's Café in the Harrington Hotel.

Round Table member and professional tour guide, Peter MacNeill, led the group throughout the day. The tour assembly point was the Christopher Columbus Monument outside Union Station. The first stop was the site of the B & O Railroad Station at New Jersey Ave./Louisiana Ave., NW. The last stop prior to the official end of the tour was at the Stephen Decatur

House on Lafayette Square at 17th St. and H St. NW.

The locations visited were either the actual preserved Civil War era site or where a Civil War site, e.g. building, was once located (but now destroyed). Do you see what I am saying? Peter MacNeill provided a running commentary on the many locations that we visited. They include the following:

Site of Pres. Lincoln's Inauguration (east side of the Capitol Building).
Site of the former Old Capitol Prison (Belle Boyd).
Site of Navy Yard and Marine Barracks.
Site of Carrol Row Prison (Confederate Officers).
Garfield Statue.
Grant Memorial and magnificent military statuary. near Site of John W. Booth's Hotel (6th St./Pennsylvania Ave.) Matthew Brady Studio (between 6th and 7th St./PA Ave.) Clara Barton's office and living quarters (near 7th St./E St. NW). Thanks to Richard Lyons we were the first group ever to visit Clara Barton's office and quarters. Mr. Lyons is the person who discovered many of Clara Barton's documents and personal effects.
Site of old Post Office Building (7thSt./F St. NW).
Willard Hotel (near 15th St./Pennsylvania Ave. NW).
Sherman Memorial (near 15th St./Pennsylvania Ave.)
White House and site of War Dept. and U.S. Navy Hq.
Winder Building (vicinity of G St./17th St.) Hq. U.S. Army.
Lafayette Square – Daniel Sickles Home.
Lafayette Square – Blair-Lee House.
Lafayette Square – Stephen Decatur House.

The above are only the locations that I wrote down as we strode through D.C. I listed them to give the reader an idea of the scope of our tour. **On behalf of all participants, I want to thank Peter MacNeill for a thoroughly enjoyable and educational tour of Civil War Washington.** Also, his handouts were very informative. Well done Peter!

Further, I thank all participants for sticking together throughout the tour. Accountability was no problem. The following individuals participated in the BRCWRT tour of Civil War sites in Washington, D.C., on 31 March 2007.

Nancy Anwyll, Janet Buck, Joe Clarke, Bob Eldridge, Frank Fitch, Don Franklin, Rich Garrison, Jill Hilliard, Joe Inzerillo, Harlan Lenius, Sharon Lenius, Jim Lewis, Dan Lundeen, Richard Lyons, Gayle Machey, Peter MacNeill, John McAnaw, Andrew Meeks, Jack Nance, Alan Nobiling, Bev Regeimbal, Mike Shannon, Chris Soester, Jim Squier, Bob Van Aken, Blake Vernon, Karla Vernon, Ed Wenzel, Keith Young.



Photo taken at Clara Barton's office by Jack Machey

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.

5, 6 May – Anniversary programs commemorating the Battle of the Wilderness west of Fredericksburg. Living history and tours. Hospital set up at Ellwood. Free. 540-373-6122 or, www.nps.gov/frsp.

6 May – Antietam battlefield hike, "The West Woods." Two-hour walk meets at the New York monument on the Battlefield. 1:15 pm. Free with park admission. Call 301-432-5124, or www.nps.gov/anti.

12 May – Spotsylvania battlefield hike, "General Lee To The Rear." Begins at 10 am at the Upton Trail sign on Grant Drive. Free with park fee. www.nps.gov/frsp.

13 May – Antietam battlefield hike. Day-long series of walks begin behind the visitor center at 9:30 am. Afternoon tour begins at 1:30 pm. Free with park admission. Call 301-432-5124, or www.nps.gov/anti.

15 May – New Market Ceremony and Full Dress Parade honoring the VMI cadets who fought and died during the battle of New Market. VMI in Lexington. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Call 540-464-7207, or link to www.vmi.edu.

18, 20 May – Civil War shoot. North-South Skirmish Association national competition. Live target firing of Civil War era weapons (including cannons) near Winchester. Spectators welcome. Free. More info at www.n-ssa.org.

19 May – Living history, "Mosby Owned the Night," part of a series presented by the Mosby Heritage Area, at the Rector House in Atoka, four miles west of Middleburg off Rt. 50. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 540-687-6681, or www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

20 May – Lecture, "Post-War Relationship Between John Mosby (Gray Ghost), and President Grant," conducted by Dave Goetz at the American Legion, 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. 7 pm. \$5. Call 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

26-29 May – Living history, Manassas. Infantry camp and demonstrations on Henry Hill at Manassas Battlefield. Free with park admission. Call 703-361-1339, or link to www.nps.gov/mana.

28 May – Fredericksburg National Cemetery Memorial Day Observance. 11 am. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

2 Jun – Lecture and book signing, "The Perfect Steel Trap: Harper's Ferry 1859" by Bob O'Connor at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. Call 703-368-1873, or www.manassasmuseum.org.

8 Jun – Tour of the Spotsylvania Battlefield Bloody

Angle. Meet at the Bloody Angle parking lot on the battlefield near Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or www.nps.gov/frsp.



BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES AND EVENTS

By Mike Block

Presented on the last Sunday of each month, at 2pm, at the Graffiti House, in Brandy Station Virginia. There is a \$5 donation fee.

May 27th ["Southern Enigma: The Unwavering Unionism of John Minor Botts, 1802 - 1869" presented by Bob Lapidus](#)

June 24th ["The Devils to Pay: General John Buford" presented by John Tole](#)

July 29th ["Frank Stringfellow & Will Farley-J.E.B. Stuart's Most Daring Scouts" presented by Virginia Morton](#)

August 26th ["General Wade Hampton" presented by Joe McKinney](#)

September 30th ["The Life of Jed Hotchkiss: Stonewall's Mapmaker" presented by Ken Purks](#)

October 28th ["Stonewall's Strange Sabbath Day Cheerleader at Clark's Mountain" presented by William Thompson](#)

We are also continuing our very successful Battle of Brandy Station tour series. The Battle of Brandy Station is presented in four free standing tours of various parts of the battlefield. It is not necessary to take the tours in sequence. A ten dollar fee is asked, with all proceeds going directly to the foundation. All tours begin from the Graffiti House at 10am. The four sections and dates are:

June 2nd, July 28th — Beverly Ford and St. James Church

June 16th and August 11th - Kelly's Ford and Stevensburg

May 5th, June 30th, August 25th—Fleetwood Hill

May 19th, July 14th, September 8th—Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge

The Brandy Station Foundation offers a unique way to tour the battlefield, if you have a horse! How else should you see North America's largest cavalry fight? Reservations (and a horse) are required, as there is a limit to 12 riders per tour date. A cost of twenty dollars is asked for this tour. Tours begin from the CWPT turnaround on Beverly Ford Road, near the Culpeper Airport. The dates for the horse tours are:

June 9 (the 144th anniversary of the battle), July 21, August 18

For more information, please contact the Brandy Station Foundation at 540.727.7718 or visit the web site at:

<http://www.brandystationfoundation.com/index.html>

OX HILL UPDATE [Continued from Page 1]

Of more concern to the Project Team is the costly waiver process required by the county's site-plan reviewers. Waivers are necessary in order to free the park from certain burdensome requirements mandated by the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). As reported last month, the manual requires that the four-foot sidewalk on the north edge of the park beside Monument Drive, be widened to five feet. And the manual prohibits, I am now told, widening this sidewalk into the 16-inch grass strip between the walk and the curb. To protect this narrow strip of grass, the PFM mandates that the Park Authority widen the sidewalk in the opposite direction, which in turn, requires that the adjacent concrete retaining wall be moved back one foot. The retaining wall keeps the Kearny/Stevens monument lot from collapsing onto the sidewalk and Monument Drive. There's 30 inches of ground between the monument lot and wall, so they could move it. But Mr. Rierson says emphatically that the Park Authority will not move the wall; and his only alternative in fighting the regulation is to go through the time-consuming waiver process and pay a fee.

Another site-plan problem is the PFM's requirement for "dustless surface parking", meaning asphalt for Ox Hill's parking area. This is contrary to the Board of Supervisors' "Green" initiative that calls for "Low Impact Development" (LID) techniques—in this case, a permeable parking surface to reduce storm water runoff. The site-plan reviewers, however, are insisting on asphalt, so Mr. Rierson has applied for a waiver and will pay another fee. Waiver fees come out of the park's budget and will amount to several thousand dollars. I'm told that the bureaucratic process to change the PFM would take years!

Regarding the off-site interpretive markers, Mr. Rierson is planning to go forward with two of the six markers. These are the markers for which the Park Authority has an agreement with the adjacent shopping center owners. One marker, entitled "Extra Billy Smith Humors the Troops" will be located within the shopping center at Fairfax Towne Center Drive and the main crosswalk; the other, entitled "Confederate Line of Battle" will go beside the connector trail along Monument Drive opposite the park. The other off-site markers will be temporarily delayed (reason not stated). However, Ox Hill is getting an extra \$27,000 from bond money to pay for markers—good news!

Now some more good news—Interpretive Team leader, Mike Henry, telephoned to say that Manassas NBP Museum Specialist, Jim Burgess, had returned a 13-page review of Ox Hill's interpretive texts. Mr. Burgess was able to trim superfluous words from the wayside markers using more concise language, and retained nearly all of the vital information. Nothing of importance was deleted. In fact, in some places, Mr. Burgess was able to add information and still reduce the number of words. He also agreed with the Park Authority that dividing the kiosk's

"Overview" panel into three parts, as I had advocated, was not necessary. However, he revised the single panel text to include necessary information previously deleted and correct errors. I've not had time to digest the changes that were made, but Mr. Burgess' knowledge of the battle, and the thought and effort that he put into revising the texts to include vital information, is exactly what we needed.

In other matters, the writer sent draft drawings of the park's proposed "Chantilly" and "Ox Hill" monuments to twenty-five historians for fact checking, comment and review. A response was requested by June 1st and four have already been returned. A number of errors, stylistic concerns and suggestions have been flagged. These are being reviewed, and as other responses are received, will be forwarded to monument designer, Michael Kraus, in Pittsburgh.

Also, in mid-April, the writer sent a letter to the editor of *Civil War Times* magazine clarifying certain inaccuracies in their Ox Hill article which was published in the May issue. The letter also cited current progress and what to look forward to at Ox Hill when the park is completed.

Lastly, the Kearny/Stevens monument trustees must grant an easement to the Park Authority so they can build a walkway around the K/S monuments and erect markers and fences within the monument lot. To address this matter, the trustees sent easement language to the Park Authority nineteen months ago. Last month, the County Attorney's office returned the easement document with extensive changes. A few days ago, the Park Authority's Land Acquisitions Branch contacted us and said that the county's site-plan reviewers will not approve the park's site-plans until this easement agreement is signed. So now they're in a big hurry, and it seems that the site-plans for the entire park are now hostage to the easement on the .11-acre monument lot. The trustees will review the easement changes in due course, and will consult with counsel. However, we have numerous tasks related to this park, and will not rush into a changed legal agreement just to speed up site-plans that are already encumbered by bureaucratic red tape. Stay tuned.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tom & Nancy Crouch
Jim Elder
John Fawsett
Karen Lewis
Peter MacNeill
Jerry Schnell



IN SEARCH OF ROSE GREENHOWE or "It's a small, small, world!"

By Bill Etue

It was our 25th wedding anniversary, and we wanted to do something special. An ocean cruise perhaps? A Broadway play maybe? Nah we decided to do what we like to do most – visit Confederate gravesites.

My wife, Rebecca, is a full time school teacher, and we deliberately chose our wedding day to coincide with her annual Spring break. Not a romantic choice, but a practical one. So on our 25th anniversary (April 3rd) we headed off to see the gravesite of Rose O'Neill Greenhowe, one of our favorite figures from the war. She is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina.

It is a distance of about 400 miles from the Washington area, so we decided on a leisurely trip with a stop overnight in Petersburg, then two days in Wilmington, and another overnight stop in Petersburg on the way home.

We also wanted to visit the site of the Crater in Petersburg since we had never been there before. I guess our expectations were overblown. We expected something the size of the Grand Canyon but it turned out to look more like a golf course sand trap. Not very big, but hallowed ground none the less, and we could easily envision the struggle there.

We chose a B&B at random in Petersburg just off I-95 called "The Walker House". What I didn't know until after we arrived was that the house was used in 1864 as headquarters for the Federal's II Corp during the first stages of siege operations against Petersburg. It was called the William J. Jones House then, and the current owners proudly showed me a write-up on the house's history in the Fall-1999 issue of Blue and Gray magazine.

The living room of this house was used as a court of inquiry looking into the bungled events of the Battle of the Crater - [Small world!](#)

Grant called the battle on July 30, 1864, a "stupendous failure." The court found General Burnside negligent in several areas, and he quietly, eventually resigned as a result.

Arriving in Wilmington the next day, we stayed at another randomly chosen B & B. It turned out that this had been the home of Henry Bacon, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. [Small World!](#)

The B&B was in the center of an historic district, so we took a "trolley car tour" (open bus tour) of the area. I love these type of tours because you learn anecdotal history you just don't find in the history books.

For example, president Woodrow Wilson lived in the neighborhood as a young boy and was finally caught

as the boy who, with his slingshot, used to enjoy breaking his neighbors' windows.

A home called the Bellamy mansion (still standing) built in 1861 was easily the finest and most beautiful home in Wilmington during the war, so of course the Union Army threw out the residents including a young 12 year old girl named Ellen Bellamy, and made the mansion their headquarters.

Many years later President William Howard Taft became the first President to tour by motor car. He visited Wilmington in 1909, and while being driven around the town, noticed this beautiful home and instructed his entourage to bring him there so he might see the interior. When he personally knocked on the door, he expected the owner to be flattered by an unexpected visit by the President of the United States.

Ellen, now around 60 years of age, after opening the door, recognized the "Union President", and immediately slammed the door in his face. Taft never gained entrance to the mansion. Reconciliation had not yet come to Ellen Bellamy.

As we later walked the neighborhood within a block of our B & B, we found a North Carolina metal historic sign saying that Rose Greenhowe was buried a mile away to the North East. [Small World!](#)

Well, it was not yet dusk, so off we drove to find Rose's grave. After asking one pedestrian after another where the old cemetery was. We gradually learned that Wilmington has a LOT of old cemeteries. But none that we got directions to was the one we were seeking, and now it was getting dark. We decided to look for Rose tomorrow.

Within a half-block of our randomly chosen B & B we noticed a large memorial statue in the center of the street to all the Confederate dead that died in the war. We later learned that the statue's architect was again Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial whose home we were sleeping in. [Small World!](#)

Back to our B&B for the night, where we took time to relax and glance at the Wilmington Newspaper – the Star-News - and what should we notice but a photo of Rose Greenhowe and her daughter in DC's Old Capitol Prison in an advertisement for the Cape Fear Museum.

The Museum has a new exhibit of over 300 Civil War Photographs from the collection of David L. Hack, some of which have never before been seen by the public. [Small World!](#)

We decided to make this stop-number-one for the next day. Both the collection and the museum were impressive, but we were disappointed that the museum's gift shop had not a trace of Rose Greenhowe. No books, no postcards, no posters – nothing.

See ROSE, Page 9

ROSE [Continued from Page 8]

By now it was noon, and we wanted to visit Fort Fisher down the coast where Rose's body had washed ashore after her drowning. We again postponed the visit to her grave site, concerned that we might arrive too late to visit Fort Fisher.

For those not acquainted with this history, Rose had been sent to Europe by President Davis to help negotiate with the British and French governments to recognize the Confederacy as a legitimate nation. After months in Europe which included meetings with Queen Victoria and Napoleon the third, she finally arranged to return home on the newly built Blockade Runner *The Condor*.

On the night of September 30, 1864, *The Condor*, on its maiden voyage, attempted to run the Union blockade off the coast of Wilmington, near Fort Fisher, but ran into a raging storm. With a Union warship in pursuit, the vessel managed to reach the mouth of the Cape Fear River where it crashed into the wreck of the blockade runner, *Nighthawk*.

Rose, against the Captain's strong objections, demanded that she be put in a lifeboat during the storm to bring critical dispatches to President Davis. It has been said that those dispatches may have included an agreement by Britain to support the Confederacy.

Greenhowe, with four sailors rowing the lifeboat, got to within yards of shore when a huge wave capsized the boat. The sailors were eventually able to reach the beach, but Rose drowned, and her body was not found until the next day.

After lunch, and a long drive which included going the wrong way for a time, we finally arrived at Fort Fisher operated by the National Park Service. Here we found another gift shop with no books, no posters, no postcards, just a single display panel in the museum mentioning the name of what was once one of the most well known figures during the war. A second great disappointment.

We asked the park rangers if they might know the exact spot where Rose washed ashore. Of the four rangers, one was able to describe where it might be - within a hundred yards or so, but history has never recorded the exact spot. This ranger however gave us a new lead. He said that just down the road about a mile is the North Carolina State Aquarium and there can be seen the wreck of *The Condor*. Well this ought to satisfy our need to feel closer to Rose, so we drove to the Museum, approach the information desk and ask where we can see *The Condor*. The lady politely explained that there are no birds kept here, only fish. We explain that we mean the wreck of *The Condor*, the Blockade Runner that carried Rose Greenhowe.

Besides not knowing who Rose Greenhowe is, she also is certain that there is no remnant of any ship there called *The Condor*. As we go up the chain of peo-

ple in charge of the Aquarium, we finally find someone who telephones Fort Fisher to see who sent us there. The NPS ranger is able to tell the staff person exactly where it is located in their Aquarium, and we head for the spot.

It turns out that what is there is a plastic reproduction of a section of *The Condor*. Disappointed again, but it's progress of a sort in our search for Rose. By now the Aquarium is closing and its almost dinner time. Determined to have a nice dinner somewhere overlooking the ocean, we detour to Wrightsville Beach and find a perfect oceanfront restaurant. By the time we arrive back in Wilmington it is dusk again and we postpone our cemetery search until the next day, our last morning in Wilmington.

Our B&B, though nice in every way, has an inadequate WI-FI signal to reach our room, so in order to use my laptop to get onto the internet we check out and track down a Cafe with free Wi-Fi, and finally have internet access at last. It is here, on the internet, where true happiness can be found. Everything you want to know about Rose Greenhowe, including her photos, life story and best of all, directions to where she is buried.

We find our way to Oakdale Cemetery. It is perhaps the most beautiful 19th century cemetery we've ever seen, and we've seen a lot of them. The cemetery office has a sign saying they are closed for lunch. Sorry brother, but I'm not leaving until I find Rose, so your lunch hour is up! After knocking on the door for a while until a disgruntled custodian answers, I get a list of the 10 most famous folks buried here and their burial locations, plus a door-slam. I'm happy.

The roads in the cemetery twist and wind like an English hedge maze and none have names, so even here we keep getting lost. Except for David Brinkley, the famous news anchor, the only other name that I recognize besides Rose, is our friend Henry Bacon, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial. It turns out that according to the gravesite map he is only one grave away from Rose Greenhowe. Small World!

At last we find Rose's grave. A simple cross with beautiful blossoming azaleas behind it and new Confederate flags pushed into the earth in front of it. We feel much better now, knowing that there are some others here who remember and cherish Rose O'Neill Greenhowe.

**America has no north, no south, no east, no west.
The sun rises over the hills and sets over the mountains,
the compass just points up and down, and we can laugh
now at the absurd notion of there being a north and a
south. We are one and undivided."**

**Samuel Rush Watkins,
Former Pvt., Company H,
1st Tennessee CSA**

AFTER ACTION REPORT: TREVILIAN STATION BATTLE- FIELD TOUR, 21 APRIL 2007

By John McAnaw

Extensive research and field reconnaissance by John Pearson and the undersigned was conducted prior to the actual date of the tour. Further coordination with a number of Louisa County residents also occurred prior to 21 April 2007. After assembling at the McDonalds Restaurant in Louisa, the tour group traveled a short distance to the Louisa County Courthouse and the Confederate monument, both dedicated on 17 August 1905. We also visited the impressive Louisa County Historical Society Museum located next door. From 1868 – 1967 this building was the County jail.

Stop 1. At this location we met President Mark Seaton of the Louisa County Historical Society and the noted historian, COL Walbrook Davis Swank, USA, Ret. He is 96 years of age and is the author of ten Civil War books, including one on the Battle of Trevilian Station. COL Swank was kind enough to autograph his books and converse with us. He told me "John, give me your address and I'll send you a copy of my next book."

The warm welcome that we received from the "Louisianans" also included an affable correspondent from the *Central Virginian* newspaper – Ms. Pat Wilson. It is good to travel to where they know your Round Table's name! We appreciated the welcome.

Stop 2. On private property along what was called the Nunn's Creek Road during the Civil War, the roadbed is located west of Route 669/Ellisville Drive (a.k.a. the Marquis Road). BG G.A. Custer and his Michigan Cavalry Brigade used this sunken road early on 11 Jun 1864 on their way south to Mildred's Crossing and the Gordonsville Road.

Stop 3. Vicinity of the Wayland Baptist Church located approximately two miles south of Bibbs Crossroads on Route 613/Oakland Road (a.k.a. the Fredericksburg Stage Road). Heavy fighting occurred in this general area on 11 June 1864. However, much of the contested terrain is inaccessible to the public, including the Poindexter House property located west of Route 613.

Stop 4. The site of the reconstructed Netherland Tavern. The workmanship on this building is impressive. MG Wade Hampton's Hq on the night of 10 June was at the tavern. It was the scene of heavy fighting on the afternoon of 11 June 1864.

Stop 5. An excellent vantage point located just west of the intersection of Route 613/Oakland Road on Route 22/33. From this location the heavy combat was covered from approximately 8:30 am to roughly 4:00 pm on 11 June 1864 culminating in Union success.

Lunch Break in Louisa (60 minutes)

Stop 6. Trevilian Station. This site is located approximately 320 yards west of the intersection of Route 613 and Route 22/33 and just east of K & B Market (no restrooms for outsiders). NOTE: There are two Civil War Trails signs on the south side of the K & B parking lot. Additional coverage of the afternoon fight on 11 June 1864 was discussed here. Also, and most importantly, the official tour group photographs by our award winning photographer, Janet Greentree, were taken at the Station.

Stop 7. Well-sited location near Route 33, vicinity the Ogg Farm and Danne's Store (now leveled). From this location the heavy fighting during the afternoon and evening that led to MG Wade Hampton's victory was covered in detail.

Stop 8. Trevilians Elementary School (TES). Located a short distance northwest of Stop 7 on Route 33 (Gordonsville Road). Through the effort of Victoria Kennedy, Principal Basham of TES kindly gave us parking permits for all our vehicles on 21 April 2007. BG L.L. Lomax's Brigade passed through school property on 12 June 1864, on its way to launching the successful flank attack at dusk that drove elements from BG A.T.A. Turbert's Division from the field. MG Philip Sheridan's Cavalry Corps commenced its retreat to White House during the night of 12-13 June 1864. The wrap up of the results of the Battle of Trevilian Station was conducted at a vantage point on the TES grounds.

Stop 9. Dunkum Store. Vicinity the intersection of Dunkum Store Road (Valentine Mill Road) and Route 33. Rendezvous point to meet Rae Ely, President of the Green Spring National Historic Landmark District (GSNHLD).

Stop 10. Westend Plantation, located in the GSNHLD. What a magnificent property! Six hundred acres in size. Through the efforts of the distinguished lawyer and preservationist Rae Ely, and the approval of owners Henry and Claire Taylor we were able to visit the Westend Plantation. This was the crowning stop of our day-long tour. Ms. Rae Ely spoke about the history of the 14,000 acre GSNHLD. Henry Taylor covered the history of the Westend Plantation. He is one of the very few direct descendants of the original landowners of properties within what is now the GSNHLD. Amazingly, this fertile 14,000 acre tract suffered very little damage during the Civil War.

Stop 11. Home and time to reflect on a truly memorable tour.

FINAL NOTE: In my President's Column I thank those individuals who helped to make our Trevilian Station/Westend Plantation tour a success. However I would be remiss if I did not extend my special thanks to John Pearson, a civil engineer and Civil War historian of the first order.

See TREVILIAN STATION, Page 11

TREVILIAN STATION [Continued from Page 10]

The 30 members and guests who participated in the tour of the Trevilian Station Battlefield and the Westend Plantation on 21 April 2007 are listed below:

Emiliano Agopian, Nancy Anwyll, Rich Arkow, Charlie Balch, Norm Cooper, Bob Eldridge, Janet Green-tree, Jill Hilliard, Alan Houpt, Cynthia Houpt, Joe Inzerillo, Victoria Kennedy, Mark Knowles, Drew Lavan, Jim Lewis, Lyle Loveall, Dan Lundeen, Jack Machey, Gayle Machey, Peter MacNeill, John McAnaw, John Pearson, Bob Persell, Bev Regeimbal, Bill Ruiz, Bill Sullivan, Rosanne Sullivan, Nora Sullivan, Patty Wheeler, Gwen Wyttenbach.

* * * *

THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph G. Swanson

Your attention please!! Anyone who has NOT heard of the *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, raise your hand. Nobody? OK, that's good, because **The Book Corner** offers sincere apologies for not sooner recommending this outstanding compilation of historical literature. The *Battles and Leaders* series is among the best--and most important--writing on the Civil War.

The series grew from just two articles, written from different perspectives, on the John Brown raid on Harpers Ferry which appeared in "The Century" magazine in 1883. Based on the success of these first efforts, "Century" editors Robert Johnson and Clarence Buel planned 8 to 10 additional articles to focus on the major Civil War battles. The series was wildly popular and magazine circulation boomed. Eventually, the articles continued from 1884 through 1887. The entire series has long been available to us in four thick volumes from Castle Books.

As conceived by Johnson and Buel, chapters were to be written by the participating generals themselves, both Union and Confederate, or their main subordinates. As the editors explain: "The chief motive has been strict fairness to the testimony of both sides, and the chief endeavors have been to prove every important statement by the 'Official Records' and other trustworthy documents, and to spare no pains in the interest of elucidation and accuracy." The results of their work represent our best opportunity to hear what the generals themselves were thinking (or say they were thinking). Reading *B&L* is like sitting down to lunch with Grant, Longstreet or Beauregard.

The full scope of the war, east and west, is here in authoritative detail, and in that wonderfully lyrical 19th century writing style. Every important engagement is covered, often by both northern and southern writers. Typical is the Battle of Shiloh with articles by Grant, Buell, and Beauregard. The Peninsula Campaign is represented by 10 articles, followed by no fewer than 15 on

the Seven Days. One of the best treatments of naval operations--Union and Confederate, coastal and river--is found between these covers.

Other intriguing topics are here as well, such as speculations on Lee's lost order before Antietam and Bragg's comments on Missionary Ridge. The opportunity to visit Chancellorsville with Joe Hooker himself, twenty years after that conflict, is like finding the keys to a time machine.

The most provocative efforts cover the lingering war controversies--the more famous disputes over leadership, decisions, and actions. *B&L* presents full coverage, written by the disputants themselves, or those in position to know: the Meade/Sickles controversy (the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg), Howard's command breakdown at Chancellorsville, and, of course, Longstreet's views on everything. If we are to understand and argue these issues, fairness dictates that we give the main actors the first word.

The battle maps in these volumes are outstanding, although a little small. That is easily remedied by enlarging them to be more useful reading aids and, especially, as field guides. My files are stuffed with folded, marked-up and rained-on maps from the *B&L* series.

The Book Corner has previously recommended *Annals of the War*, another compilation of first-person war accounts. Works of this nature are treasures of primary historical source material that will engage us for a lifetime of reading.

For all their weight and authority, *B&L* must still be read with a critical mind. First, the articles were written 20 - 25 years after the fact, from memories that may have dimmed. Occasionally--not often--the all too human tendency has been to remember events as the author might have wished they occurred. Finally, some writers used the opportunity to defend their reputations. Here, the editor's voluminous footnotes are invaluable. They bring in outside sources, such as the Official Records and personal letters. They often cross reference other articles in the series to highlight differing views or otherwise inform issues and events.

Above all, we must recognize that our infallible hindsight was not available to these generals on the battlefield. With virtually no intelligence on the enemy, primitive communications and, perhaps, a paralyzing fear of sending thousands of men to ghastly death, their command decisions are entitled to our charitable respect.

No other battle history should be read without also consulting *B&L*. And don't visit a single battlefield before you have studied the pertinent chapters in the *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. This series belongs on the bookshelf of every student of the American Civil War.

Until next time, keep reading.

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