



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 5 — JUNE & JULY 2007

PREMIERE SHOWING OF STEVE HULL'S FILM DOCUMENTARY: CIVIL WAR HISTORY OF HUNTER MILL ROAD

By John P. McAnaw

Have you noticed the increased interest in recent years by Fairfax County residents in the preservation of our priceless Civil War heritage? We are honored to have as our guest speaker Round Table member Steve Hull, the producer of a seventy-eight minute video that will be shown at our June monthly meeting. Cited video will cover events that occurred during the Civil War along the 7.2-mile length of the Hunter Mill Road corridor between Oakton and Reston in Fairfax County. The Hunter Mill Defense League sponsored this production in an effort to educate citizens of all ages and to promote the preservation of this historic Virginia by-way.

Working with Steve Hull were a number of local historians and Civil War buffs. Included in this number were three Hunter Mill Defense League members who are also members of the BRCWRT. They are Charlie Balch – writer, Bob Eldridge – researcher and Jim Lewis – researcher.

The film features period photographs, sketches, journals and letters of both military and civilian personnel. The well-known Second South Carolina String Band provides authentic Civil War music for this hour plus presentation. The movie features historian Tom Evans and is narrated by nationally renowned speaker Dave Yoho.

Steve Hull describes his film as follows, "Control of the Hunter Mill corridor alternated ten times between Confederate and Union forces during the war. The civilians living along the road were a mixture of Union and Confederate farmers, many with deadly-strong convictions. The flow of armies in and out of the area heightened their tensions. This is the drama portrayed in the movie."

Steve Hull is an information technology consultant. He has been a resident of Fairfax County since 1993 and currently lives near Reston in an old home that is restored. Since 2004, he has been an officer on the Hunter Mill Defense League Board. The HMDL is a non-profit civic association that takes an active interest in issues that impact the scenic and historic character of the Hunter Mill Road corridor.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

14 JUNE 2007

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Steve Hull

SUBJECT:

**Danger Between The Lines:
Hunter Mill Road During The
Civil War**

Brand new DVD on subject will be available for sale

Our guest speaker first realized the potential for the Hunter Mill Road project back in 2003 while interviewing historian Tom Evans. Tom, to understate the case, is extremely knowledgeable regarding Civil War persons, places and events vicinity Hunter Mill Road. With Tom's help and that of many others, Steve Hull has put together a thoroughly professional and educational video of enviable quality. Trust me when I state that you will thoroughly enjoy it.

Lastly, I want to thank Charlie Balch for his help in putting together this article.

WHAT IS IT?



Don't miss the article of Page 4.

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>

ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

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



Thank You.

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ED BEARSS TOUR

OCTOBER 11 & 12

The WILDERNESS & SPOTSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE

Only \$235

For information and how to register visit

<http://www.fmnbp.org>

Tour sponsored by:

The Friends of Manassas Battlefield

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 August/September Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, July 30

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

Our meeting room was packed to the gills for our monthly meeting on 10 May 2007. Guest speaker Ed Bearss, non pareil historian, tour guide and lecturer, spoke about three separate actions that occurred on 2-3 July 1863 at Gettysburg. They were East Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill and the East Cavalry Field. As always, Ed spoke without any referral to written notes. His presentation was superb. Also, that evening we celebrated the 16th anniversary of the founding of the BRCWRT by Bill Miller. I extend my thanks to Nancy Anwyll and Patty Wheeler for taking care of the party arrangements. In sum, it was a very enjoyable evening.



Photo by Janet Greentree

Two days after our meeting, we had our Gettysburg tour of, you guessed it, East Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill, the East Cavalry Field plus the controversial terrain associated with BG Farnsworth's charge. All 43 tour participants will attest to the outstanding interpretation of events at these four sites by tour guides Kevin Anastas and Maureen Quinn. From beginning to end, it was an absolutely first rate tour.

Ed Bearss averred at our May meeting that, to his knowledge, the BRCWRT has the second lowest yearly dues of any Round Table in the U.S.A. Only the one in Wichita, KS has lower dues than the "Cheap and the Proud". By the time we next meet on 14 June, I expect that membership will top 200. I extend my thanks to everyone who anted up their 2007 dues.

One of the many interesting features of our newsletter is Janet Greentree's column titled "Connecting to Our Past". Each issue, Janet features a bio on one of our members. To understate the case, we have many talented members. As an example, take the time to read this month's article on Astronaut Tom Jones.

On 16 June, there will be a Round Table tour of Civil War sites south of Centreville and vicinity Clifton, Union Mills and Bull Run. If you want to see some impressive Civil War sites that are rarely (if ever) seen by visitors, then join us on this tour. If you are unfamiliar with the projected tour area, you will be surprised by what you see. See you on 16 June!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

12 JULY 2007

SPEAKER:

Frank O'Reilly

SUBJECT:

**General Robert E. Lee:
Marching Out of Step**

9 AUGUST 2007

SPEAKER:

John Quarstein

SUBJECT:

The Peninsula Campaign of 1862

13 SEPTEMBER 2007

Scott Patchan

SUBJECT:

**Shenandoah Summer: General Jubal
Early's Valley Campaign of 1864**

Marching Through Culpeper A Miniseries?

By Sandra Cox

Many of the almost 10,000 readers who purchased Virginia Morton's historical novel *Marching Through Culpeper, A Novel of Culpeper, Virginia, Crossroads of the Civil War* have been hoping the book would be made into a movie. I've read the book three times! We were delighted to hear from Virginia that a big step is being taken to make this a reality. Last week Virginia met with two collaborators to write a two-hour pilot for a six-hour miniseries based on *MTC*.

During lunch with Martha Williamson Anderson ("Touched By An Angel") and her husband Jon (producer of "TBAA" and "The Blue & Gray" miniseries), they advised Virginia to approach HBO about a series but emphasized the two-hour pilot should be written first. "Now, let me make it clear," says Virginia, "that we are writing this script on spec."

Good luck Virginia.

CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

MEET TOM JONES



So how many Civil War Round Tables can boast that they have an actual, real live astronaut as a member? Could we

be the only one? Tom was born in Baltimore Maryland, and raised there by a school teacher father and lab technician/homemaker mother. Tom went to a Catholic elementary school, public junior high, and graduated from Kenwood High School, Essex, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore. He says his family often took picnics and Sunday drives to historical sites in and around central Maryland, including Fort McHenry, Antietam, Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and South Mountain. They often visited battlefields during the centennial of the war, and he remembers his parents buying felt and cardboard kedis for the kids from a souvenir shop at Antietam. Tom says he chose "blue", so I guess he's a Yankee astronaut.

Tom graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1977, was a USAF pilot, and flew B-52 Stratofortresses in the Strategic Air Command. At grad school at the University of Arizona, he received a PhD in planetary sciences. He's worked for the CIA, SAIC, and finally NASA from 1990-2001. He was privileged to fly as a mission specialist on four shuttle missions, the last to the space station. He led three spacewalks to install the centerpiece of the International Space Station, the American Destiny laboratory. He's spent fifty-three days working and living in space. He's co-authored two books for young adults, *Mission: Earth*, which detailed his orbital experiences on two missions to take the pulse of the planet's ecosystem, oceans, and geology, and *The Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States at War*, which traced our nation's path through conflict and peace to its place as the world's lone superpower. Both books were written with June A. English. He also co-authored, with Michael Benson, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to NASA*. His newest book is "Sky Walking: An Astronaut's Memoir," published in 2006 by Smithsonian Books-Collins. Tom is now a consultant, author, and speaker. He has a pretty neat website, www.AstronautTomJones.com, if anyone is interested in his writing, aviation, or space exploration.

Tom says by the time he was fifteen, he was an avid reader about the history of the Civil War. Bruce Catton's writing was the first to engage him and draw

him into the people of the conflict. He persuaded his family to stop at major battlefield sites on family vacations like Petersburg, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Fort Sumter. He continues to read and study the war today and attends our meetings and excursions when time permits.

There are no Civil War ancestors in his family. His immigrant ancestors arrived about 1900, but it impresses him that so many immigrants took up the cause of the Union (and Confederacy) just after they arrived in this country quickly adopting the ideals of their new country. His favorite person in the Civil War is Ulysses S. Grant, but he also enjoys reading about Hancock and Meade. The last Civil War book he read was *Fields of Honor*, by Ed Bearss (an edited volume of his battlefield narratives) which is an excellent read. You can just hear Ed speaking as he keeps you turning the pages. Tom continues to tour battlefield sites on his business trips and attends local lectures as well. He wonders if he's the only member of the Round Table who visited a Civil War battlefield (Manassas) on his honeymoon. I can answer that Tom. Check with our Treasurer, Mark Knowles.

While in the Air Force, and with NASA, he visited many battlefields in the West: Picacho Peak, (AZ), Shiloh, Stones River, Galveston, Sabine Pass (TX), Mansfield (LA), New Orleans (where in a NASA jet he flew over the river forts Jackson and St. Philip), Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Mobile Bay, Pensacola, Pea Ridge, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson.

Just recently he's visited Fort Monroe, Bentonville, Cedar Mountain, Savannah, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Drewry's Bluff, Beaver Dam Creek, Cold Harbor, and Lee's Retreat. One of his most enjoyable memories was driving a convertible along Lee's Retreat route from Five Forks to Appomattox. Another good memory was hiking Gettysburg's 2nd and 3rd Days on New Year's Day when he had the battlefield all to himself. He's taken his two kids on many of these visits, and although they are college age now and not as interested as he is, he knows they've enjoyed the walks and gained a new appreciation for history. His son, now entering college, will study history, political science, and Army ROTC so Tom says something took (although obviously not the Air Force's blue uniform)!

Tom has an interesting thing to share with us. On each of his shuttle missions, he was able to snap a few photos of the geography outlining major campaigns in the West and East. He got a feel for the sweep of the terrain (Mississippi campaigns, the Ohio and Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, coastal bays and ports, the Peninsula and the Shenandoah, the mountain ridges of the East). Wouldn't we all have liked to be along on that ride? **Tom has so kindly provided a photo of the Shenandoah Valley [see Page 1] for all of us to see.**

Glad you joined our Round Table Tom.

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.

8, 9 June – Point Lookout State Park, Blue and Gray Days, located at the end of Rt. 5 at the Chesapeake Bay. Prisoner of war camp Fort Lincoln, living history and demonstrations. Free with Park admission. Call 301-872-5688.

9 June – Anniversary of the Battle of Brandy Station, at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. Drills, demonstrations, encampment and more. 11 am-4 pm. Free.
www.brandystationfoundation.org.

10 June – Illustrated talk, “The Defenses of Washington” by Wally Owen at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center in Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. Call 703-385-8414.

10 June – Lecture and book signing, “The Civil War In Fairfax County” by Charles V. Mauro at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. www.manassasmuseum.org.

15 June – Tour, “Scarred Jewel: Brompton in the Swirl of War”, meets at the main Fredericksburg battlefield visitor center. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or link to www.nps.gov/frsp.

16 June – Living history, “Mosby Owned the Night,” part of a series presented by the Mosby Heritage Area at the Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 540-687-6681
www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

17 June – Lecture, “Private Silas Honea, 2nd Kentucky Calvary, and ‘Morgan’s Raiders’” by Lloyce West at the American Legion, 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. 7 pm. \$5. Call 703-250-8705 or, stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

22 June – Tour, “Fury and Fire: Horror on the Plank Road”, meets at the entrance to the Fawn Lake subdivision, Old Plank Road, on the Wilderness battlefield. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or www.nps.gov/frsp.

29 June – Tour, “A Walk on the Slaughter Pen Farm” begins near the intersection of Routes 17 and 2, two miles south of Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or www.nps.gov/frsp.

6 July – Wilderness Tour of Widow Tapp’s Farm. Park on Hill-Ewell Drive on the Wilderness Battlefield. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or www.nps.gov/frsp.

7, 8 July – Anniversary programs at the Monocacy National Battlefield. Artillery, Infantry demonstrations and other programs 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Sunday. Free. Call 301-662-3515 or www.nps.gov/mono.

13 July – Tour, “Jackson’s Flank Attack” includes living history. Meets at the Jackson Flank Attack stop, Chancellorsville battlefield west of Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or, www.nps.gov/frsp.

14 July – “The Civil War Comes to Morven Park” re-creation of early war Confederate Camps in the area, with military demonstrations. At Southern Planter Lane off Old Waterford Road in Leesburg. \$5 adults. Call 703-777-6034 or, www.morvenpark.org.

20 July – Tour, “The Forgotten Places on the Bloody Plain.” Meets at the Fredericksburg battlefield visitor center. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or www.nps.gov/frsp.

21 July – Bus tour, features the battlefields at Cross Keys, Port Republic and sites in the New Hope area. 8 am -4 pm. \$60. Call 540-438-1275, or www.vbmhc.org.

21 July – Anniversary programs on the First Manassas Battlefield. Includes special exhibits at the Henry House and Stone House, encampments and living history programs. 9 am -5 pm. Free with park admission. Call 703-361-1339, or www.nps.gov/mana.

29 July – Lecture, “Frank Stringfellow and Will Farley” at the Graffiti House (Brandy Station Battlefield Visitor Center). 2 pm. Donations appreciated. Call 540-727-7718, or www.brandystationfoundation.com.

AAR: GETTYSBURG, Spring Tour 2007 “Odds ‘n Ends”

By Maureen Quinn

With a slightly different theme this year, and a picture-perfect spring day, the BRCWRT headed back to Gettysburg on Saturday, 12 May, to tour and study some of the lesser-known areas of the Battlefield.

Overview

The morning tour started around 9:00 AM and covered Cemetery Hill and Culp’s Hill. Kevin chose to be merciful and planned the tour as a downhill hike, starting at the Visitors’ Center, walking to Cemetery Hill and from there, walking the Park roads along Stevens’ Knoll and on over to Culp’s Hill, following some footpaths that led us along the face of Culp’s, and ending at the base of the Hill at Spangler’s Meadow. So it’s fair to say that after we left the Visitors’ Center, it was all downhill from there! At least for the morning. The afternoon tours focused on the cavalry actions on the eastern and southern ends of the field.

East Cemetery Hill & Steven’s Knoll

At this stop, known as the “keystone” of the Union line, Kevin discussed the overrun battery positions of Wiedrich, Ricketts and Cooper, and the infantry line, in particular the line along the north and northeast face of the Hill. This position, held ONLY by the 25 and 75 OH after some fancy juggling of troops, formed a salient, and it’s anybody’s guess as to why the line was stretched so thin at this point! Kevin’s fine maps once again gave us a clear picture of troop positions and direction of movement on both Union and Confederate lines. Using some of the artwork depicting this part of the battlefield, he pointed out one of the major landmarks on the field: the Cemetery Gatehouse – and the role that Elizabeth Thorn, the cemetery caretaker (her husband was in Harpers Ferry with the Union Army), played in assisting the Union officers by identifying various landmarks and roadways around town. Moving among the artillery positions, we discussed the artillery’s defense of these pieces during Hays’ and Avery’s attack on the night of 2 July. Kevin pointed out that, unlike some of their 11 Corps

See GETTYSBURG, Page 10

IN MEMORIAM
Vicki K. Heilig
 1946-2007



By Ed Wenzel

Vicki Kaye Heilig, 61, founder and past president of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civil War Round Table and a staunch ally of battlefield preservation, passed away last month after a long bout with cancer. A graduate of Pfeiffer College with a masters from William and Mary, Vicki retired from IBM in 1997 but continued working as a tireless leader in the field of Civil War history and preservation. She was an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and served two terms as president of the District of Columbia Chapter, 1988-1992 and 1998-2002. She also served a term as the Chapter's Historian General from 2002 to 2004.

Vicki answered the call to defend the Second Manassas battlefield in 1988, serving on the Board of Annie Snyder's Save the Battlefield Coalition. The Coalition was the lead organization fighting 'Til Hazel's 1.2 million sq. ft. shopping mall, office park and 560 town-houses that were slated to go on the ground of Longstreet's attack. She also presided over the annual UDC ceremony and wreath-laying at Stonewall Jackson's statue on Henry House Hill, and led the ceremony at the Confederate Monument in Arlington National Cemetery on Jefferson Davis' birthday. Another of her memorial observances was the annual UDC tribute to Gen. Robert E. Lee in Statuary Hall at the U. S. Capitol.

Vicki was the editor of *The Maryland Line*, the newsletter of the MCCWRT for 25 years, and in that capacity she knew countless historians and authors from her regular search for monthly speakers. Indeed, she could have booked herself as a speaker, such was her knowledge of Civil War history. She attended nearly every Civil War seminar, conference, convention or institute meeting that came along, and one of her favorites was the annual Civil War Weekend at Virginia Tech. Vicki's newsletter articles and reviews brimmed with wit, humor, and imagination. She was even a movie critic, and a brilliant one—Civil War movies of course. She could work magic with her pen and make things happen. She wrote to everyone—senators, congressmen, NPS Park Superintendents, the high and the mighty, and ordinary Round Table folks. And if her letter started with "Now Listen Up!" you'd better believe it was important.

One of her letters to the *Washington Times* skewered Alan T. Nolan's review of Bud Robertson's *Stonewall Jackson* biography, and her column on Michael Eisner's "Disney's America" was a real gem. Once she wrote to the president of the Association for the Preservation of Civil Sites and the chairman of the Civil War Trust, the two leading battlefield preservation groups at the time, knocking their heads together because of a rift that threatened to scuttle a land acquisition at Brandy Station. And her eulogies to John Devine, the "Oracle of

Loudoun", Jerry Russell, "the first and best battlefield preservationist" and other luminaries, were eloquently spoken and from the heart.

Born and raised in Salisbury, N.C., Vicki was a "Tar Heel" through and through. Her three loves were battlefield preservation, Robert E. Lee and the Dallas Cowboys. She had a heart of gold, would do anything, anywhere, to help with Civil War preservation and, as MCCWRT treasurer, Vivian Eicke, said recently, "she could charm the chrome off a bumper". Indeed she could, and her enthusiasm was positively infectious. There was no way you could say no to Vicki. She was a wonderful, marvelous person, and her contributions to Civil War history and battlefield preservation are indelibly stamped in our memories and on our battlefields. You made a difference, Vicki. May God bless you, always!

BRCWRT TOUR: SPECIAL CIVIL WAR SITES VICINITY CLIFTON, UNION MILLS AND BULL RUN

DATE: Saturday 16 June 2007

ASSEMBLY POINT: In front of McDonalds Restaurant located in Colonnade of Union Mill Shopping Center in Centreville. The Colonnade is situated on west side of Union Mill Road between U.S. Hwy 29 (to the north) and New Braddock road (to the south). Carpooling encouraged due to limited parking at several tour stops.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 8:15 A.M.

TOUR DURATION: 8:20 A.M. – 2:50 P.M.

TOUR GUIDE: John McAnaw

LUNCH: Brown bag or fast food restaurants in Colonnade Shopping Center. Picnic tables will be available for brown baggers.

DEGREE OF EXERTION: Moderate. Total walking distance will be three miles. Individuals with respiratory and cardio-vascular problems should not participate. Pace of tour will be dependent on weather conditions.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION: All will be provided route maps plus information on specific sites, several of which have not been visited on previous tours including a surviving Confederate hut (1861 vintage). Confederate and Union fortifications, Civil War road traces, fords and sites of engagements will also be visited.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Bring plenty of water, energy food, sunscreen and insect repellent. Sturdy footwear recommended.

MORE INFO OR VERY INCLEMENT WEATHER: Contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371



BRCWRT MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

Submitted by Rob Orrison

Mark Trbovich, a volunteer with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division, is the recipient of the Prince William County Volunteer of the Quarter Award for January through March 2007. Robert Orrison, Public Works Historic Preservation Division Site Manager, nominated Mark for his countless hours of service and invaluable contributions to Prince William County over the past five years.

When describing Mark Trbovich, one word comes to mind, "passion". His passion for Civil War history has driven him above and beyond what any organization can expect from a volunteer. He is not just logging hours on projects, but also giving lectures, serving on support organizations and spending countless hours promoting the County's history and preservation programs. Mark's passion for Civil War history in Prince William County led him to begin working with County public officials and historians to interpret the County's Civil War history and become a very active member in the Virginia Civil War Trails (VACWT) program. This state wide program is the largest heritage tourism program in the country. The program involves installing interpretive wayside markers at Civil War sites, big and small. In the past five years, Mark has researched, written and installed ten signs in Prince William County. This past quarter, Mark logged over 200 hours in working on installing five additional signs in Prince William County. Mark has also worked as a liaison with Historic Occoquan and its town officials to make Occoquan a part of the VAWCT state wide program. Along with the new signs, Mark was the originator of an idea to create a County-wide Civil War Trail tour. Beginning next January, this program is planned as a precursor to the 2011 Civil War 150th Anniversary. This program will involve installing fifteen more VACWT markers throughout the County with a self-guided brochure that will allow residents and visitors to visit all of the Civil War sites.

Mark's interest doesn't just end with the VACWT program. This past month, Mark was part of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division Lecture series at the Old Manassas Courthouse. Mark gave a lecture titled "First Blood, the Battles of Blackburn's Ford and Grigsby's Hill" to a crowd of over 60 attendees. Mark is interested in all aspects of the County's history. He was recently elected to the Board of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation. The Foundation was created by the Board of Supervisors to assist in raising funds and support for the County's historic preservation program. The foundation was honored to present this award to Mark Trbovich in recognition of his service and dedication to historic preservation in Prince William County.

12 JULY 2007 SPEAKER HISTORIAN FRANK A. O'REILLY "GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE: MARCHING OUT OF STEP"

By John McAnaw

Frank A. O'Reilly graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1987 with a B.A. in American History. While an undergraduate, he worked at the "Stonewall" Jackson House in Lexington. He also lectured in Civil War military history in the ROTC Department of Washington and Lee. Following graduation, Frank joined the National Park Service as a temporary historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (F&SNMP). He subsequently accepted a full-time position with the National Park Service at Independence Hall, Philadelphia PA. In 1990 Frank returned to the F&SNMP to fill the permanent historian's position at the "Stonewall" Jackson Shrine at Guiney Station.

He also has served as an historical consultant for the City of Fredericksburg and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Planning Commission. Of note, Frank spent a year cataloging all of the historic resources along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers for the City of Fredericksburg. To understate the case, his field explorations were, on occasion, "challenging". Our guest speaker is well known to members of the BRCWRT. We still talk about his eloquent and moving presentation on the last days of the life of LTG T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Frank is in great demand as a speaker and has lectured at various locations around the U.S. and abroad on military history. Further, he has appeared in numerous video documentaries, including the A&E series *Civil War Journal*.

His latest book, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock* was nominated for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in Letters. Cited book won the 2002 Capital District (Albany, NY) Book Award; the 2003 James I. Robertson Jr. Book Award; the 2004 Daniel Laney Book Award; and the 2004 Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award. Frank also authored an earlier book on the Fredericksburg Campaign, titled *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg*. It was published in 1993.

Our talented guest speaker also has written numerous articles on Civil War and Mexican War topics, plus introductions to several books including *The Personal Memoirs of General P.H. Sheridan*; William McCarter's *My Life in the Irish Brigade*; and the *History of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry*.

Join us on 12 July for what will be an insightful and memorable presentation on the post war years on the Confederacy's greatest military leader.

THE BEARSS TWIN

By Nancy Anwyll

Are there two Ed Bearss in this world? No, I know there aren't, but I think there might be another that may be his twin, albeit about 40 years younger. I met him in May.

A few weeks ago fellow member, Janet Greentree, and I joined the Boston Civil War Round Table in Chattanooga, Tenn. for four days of Civil War history. We were led on the tour by National Park Ranger, Jim Ogden, a walking Civil War history book who has a voice and speaking style very similar to Ed Bearss – talking without notes, using the same voice inflections, and emitting the same sort of drama that keeps listeners holding on to the end.

Ranger Ogden took us first to the surrounding sites that led to the Chickamauga battle in September of 1863. We learned many tidbits, one of which was that residents of Lafayette, Georgia, say "Lafayette" with the accent on the second syllable, not the third syllable as we do. But that was all very secondary compared to what else we learned about the battle.

We walked the Chickamauga battlefield listening to stories, strategies, and tragedies as if we were actually there in 1863. Occasionally, Ogden assigned us roles of various Civil War generals or soldiers, and we acted out the movements that led to either success or failure on that battlefield.

For the Battle of Look Out Mountain in Chattanooga in November 1863, we walked out to a spot on the top of the mountain where Ogden pointed out the troop positions and described the events that occurred when Joe Hooker's divisions successfully drove the Confederate army off the mountain.

We saw a large rock below us with the Tenn. River and the city of Chattanooga serving as the backdrop. This was the same rock where after the battle in 1863, a photographer took photos of Gen. Joe Hooker and some of the men of the 8th Kentucky. They posed just as many tourists did years later. The rock is now closed to the public because tourists accidentally fell off, probably not living to see the light of day.

Ranger Ogden urged us to walk ahead to the central viewing area where we could see the rock at closer range. As we lined up to see the view, we realized that Ogden was on the rock below us. He then dramatically told us the story of how Gen. Hooker and his divisions captured the mountain and how Private John Wilson from the 8th Kentucky Infantry climbed upon the rock to plant the Stars and Bars.

Wilson's flag was seen by Union troops in the city below, and soon a loud cheer was heard from the troops waiting there. They were surprised and elated that victory had come quickly. Years later Private Wilson received the Medal of Honor.

Visitors that came upon our tour group stopped

to hear Ogden tell the story, and soon they became caught up in the story just as we were. We easily could picture Pvt. John Wilson in our minds, waving the flag. We took many photos of Ogden on the rock, all the while feeling a bit worried that he might fall and later feeling relieved when he climbed back on the path with us.



Jim Ogden at Lookout Mountain.
Photo by Janet Greentree.

But there was one more interesting stop on Lookout Mountain. After we walked down a path on the western side of the point called Roper's Rock, Ranger Ogden stopped, took out a cigar, began smoking, and said not a word. At first we were surprised since we had never seen him smoke before. We soon realized that he was standing in the same exact spot that Gen. Grant stood in the old Civil War photo which showed Grant with a cigar in his mouth looking at other men sitting on the edges of adjacent rocks. Everyone in our group took a photo of Ogden posing as Grant, and then everyone had photos taken doing the same pose, but *without* the cigar. It was *almost* the next best thing to being there with Grant himself in 1863.



Gen. Grant at Roper's Rock, Lookout Mountain.

In our remaining time, Ogden took us to several other sites in and around Chattanooga, such as Orchard Knob, Tunnel Hill, and Missionary Ridge. But the last stop on our last day was the National Cemetery. Here we had a splendid view of Look Out Mountain, the same view that many Union troops in Chattanooga had as the "Battle Above the Clouds" took place. With Ogden's help, we once again remembered that the greatest tragedy of the Civil War was the loss of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

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The Boston CWRT with Jim Ogden in the Chattanooga National Cemetery with Lookout Mt. in background
Photo by Janet Greentree.

Jim Ogden helped *Blue and Gray Magazine* write issues on Chickamauga and Chattanooga in January 2000, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007. Ogden hopes that more Americans will visit Chickamauga and Chattanooga and that more of the battlefield can be saved from suburban sprawl. While we were with him, he joked often about that "small, south central Pennsylvania college town where a battle occurred in July, 1863" (saying it all quickly but never allowing himself to say Gettysburg) and which receives more attention than Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ogden would change that, if he could.

For those who haven't seen Chickamauga and Chattanooga, go! And if you can, ask to have the "Bears Twin" show you around.



MERRYBROOK

Submitted by Terry McCarthy, FOLR

One of the oldest homes (circa 1820) in Northern Virginia is in the endangered species category and needs financial assistance to avoid becoming "another antebellum residence being demolished" for lack of funds to preserve and maintain it. The home — "**Merrybrook**" — is located on Centreville Road just south of Herndon. Its most noteworthy occupant was Laura Ratcliffe, best known as the Confederate spy who saved Colonel John Mosby's life, and was a confidant of

General J.E.B. Stuart.

"Merrybrook" (formerly known as Brookside) is a well preserved home located on a beautiful property of a little more than 3 acres. The house is a 1 ½ - to 2 - story frame farmhouse with several additions, which are well integrated into its original style. The oldest section extant is a one and one-half story, two-bay front-gabled wooden frame house (circa 1824). An even earlier section — a small one-room shed-like dwelling (circa 1793) — no longer exists. Additional sections were added around 1840, 1853, 1893 and 1940. All of the additions conform to the architectural integrity of the earliest standing building. Laura Ratcliffe moved into the home around 1869 and was bequeathed the residence by her mother who died in 1869.

In the later part 1861, the first year of the Civil War, Laura Ratcliffe met J.E.B. Stuart, while she was ministering to wounded soldiers. Her beauty and manner captivated Stuart and he engaged her in providing intelligence on Union army activities and deployments. Sometime in early 1863, Stuart introduced Laura to John Mosby. Since Mosby conducted many operations in the area where Laura lived, he frequented her home to get information on Union troop movements for the rest of the war. She conceived of a unique way of passing intelligence to Mosby. There was a large rock formation on her property, and she made arrangements to stash messages for Mosby there. The site is now known as "Mosby's Rock".

Laura cared for her mother until her death in 1869 and for her invalid sister for many years afterward. She received assistance from her neighbor, a Union supporter — Milton Hanna. After the death of her sister, Laura married Hanna on December 4, 1890. Seven years later, Hanna died in an accident, leaving Laura a wealthy widow. In spite of her wealth, she continued her many duties as manager of her farm as well as several others belonging to her family. She remained an active part of her community, involved with her church as well as donating land for a fledgling Presbyterian church nearby. Her charity extended to many of her less fortunate neighbors as became evident after her death in 1923. She is still spoken of great admiration as "the lady with the golden earrings".

In March 2007, the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe was established and incorporated. Its mission is to preserve and maintain "Merrybrook" so that it can be open to the public, historians, and archeologists and also provide Standards Of Learning (SOL) satisfying tours for students.

There is much that needs to be done and significant funds need to be raised to accomplish this mission. Potential donors and volunteers should contact the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe at (703)220-4541.

"Merrybrook" was accepted in March 2007 on the National Register of Historical Places..

GETTYSBURG [Continued from Page 5]

counterparts, the artillerymen stubbornly held to their guns, using every piece of equipment available to them in fighting off the Confederate onslaught.

At Stevens' Knoll, Kevin positioned the group at the same spot where Stevens' artillery blasted away at Avery's men as they charged Cemetery Hill. Everyone appreciated the great advantage this position afforded the Union -- it was "an artilleryman's dream", -- and we wondered how any Confederates could have made it to the Union gun positions. Kevin noted that although the artillery at Stevens' Knoll effectively raked the flanks of one group and fired directly into the front of the other, they still required stalwart support and firm action from the Infantry posted along the Hill. Unfortunately for many of the gunners on Cemetery Hill, "Stalwart" and "Firm" were not in attendance that night, and the Confederates were able to successfully breach the gun positions. But not for long. The "knick-of-time" arrival of Carroll's brigade that finally helped push the Confederates back, leaving East Cemetery Hill in the hands of the Union.

Leaving Stevens' Knoll, we continued our march toward the summit of Culp's Hill. Along the way, Kevin pointed out the Iron Brigade line that stretched from the western side of Culp's Hill up to the west summit. The relatively short distance was a reminder of the tremendous loss of men that brigade suffered on 1 July.

Culp's Hill - Upper

At the summit of Culp's Hill, we stopped at the monument to George Sears Greene, oldest Union general on the field at 62, credited with the foresight to have the troops entrench all the way down the face of the Hill, credited with the traverse that would protect his flank, and credited with his use of the ravine as a refitting station during this fight, which totaled almost 12 hours!

We left the summit by way of the footpath that leads through the woods and past the NY monuments along Greene's line. Taking this pathway allowed us to view some of the curiosities of the battlefield: the huge boulders behind which many of the Confederates would take shelter -- and which would later become the "billboards" for battlefield advertising; and one of the witness trees that was bolstered by cement poured down its center. A strange combination -- but at least the tree is still standing!

We emerged from the woods in the area of the saddle, which is the terrain feature between the upper and lower portions of Culp's Hill. From here, we could easily see Greene's zigzag line that allowed the Union troops to set up a cross fire. We came to the area of the Traverse and the end of Greene's line, held by David Ireland's 137 NY, a mirror image of the Union Left -- only Ireland faced a WHOLE LOT MORE Confederates than the legendary 20 ME! And by another one of those odd battlefield coincidences, the Union right and left flanks lost the same percentage of men -- 32%. At this point, we stopped here to discuss the use of the ravine that was behind the Union lines. This area, to the rear of Greene's line, allowed the men to rotate in and out of the front line so that they could clean equipment, replenish ammunition then move back again to the front lines. They were able to execute this maneuver after the rest of the XII Corps returned from their action on the Union left front.

Culp's Hill - Lower

The next part of our hike brought us to Pardee Field, named

for Lt Col Ario Pardee Jr. of the 147th PA Volunteers. The recently-cleared woods along the wall has completely opened this area and presents a remarkable difference in the pre- and post-clearing views of the lower Culp's area and Stuart's route of attack. Kevin discussed George "Maryland" Stuart's attack, the flanking Union artillery fire from Power's Hill, and Pardee's attack that eventually pushed the Confederates off the lower hill. Kevin also discussed the accounts of what some consider as the first formal use of forward observers in support of field artillery. It was also here that Pvt George Warner of the 20 CT would lose both arms from friendly fire but would live to dedicate the regiment's monument. From here, we could easily discern the sounds of traffic along the Baltimore Pike less than ½ mile away. Realizing how close we were to the Pike impressed on us the fact that the Confederates almost made it to the Union rear during their charge!

We ended the morning's tour near Spangler's Meadow, the site of the fateful charge by the 2 MA and the 27 IN. The charge would be one of those gallant but mistaken maneuvers that would cost the 2 MA 40% of its men. As Col Charlie Mudge said, "Well, it is murder but it is the order". Mudge would be killed in the charge.

With the sound of this battle ringing in our imaginations, we closed the first half of the tour. Heading back to the Visitors' Center, we enjoyed a one-hour picnic in Zeigler's Grove then it was back to the field for the afternoon segment of our tour.

East Cavalry Field

The afternoon began with a tour of one of the least-visited parts of the Battlefield, East Cavalry Field, the scene of the July 3 cavalry clash between Stuart's Confederate troopers and Gregg and Custer's Union troops. It was my pleasure to present this stop on our day's itinerary.

The tour began with a brief description and orientation of the battlefield, where I pointed out some landmarks on the Southern (Union) end of the field, including the Lott barn. To the north, the tree line along Cress Ridge, which was Stuart's line, was visible from our starting point as well, and this landmark remained in view for most of the tour.

At the first stop, the 1 NJ monument, I described the initial deployments of the 1 NJ and 3 PA as well as Jenkins' and Chambliss' movement to the Rummel farm, which would be the center of the cavalry activity on the East Cavalry Field. The dismounted skirmishing that began the battle evolved into a mix of dismounted and mounted fights as the battle's momentum built. We noted the arrival of the 5 MI in support of the Union line, the 5 MI being one of the only regiments to carry the Spencer Repeating Rifle. The use of this rifle tipped the advantage toward the Union troops as the fight continued to build. Before leaving this spot, I offered an account of the colorful character, Lt Col Vincent Witcher, known as the "Clawhammer" for the swallowtail coats he favored. We also followed the course of the action through the first cavalry charge led by the 1 VA against the 7 MI. Fence lines would briefly bar the way and flanking fire would eventually push the Confederates back.

At this point, we made our way along one of the historic farm lanes that took us to the Rummel farmyard. The Rummel and adjacent farms have remained mostly unchanged from the time of the battle and the Rummel farm was the scene of the dramatic final charge of the cavalry fight. Here we were greeted by Alice Hoffman. Alice and Dan Hoffman have

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owned the farm since the 1940s and are welcoming caretakers of this property. Alice had prepared a table of artifacts that were found on and around the Rummel farm at various times after the War. The highlight of the display was the Spencer Repeating Rifle that had been found on a neighboring farm. The serial number on the rifle has been traced to a soldier of the 5 MI, thereby authenticating this fine artifact.



Photo by Janet Greentree

Our resident photographer, Janet Greentree, snapped the group photo in front of the Rummel barn, which had been used by Witcher's men (34 VA) and had sustained damage from the Union artillery barrage. After the "photo op", we departed the Rummel farm and hiked to the site of the final cavalry charge between Hampton and Lee and Custer's 1 MI. As we walked along the route of Hampton's charge, we were able to take in the same rolling terrain that the Confederates would have seen. As Hampton's men made their way down the field, they could not see Custer's men because of this terrain feature – we saw this firsthand as it took some time before the Lott barn and southern part of the field (Custer's position) would come back into our view.

I offered up a commentary on the final, catastrophic charge, noting the supporting charges from the Union flanks. Captain William Miller's charge with the 3 PA would earn him the Medal of Honor, and his attack would help push Stuart's troopers back up to Cress Ridge.

We completed this part of the tour with a visit to the 3 PA monument, the Gregg cavalry shaft, and the MI monument. At the MI monument, I read an account from one of the men from the 6 MI – a tribute and memorial upon the death of his good friend, his cavalry horse, Billy.

Almost on time, we left East Cavalry Field for our final stop –

South Cavalry Field

Presenting some new, potentially controversial (actually, the controversy has already begun) theories, Kevin began the tour of South Cavalry Field at a spot called Observation Rock, which, when you stand there, you can – uhhh – OBSERVE the field! For instance, you can clearly see the route of Kilpatrick's cavalry and the Confederate positions during the Union's wheeling, circuitous charge near the Bushman and Slyder farms on the late afternoon of 3 July.

The controversy revolves around who was where, mistaken identities, and paths of the cavalry movements. Oh yes – there's also that little issue with the 5th NY Cavalry monument and the quizzical looks on the veterans' faces when they arrived at their monument dedication, wondering why they were putting a monument in a place where they hadn't been! Not wanting to put a damper on festivities, the committee dedicated the monument, then carted it off to the CORRECT spot, leaving the base behind. That base has now become the base for something entirely different: Andie Custer's argument that this battle should be shifted to another part of the field! Firestorm to follow...

Kevin used another excellent map to show us the spread-out troop positions of Law's brigade – from Round Top all the way out and past the Emmitsburg Road. The map also gave us a clear picture of Wells' ride out through the Slyder and Bushman farms, their turn against Law's flanking fire and artillery, and their race back through the Confederate lines to their starting position on Bushman's Hill.

Our final stop for the day was the portrait monument of William Wells, where Kevin discussed the lively bas relief that depicts Wells' charge. Each figure in the relief represents a soldier who actually participated in the charge – a reminder that behind the stories, depictions, dramas, and controversies were men who were simply doing their duty, less mindful of their roles in history as their roles as soldiers. Little did they know that 144 years later their likenesses would still remain; their moving, energetic forms still charging the enemy lines, allowing us a glimpse of the real spirit and bravery that marked so many of the men on this battlefield.

The following group attended the Spring Tour this year:

Kevin Anastas, Maureen Quinn, Nancy Anwyll, Charlie Balch, Scott Bellefeuille, Michael Block, Dominic Bumbaca, Effie Bumbaca, Bill Caritte, David J Clark, Bryce Cumbie, John DePue, George Evans, Zoltan Farago, Janet Greentree, Robert Hickey, Jill Hilliard, Alan Houpt, Mike Jones, Cecil Jones, Andy Kapfer, Jim Lamason, Bev Lamason, Lance Carroll, Dan Lundeen, Dale Maschino, John McAnaw, Jim Meagher, Joyce Meagher, Kevin Meagher, Tim O'Hearn, John Pearson, Shirley Pearson, Phil Pruna, Alex Sabol, Mary Sereno, Mike Shannon, Jeffrey Silverstein, Ed Wenzel, Patty Wheeler, Gwen Wyttenbach, Keith Young, Marcia Young

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