



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XV, Issue 4 — JUNE & JULY 2008

GARY ECELBARGER EXAMINES CRITICAL PHASE OF JACKSON'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1862

By John McAnaw

Veteran members of our organization remember well our July guest speaker – Gary Ecelbarger. He is a former President of our Round Table. Many other members of the BRCWRT know Gary from his other Civil War endeavors. He is a professional history tour guide, symposium speaker as well as and the author of five books and a dozen magazine articles about the American Civil War and other events and personalities of the 19th Century. Additionally, he was a consultant and contributing writer for two volumes of the Time Life Book Series – *Voices of the Civil War*.

Our talented guest speaker is a leading authority of the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Gary's latest book entitled *Three Days in the Shenandoah: Stonewall Jackson at Front Royal and Winchester*, will be the subject of his presentation to our Round Table on 12 June. It is also the fourth book that he has written on that campaign. Do not miss this opportunity to listen to an extremely perceptive individual who answers questions about the 1862 Valley Campaign that have perplexed historians of many decades.

Lastly, I want to give the reader a heads up about Gary's next book which will be released on 25 September 2008. The title is *How Abraham Lincoln Beat the Odds to Win the 1860 Republican Nomination*. It is quite a fascinating story. See you at our 12 June meeting!

JULY SPEAKER J. MICHAEL MILLER DISCUSSES THE BATTLES OF BRISTOE STATION & KETTLE RUN

Our July speaker, Michael Miller, is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a Bachelors Degree in 1978, and a Masters Degree from Virginia Tech in 1981, both degrees in American History

He began work for the Marine Corps in 1983 for the History and Museums Division as Curator of Personal Papers. He worked on several major exhibits to include Marines in the Boxer Rebellion, which began his interest

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2008

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Gary Ecelbarger

SUBJECT:

Stonewall Jackson's Fog of
War: The Operational Triangle
of 24 May 1862.

New Book Signing

in the period, From Dawn to Setting Sun: the Marines in World War II, and Marines in Desert Storm Desert Shield.

Currently, Mr. Miller serves as Archivist of the Marine Corps, heading up the Archives in Quantico, Virginia. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member with the Marine Corps University and Penn State University.

Mr. Miller conducted countless Marine Corps staff rides to the battlefields of the American Civil War, for the several Secretaries of the Navy and Marine Corps Commandants as well as for groups of Foreign Military visitors.

Publications by Mr. Miller include: From Shanghai to Corregidor, Marines in the Defense of the Philippines, (1997) a part of the 50th Anniversary of World War II Series, Even to Hell Itself, The North Anna River Campaign, May 1864, (1989) a work of nonfiction of the American Civil War, and "St. Mihiel Campaign 1918" which appeared in the anthology, The United States in the First World War, (1995). He has also edited My Dear Smedley, The Letters of John A. Lejeune and Smedley D. Butler, (2003), Echoes of Mercy, the Diaries of John H.

J. MICHAEL MILLER, See Page 3

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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.
For specific meeting dates and information,
please visit the WEBSITE:<http://bullruncwrt.org>**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
For AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008
Issue**

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

**to Sandra Cox at
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 540.374.2011 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.

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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.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS****10 JULY 2008****GUEST SPEAKER****J. Michael Miller****Subject:****Blood on the Rails: The Battles of
Bristoe Station and Kettle Run In
Prince William County****14 August 2008****GUEST SPEAKER****Maureen Quinn****Subject:****From Washington, DC to Gettysburg:
The Civil War in Marble and Bronze****JOIN US AT THE
REDROCK CANYON GRILL**

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

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





The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

Last month I wrote that our Round Table never before had as many events crammed into an eight day period as we did during 3-10 May 2008. It was truly an "Immersion Week". To recap, those events:

Sat., 3 May—BRCWRT Tour of O & A Railroad sites from Clifton to Fairfax Station.

Sun., 4 May—BRCWRT Tour of recently cleared terrain in the vicinity of Deep Cut at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Mon., 5 May—Ed Bearss' presentation on the "Buckland Races" at the Buckland Baptist Church; an estimated 700 attended.

Thu., 8 May—BRCWRT Meeting at Centreville Regional Library. Ed Bearss spoke on "From Bristoe Station to the Wilderness". An overflow crowd attended.

Sat. 10 May—BRCWRT Tour of the Wilderness Battlefield.

Sat. 10 May—Groundbreaking at Ox Hill Battlefield Park

All tours were successful, with everyone properly accounted for.

On behalf of the BRCWRT, I extend by thanks to all those members who made "Civil War Immersion Week" a successful venture, particularly Ed Bearss, Kevin Anastas, Jim Lewis and Lynne Garvey Hodge.

Our next field trip will be to the Kettle Run and Bristoe Station Battlefields on 12 July 2008. Member/historian Mike Miller will lead the tour. Two days earlier, Mike will address both battles at our monthly meeting at the Centreville Regional Library. Do not miss this opportunity to thoroughly acquaint yourself with these two battles. Mike will also discuss preservationist efforts to protect both battlefields. Of direct relevance, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted 7 to 1, after a contentious public hearing, to rezone a 152.5 acre agricultural tract on the southeast side of the Bristoe Station Battlefield for a mixed business park. Four BRCWRT members spoke at the meeting. Approximately 42 acres of the rezoned land is slated to be turned over to the County and added to the existing Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park at some future date.

Thanks to your support, Round Table membership as of 2 June 2008 stands at 205.

Your future attendance at our monthly meetings and on our field trips will be appreciated.

J. MICHAEL MILLER

[Continued from Page 1]

Simpson, a Civil War Chaplain, (2002) and John H. Russell, Jr., 1872-1947 : Register of his Personal Papers. He has written numerous articles on both Marine Corps and Civil War History for national publications such as Leatherneck, Fortitudine, Civil War Times Illustrated, Blue and Gray Magazine, Gettysburg Magazine, and others.

He received the 2001 Robert D. Heintz Award for best article on Marine Corps history for his trilogy, "Marines in the Boxer Rebellion," which appeared in Leatherneck Magazine, 2000.

Memberships both past and present include: Society of American Archivists, Society of Military History, Company of Military Historians, Marine Corps University Foundation and Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the BRCWRT.

Don't miss our 10 July meeting when Mr. Miller's topic will be "Blood On the Rails: The Battle of Bristoe Station & Kettle Run" which will be followed by our BRCWRT Tour of these sites on 12 July conducted by Mr. Miller. See Page 7 for full tour details.



May speaker, Ed Bearss, is surrounded by Past Presidents Martha Hendley, and Dan Paterson, Current President John McAnaw and Immediate Past President Keith Young. The above joined our membership and guests in celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the BRCWRT.

Photo by Janet Greentree

CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

MEET

Mark Trbovich



Mark was born in Washington DC and graduated from Potomac Senior High in Oxon Hill, Maryland in 1976. Immediately after high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served a four-year tour of duty on three separate ships as a 3rd Class Petty Officer, Electronic Technician. He was stationed on the USS Grand Canyon (AR-28), the USS Compass Island (AG-153), and the USS John Rodgers (DD-983). Mark logged in about 75,000 miles at sea before leaving the Navy in August, 1980. Mark and his wife, Angela, have been married 23 years. They have three children, Alexandra, who is now married, Nicholas, and Carlyn.

After he left the Navy, he enrolled at George Mason University, which he attended full time until June, 1981 when he got a job with E-Systems, Melpar Division, in Falls Church. He then attended night school and worked his way up the ladder until he became the Test Lab Manager in 1997. Mark says he finally graduated in 2003 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. When E-Systems was bought by Raytheon Company in 1995, he became the manager of the entire Test Lab for the Falls Church facility. This year marks his 27th year of employment with the company.

Mark says his main hobby is volunteering and working with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Group putting together the CW Trails sign tour for completion in 2010. He has written or assisted with approximately 15 signs in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Mark says this has been truly a tremendous experience for him and says he owes it all to the BRCWRT. He got his start in this through great friends and mentors, John McAnaw and Dan Paterson, who guided him through the early years and have supported him throughout. Mark says meeting the wonderful BRCWRT folks when he joined in 1999 has been a blessing. Now that he's been on the CW lecture circuit, Mark says most of the members have forgotten more than he'll ever know. *"This is a testament to what this organization is to the community and what we are doing to preserve our most Hallowed Ground. Stay the Course and keep the fight for saving this land for our future generations. Lest We Forget!"*

Mark's interest in the CW started as a child visiting the Gettysburg and Manassas battlefields. As an adult, he found out that his backyard rested on the Island Ford on Bull Run. When he found out that the ford was guarded during the Battle of Manassas, he started

digging for information. That led him to the BRCWRT in 1999. If anyone remembers, his first meeting was the night of the famous ice storm, the roads were a sheet of ice, but he was determined to get to the Fairfax County Government Center for the meeting. He says he'll never forget the ride home either. In 2005, he teamed with fellow BRCWRT member Robert Orrison, Site Manager of Brentsville Courthouse, to write and plan Virginia Civil War Trail signs for the upcoming 150th anniversary in 2011 which has been a fantastic experience.

Mark says he has no ancestors on his side of the family that fought in the CW since everyone immigrated later from Europe but believes his wife's side had some folks who fought in Tennessee units. Mark has a three-way tie for his favorite person in the CW - Stonewall Jackson, James Longstreet, and John Singleton Mosby. He says he has a tremendous respect for General Richard Ewell of Prince William County who owned Stony Lonesome Farm in Nokesville. The last CW book Mark read was the General Ewell book by Donald C. Pfanz, an excellent book.

Mark is a volunteer with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Group, and for the past two years, has served as a board member of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation and worked to raise funds for Prince William County historic sites.

As far as visiting battlefields, Mark says he hasn't visited enough, especially in the Western Theatre. He's been to all the Northern Virginia battlefields, Harpers Ferry, WV, and Gettysburg.

Mark hasn't held any positions with the BRCWRT because of his work schedule but says the folks that run our organization are all outstanding and truly have a love for preservation, and also reaching out to the community, and bringing them into the CW in this historic area we live in.

Mark's item to share with us is that he has been blessed to be the Men's Ministry leader and Senior Board Member of the Lighthouse Assembly of God in Manassas near Sudley Springs. Mark is another great contributor to our Round Table and to the Civil War community.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eugene & Doris Black
Pat Hutteman
Andrew Parramore
Laura Powell
Robert Reese
Jim Sinclair
Larry Soufal
Lewis Taynton
Calvin Zon

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.

6 June – Walking tour, “A Woeful Place Reclaimed: From Farm to Battlefield to Park – the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania.” Meet at Tour Stop 5 on the Spotsylvania battlefield. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or link to www.nps.gov/frsp.

7 June – Railway Festival, annual event in downtown Manassas. Includes living history, railroad displays and more. 10 am – 5 pm. Free. For details, call 703-368-1873 or link to www.manassasmuseum.org.

7-8 June – White Oak Museum, Living history, camp, drills, demonstrations and more, at 985 White Oak Road, in Falmouth, east of Fredericksburg. 9 am – 5 pm Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm Sunday. Free for living history, small charge for museum. Call 540-371-4234.

7-8 June – “Fire on the Mountain” at the South Mountain State Battlefield (near Fox’s Gap) near Boonsborough, MD. Six artillery pieces in action on the original battlefield. Call 301-432-8065.

8 June—Celebrate the 200th Birthday of President Jefferson Davis at the Confederate Monument, Jackson Circle, Arlington National Cemetery at 3 PM. Speaker will be noted Southern author, Thomas Moore. Sponsored by the Confederate Memorial Committee of DC & SCV, Jefferson Davis Camp #305.

13 June – Walking tour of the Slaughter Pen Farm, on the Fredericksburg battlefield. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or link to www.nps.gov/frsp.

14 June – Walking tours of the First Kernstown battlefield at the KBA site off Route 11 south of Winchester. 10:30 am and 2 pm. Email kba@kernstownbattle.org.

14 June – Driving tour, “Kelly’s Ford & Stevensburg” on the Brandy Station Battlefield, north of Culpeper. 10 am. \$10. Call 540-727-7718 or link to www.brandystationfoundation.com.

14-16 June – “Artillery Weekend,” at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. Call 301-432-5124 or www.nps.gov/anti.

20 June – Walking tour, “Bloody Homecoming: David Kyle and the Ordeal of the Bullocks.” Park on Hooker Drive on the Chancellorsville battlefield west of Fredericksburg. Free. 7 pm. Call 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

21 June – Living history walking tour, “Cavaliers, Courage & Coffee – When Mosby Owned The Night” in Atoka west of Middleburg off Route 50. 7:30 pm. \$5/adult. Call 540-687-6681, or www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

21 June – Tour, “First Battle of Kernstown” at Rose Hill near Winchester. Rarely opened property open 1-4 pm for self guided tours. \$5 or free with admission to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Call 888-556-5799 or link to www.shenandoahmuseum.org.

21 June – Horseback tour of the Brandy Station Battlefield Begins at 10 am. Space limited. Reservations; Call 540-547-4106.

21 June – Living history, “Anniversary of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge” with camps, demonstrations, speakers, music, and much more at the State Park near Clover. 9 am – 3 pm. Free. Call 434-454-4312.

27 June – Walking tour of Civil War sites in Emmitsburg. Includes the grounds of the Daughters of Charity and other Gettysburg related sites. Begins in the parking lot of the Emmitsburg Community Center. 7 pm. Free. Email 22ndvainfantry@pa.net for more info.

28-29 June – Living history, “Southern Grays”, Confederate history at the Manassas National Battlefield. Free with park admission. Call 703-361-1339, or www.nps.gov/mana.

29 June – Lecture, “The Union Executions at Beverly’s Ford”, at the Graffiti House on the Brandy Station battlefield north of Culpeper. 2 pm. \$5. Call 540-727-7718 or www.brandystationfoundation.com.

4 July – Independence Day Deck Party aboard the USS Constellation in Baltimore Harbor. 7-10 pm. Reservations required. Call 410-539-1797, or www.constellation.org.

11 July – Walking tour “First Blood at Chancellorsville” west of Fredericksburg on Rte. 3. 7 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122 or link to www.nps.gov/frsp.

12 July – Driving tour of Buford Knoll and Yew Ridge on the Brandy Station Battlefield. 10 am. \$10. www.brandystationfoundation.com

19 July—Battle of the Wilderness & Spotsylvania Court House Tour with Greg Mertz. Generals Lee and Grant Re-enactors will role play about events. Fredericksburg social and dinner following the tour sponsored by the Friends of President’s St. Station, Frederick CWRT and the Fredericksburg CWRT. For info call Garry Laskin at 301.774.4496 or Greg Yaskowich at 410.795.0335.

19-20 July – The Battle of Harpers Ferry, living history and ranger programs highlight the 1862 battle at Harpers Ferry National Park. Programs at noon, 2 and 3 pm. Free with park admission. Call 304-535-6029 or link to www.nps.gov/hafe.

26 July – Walking tours of the Second Kernstown battlefield at the KBA site off Route 11 south of Winchester. 10:30 am and 2 pm. kba@kernstownbattle.org.

26-27 July – “Battle of the Crater” Ranger programs and tours at the Petersburg National Battlefield. Free with admission. Call 804-732-3531 or link to www.nps.gov/pete.

“ON TO RICHMOND”

The Friends of Manassas National Battlefield Park are marching on to Richmond! And you're invited! Mark your calendars for Monday, Oct. 6 and Tuesday, Oct. 7.

Ed Bearss and Frank O'Reilly will be guiding our exploration of the North Anna River and Cold Harbor campaigns as we follow Grant's determined 1864 advance on Richmond. This year's tour is virtually a sequel to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse tour last year.

Despite increases in prices, we will maintain our tour price at \$235. As before, this includes two full days of tour by coach and on foot, a sit-down buffet each day, a tour dinner Monday evening, plus beverages and snacks on the bus.

There is one big difference. Because our foray is so far removed from the Manassas area, we will be staging out of the Ramada Inn South located just off of I-95 at the Massaponax Exit south of Fredericksburg. The Ramada will extend to you a discounted room rate of \$68 (includes tax) for double or single rooms, plus \$12 per person for a full buffet breakfast that will be served at 7:00 AM Monday and Tuesday mornings. Therefore, a single room with breakfast will be \$80/night and a double room with two breakfasts will be \$92/night.

The Tour Promotion Page and Tour Registration Form will be posted shortly on the Friends web site (<http://www.fmnbp.org>). Please do not hesitate to contact Harvey Simon by phone [703.670.3277 or e-mail [paganspal@verizon.net]] if you have any questions.



THE CAPTAIN AND THE YANKEE WATCH

By Michael Block

The Battle had been raging since four in the morning. It started on the banks of the Rappahannock and had moved its way to the area around St. James Church, where a combination of Horse Artillery and two brigades of Confederate Cavalry stopped the Yankee advance.

Stuart was confident. They had stopped a charge by the 6th Pennsylvania (Rush's Lancers) and the lines had stabilized. But a string of couriers from his new Chief of Staff, Henry McClellan, brought distressing news

from the Miller House on Fleetwood Hill; Federals were advancing through Brandy Station towards the heights.

He dispatched the 12th Virginia Cavalry, quickly followed by the 35th Battalion of Cavalry. Among those to ride to the south was Captain Thomas O'Farrell, lead- ing Company I.

As the 12th crested Fleetwood Hill, they violently collided with the lead elements of Percy Wyndham's Union Horsemen, the 1st New Jersey and the 1st Maryland Cavalry. O'Farrell and his troopers fought desperately for most of the late morning and afternoon, charging the Yankees and receiving the same.

It was during one of these clashes that he and an unknown Yankee officer traded sword blows, one-on-one. In order to end the contest, O'Farrell pulled out his pistol, fired and struck the soldier in the shoulder.

The unhorsed rider fell onto O'Farrell and hung on to him! Since it is extremely difficult to participate in the battle with a wounded Yankee hanging on, O'Farrell struck him on the head with his pistol, whereupon the officer fell to the ground.

End of story. Not quite yet.

The following morning, O'Farrell was visiting some of his wounded troopers in a field hospital. During the visit, a hospital steward approached O'Farrell and stated that a Yankee officer wished to speak to him. As O'Farrell approached the wounded man, he saw that the Federal had bandages on both his head and shoulder!

The wounded officer was a little indignant. He understood that O'Farrell shot him, that was fair; but why did he have to hit him in the head. Captain O'Farrell explained that it would have been difficult to continue fighting with the wounded officer hanging on.

The conversation continued and the Federal mentioned that while he was lying there, wounded on the field, a rebel trooper went through his pockets and removed his grandfather's engraved pocket watch.

O'Farrell's thoughts went back to the previous night when one of his men was walking through the camp, showing off to anyone who would look, a watch he took off a dead Yankee officer.

Riding back to the 12th's camp, he called for the trooper with the watch. When he examined the watch, it was indeed the wounded Yankee's.

Charles O'Farrell returned the watch, and the two parted ways.

The name of the wounded Yankee Cavalry officer is lost to history, but Captain Charles O'Farrell survived the war. He also served in the 23rd Virginia Cavalry, as its Lt. Colonel. He would have success in his post-war career, as a state legislator, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected Governor of the Commonwealth in 1894.

JOHN MCANAW HONORED

By Ed Wenzel



Photo by Suzan Maschino, wife of BRCWRT Secretary Dale Maschino

BRCWRT President, John McAnaw, was honored last month by the Fairfax County Park Authority for his long years of service as Chairman of the Parks and Lake Committee, Kings Park West Civic Association. In particular, John was honored for his many years of contributions to the trails and parkland around Royal Lake. Many years ago, John was the prime mover, organizer, and leader of the citizen effort to construct the beautiful two-mile nature trail that now traverses the area around the lake.

The trail was constructed entirely by volunteer citizen labor and the labor of several Boy Scout Troops. It was a huge undertaking, requiring the movement of tons of earth and stone dust, and John was there with his shovel and wheelbarrow to lead and direct the effort. Other work over the years included maintaining the trail, picking up trash and debris, and after storms and flooding, rebuilding washed out sections of the trail and hauling out flood debris.

John, in his usual modest way, gave most of the credit to the Kings Park West community, its civic association and the Boy Scouts. He told about one time when so many neighbors turned out to work, that it looked a "Mao Tse-Tung, Great Revolution, Chinese peoples' event". John said the work was very rewarding and that it was sort of "pay back" to the community for all the community has given to him.

In recognition of John's long record of involvement at Royal Lake, the Park Authority unveiled a new park entrance sign that says "The John P. McAnaw Woodlands & Recreation Area at Royal Lake". And under that, the best line of all: "In honor of John's selfless devotion to the community and the environment". The BRCWRT is mighty proud of you, John. Congratulations! And thank you for all you've done for us.

MARCHING ORDERS FOR

12 JULY 2008

TOUR OF KETTLE RUN AND BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELDS IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

DATE/START TIME: Saturday, 12 July 2008/ 8:30 AM.

CHIEF TOUR GUIDE: J. Michael Miller, well known historian contracted by CENTEX Corp to interpret both battlefields.

DURATION: 8:30 AM to 1:45 PM.

ASSEMBLY LOCATION: Parking lot at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

Take Iron Brigade Unit Avenue off Route 619 (Bristoe Road) to parking lot. The park is located west of Route 619 between Route 28 on the north and the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks on the south.

CARPPOOLING FROM CENTREVILLE REGIONAL LIBRARY: Assemble at 7:45 AM for immediate departure.

LAST TOUR STOP: Same as assembly location, i.e. parking lot at Bristoe Station Heritage Park.

LUNCH: Brown bag or nearby fast food restaurant.

DEGREE OF EXERTION: Light to moderate. Members with cardio-vascular or respiratory problems should not participate.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Good walking shoes, plenty of water, sunscreen, headgear, and energy food.

IN EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: Or additional information, contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371.

SIGN UP FOR TOUR: Use one of three options listed below:

Contact Webmaster at KJonesIII@cox.net.

Sign up at monthly meeting.

Contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371.

GROUNDBREAKING AT OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK; BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION AND SITE-WORK UNDERWAY; DEDICATION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 1ST, NEW OFF-SITE MARKER SNAG

By Ed Wenzel



Ed Wenzel speaks while Tim White, Acting Director of the FCPA holds the umbrella.

Photo by Nancy Anwyll

On the morning of May 10th, under dark skies and continuous rain, the Fairfax County Park Authority held a groundbreaking ceremony for the long awaited improvements at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The rain was in keeping with the Ox Hill/Chantilly battle and the 30 or so attendees accepted the nasty weather as a planned part of the program. The event was arranged on rather short notice and most BRCWRT members were away on a planned tour of The Wilderness battlefield.

Be that as it may, Park Authority and County officials and Trustees gathered under umbrellas near the Kearny and Stevens monuments, addressed the small crowd, and then manned shovels for a photo-op to kick off the park's construction phase. Speakers included Park Authority Board Chairman, Hal Strickland; Resource Stewardship Branch Manager, Michael Rierson; Board of Supervisors Chairman, Gerald Connolly; Springfield District Supervisor, Pat Herryty; Kearny-Stevens Trustee

and Civil War Preservation Trust Board Member, Cricket Bauer Pohanka; and the writer.



L to R: Hal Strickland, Michael Rierson, Tim White, Ed Wenzel, Gerald Connolly, Pat Herryty, Kenneth Feng, Cricket Bauer Pohanka and George Rogers.

Photo by Nancy Anwyll

As envisioned in the master plan, tree and brush clearing operations will restore the landscape of this 5-acre battlefield remnant as closely as practicable to its 1862 appearance. This will include restoration of the pasture, or grassy field, and the east corner of the Reid's cornfield (which will not be planted in corn, but in clover according to park officials). Also planned is the reconstruction of rail fences along the edge of the cornfield and woods line. The park itself lies at the heart of the 500-acre battlefield, 99% of which is now developed and urbanized. But preserved within this small park are the boulders and quartz stone, set by John Ballard in the 1880s to mark the place where General Isaac Stevens fell, and also the twin monuments to generals Kearny and Stevens, erected by Civil War veterans in 1915.

Infrastructure improvements include a new park entrance off of West Ox Road, a space for one tour bus, and a seven-car visitor parking area (other parking will be available at the nearby Fairfax Towne Center). Among the interpretive features will be a covered kiosk containing seven large interpretive panels. These panels will provide orientation on the park and the battle as

See OX HILL, Page 11

AFTER ACTION REPORT: BRCWRT TOUR OF CLIFTON TOWN, FROSTY MEADOWS, SANGSTER STATION AND FAIRFAX STATION 3 MAY 2008

By John McAnaw

The tour began at 9:00 A.M. in Clifton Canary Cottage, the residence of Lynn Garvey Hodge. She acted as our tour guide for our two-hour tour of her beautiful home and other sites in Clifton. Of note, Lynn is a member of the Fairfax History Commission, and is presently writing a book on Clifton and nearby sites. Her tour was very informative.

Our next stop was a previously unexplored (by our Round Table) section of the historic Orange and Alexandria Railroad (O&A RR) bed east of Clifton. Courtesy of the property owners, we toured their estate which included two surviving sets of substantial O&A RR bridge abutments that predate the Civil War.

We then broke for lunch on the grounds of "Soldiers Rest" in Fairfax Station, a.k.a. VFW Blue and Gray Post 8469. Commander Sandy MacNabb of that distinguished Post graciously extended the welcome mat to our hungry time travelers.

While at my VFW Post, the Civil War history and importance of Fairfax Station was covered. Also, a walking tour was conducted of nearby sites including Historic St. Mary Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery. Among the notable events that occurred vicinity this church during the war was the engagement on 8 August 1864 between Col. Mosby and 38 of his mounted Rangers, and 60 dismounted Union troopers of the 13th and 16th New York Cavalry. Thanks to Bob Hickey of our Round Table, a Virginia Civil War Trails sign covering this engagement was erected on the cemetery side of the church parking lot, commemorating Col. Mosby's decisive victory over the more numerous New Yorkers.

The last stop was on private property that straddled the intersection of the bed of the historic O&A RR and Colchester Road. Courtesy of the owners, we had access to Civil War sites vicinity Sangster Station, including two bridge sites which were targeted by Brig. Gen. Rosser's Laurel Brigade on the night of 17 December 1863. One and a half sets of bridge abutments have been preserved. Rosser's cavalymen experienced a very close call on that "dark and stormy" night due to opposition from 60 infantrymen from Co. I, 158 New York. Also addressed was the importance of Sangster Station and the adjacent ford across Popes Head Creek during the war.

Tour participants were: Dominic Bumbaca, Effie Bumbaca, Fawn Freeman, Lynn Garvey-Hodge, Mark Knowles, Valery Knowles, Harlan Lenius, Sharon Lenius, Gale Machey, Jack Machey, Jim Meagher, and Jack Nance.

I extend my thanks to all who participated in this tour of Civil War heritage sites in Fairfax County.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Submitted by Rob Orrison

Prince William County will be sponsoring the following events on **Saturday, July 19.**

ON THE EVE OF FIRST BLOOD:

The Battle of First Manassas Campaign Tour

8 AM – 5 PM

\$80— space is limited, reservations required

Join local historians for an in-depth tour of the events and sites leading up to the first battle of the Civil War that took place in July of 1861. Highlighted sites will include Blackburn's and Mitchell's Fords, McLean House site, Signal Hill, Ben Lomond Historic Site and Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Cost includes admission to sites and a boxed lunch. Contact 703-365-7895 for reservations.

AFTERMATH OF BATTLE

Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas

Ben Lomond Historic Site

The program focuses on Ben Lomond's role as a Confederate Hospital during and after the Battle of First Manassas. Program includes living history, drills and medical demonstrations.

Ben Lomond Historic Site

*10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA
703-367-7872*

THE WILDERNESS [Continued from Page 10]

show presentation of pictures from the tour. Unfortunately we will have to wait until July since she will be on vacation during our June meeting.

Once again we accomplished our mission on time and under budget. See you in the fall when the Round Table follows Lee's retreat from Gettysburg!

Very Respectfully,

Kevin Anastas, BRCWRT Chief Tour Guide

AFTER ACTION REPORT "THE WILDERNESS" MAY 10, 2008



The group on the steps of historic Ellwood House
Photo by Janet Greentree

The clouds were threatening even as we gathered in the parking lot at the Centreville Library on Saturday morning. Despite some stray showers we decided to go ahead with the BRCWRT spring tour to The Wilderness Battlefield. We got a little damp and the air was a cooler than we wanted but we still had a great day on the battlefield.

Our group of thirty-five members and guests met at the Chancellorsville Visitor's Center at 0900 and headed out on the tour after a quick overview of the plan for the day. A number of guests from Falcon's Landing provided reinforcements to our RT veterans.

The morning tour stops focused on actions that occurred on the 5th of May 1864. Our first stop was Grant's Knoll, the site of Meade's and Grant's HQ throughout the battle. We then moved to a position on the north edge of Saunder's field where Warren's 5th Corps was surprised to find Ewell's 2nd Confederate Corps waiting for them astride the Orange Turnpike. Next we moved to the Chewning farm – a site that probably does not see many visitors. Despite this lack of interest from tourists the farm was key terrain during the battle in 1864. Our final stop for the morning was the north edge of the Widow Tapp's field. At this stop we discussed the race for the Brock Road intersection by A.P. Hill and the subsequent counterattack by Hancock. We concluded the morning with the Confederate 3rd Corps fought out and in disarray on the night of the 5th of May 1864.

Our original plan was to have a picnic on the lawn at

Ellwood. Because of the cool and damp weather, hot coffee at the McDonalds on highway 3 was more appealing to a large portion of the group. After lunch, Carolyn Elstner, who grew up visiting her grandparents at Ellwood, charmed the group with a short history of the house and with stories about her experiences there as a child. We all paused in the room where G.K. Warren established his HQ during the battle. It was in this room that he falsified the 5th Corps casualty figures from the first day's fighting because, as he said, "It will never do...to make a showing of such heavy losses." After paying homage to Jackson's arm buried in the family plot at Ellwood we headed back to the battlefield to study the fighting on the 6th of May.

We returned to the Widow Tapp's field but this time stopped at the Orange Plank Road parking area. John De Pue kicked off our afternoon tour with an impromptu presentation on the "false" Napoleons marking Poague's artillery battalion position.



John De Pue and a "false" Napoleon
Photo by Janet Greentree

After our artillery lesson we followed the path of the famous Texas brigade as they pushed General Lee to the rear and attacked directly from march column to blunt Hancock's assault. From the Texas monument we discussed Longstreet's brilliant flank attack that in Hancock's words "rolled me up like a wet blanket". Our last stop was the Brock Road-Plank Road intersection where Lee stubbornly launched another Pickett's Charge like frontal assault that failed to carry the Federal entrenchments.

Thanks to Ken Jones for setting up the online sign up list, to Dale Maschino for bringing the nametags and to Bill Carritte for helping with the maps. We're all looking forward to another Janet Greentree musical slide

See The Wilderness, Page 9

OX HILL [Continued from Page 8]

well as information on wounded soldiers, biographical sketches of the commanders, and a map of "other Civil War sites" in Fairfax County. From the kiosk, a quarter mile loop trail will lead to nine wayside markers providing further information on the battle and the monuments. Completion of the park is targeted for August and an official dedication and ribbon cutting is set for Labor Day, September 1st, the anniversary date of the battle.

The most important element that will not be ready when the park opens are the Union and Confederate obelisks, each bearing the names of the regiments and brigades who were on the field of battle. These new monuments, dedicated to the soldiers, will be among the most important interpretive features in the park; but they will have to be paid for by private donations. The Kearny and Stevens Trustees had planned to fund raise and had already selected a designer/sculptor, but the time and effort required for the task proved to be too much for us. Also, we did not want to siphon donations from critically important battlefield preservation efforts across the country. Therefore, the plan now is to enlist the Fairfax County Park Foundation, and its contacts in the local community, to assist with this important undertaking. It would be wonderful to have these soldier monuments in place for the 150th anniversary of the battle in 2012, but the Park Foundation is currently without a director, and we're not sure when such an effort could be undertaken.

Also not ready when the park opens will be the six off-site markers planned for the neighborhood beyond the park's boundaries. The Park Authority has the funds for the markers, but the exact sites have now become an issue. Most of the subject matter is site-specific to several locations along the hiking and biking trail that parallels Monument Drive and stretches across the battlefield, through the neighborhood. The intention was to interpret important battle incidents and anecdotes along this trail near the places where the events occurred. Michael Rierson, however, now wants these markers placed in the Fairfax Towne Center's buffer area directly across the street from the park; and he is being advised by another staff member to reduce the number from six to four. My concern is that by collecting the off-site markers in one place, the Park Authority will create a mini-park in the shopping center buffer that will result in two separate parks, each with its own set of markers and separated by a four-lane thoroughfare. But any discussion of this problem has been taken off the table until July at the earliest.

On May 21st, I met with John Lehman, Project Management Branch, and George Rogers of Southern Asphalt Inc. at the park. Southern Asphalt has the Park Authority contract to do the site-work, including necessary tree and brush removal, the trail, kiosk, entrance road and parking area. The company has an extensive

background in the type of work required at this historic site. While examining areas to be cleared, we visited the 35-foot wooded buffer on the west edge of the park. Here the vegetation is a bit thin, and when the cornfield area is cleared, the condominiums west of the park will be visible in several places. Evidently to save money, someone had deleted twenty-two American holly and eastern red cedar plantings from the original landscape plan before the project was passed to Mr. Lehman. After clarifying the reasons we could not widen the buffer, or leave trees in the cornfield to supplement the buffer, Mr. Lehman agreed to get the deleted tree plantings back on the landscape plan.

A week later I stopped by the park to check on progress. Mr. Rogers mentioned that his crew would soon install a "super silt-fence" around the construction area. A super silt-fence is a standard fabric silt-fence, reinforced by chain link fencing and steel posts. The "super" variety requires considerably more time and expense than the standard version, and was a requirement of the Department of Public Works & Environmental Services (DPW&ES). Overkill? Regulatory excess? It's another added cost to be borne by the taxpayers. Stay tuned.



Kearny-Stevens Trustees Ed Wenzel and Cricket Bauer Pohanka, wife of the late Brian Pohanka. Brian, Bud Hall and Ed formed the Chantilly Battlefield Association in late 1986 to fight the removal of the Kearny and Stevens monuments from the historic location.

Photo By Nancy Anwyll

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2008 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Annual dues are:

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

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

Mark Knowles, Treasurer

169 Applegate Drive

Sterling, VA 20164

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

PHONE_____EMAIL_____