

After Action Report: Spotsylvania (18 June 2005)



On Saturday 18 June the BRCWRT conducted our spring tour to Spotsylvania C.H. We had twenty-nine people participate in the all day tour. The weather was absolutely perfect and we had a wonderful day touring the battlefield.

The group assembled at the Chancellorsville visitor center at 0900 and after a short overview of the plan for the day we headed for the first stop.

We followed the route taken by G.K. Warren’s 5th Corps on 7 May 1864 along the Brock Road to Todd’s Tavern. From there we moved to the Spotsylvania Battlefield exhibit shelter to begin our visit to the main battlefield. We walked the Spindle Field loop and discussed the race to Laurel Hill. We then covered the death of Sedgwick on 9 May and Upton’s attack on the 10th. We took a break from the hard marching and had a picnic lunch near the Bloody Angle parking area.

After lunch we hit the trail again and walked to the Landrum house where we discussed Hancock’s approach for his all-out attack on 12 May. We then walked in the footsteps of the 2nd Corps as they assaulted the Mule Shoe. We continued the Federal attack until it culminated near the McCoull house in the center of the Confederate position. From there we followed the route of Ramseur’s counterattack and spent some time discussing the twenty hour close quarters fight at the Bloody Angle. A Park Ranger briefed the group on the disposition of the famous

22” oak tree felled by rifle fire during the battle (now in the Smithsonian).

The last portion of the tour took us to Lee’s last line where we observed some reconstructed fortifications and some well preserved earthworks in the woods. Our final stop was Massaponax Church site of the famous photograph of Grant’s impromptu staff meeting on 21 May during his march to the North Anna.

I would like to thank everyone that hiked with us on the tour (Keith Young says we walked seven miles). Special thanks to Mark Labeda for sharing his Blue and Gray magazines with me and to Nancy Anwyll for bringing the name tags. Thanks to Charlie Balch for the pictures. Overall we had perfect weather, no casualties and came in on time and under budget once again.

Reserve your calendars now for the fall tour to the site of the naval battle of Hampton Roads scheduled for 10 September 2005!



Very Respectfully,

Kevin Anastas
BRCWRT Field Trip Coordinator

Tour Attendees (Members and Guests)

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Kevin Anastas | Janet Greentree | Dale Maschino | Paul Thorbjornsen |
| Nancy Anwyll | Ken Jones | Rose Nelson | Jean Turrentine |
| Charlie Balch | Andy Kapfer | Bud Porter | Michael Virts |
| Dom Bumbaca | Harlan Lenius | Phil Pruna | Ed Wenzel |
| Effie Bumbaca | Sharon Lenius | Bev Regeimbal | Keith Young |
| Sandra Cox | Lyle Lovall | Mike Rumsey | |
| John DePue | Dan Lundeen | Fred Schmidtman | |
| William Freels | Curtis Myers | Mike Shannon | |