



NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY CWRT

SUBJECT: WOMEN AND THE WAR - THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

SPEAKER: JUANITA LEISCH

PLACE: CHANCELLORSVILLE VISITOR CENTER.

TIME: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989. 7:30 P.M.

In our next program, Juanita Leisch will discuss the roles women played during the Civil War. The discussion will be illustrated with photographs from the period, and will center on two themes; women's efforts to support the war and its soldiers; women's efforts to maintain the industry and economy of the society to which the soldiers returned after the war.

Juanita Leisch is a member of our Round Table who lives in Arlington. She works for Northern Telecom as a marketing analyst. She has a degree in Textile Arts from William and Mary. She is the author of Ladies Wear Daily, the first book written on women's clothing during the Civil War. She has participated in re-enactments and living history programs for twenty seven years. She has long participated with the North South Skirmish Association winning seven first place awards in the national costume competition. She has served for nine years on the national Board of Directors of the Ladies of the NSSA and is the current Vice Chairman. She is an avid collector of civilian images, especially carte de visite.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CIVIL WAR SITES TOUR

On November 11, Bob Krick and Will Greene will lead a bus tour of the Fredericksburg Battlefield. The tour will include stops in and outside the National Military Park, some well off the beaten path. Since this is a fund raiser for APCWS, the cost is \$50. This does include both a box lunch and afternoon refreshment. All proceeds go to APCWS. Advance reservations are recommended. Write: APCWS, P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, Va. 22402. For more information call Bob or Will at 373-4461.

DECEMBER BANQUET

The December program will be a banquet on Friday December 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Johnny Appleseed restaurant on US Highway 17, just west of I-95. Will Greene will speak on General "Stonewall" Jackson. For reservations or more information call Karen Rehm at 373-6122.

FREDERICKSBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEETING

Carl Morgans, a member of our Round Table, will speak to the Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table on General James Longstreet. Due to the closing of the Hot Shoppes, the meeting place and date is uncertain at this time. Call Greg Mertz for information: 786-2880 or 898-4073.

October's Program

In October, Historian Dennis Frye presented an excellent talk on John Singleton Mosby and his effect on Phil Sheridan's 1864 campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. After discussing Mosby, his strategy and tactics, Frye then posed a question: Did Mosby's raids have a great impact on Sheridan or was Mosby like a mosquito who struck and drew blood but had no effect major impact on the body?

Frye began by saying that it reading Virgil Jones's Ranger Mosby as a young boy hooked him on the Civil War. The small, unimpressive looking man who "didn't even strut" led the largest, most active and most feared group of Partisan Rangers in the war. By the summer of 1864, Mosby had become a legend whose exploits fascinated people and sold newspapers.

Mosby's philosophy was simple, harass the rear of the enemy's army causing them to detach a larger force to guard their rear. His strategy consisted of four ideas. 1) Always be the aggressor. 2) Be the scout-look for weak spots to strike. 3) Strike at night. Attack when the enemy is sleeping and the darkness conceals his size and movements. This caused Union forces in the rear to have many sleepless nights worrying about whether Mosby would attack. 4) Always have a planned route of escape. He used two tactics. 1) Always charge, never be charged. 2) Use pistols instead of sabers.

He had three objectives in his efforts against Sheridan. 1) Destroy Sheridan's supply trains. 2) Break Sheridan's communication lines. 3) Separate the Union Corps and isolate the army from its supply base.

Mosby biographers cite the August 13, 1864 raid at Berryville which they claim destroyed 75 wagons, crippling Sheridan and forcing him to retreat from Cedar Creek to Halltown. Frye stated that the Federal accounts have been ignored. A reading of the Federal accounts reveal that the raid destroyed only 50 wagons of the reserve cavalry brigade. Since the decision to retreat had been made the day before, the raid was nothing more than a slight hit. Frye cited several other examples to show that Mosby failed to achieve any of his own stated objectives.

Why did Mosby fail? Frye suggested several explanations. 1) Mosby hit the wrong targets. Since his men needed a reward, they hit easy targets like a passenger train which provided lots of plunder. 2) Sheridan's countermoves. Grant ordered Sheridan "to get Mosby" and hang his men. Sheridan hand picked 100 men to harass Mosby. The hunter became the hunted. 3) There were just too many Yankees. Sheridan detached 5000 men to guard the trains which was only a small part of his 40,000 man army. Mosby had 350 men. 4) The Yankees were better equipped. Mosby's six shooters were no match for Sheridan's Spencer repeating carbines. 5) Mosby was painfully wounded in the hip in mid-September and was out for three weeks, the crucial part of the campaign. The men could not function effectively without Mosby's leadership.

BOOK RAFFLE

This month the winner of the book raffle will have a choice of three books: Battle Cry of Freedom, the Pulitzer Prize-winning book signed by author James McPherson; The Mask of Command, by John Keegan, a comparative study of U.S. Grant, Alexander the Great, the Duke of Wellington, and Adolf Hitler; and Make Me A Map of the Valley: The Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer by Jedediah Hotchkiss, edited by Archie McDonald. Raffle tickets cost \$1. Pending approval of the Executive Board, the money will be used to buy grass seed for the White Oak Road Service project. Our Round Table and the Richmond Round Table have been asked to help re-seed and clean up this area which has been recently acquired by The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Civil War Round Table Congress

Four members of our Round Table attended this year's annual Round Table Congress in Richmond. Highlights included an all day tour of the Seven Days and Cold Harbor Campaigns. Next year's meeting will be at Pea Ridge, Arkansas during the first weekend in October.

National Park Service Superintendents spent much of the first day discussing accomplishments and problems in the battlefield parks. The biggest problem continues to be urban encroachment on the battlefields especially in rapidly growing Virginia and Maryland where only small portions of the battlefields are within park boundaries. Many parks hope to expand their boundaries. People were urged to write letters. As few as seven letters will cause a congressman to vote for an issue that does not directly impact his district. Jim Coleman, Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, said that the present administration has no agenda but that it is an improvement over the Reagan years of an anti-preservation and anti-National Park Service agenda.

Richmond Superintendent Dwight Storke stated that the biggest problem continues to be urban encroachment on the Richmond battlefields. New signs are being installed to make it easier to find the park areas, which are widely scattered over a 110 mile driving tour route. Badly needed wayside exhibits will be installed this fall. They are working hard to preserve the earthworks and upgrade facilities. They hope to build a Visitor Center on the battlefield where visitors can more easily find and use it.

Petersburg had a lot of good news to report, much of which we covered in last month's newsletter. At the City Point unit, two acres of the wharf area have been acquired and wayside exhibits have been installed. A breakwater will be built to stabilize the bluff and prevent this historic ground from falling into the James River. Currently at Poplar Grove Cemetery, buses are driving over graves in order to turn around. Land just outside the cemetery has been donated to the park. The park plans to use this land for a parking lot and close the cemetery to traffic.

Manassas Superintendent, Ken Apschnikat said that the new interpretive signs which have been in storage for almost exactly a year will finally be placed on the battlefield. After a long, unexplained delay, the signs were to begin appearing on October 24th. The number one problem continues to be commuter traffic congestion on the tour route and other park roads. Visitation has increased 40% while the size of the staff has decreased. This is another common problem in all the parks. Problems still remain at the Stuart Hill Tract (William Center or Hazel-Petersen Tract), 100 of the 500 acres were devastated by the developer, Till Hazel. Annie Snyder and the Save The Battlefield Coalition have stabilized thirty acres. The park hopes to remove the three expensive model homes in exchange for restoring the land. It may be many years before taxpayers learn how much money will be paid to the developer for destroying this historic land.

At Antietam, the major preservation problem continues to be the Grove Farm. A shopping center almost assuredly will be built on a portion of the farm where a photographer captured a glimpse of Lincoln and McClellan. However, it will be located well back from the road and the effect will be relatively minimum. Of more concern, as reported last month, is the American Legion's purchase of five acres of the farm to build a new American Legion hall when they already have a very comfortable, functional building. Superintendent Richard Rambur requested that every Round Table member write a brief letter stating your objections to the actions of the American Legion. Send it to: Hagerstown Morning Herald, 100 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, Md. 21740. The park hopes to acquire at least a portion of the farm.

The good news from Antietam is The Conservation Fund's purchase of the famous corn field. Eventually the land, which remarkably is still a corn field, will be donated to the park. Rambur stated that the park will then

be able to restore the historic scene in much of the North and West Woods. Rambur also reported that he has received nine requests to erect monuments on the battlefield. He believes that more monuments would be an intrusion on the historic scene. This reopens a debate that occurred in the 1890's at Shiloh when Civil War veterans discussed this same issue. They finally compromised and allowed fewer and less grandiose monuments than existed at Chickamauga and Gettysburg. Rambur also administers Monocacy battlefield. Legislation was passed 55 years ago to establish a park but the National Park Service has done nothing. Rambur hopes that within two years the park will acquire 1680 acres through purchase or scenic easements, build facilities and hire a staff. Fifteen acres of the South Mountain battlefield at Fox's Gap are currently for sale. This is the critical part of the battlefield. The park suggested without success that The Conservation Fund purchase the land. It is now likely that the land will be purchased by a developer.

Congress is expected to pass legislation which will expand the park boundaries at Gettysburg. While most people seem to think that the entire Gettysburg battlefield is preserved a recent newspaper article stated that only 20% is within the current boundary. Superintendent Dan Kuehn reported that the infamous tower will be eventually purchased and torn down. The driving tour will be changed starting March 1, 1990 to follow the course of the battle chronologically. This change was fought by the licensed guides and tour bus companies who will now have to change their spiels. Visitors to Gettysburg National Cemetery can now reflect on the carnage at Gettysburg without dodging cars and enduring the sound and smell of tour buses. The cemetery is now closed to motor vehicle traffic except for the physically handicapped. Kuehn, as reported in the October issue of The Civil War News, will retire November 3. A year ago, Kuehn's arrival at Gettysburg was hailed by the staff and citizens concerned about history. Kuehn cited problems with the bureaucracy, the anti-park attitude of the past several Presidential administrations, and the low pay which his staff receives. The National Park Service pays less than any other Federal agency and on the average 28% less than the private sector.

Jon Montgomery, Appomattox Superintendent, reported that the park plans to have hundreds of living history personnel assist with their 125th anniversary programs in April. This is not to be confused with the re-enactment of the surrender staged "near Fredericksburg" by Napoleonic Tactics and expected to draw a larger crowd than the 125th anniversary re-enactment at Gettysburg. Appomattox continues as the only historical park in Virginia which does not face major urban encroachment problems.

At Chickamauga, Superintendent Dan Brown reported that a bypass will be constructed to reroute commuter traffic around the battlefield. This progress comes after 50 years of debate and traffic congestion on the tour route. New wayside exhibits are being installed and the Visitor Center is being enlarged to incorporate a new orientation program which has been produced, written and paid for by the private sector. Superintendent Brown and Historian Jim Ogden are attempting to salvage the production which features an inaccurate, corny and simplistic script. Visitors will have to pay to view the program.

At Andersonville, a new Visitor Center is being constructed and the park plans to reconstruct a portion of the prison wall.

Congress has authorized the establishment of U.S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis where Grant lived before the war. Congress is also expected to create a battlefield park in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Fort Sumter Superintendent was unable to attend or send a message due to the damage caused by Hurricane Hugo. Newspapers have reported that the park suffered a million dollars worth of damage. The dock at Fort Sumter was completely carried away by a seventeen foot tidal wave. A bridge was severely damaged cutting off Fort Moultrie and the Visitor Center on Sullivan's Island from the mainland.

BRANDY STATION UPDATE

On October 16th, four members of our Round Table attended a hearing on the Brandy Station Battlefield Historic District held at Culpeper High School. The purpose of the meeting was two fold; 1) to present information on the battle and to explain the proposed Historic District and what that designation means 2) to receive public input. A decision will be made by state officials in Richmond on October 30.

As Bud Hall told us at the September meeting, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors had rejected the application for the historic district, indicating that it included too much "non-historic" land. While the initial reaction on the part of historic district proponents was to scale down the boundaries of the district, a completely different strategy has been accepted. Instead, the boundary has been expanded to include land at Kellys Ford and Rappahannock Station. These areas were important during the Brandy Station battle and at other times during the war; Kellys Ford in March, 1863 and Rappahannock Station in November, 1863. This will bring into the district parcels of land in Fauquier County, whose supervisors we anticipate will enthusiastically endorse the district.

Letters to the editor of two Culpeper newspapers urging support of the Brandy Station Historic District can help the effort. Ask for the preservation of the four key landmarks: the Beverly Ford Road, where the battle began and where Union Col. "Grimes" Davis fell moments before it appeared his men would capture the Confederate horse artillery; St. James Church, to which some of the Confederate horse artillery was able to escape forming the foundation of the Confederate line, and charged by the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry (the unit suffering the heaviest casualties of any regiment on the field); the stonewall on the Green farm behind which dismounted Confederates inflicted heavy losses on repeated Union assaults before finally being forced to retire; and Fleetwood Hill where a surprise Union attack on the Confederate rear resulted in a classic cavalry battle of charges and countercharges. The addresses are: Culpeper News; 607 South Main St; Culpeper, Va. 22701 and Culpeper Star-Exponent; P.O. Box 111; Culpeper, Va. 22701.

OTHER NEWS

We are sorry to report the death of Carroll Cahen of Locust Grove. Mr. Cahen was one of the original 35 members of the Round Table. In our spring questionnaire, he expressed concern about battlefields threatened by developers, and the executive committee asked him to serve on the historic preservation committee. We express our sympathy to his family and friends, and regret that our association with him was so short.

Greg Mertz attended a recent meeting of the Friends of the Rappahannock in order to learn more about the efforts to extend the scenic river designation over a part of the Rappahannock River including U.S. Ford and Banks Ford, two important Civil War landmarks. The Round Table executive board approved a resolution in support of the designation.

The Shenandoah Valley Heritage Alliance has been organized in response to commercial and residential developmental pressures endangering historic landscapes in the Valley. The goals of the Alliance are to: 1) Work toward the establishment of revised boundary for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; 2) Work collectively to preserve endangered Civil War sites throughout the Valley; 3) Conduct an educational program in neighborhoods and schools fostering a community "land ethic"; 4) Establish a land trust to secure conservation easements via gift, or purchase in order to preserve a vanishing landscape; 5) Facilitate preservation ordinance in three Valley counties. The executive board sent a letter in support of these objectives. For more information or to contribute write: Shenandoah Valley Heritage Alliance, Box 1000, Harpers Ferry, W.V. 25425.

New Books

Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander edited by Gary Gallagher. A remarkable and important book. Introduction by Gallagher. Maps and illustrations. 664 pages. \$34.95. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Bloody Roads South by Noah Andre Trudeau. An excellent new book on the overlooked 1864 Overland Campaign. \$19.95. Little Brown and Company. New York, New York.

Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History by Richard McMurry. 204 pages. \$19.95. University of North Carolina Press.

Tennessee's Forgotten Warriors: Frank Cheatham and His Confederate Division by Christopher Losson. Illustrations, 352 pages. \$24.95. \$19.96 when ordered before January 1 from the publisher, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Campaigning With The Roundheads by Bill Gavin (100th Pennsylvania). Photos, indexed, 773 pages. \$40.00. Morningside Bookshop, Dayton, Ohio.

Taylor Sketchbook: An Artist up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864. 637 pages. This is the book Dennis Frye brought to the October meeting. \$85.00 Morningside Bookshop.

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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