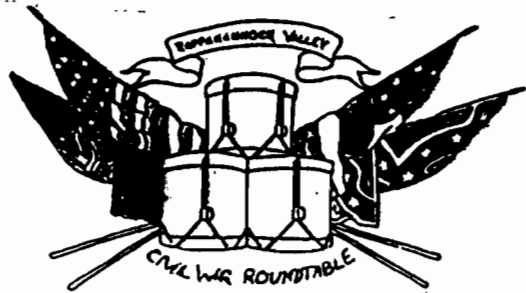


DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley
Civil War Roundtable



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Editor's Corner

Re-enactors: Best Way is to Live History

All of us have found our own ways to embrace the Civil War. For some of us, reading about it satisfies our curiosity. Others feel compelled to walk the ground where others fought. But for some of us, nothing short of living the war is ever good enough. A group of these enthusiasts showed up at our round table meeting March 12 in hopes of finding out more about the Battle of Salem Church, a fight in which their namesakes, Company A of the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment, played a big part. "I want to help people experience what the common soldier saw and felt," says the company's commander, Robert Dodd of Stafford County. "I'm looking for people who are seriously interested in a correct impression." Re-enactors have a mixed reputation. Some people believe it gives a bunch of grownups an excuse to play a little boys' game of cowboys and Indians. Not Dodd. "I feel in a sense that we're teachers," says Dodd, who is encouraging potential new members to contact him. Interested? Phone Dodd during the day at (703) 752-2630, or evenings at (703) 775-4255.

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Campbell To Speak On Appomattox Surrender

The 125th anniversary of Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, April 9, 1990, marks the next meeting of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table. Commemorating the occasion will be Otho Campbell, who will speak on the end of the Petersburg siege, and the final days of the Civil War. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Chancellorsville Visitors Center, Route 3 west of Fredericksburg.

Campbell, who would disclose only a few details of his talk, has three degrees in history -- a bachelor's from University of Richmond, a master's from American University, and a doctorate from University of Virginia.

Plan Would Expand Antietam: Foundation Needs Your Support

The Historic Antietam Foundation, Sharpsburg, Md., is endorsing a radical new plan to expand, restore and preserve the Antietam National Battlefield to its 1862 condition -- including eliminating roads, building new trails, and moving parking lots -- and its members want you to write the National Park Service to express your support. But time is short: the Park needs letters no later than April 6, so get those pens and typewriters moving. Foundation members want you to send copies of letters you write to your U.S. congressmen and senators.

The plan calls for restoring historic vistas, replanting original wooded areas, restoring historic structures, and incorporating an existing Confederate cemetery into the Park. Highlights of the plan also include adding all of Grove Farms into the Park, and building a walking path along Antietam Creek from the Upper Bridge to the C&O Canal.

Address letters to: Antietam National Battlefield, P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, Md., 21782. Send copies to: U.S. Rep. D. French Slaughter, 1404 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515; The Hon. John W. Warner, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510; and The Hon. Charles S. Robb, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510.

News & Comment of the Round Table

Round Table Announces New Mailing Address

The Rappahannock Civil War Round Table has a new address, so all you out there get out your little black books, scratch out our old address, and write in this one: Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, Va., 22404. This little reminder is specifically for groups that have been sending mail to Melanie Jordan's parents. This especially goes for Russell's Civil War Round Table Associates, the Piedmont Environmental Council, Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table, Buffalo Civil War Round Table, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Chantilly Battle Warrants Road Marker

It may not be much, but the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will place a highway marker at the site of the 1862 Battle of Chantilly in Fairfax County, which Union and Confederate forces fought in-between Second Manassas and Antietam. Destruction of this battlefield led to formation of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Drum & Bugle, and The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, encourage your correspondence. Letters should be in good taste and addressed to Editor: Drum & Bugle, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, Va., 22404. All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. We reserve the right to edit letters to meet space constraints.

Drum & Bugle

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DRUM & BUGLE is published monthly by The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, Va., 22404. Greg Mertz, President; Mac Wyckoff, Vice President; Mike Vice, Treasurer, Karen Rehn, Louis Allahut, Julie Olsen and J. Dane Hartgrove, Executive Committee At Large. Subscriptions to Drum & Bugle are \$10 per year, which includes Round Table membership. All written inquiries are welcome.

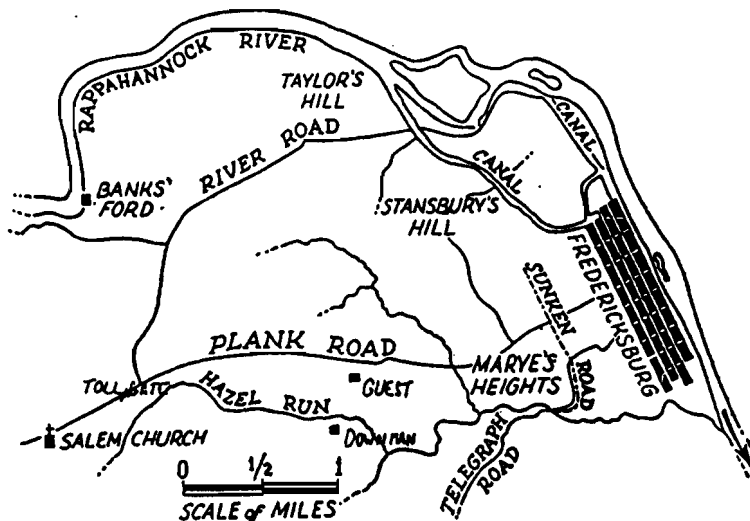
Massaponax Church Gets Historic Status

Directors of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources placed Massaponax Church on the Virginia Landmarks Register during its meeting Feb. 20. It was one of 10 new properties added to the register. Most Civil War buffs know Massaponax Church from the old photograph of Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant sitting on a pew in front of the church after the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Wilcox Delivers at Salem Church

The May 1863 Battle of Salem Church was a textbook case of how to delay an enemy attack. One of most notable protagonists, Confederate Brig. Gen. Cadmus Wilcox, held off forces of Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick long enough for Gen. Robert E. Lee to smash the Union's main body near Chancellorsville, turn, and with significant reinforcements drive Sedgwick back across the Rappahanna.

Historian and National Park Ranger Ray Brown called the Salem Church fight "crucial to the outcome of the [Chancellorsville] campaign," during his address March 12 before the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table. In a detailed description of the movements of forces under Wilcox, Brown pointed out the general's astute recognition of a Union feint near Taylor's Hill along River Road, and movement to the most crucial terrain near Salem Church on the Plank Road. Salem Church was key to the Chancellorsville battle, which "dealt the final blow to Union hopes for a campaign on Richmond that summer," said Brown.



Terrain of Wilcox's Maneuvers, May 3-4, 1863—after Bigelow

Round Table News & Events

Booth Escape Route Tour Set April 8, 14

The Surratt Society is offering two tours of the route assassin John Wilkes Booth took after he shot President Abraham Lincoln in Fords Theater. Booth was shot and killed in a burning tobacco shed south of Fredericksburg after making his way through southern Maryland and across the Potomac. The tours are 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, phone the Surratt Society, at (301) 868-1121.

Sailor's Creek Re-enactment Set April 7

Union and Confederate re-enactors will stage the Battle of Sailor's Creek, the last Eastern Theater Civil War battle before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment will also present a historic encampment. The re-enactment will be at 3 p.m. April 7 at Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, near Appomattox. For information, phone (804) 352-8987.

Relic and Book Show Set for April 7

The 18th Annual Civil War Relic and Book Show will be April 7 at Kenna Shrine Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd., in Fairfax, Va. For information, phone John Graham at (703) 823-1958.

Arms To Be Stacked: Ceremony is April 8

Civil War re-enactors will stage the historic stacking of arms ceremony, which happened after the surrender at Appomattox, at 1:30 p.m. April 8, at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park. For information, phone (804) 352-8987.

Appomattox Walking Tour Set for April 9

Living history, a talk on the Lee-Grant surrender, and Post Office stamp cancellation in Meeks General Store are only a part of activities starting at 10 a.m. April 9 at Appomattox National Historic Park and at Appomattox County High School. For information, phone (804) 352-8987.

Sailor's Creek to Appomattox Tour Set

A bus tour tracing Union and Confederate movements from the Battle of Sailor's Creek to the final surrender at Appomattox Court House will begin at 8 a.m. April 14 at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park. The tour includes visits to Sailor's Creek, Farmville, High Bridge, Cumberland Church, Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House. For reservations or information, phone (804) 352-2136.

Lincoln Remembrance Set At Fords Theater

A program in remembrance of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln will be at 7 p.m. April 16 at Fords Theater in Washington. Featured will be Civil War music. Admission is free, but reservations are required. For information, write the National Park Service, NCP-Central, Mall Operations, 900 Ohio Drive S.W., Washington, D.C., 20242.

Moseby's Confederacy Tour Set April 28

The Fort Ward Museum features a tour of Moseby's Confederacy, the area of Northern Virginia that struck terror into Union soldiers during the Civil War. Confederate guerilla John Singleton Moseby virtually owned these areas. For information, phone the Fort Ward Museum at (703) 838-4848.

Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain Tour Set

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites is sponsoring a Civil War seminar entitled "Confederate Military Leadership," and leading a field trip to the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields on May 5 and 6. The seminar, May 5, is at the Holiday Inn South, Fredericksburg. The tour is May 6. Cost is \$150, which includes transportation and meals. For information, contact the Society, 613 Caroline St., Suite E., Fredericksburg, Va., 22401. Tel. (703) 371-1860.

Battlefield Preservation News

Culpeper Planners Delay Decision on Brandy Station: Need More Time To Consider Its Impact

By Greg Mertz

The Brandy Station Foundation and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites presented specialists to the Culpeper Planning Commission Feb. 28 who pointed out the many negative aspects of the proposed Sammis development on the Brandy Station Battlefield.

Commissioners postponed action on the Sammis development until a meeting at 7 p.m. April 12 at the Culpeper County Courthouse. Commissioners said they needed more time to consider the proposal's effect on historic sites, traffic, and the environment. County supervisors want the commission to make a decision on the proposal by May.

Preservation attorney Tersh Boasberg compared the proposed 6.2 million square-foot Sammis development to plopping two Pentagons in Culpeper County. Instead, Boasberg called for clustered housing, buffered and out of sight from the battlefield.

Plan Could Cost More Than It Generates

Tim Lindstrom, director of the Piedmont Environmental Council's Charlottesville office, warned that this proposed development is more likely to bring on more costs to the county government than it would generate income.

Lindstrom said he foresees an increase in the demands on the county to provide the same services being offered others in the community, and believes the development may even create demands for more sophisticated types of services. People will benefit by whatever happens to that tract, insists Lindstrom, but the question is "Who?"

Historian Bud Hall showed the planning commissioners exactly where the significant events occurred.

Piedmont Environmental Council attorney Art Larson asked the commission to deny the request until a fiscal impact study could be performed and said that the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the impact.

Will Greene, Executive Director of the Association of Preservation of Civil War Sites, said that nowhere is his association more intensely involved than at Brandy Station, the opening act of one of the most significant military events of the war, Gettysburg. To put the losses of Brandy Station in context, Greene compared the population of America at the time of the Civil War with our nation's population today. A battle causing the same percentage loss as was suffered at Brandy Station would result in 15,000 casualties today—an action we would hardly consider insignificant.

Greene answered preservation critics by tracing the history of Civil War battlefield preservation. Union veterans, he said, played a major role in the acquisition and marking of battlefields where they had been successful, such as at Gettysburg. Later, some of the battlefields that had seen Confederate victories, such as Chancellorsville, received protection through efforts of former southern soldiers. But momentum of the preservation movement ran out before efforts reached battlefields that were not clear-cut victories for either side, such as Brandy Station.

Addressing the potential for tourism, Greene said many visitors who already visit the Manassas and Fredericksburg area battlefields will tour Brandy Station. He calculated the cavalry battlefield could draw an even higher visitation than Chancellorsville.

As a representative of the 1500 APCWS members in all 50 states, Greene apprised the commission that their decision has national impact, as he concluded his presentation.

Traffic engineer Robert Morris refuted the findings of a Sammis traffic study, estimating 15,000 trips compared to Sammis' calculation of less than 4,000 trips during the peak hours.

Round Table Bookshelf

Book Underscores War's Irony for the South

Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History
By Richard M. McMurry
University of North Carolina Press (1989)
\$19.95

By Jim Ogden III

The two principle Confederate armies differ almost as night and day. The Army of Northern Virginia had a string of victories and a cadre of successful leaders. It has also been treated far more thoroughly and favorably. But the Army of Tennessee can claim only the Battle of Chickamauga as a victory. Its leaders were generally unsuccessful and controversial. It has been largely overlooked and, still today, much scholarly work needs to be accomplished to give the Army of Tennessee a comparable place in history. Some of the most important contrasts between these fighting forces are addressed by Dr. Richard McMurry in his recent book, Two Great Rebel Armies.

An history professor at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., McMurry earlier wrote a biography of Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood, entitled John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence. He has written several articles and speaks regularly on the Civil War.

McMurry's Two Great Rebel Armies is a thought-provoking and insightful look at the forces that carried the greatest weight of the hope for Southern independence. McMurry looks at the formation of these two armies from the pre-war militia structure of the states from which the bulk of their troops came and he also addresses geography and politics. Most importantly, he considers leadership. He shows that leadership, at all levels, has a great effect on the ability of the two armies. He is among the growing body of historians today who are focusing more closely on this leadership issue.

While providing the reader with all these insights into various aspects of the careers of the Army of Tennessee and Army of Northern Virginia, McMurry does not forget one of the most important -- those armies' respective adversaries. He repeatedly brings up the effect their federal opponents had on the armies' careers. Neither of these armies fought their battles standing alone in the woods and fields as some historians might suggest in their more narrow review of events.

McMurry's writing style caps all his insights. Anyone who has ever heard him speak on the Civil War will find his easy and enjoyable speaking style translated onto the printed page. He illustrates several of his discussions with humorous examples made relevant to today.

I highly recommend this book to anyone with more than a passing interest and knowledge in the Civil War. The points McMurry addresses go a long way in helping someone understand the answer to the 125-year-old question: Why did the South lose the Civil War?

New Books

"Seeing The Elephant:" Raw Recruits at the Battle of Shiloh, Joseph Allan Frank and George A. Reaves. 215 pages. Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn.

A Tour Guide to the Civil War. Alice Cromie. 320 pages, maps and illustrations. This is a state-by-state guide to battlegrounds, landmarks, museums, relics, and sites. Third edition, revised. \$12.95 in paperback. Rutledge Hill

Press, Nashville, Tenn.
The Confederate Cherokees: John Drew's Regiment of Mounted Rifles. W. Craig Gaines. 178 pages, index, bibliography, appendixes, maps, and illustrations. \$19.95. Louisiana State Press, Baton Rouge, La.

No Better Place To Die: The Battle of Stones River. Peter Cozzens. 281 pages. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Ill.

New Superintendent To Guide Gettysburg NMP Growth

Gettysburg National Military Park has a new superintendent. Jose W. Cisneros has transferred from Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos, N.M. He takes over as big expansion plans are in the works.

The U.S. Senate has approved a Park expansion bill that would increase Gettysburg National Military Park one-third: from 3,865 to 5,765 acres. The bill includes 14 tracts of land ranging in size from 11 to 630 acres. Park Service officials anticipate acquiring most new land through easement, or buying only development rights. The bill would authorize the park to purchase 250 acres through fee simple.

The bill also would enable the Park to obtain interest in a 55 acre block where the National Tower stands, a structure many consider to be an eyesore.

It also would enable the Park to acquire 630 acres on the East Cavalry Field, where Gens. George Custer and Jeb Stuart fought one of the largest cavalry battles of the war. It would protect 208 acres on Herr's Ridge, where the Confederates established their first line of battle, and 210 acres on the South Cavalry Field, where Merritt's Federal Brigade fought for four hours on July 3rd.

North Anna Field Trip Set for April 21

The Richmond Civil War Round Table will sponsor trip to North Anna at 8 a.m. April 21, led by Will Greene. The cost is \$20 and departs from Richmond at 8:00 a.m. For information, phone Greg Mertz days at (703) 786-2880, or evenings at (703) 898-4073.

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