



DRUM & BUGLE  
Voice of the Rappahannock  
Valley Civil War Round Table

December 1992

Vol. 3, No. 12

RVCWRT'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET

Speaker: Greg Biggs

Topic: The Atlanta Campaign

Location: Aunt Sarah's Restaurant, on Route 3, west of I-95

When: Saturday, December 5, 1992. Social at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.,  
program at 7:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT!! PLEASE NOTE!! Reservations are necessary for the banquet. We have a choice of two entrees, fisherman's platter or chicken parmigiana, at \$15 per person. Please call Betty Ford at (703) 659-0128 as early as possible with your choice of entree. The restaurant requires notification a few days in advance.

While the War for Southern Independence could have been won only in Virginia, it was lost in many different places. Our December speaker will discuss the process by which the Confederates were driven from one of the most decisive theaters of the war. The campaigns in 1862 and 1863 between the Appalachians and the Mississippi had set the stage for a Union invasion of Georgia. The first attempt, under Rosecrans, had ended at Chickamauga Creek just south of Chattanooga. After Bragg's debacle at Missionary Ridge, the way seemed clear for another Union offensive in the spring of 1864. William Tecumseh Sherman, in overall command of three Union armies, faced Joseph Eggleston Johnston, commanding the Army of Tennessee. Sherman had the trust of Grant and Lincoln; Johnston was in command because Davis could turn to no one else of suitable stature. The Confederate commander was defending territory that produced crucial war materials and foodstuffs. The Union commander would be further from his supply bases with every mile his men marched down the red clay roads into Georgia. Join us as Greg Biggs explains the ensuing Atlanta campaign, so fateful for the Confederacy.

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Drum & Bugle is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. RVCWRT dues are \$15 per full year; \$7.50 for the balance of the year after July 1. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the preservation of Civil War sites. Mac Wyckoff, president; Mark Stephens, vice president; Betty Ford, secretary; Milt Ford, treasurer; Dane Hartgrove, newsletter editor; Lou Allahut, Greg Mertz, Julie Olsen, Frank O'Reilly, Lee Ann Williams, and Robert Williams--executive committee members.

## American Battlefield Protection Program Awards in Virginia

On August 5, 1992, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., announced the award of ABPF funds to a number of federal, state, local, and private sector organizations to protect significant and threatened resources at a number of Civil War battlefield sites.

The Richmond National Battlefield Park received support to conduct a pilot fieldworks stabilization project. The Park will plant ground cover for exposed fieldworks consistent with recommendations in the National Park Service Earthworks Landscape Management Manual. This project will be used as a model in future manuals and training courses. In another project, the Park will conduct boundary surveys of the sites of Malvern Hill and Fort Harrison.

The Loudoun Planning District Commission received support to undertake a multi-county planning project to preserve and manage Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley. The project will assess needs and develop specific approaches to ensure that preservation strategies for protecting these sites are integrated into local comprehensive plans for northern counties of the Shenandoah Valley.

The Shenandoah Valley Travel Association will produce and distribute a comprehensive brochure and map on the Civil War in the Valley for distribution to its members. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites was awarded funds to develop a management plan for walking trails and interpretive signs at its land at the site of the battle of Fisher's Hill. The Winchester-Frederick County Economic Development Commission will develop and install interpretive exhibits on Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley in the Kurtz Center in downtown Winchester.

Closer home, Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park received funding to develop an interpretive wayside exhibit at the "portal" to the site of the Battle of the Wilderness, focusing on the significance of Grant's arrival during his first battle in the Virginia theater. The interpretation will highlight the large tract of land donated to the National Park Service by the Conservation Fund, emphasizing the importance of public-private partnerships in preserving important Civil War sites.

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At our November meeting, Paul Sledzyk, skeletal and anatomical curator at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, gave our members an overview of the institute's collections and talked about its functions. He explained how research on the Civil War bone collections helps solve modern mysteries. The institute's collection, which is computerized, has 2300 bone samples and 600 wet samples. The samples illustrate what type of marks different tools made on the bones, and also what the bones look like after the healing process has progressed to different stages. Some Civil War surgeons were capable of crude forms of plastic surgery, such as fashioning a substitute for the lower jaw. Surgeons also practiced excision--removing the shattered bone from a limb, which could then be supported by an external brace. Mr. Sledzyk cited many cases, which were sobering but not too graphic. He talked about the experiments with Lincoln's DNA, and showed slides of various samples. The institute has helped with identification of MIA remains from Vietnam and the Gulf War, as well as of plane crash victims. Mr. Sledzyk was assisted in murder investigations, and teaches courses at the FBI Academy. One of his current projects is the examination of the contents of the lead coffins recently found at St. Marys, Maryland. The evening provided a broad look at biological anthropology, but certainly included no glorification of war.

## BRANDY STATION CASE GOES TO STATE SUPREME COURT

The Brandy Station Foundation and three Culpeper County landowners have appealed to the State Supreme Court Judge Lloyd Sullenberger's decision in favor of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors in a case protesting the industrial rezoning of 1500 acres of land on and adjacent to the Brandy Station Battlefield owned by Lee Sammis, the California developer associated with the Elkwood Downs project. The plaintiffs have asserted that the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors' decision was arbitrary and capricious, a violation of the constitutional right of heritage, and a denial of due process of law. Judge Sullenberger also denied the right of the BSF and of J.E.B. Stuart IV to act as plaintiffs in the case, but the BSF is associating itself with the appeal process.

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## CONGRESS ACTS RE FREDERICKSBURG-SPOTSYLVANIA NMP

Recent legislation allows Fredericksburg-Spotylvania NMP to accept parcels of land around Saunders Field and the Longstreet attack/Hamilton's thicket site near Fawn Lake. The acquisition must be by donation only, with no Federal funds expended for land purchase. The Conservation Fund, which has made such purchases in the past, is expected to be the donor.

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## SALEM CHURCH HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAM SET FOR DECEMBER 7

The annual Salem Church Holiday Music Program will be held on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the old church edifice. The New Salem Church choir will present a half-hour program of seasonal music, with light refreshments to follow. Note: Please park at New Salem Church, east of the old church on Rt. 3.

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## 130th Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg-Spotylvania NMP will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg the weekend of December 12-13, 1992. On Saturday, December 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., park headquarters at Chatham will host living history presentations. Chatham was General Sumner's headquarters during the battle, and was a hospital in its aftermath. Reenactors will portray staff officers, medical personnel, and local civilians protesting the activities of Union soldiers. On Sunday, December 13, the actual anniversary of the battle, NPS historian Frank O'Reilly will lead the march of the 28th Massachusetts from the City Dock in Fredericksburg through the city streets to the Kirkland Monument near the NPS Fredericksburg Visitor Center, departing at noon. The anniversary ceremony at the Kirkland Monument will begin at 2:00 p.m. Gordon Sheldon, Vice Mayor of Fredericksburg, will speak, and there will be a program of Civil War music. Union and Confederate color guards will be in attendance, and wreathes will be laid at the monument.

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Drum & Bugle welcomes contributions from the membership. We reserve the right to edit submissions to fit space available, and to correct errors in grammar and spelling. Controversial opinions are fine, even encouraged, but we will not knowingly print anything libelous or offensive to good taste.

## STAFFORD COUNTY CIVIL WAR SITES BUS TOUR A SELLOUT

On Saturday, October 24, Tom Moncure and Homer Musselman led a bus tour of Civil War sites in Stafford County under the auspices of the Stafford County Historical Society. The first stop was the site of Burnside Manor, originally known as the Phillips House, off Rt. 208 just outside of Falmouth. The original house, which served as Burnside's headquarters during and after the Battle of Fredericksburg, burned during the war.

Stafford County had a population of about 8500 (3400 of them slaves) in 1860. There were about 400 slaveowners in the county, of whom about 100 owned only one slave and about 200 owned five or less. No county in the entire United States suffered as badly as did Stafford in the war--all the trees were cut down. Every ridge between Falmouth and Aquia Creek had a Federal encampment from December 1862 to June 1863, with roughly 120,000 Yankees in residence. Stafford County's population today is only about 65,000.

The next stop was Chatham, the property of J. Horace Lacy during the war, and then known as the Lacy House. Lacy told of visiting Robert E. Lee on Maryes Heights after the Battle of Fredericksburg, and of listening to Lee reminisce about courting his wife on the Chatham grounds, though the story may be apocryphal. Lincoln visited Chatham on several occasions, and the house served as General Sumner's headquarters during the battle.

The Confederates placed artillery at Aquia Point in the spring of 1861, and the war's first naval battle was an attempt by Union gunboats to put this battery out of action. Stafford County was occupied by Irwin McDowell's 20,000 men in April 1862. McDowell's forces joined Pope's army that summer, but Burnside's Ninth Corps visited the area in August before heading north to Sharpsburg. The Army of the Potomac occupied Stafford Heights on the north bank of the Rappahannock that winter.

From Chatham, the tour proceeded east on Rt. 3, called the River Road during the war. Southeast Stafford then had five major properties, three of which--Sherwood Forest, Albion, and Eastwood--survive today. The other two were Travellers Rest, a massive house with its foundations laid on sand, which lasted until about 1930, and Snowden. An attempt to visit Sherwood Forest was foiled by low tree branches. The tour did visit the site of Snowden, which was burned by the Yankees in August 1864, in retaliation for the burning of Postmaster General Montgomery Blair's mansion, Silver Spring, during Jubal Early's raid on Washington. The Union commanders erroneously assumed that Snowden was the property of Confederate Secretary of War James A. Seddon, but the house belonged to his brother John. The house now standing on the site of Snowden is owned by the Friends of the Rappahannock.

Stafford County contributed men to a number of Confederate units, the infantry being primarily the 30th and the 47th Virginia. The Stafford Rangers became Company A of the 9th Virginia Cavalry. The Stafford Light Artillery served primarily with a North Carolina brigade, and visited North and South Carolina in the course of the war. [Note: Homer Musselman has just published an account of the Stafford Light Artillery in the H.E. Howard series]

The tour passed White Oak Church, which served as a Union headquarters during the war, then followed Rt. 608, which sits on the old RF & P roadbed, to Aquia Landing (now Aqua-Po Beach). Aquia Landing and Belle Plain served as major transshipment points for the supply of Union forces in Stafford County. A stop at Aquia Church concluded the afternoon.

The war ruined Stafford County. Property worth \$6,000,000 in 1860 was worth \$2,000,000 in 1870. Many residents migrated to more prosperous locales, and the county was among the poorest in Virginia until after World War II.

Book Review  
by  
Dane Hartgrove

T. Michael Parrish. Richard Taylor: Soldier Prince of Dixie. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992. xiv, 553 pp. \$34.95.

Here in Virginia, most of us remember Richard Taylor as one of the few subordinates of whose performance Stonewall Jackson actually approved during the 1862 Valley Campaign. It was Taylor's Louisiana Brigade that taught Jackson's foot cavalry how to march long distances at a rapid pace, as well as providing the military power behind several of Stonewall's victories. At Port Republic, Taylor and his Louisianans saved the day for the Army of the Valley, driving off Shields while Ewell held Fremont at bay. A bout with rheumatoid arthritis kept Taylor out of action during much of the Seven Days; since the acting brigade commander was killed at Gaines's Mill, the disease may have been a lifesaver. Jackson heartily endorsed Taylor's promotion to major general, which came before the start of the Maryland Campaign, and brought with it a transfer back to Louisiana.

While Taylor never returned to the Virginia theater, his services to the Confederacy neither began nor ended there. Son of President Zachary Taylor and former brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis, Richard Taylor was truly a gentleman and a scholar in the best traditions of the Old South. Educated at Yale, he was entrusted with managing the family estates in Mississippi and Louisiana until his father's death. His inheritance was Fashion, a Louisiana sugar plantation which he made a showplace. He married into a wealthy Creole family, and borrowed heavily from his mother-in-law when disastrous harvests left him in financial distress. Originally a Whig like his father, Taylor switched to the Democratic party in the mid-1850s. He attended the 1860 party convention in Charleston, and came close to averting the walkout that split the party and ultimately gave the election to Lincoln. After Fort Sumter, Taylor assisted Bragg at Pensacola until made colonel of the 9th Louisiana and sent to Virginia. When Davis decided to brigade regiments by states, Taylor got the Louisiana Brigade and promotion to brigadier general.

After service in Virginia, Taylor came home to command all Confederate forces in Louisiana. The book's coverage of events in the Trans-Mississippi theater is fascinating. Under the command of Benjamin F. Butler and Nathaniel Banks, Yankee troops looted many civilian properties, including Fashion. Always outnumbered by the enemy and often hamstrung by orders from his superiors, Taylor inflicted stunning defeats upon Union troops at Mansfield and Pleasant Grove in April 1864. If Kirby Smith had given Taylor the troops he needed, the Red River Campaign could have been a real disaster for the Union. After quarreling with Smith, Taylor was transferred east of the river, where he worked with Bedford Forrest in the war's twilight stages.

After the war, Taylor did his best to mitigate the lot of Jefferson Davis and other Confederate leaders, using his connections with Northern Democrats. Forced to declare bankruptcy in 1866, he borrowed money from New York Democratic party leader Samuel Barlow, on whose behalf he undertook various political and financial negotiations, as well as from brother-in-law Duncan Kenner. It was at Barlow's urging that he wrote his famous memoirs, Destruction and Reconstruction, which he completed shortly before his death.

Michael Parrish has written a magnificent, compelling biography of a man who epitomized much of what was the Old South. I have no reservations about recommending this book to RVCWRT's members. Get it and read it!

## COMING EVENTS

Dec. 7 -- Salem Church Holiday Music Program, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 12 -- Living history portrayals at Chatham, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Dec. 13 -- NPS historian Frank O'Reilly leads march from Fredericksburg City Dock through city streets to Kirkland Monument, noon.

Dec. 13 -- Ceremony in honor of the 130th Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg, Kirkland Monument, 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 13 -- 130th Battle of Fredericksburg anniversary walking tours from Sgt. Kirkland's Museum & Historical Society, 912 Lafayette Blvd. By donation. Reservations recommended. (703) 899-5565.

Jan. 11 -- RVCWRT meeting, Aunt Sarah's. Robert E. Lee Krick will speak on "The Battle of Falling Waters, July 1863."

Feb. 8 -- RVCWRT meeting, Aunt Sarah's. Speaker confirmation pending.

Mar. 8 -- RVCWRT meeting, Aunt Sarah's. Speaker confirmation pending.

Mar. 27-28 -- RVCWRT hosts conference on preserving Virginia's Civil War heritage, Sheraton Inn, Fredericksburg.

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