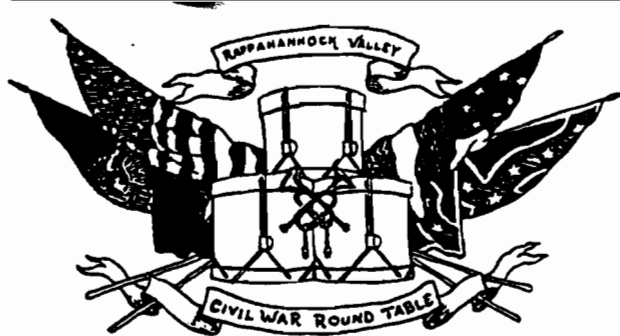


DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table



December 1994

Vol. 5, No. 12

CHANCELLORSVILLE

Speaker: Ernest B. "Pat" Furgurson, author of Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave

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

When: Saturday, December 10, 1994
Social at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. and program at 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The December meeting is held on a SATURDAY night. Please make RESERVATIONS by Thursday, December 8 by calling either Betty Ford at 659-0128 or Mac Wyckoff at 786-2470. Specify MEAL SELECTION of Chicken Parmesan or Seafood Platter. Cost of the meals are \$13.00. Because of the serving capacity of the room, only the first 50 reservations can be accepted. As always, everyone is welcomed to attend the program.

Furgurson on Chancellorsville

Prior to Pat Furgurson's book, every study of the Battle of Chancellorsville presented problems to the student of the war seeking the best book on the battle. One thorough campaign study carried a hefty price tag; books written by veterans covered only the perspective of their army, or covered specific phases of the battle; the most available book left much to be desired. Furgurson has given us--for the first time--a well researched, well written, readily available book on the Battle of Chancellorsville--available in both hardback and paperback.

Pat Furgurson is a native of Danville, Virginia. He is a graduate of Columbia College and the Columbia School of Journalism. Like our own Corporal Ford, Furgurson served as a Marine. He has had a long career as a foreign correspondent and Washington columnist for the Baltimore Sun, and has written biographies of General William C. Westmoreland and Senator Jesse Helms.

The "Drum & Bugle" is published monthly. The address for the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table is P. O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. Officers for 1994 are: Milton Ford, president; Frank O'Reilly, vice-president; Ned Hall, interim treasurer; Melanie Jordan, secretary; Dane Hartgrove, newsletter editor; Mac Wyckoff, preservation conference chairman; Lou Allahut, Jim Flanagan, Greg Mertz, Tom Quigley, and Elsa Schemmer--executive committee members. This issue of the newsletter edited by Greg Mertz

Vermont Troops the subject of November meeting

At our November meeting, Howard Coffin presented a program, which was originally designed to be presented to the speaker's fellow Green Mountain Staters. The result was a talk which not only provided our round table with information about the role of Vermont troops in the Civil War, but helped us get a feel about the point of view of Vermont citizens concerning the war, the contributions of their troops, and about Lincoln's family.

In Coffin's book Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War, he wrote the following about the Brock Road--Orange Plank Road intersection tour stop on the Wilderness Battlefield. "...it is to the Wilderness that one must go to find the place where the soldiers from Vermont made their greatest sacrifice for the cause of the American Union. Around that historic and unlovely place where two country roads still meet, Vermonters by the hundreds fell bleeding to keep Meade's Army of the Potomac from being sundered. It is a place for all Vermonters to spend a few quiet moments by the remnants of earthworks the Vermont boys threw up on those fateful days in a May of long ago....The Brock--Orange Plank roads intersection is Vermont's great Civil War battle scene."

As an example of the sacrifice near this Wilderness Battlefield landmark, Coffin wrote of Newton Stone, a 25 year old officer in the Second Vermont. Stone had been wounded in the leg, but got his wound dressed, mounted his horse, and returned to the regiment. Upon his arrival, he told his men, "Well, boys, this is rough work; but I have done as I told you I wished you to do, not to leave for a slight wound, but to remain just as long as you can do any good. I am here to stay as long as I can do any good," he concluded. Moments later he was shot in the head and killed.

Hopefully Howard Coffin's presentation provides the motivation for the members of the round table to study one of the actions of Vermonters here in the Fredericksburg area and visit one of their sites of action.

Time Renew Membership with 1995 Dues

As the new year ends, so does your membership in the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table. Dues for 1995 are payable at the December meeting or by mail to the round table address: P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. Dues are \$25 for family membership, \$15 for individuals and \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study and preservation of the Civil War--our sole requirement. To make sure that you receive all upcoming newsletters, please renew your membership this month.

BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG 132nd ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

Reenactment and Living History

Various battle reenactments, as well as medical and headquarters demonstrations will take place on Saturday, December 10. While details of places of the various activities were recently published in the Free Lance-Star, times were not indicated. Kenmore is one of the sponsors of the activities. For more information call 899-1776.

Car Caravan Tour of Confederate Right

On Sunday, December 11, the John Pelham Historical Association will sponsor a car caravan tour from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The tour will be lead by Frank O'Reilly, author of "Stonewall" Jackson at Fredericksburg: The Battle of Prospect Hill, and vice-president of our round table. The tour will cover the fighting on the southern end of the Fredericksburg Battlefield, discussing the Federal breakthrough of Meade's Pennsylvania Reserves, and the Confederate defense of their right flank, including the role of Major Pelham's artillery. The association invites the public to attend. The tour begins at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center.

Walking Tour of Irish Brigade Attack

On Sunday, December 11, the 28th Massachusetts, Company B, living history unit will sponsor a walking tour from 12 noon to 1:45 p.m. Leading the tour will be Donald Pfanz, who spoke to our round table on Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign and is writing a biography of Richard S. Ewell. The tour will follow the route taken by the famed Irish Brigade, discussing details of their attack at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The 28th Massachusetts will be making the march in reproduction uniforms and in typical Civil War marching formation. The regiment invites the public to attend this reenactment/tour. The tour will begin at the City Dock on the southern end of Sophia Street. It will conclude at the Richard Kirkland Monument in time to for the unit to participate in the ceremony mentioned below.

Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony

On Sunday, December 11, the National Park Service will sponsor a commemorative ceremony to begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Richard Kirkland Monument on Sunken Road, two blocks from the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center. The program will include the 28th Massachusetts, Co. B; 47th Virginia, Co. I; and 10th Alabama Civil War living history units. The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Daughters of the Confederacy will also participate. The program will involve color guards, field music, wreath laying, a speech by Fredericksburg vice-mayor Ralph A. "Tuffy" Hicks, and concludes with the playing of taps. For more information on any of the above three events, call 373-6124.

White House of the Confederacy Christmas tour

The Museum of the Confederacy will offer special Christmas tours of the Confederate White House on December 27. The program is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 1201 East Clay Street in Richmond. The fee will be \$5.00 for museum members, \$7.00 for non-members. For more information call (804) 649-1861.

New Book--A Government of Our Own by William C. Davis

A Government of Our Own is a logical follow-up to William C. "Jack" Davis's last book: Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour. The book focusses on the convention held from February to May of 1861 in Montgomery, Alabama, in which the Confederate government was formed and shaped. It should be available in bookstores soon.

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