

On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

PRESERVATIONISTS PREVAIL

This headline blazed across the Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star's Friday, March 27th edition, two days after the CVBT took title the 100 acres of Chancellorsville Battlefield. The property known to members as McLaws' Wedge is now in hands of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and has been saved forever for the American people.

On Wednesday, March 25th, the CVBT assumed title to the 100 acre tract of land, but there remains more to be done. The Trust still has a note on the property in the amount of \$300,000 which it still needs to pay. All donations will go to paying off this amount.

Annual Meeting

The Trust will hold its second annual meeting on Saturday, May 2nd, on the historic ground it has recently acquired to preserve in perpetuity. This meeting is open to all members of this organization and invitations have already gone out to each and everyone of our members. Please note that this meeting and dinner is outdoors, so dress appropriately and if possible bring a blanket for the picnic style barbeque. Persons who become members before the 20th of April are also welcome to attend.



CVBT purchased the rectangular open tract pictured above. It is on the left of State Route 3, looking west toward Culpeper County.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE CARR/The Free-Lance Star

The CVBT, by purchasing this site, has eliminated any chance that this land will be developed and lost to future generations. The Trust has preempted pavement in favor of dirt and grass.

To read the entire Free-Lance Star article, visit the CVBT's web site at <www.cvbt.org>.

Generous Artist

Don Troiani Donates Prints

Don Troiani has once again made a generous donation to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Not only is he a dues paying member, but he has also provided ten historical publication proofs of his new print "Jackson is With You." This dramatic scene depicts Jackson rallying his troops during the Battle of Cedar Mountain, in Culpeper County. The historic accuracy is exceptional and the current value of each of these proofs is \$275. They will be used for future fundraising endeavours. Our thanks to Mr. Troiani!

From The Archives

Previous newsletters have included descriptions of the action at McLaws' Wedge. During the three days of battle in this area, the most desperate Confederate task consisted of holding a superior Federal force in place while Stonewall Jackson maneuvered a striking force onto the Union army's right flank. We know this effort was successful, but how exactly did a smaller force distract a larger one for an entire day?

There were three elements that worked to the Confederate's advantage on May 2nd, 1863. First, the wooded terrain hindered the Federal troops from being able to visually assess their opponents' strength. Second, the Confederates cleverly deployed an exceptionally strong skirmish line, at the expense of their main line of battle. Battle doctrine of the day called for skirmishers to constitute roughly ten percent of a unit's field strength. When confronted with a strong and aggressive Confederate skirmish line, the Union troops reasonably anticipated that they also faced an even stronger main force. Third, the Union commander, Major

General Joseph Hooker, slavishly adhered to his initial plan of campaign, even though field conditions dictated flexibility. On May 1st, 1863, for example, his advancing columns had broken out of the Spotsylvania wilderness into the open country toward Fredericksburg. Hooker, however, pulled his troops back into the trees around Chancellorsville, effectively negating his enormous advantage in artillery and relinquishing the initiative to his opponent.

The following excerpt from an August 31, 1901 article in the "Atlanta Journal" was written by a former member of the 10th Georgia Infantry (Semmes' Brigade,

McLaws' Division). This account, which describes events that took place on the tract recently acquired by the Trust, illustrates the Confederate tactics that were so critical to victory at Chancellorsville.

"About dark we ran up on Hooker's strongly intrenched

lines at Chancellorsville, we bivouacked on McGee's hill to the left of the turnpike, near Chancellorsville, close to a road leading down to the left to an iron furnace. Just before dark General Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Semmes, Kershaw and McLaws all met in rear

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"About 6 o'clock that evening we heard long rolls of musketry away to our left; ... accompanied by the frightful, piercing rebel yell, was enough to appall the stoutest heart"

Stonewall Jackson's Flank March Lives Again

A group of reenactors, recruited and led by Rob Hodge, plan to recreate Stonewall Jackson's famed march of May 2nd, 1863. A regimental size unit of modern day Confederates will travel the route of Jackson's veteran infantry, to the day and to the hour, 135 years after the fact. This unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience, has been permitted by the National Park Service and Rob Hodge will ensure high standards of authenticity for a truly quality event. This march is not open to the public. The reenactors, however, will be on site during the Trust's annual meeting.

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Member Support Donations Save Two Battlefields

The CVBT is comprised of a membership that has been instrumental in preserving hallowed ground on two battlefields. The first success was Willis Hill, in Fredericksburg. This critical hilltop, which provides a panoramic view of the City and the Union approach to Sunken Road, has been made available to the public for the first time in our lifetimes. The second success is a 99 acre parcel in the Chancellorsville Battlefield, a property situated along what was once the Orange Turnpike and which provides another panorama of that historic terrain.

Our members have responded to both of these efforts and it is our pleasure to recognize them in this newsletter. The following persons have donated \$250 or more toward these purchase. In many instances, individual members as well as organizations have donated far in excess of this amount. Our thanks goes out to everyone. To justify your generosity, we continue to exert every effort to ensure that these selfless donations are directed to the purchase of hallowed ground.

Jack Ackerly, Richmond, VA; **Robert Baker**, Lancaster, PA; **John Bass**, Spring Hope, NC; **Daniel Beattie**, Charlottesville, VA; **Mr. and Mrs. McGuire Boyd**, Richmond, VA; **Dennis Buttacavoli**, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ; **Wayne Carver**, Wilmington, NC; **Harriet Condon**, Middleburg, VA; **Rodney Cook**, Atlanta, GA; **J. Dervan**, Arlington, VA; **Jacqueline Eberstein**, New York, NY; **Paula Felder**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Peter Fisher**, Fredericksburg, VA; **James Force**, Alexandria, VA; **Milt and Betty Ford**, Stafford, VA; **Claude Foster**, Plano, TX; **Joe Fulginiti**, Fredericksburg, VA; **C. Glover**, Fredericksburg, VA; **C. Goddin**, Richmond, VA; **J. Greenfield**, Spotsylvania, VA; **John Griffiths**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Ken Haack**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Clark Hall**, Upperville, VA; **David Harrington**, University Park, MD; **F. Baldwin Harrington**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Mrs. Frances L.B. Hart**, Falls Church, VA; **Carroll Hayden**, Spotsylvania, VA; **John Hennessey**, Spotsylvania, VA; **Robert Hodge**, Alexandria, VA; **Fr. William Holberton**, Bethlehem, PA;

Lemuel Houston, Fredericksburg, VA; **David Johnston**, Grapevine, TX; **Robert K. Krick**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Robert E.L. Krick**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Marshall Krolick**, Chicago, IL; **Mort Kunstler**, Oyster Bay, NJ; **Daniel Laney**, Austin, TX.

David Langbart, Arlington, VA; **Elsa Lohman**, Falmouth, VA; **Claude Mangrum**, Lexington, VA; **William Matter**, Harrisburg, PA; **Charles McDaniel**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Gregory Mertz**, Spotsylvania, VA; **John Mitchell**, Stafford, VA; **John Moon**, Marlboro, MA; **Erik Nelson**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Frank O'Reilly**, Woodford, VA; **Mark and Wendy Osborn**, Fredericksburg, VA; **James M. Pates**, Fredericksburg, VA; **James S. Pates**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Robert Paul**, Big Flats, NY; **James Peoples**, Bellaire, TX; **Mark Perreault**, Norfolk, VA; **Joseph Pierro**, Little Ferry, NJ; **Brian Pohanka**, Alexandria, VA; **David Rankin**, Charlotte, NC; **Thomas Rice**, Appleton, MN; **Enos Richardson, Jr.**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Mark Rothert**, Portland, OR; **Anne Rowe**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Marvin Rozear**, Durham, NC; **John Schmidt**, Springfield, VA; **Warren Shepherd**, Bakersfield, CA; **James Sikorski**, Bridgeton, NJ.

Simpson History Complex, Hillsboro, TX; **Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation, Inc.**, Spotsylvania, VA; **Michael Stevens**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Mary Stevens**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Wayne Story**, Woodford, VA; **Mary Anne Sutton**, Fredericksburg, VA; **The Civil War Foundation**, Berryville, VA; **Henry Trawick**, Sarasota, FL; **Don Troiani**, Southbury, CT; **Wouter Vanderwal**, Alexandria, VA; **Lawrence Velvel**, Windham, NH; **Virginia Heartland Bank**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Chris Wagner**, Davison, MI; **Frank Walker**, Woodbridge, VA; **Ed Wenzel**, Vienna, VA; **David West**, Richmond, VA; **Wheat First Securities, Inc.**, Fredericksburg, VA; **Dana Wooley**, Cedar Hill, TX; **Barbara Wright**, Charlottesville, VA; **William Young**, Fredericksburg, VA and **Alan Zirkle**, Fredericksburg, VA.

CVBT Hosts the 135th Anniversary of The Battle of Chancellorsville

The sounds of Civil War brogans will once again echo down the roadways of Spotsylvania County. 135 years after the Battle of Chancellorsville, several hundred Confederate reenactors will recreate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's famous 1862 flank march around Federal troops. Along the march route, Confederates will skirmish with Union troops, taking prisoners along the way.

"This is the first time in memory that any group has attempted to duplicate the Flank March -- one of the most amazing events in military history," noted John Hennessey, Assistant Superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

In addition to raising some blisters on their feet, the march is expected to raise funds to aid the CVBT in our quest to purchase and preserve historically significant battlefield properties. "We are grateful to all the reenactors and volunteer coordinators who are giving so much of their time and talent to this event. It promises not only to be a successful fundraiser for CVBT, but a chance for the local community to have an educational and fun-filled family outing as well," said Enos Richardson, Jr., local attorney and President of CVBT.

On Sunday, May 3rd, a living history commemoration kicks off at 10 am with Civil War Military demonstrations. Throughout the day a Living History Encampment will be set up consisting of a Civil War field surgeon, wet plate photographer, a Confederate campsite with Union prisoners of war and hands-on children's activities. The children's activities will include an abbreviated "school of the soldier," games of the 1860s and role playing about the lives of children during the Civil War, including a

chance to be a Civil War spy. Battlefield tours of the site will be given at various times throughout the day. Food and refreshments will also be available on site.

The day culminates with featured speakers; John Hennessey, author and historian Brian Pohanka and former Chief Historian for the National Park Service Edwin C. Bearss.

The site will not be open to the public on Saturday. Sunday hours are 10 am to 3 pm. Admission for Sunday is \$5 per person, with children 16 and under free. Additional details on the event are available by calling the CVBT office at (540) 374-0900.

To reach parking for this event: From I-95, take Rt. 3 West to Gordon Road. Turn left onto Gordon Road for 1/4 mile. Turn right onto Plank Road and follow the signs for approximately 4.5 miles. From the west, take Rt. 3 East to Rt. 610 (Orange Plank Road), turn right onto Rt. 610 and follow signs for approximately 1 mile. All parking is FREE, but no RVs or pets are allowed.

www.cvbt.org

Our web page continues to expand, through the generosity of members Michael P. Stevens and Gary Graham. The CVBT web site is well worth a visit and includes an inordinate number of links to other Civil War web sites. Pay us a visit. You will not be disappointed.

Membership Renewals

As we continually remind you, the Trust operates without paid staff. All organizational functions are performed by members of the Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers. This organizational philosophy translates into virtually all received donations being used to purchase dirt and grass.

Rather than paying for mailings to remind members when their membership expires, we are asking members to handle this item themselves. Individual renewal dates are shown on their mailing labels. Members should look to see when their renewal is due and use the form that is included in each newsletter, when appropriate. The money we save by avoiding renewal notices will, of course, be used to buy battlefield land. Whenever a person renews, their new renewal date will be calculated from the old renewal date. In this manner, no one will lose membership time by renewing early.



From the Archivesfrom page 2

of a battery posted there ... [J]ust about sunrise Saturday, May 2d, Stonewall Jackson and his staff rode past us again going in the direction of the furnace [this was the beginning of Jackson's flank march; the furnace referred to is the Catharin Furnace] ... The Yankees were shelling the battery near us, and desultory musket firing could be heard on our right and left; the sharpshooters ... were deployed about 200 yards in front of our main line, our right resting on the turnpike. I was ordered to report to General Semmes in person. I found him near the battery. He gave me particular instructions, telling me to make the Yankees believe we were going to charge and drive in their pickets every time they came out, but not to expose my men more than was necessary ... Grape shot were tearing up the dust and whizzing past us by the basketful. I don't quite understand to this day how we escaped. When we reached the line of the sharpshooters, we left the road, turned to the left and were completely hid from view by the dense undergrowth. [We were ordered] to advance cautiously

till we saw the Yankee pickets, then charge with a yell and drive them in, and to give them no rest day or night until further orders ... Just as we started several wild turkeys flew over us. During that day and night and next morning I think we drove in their pickets ten or twelve times ... Wofford's brigade of sharpshooters, with their usual reckless daring, decided that they would run right over Hooker's main line. They got into such a hot place that General Wofford re-inforced them and got up a fight that looked like it was going to be general and draw us all into it, but not being in accord with General Lee's plans and instructions to General McLaws, the latter ordered General Wofford to withdraw. About 6 o'clock that evening we heard long rolls of musketry away to our left; it was indistinct at first, but grew louder and came nearer as the day declined and as the sun went down the roaring accompanied by the frightful, piercing rebel yell, was enough to appall the stoutest heart ..."

This distant sound of battle indicated Jackson's flank attack had begun.

Civil War Round Tables Help Protect Battlefields

Several Civil War Round Tables have been exceptionally supportive of the Trust's mission. They have joined the Trust and receive all the advantages of membership (consisting mostly of the opportunity to contribute more funds to buy battlefields). These groups are also comprised of persons who are often individual CVBT members. Jerry Russell, of CWRT Associates, Little Rock, AR, has also helped to spread the word about the Trust and our preservation efforts. Round Tables are one of our mainstays and we would like to recognize these organizations that have joined ours:

- Baltimore Civil War Round Table, Baltimore, MD
- Civil War Round Table of Wilmington, Youklyn, DE
- Inland Empire Civil War Round Table, Redlands, CA
- North Shore Civil War Round Table, Huntington, NY
- Piedmont Civil War Round Table, Charlotte, NC
- Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Fredericksburg, VA
- Richmond Civil War Round Table, Richmond, VA
- Roanoke Civil War Round Table, Roanoke, VA
- The American Civil War Round Table, Loudon, England
- Twin Cities Civil War Round Table, Minneapolis, MN

Membership Categories

- Annual Member \$35
- Active Member \$135
- Sustaining Member \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1,000
- Life Member \$5,000
- Life Patron \$10,000
- Corporate Member \$500
- Corporate Patron \$1,000

RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member

New Member

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL MEMBER - \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE MEMBER - \$135 | <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBER - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR - \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER - \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE MEMBER - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE PATRON - \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE PATRON - \$10,000 |

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> VISA | <input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) _____

Please return completed renewal form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.**
 Mail completed form to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, 604A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.**

In a constant endeavor to keep our costs down and holding to our unofficial motto of "Dirt and Grass", the CVBT will not be sending out reminders of when your membership is to be renewed. To help facilitate your renewal efforts, we will publish a renewal form in all issues of "On The Skirmish Line". Please check the mailing label to see if you are due for renewal and clip out the form below and send it back to our office. If your membership is current, but know of someone who would like to join, please pass this membership form on to them. The CVBT would be glad to include them in our ever growing list of members.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

604-A William Street, Suite 1
 Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 374-0900 ■ fax (540) 371-4505

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