

On The Skirmish Line

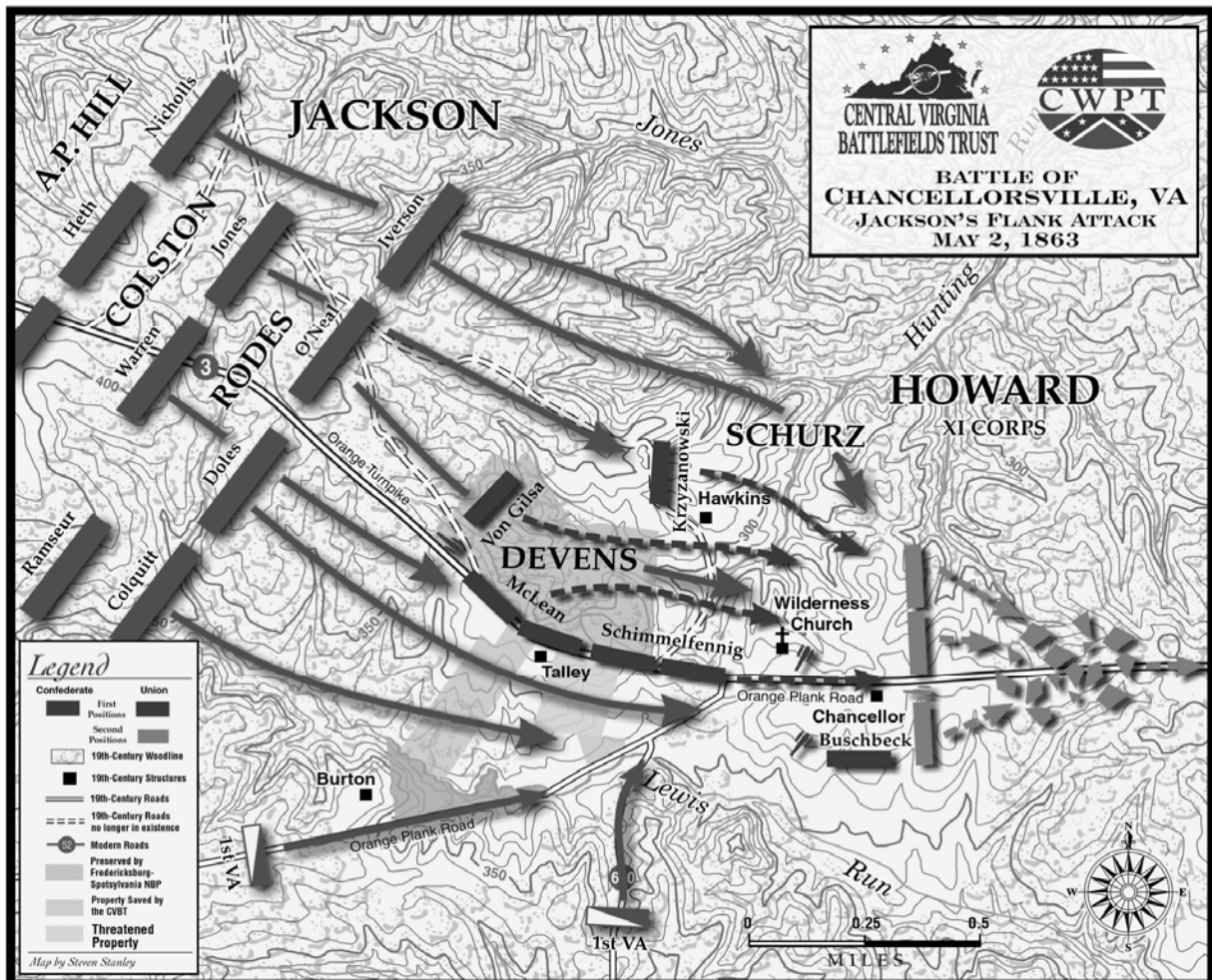
The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

Trust Saves Land on the Chancellorsville Battlefield

On May 2, 1863, approximately three miles west of a crossroads called Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson launched a daring attack against Federal troops of the Union Eleventh Corps. On March 23, 2004, more than 140 years later, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust closed on 16.37 acres

of this ground, to preserve it in perpetuity. This acquisition is one of several the Trust has been pursuing and we are pleased to announce that this particular purchase has finally been made. The physical setting is a portion of the Talley Farm ridge, just south of the old Orange Turnpike (modern State Route 3).

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On The Skirmish Line is published for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust membership at PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402. The CVBT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's Civil War battlefields. All contributions are tax deductible. A financial statement is available, upon request, from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs. Our latest IRS Form 990 is also available on our website.

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The historic significance of this newly acquired dirt and grass is related to battle action on the afternoon of May 2, 1863. The Union Eleventh Corps, as the far right of the Union army, held a line running along the Orange Turnpike. The Federal command's inattention, however, left these formations poorly deployed and unsupported. These deficiencies became all too apparent when the Confederates struck. The ground we have obtained was occupied by the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry of Brigadier General Alexander Schimmelfennig's brigade (Major General Carl Shurz's division). To their right was the 17th Connecticut Infantry of Brigadier General Nathaniel McLean's brigade (Brigadier General Charles Devens' division). In the seam between these two units, artillerymen of the 13th New York Independent Battery brought some guns into the line, pointing the cannon south.

In the late afternoon, Jackson's howling Confederates broke out of the woods to the west. The sudden attack caught most of the Federal troops, including the ones on this property, unprepared. McLean's brigade, whose troops called themselves the Ohio Brigade despite the newly assigned 17th Connecticut in their midst, rallied briefly at the Talley House. The Confederate pressure was relentless, though, and the infantry soon fled east. Four guns of the 13th New York Independent Battery were captured without having fired a shot.

The fighting on this land was brief, but very intense. As the Southerners passed through, they left the dead, the dying, and the wounded in their wake. We appeal to our members to help pay for this blood soaked acreage. We have been able to initiate the purchase, but we need funds to complete the acquisition. Donations should be sent to: CVBT, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.

The purchase price for this acreage is \$200,000. We have always prided ourselves on being able to claim that any donations sent to us would be used for dirt and grass, not paid staff. This tradition continues. While the CVBT now has an executive director, those personnel costs are being provided through funds provided by a member for these specific expenses. Consequently, we can still assure our members that donations sent to us for this new purchase will be used for dirt and grass.

“No Turning Back, A Study of the Wilderness Campaign”

The CVBT 2004 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust on May 1 and 2, 2004, will focus on the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House campaigns. Join us for our Saturday morning tour of the Wilderness Flank Attack with CVBT board member **Erik Nelson** followed by an afternoon seminar with distinguished speakers **Gordon Rhea, Brooks Simpson and John Hennessy**.

The annual meeting dinner will be Saturday evening. **Our featured dinner speaker will be Gordon Rhea, noted author and historian.** Also that evening we'll be presenting the **first annual Ralph Happel Award for Battlefield Preservation.** On Sunday join Erik Nelson for a tour of the properties preserved by CVBT....a chance to see all the “dirt and grass” your donations have saved! For more information call Donna Leahy at (540) 374-9223, or e-mail us at donna_leahy@adelphia.net. Information on events and lodging are available on our website at www.cvbt.org.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 1st

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration and Check-In, Holiday Inn Select Conference Center
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Wilderness Flank Attack Tour
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Seminar featuring Gordon Rhea, Brooks Simpson and John Hennessy, Washington Room, Holiday Inn Select
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Cash Bar, Monroe Room
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Dinner, Monroe Room
7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	CVBT Annual Meeting (election of directors), Happel Award Presentation
8:15 p.m.	Guest Speaker Gordon Rhea

Sunday, May 2nd

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Check-In, Holiday Inn Select Conference Center
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Bus Tour of CVBT Properties

REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 16, 2004

- ◆ **Register early... Bus availability limits us to 90 seats on the Sunday tour.**
- ◆ **The custom of “first-registered-first-served” will be observed.**

PRICES



The CVBT 2004 Annual Meeting

Full weekend package	\$150.00 members/\$170.00 nonmembers (includes Saturday and Sunday tours, and Saturday dinner)
Saturday package	\$125.00 members/\$135 nonmembers (includes Saturday tour and dinner)
Sunday package	\$35.00/members/\$55 nonmembers (includes Sunday tour)
Saturday night dinner	\$30.00 adults/\$50.00 couples/\$20.00 children (under 17)

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER CHOICES:

Please make your selection. Servers will re-confirm your choice that evening

- 1. _____ **London Broil**
Marinated Flank Steak served with a mushroom Madeira Sauce
- 2. _____ **Chicken Tarragon**
Boneless Breast of Chicken topped with Tarragon Demi Cream Sauce
- 3. _____ **Vegetarian**

All dinners include a house salad with house dressing and a choice of coffee, tea or soda. Dessert will be New York Style Cheesecake.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE/E-MAIL: (contact) _____

Sign me up for:

- Weekend Package - \$150 (members) x _____ Weekend Package - \$170 (non-members) x _____
- Saturday Package - \$125 (members) x _____ Saturday Package - \$135 (non-members) x _____
- Sunday Package - \$35 (members) x _____ Sunday Package - \$55 (non-members) x _____
- Dinner - \$30 (adults) x _____; \$50 (couples) x _____; \$20 (children) x _____

Amount of payment: _____ **Method of payment:** Check Visa Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature (required for credit card orders) _____

**Please return completed registration form with credit card information
or a check payable to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**

Upcoming Events . . .

Smoke & Sorrow: Shenandoah Valley 1864 – a Symposium

In the fall of 1864, as the Union solidified its control of the Shenandoah Valley, Federal troops passed from village to village, destroying farms, mills, and livelihoods in this “Breadbasket of the Confederacy.” Mark your calendar for May 21–22 to join noted historian John Heatwole and Jeffrey Wert as they help us to understand this devastating time. Participants will also be able to choose from three tours exploring the personal stories of this tragic consequence of the American Civil War. For more information, visit ShenandoahAtWar.org, where more details and online registration information are available. This symposium is sponsored by the Crossroads – the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, Bridgewater College, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, which is the management entity for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. This is a 140th Anniversary event, in the Shenandoah Valley. For more information about the full calendar of 140th events, visit Valley1864.com.

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield 140th Anniversary Events

In May 1864, the Union Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River, initiating what became known as the Overland Campaign.

On May 5th, the Confederate Army

of Northern Virginia confronted this force in the tangled secondary growth known as the Wilderness. The commanders of the two forces, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, established headquarters at opposite ends of the sprawling Ellwood plantation and for two days they fought each other to a bloody standstill. During the night of May 6th, as the woods of the Wilderness burned, Grant disengaged his army and marched it south, toward Spotsylvania Court House. There would be no turning back.

In this anniversary year of the opening of the Overland Campaign, the Friends are sponsoring a series of events, including art shows with John Paul Strain, guided tours of Ellwood, a bus tour of the Wilderness battlefield, a dinner with James Lighthizer - President of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and lunch with David Jordan - author of *Happiness is Not My Companion*.

This commemoration will commence on April 29th and continue through May 1st. To register for any or all of these events, you may go online, at www.fowb.org, or call 540-972-4782.



140th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Spotsylvania

During the weekend of May 7, 8, and 9, 2004, Belvedere Plantation just off Route 17 South in Spotsylvania County will host a 140th anniversary re-enactment of the battles fought in early May 1864. Three battle scenarios will take place with a quarter mile of authentically constructed trenches on the plantation grounds. Throughout the weekend, re-enactor musicians will perform and demonstrate how music served as a means of communication for soldiers during the war. Other demonstrations will include teams of horse-drawn artillery, an infantry company, a squad of cavalry, and a functional contingent of engineers. On Sunday, May 9th, former National Park Service chief historian and noted Civil War scholar Ed Bearss will lecture on “The Battle of the Mule Shoe.” For updated information and spectator tickets, please visit the event website at www.spotsylvania140th.com.

RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member New Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email address: _____

Membership Category:

Annual Member—\$35

Active Member—\$135

Sustaining Member—\$250

Patron—\$500

Benefactor—\$1,000

Life Member—\$5,000

Life Patron—\$10,000

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Corporate Patron—\$1,000

Method of Payment:

Check

VISA

MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____

Signature (required for Credit Card)

Please return completed renewal form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**
Mail completed form to: **CVBT, Attn: Membership, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

We do everything we can to make sure your donations go to **“Dirt and Grass”**. To help keep our costs down we rely on you to check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal. If your membership is current, but you know of someone who would like to join CVBT, please pass this membership form on to them.



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