

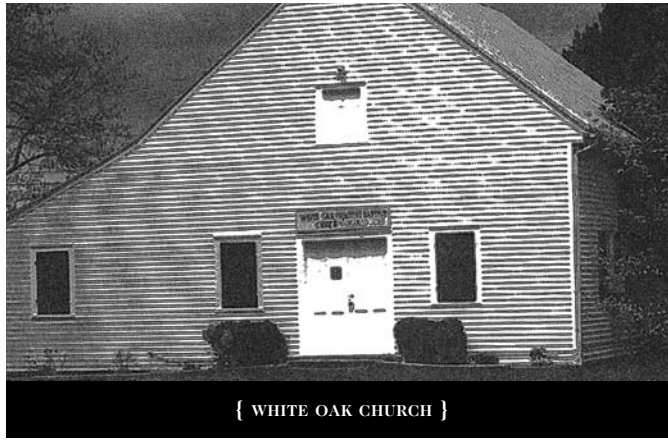
{ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 }

and other things could not carry all. Myself, our boy Bob took two Libby stoves, slung them on my musket and started.

We got separated from the others and in the darkness we traveled around to find our regiment or brigade but could find neither. We spread our blankets and laid down and being very tired, soon slept.

Towards morning it began to rain and when we awoke in the morning we were lying in a pool of water and thoroughly drenched. We got up and started. After looking nearly all day we found the regiment.

We remained in these woods until the 17th December when we [marched] at 8 AM and arrived at camp near White Oak Church about 2PM.



{ WHITE OAK CHURCH }

The regiment remained in camp until January 20th, when it received its orders to march. Having been on picket duty, Henry Taylor and others were last in breaking camp and securing rations. As a result, they were several hours behind the rest of the regiment. They marched until late afternoon when they halted and took rest at the camp of the 38th New York.

While resting it continued to rain and it did fairly pour. And as we were in a good tent we had no notion

to turn out again as darkness was coming on. So we stayed until the morning when we moved out, it still raining very hard. But as we took the wrong road and got lost in our endeavors to find the regiment and did not rejoin them until the 23rd, the day they returned to camp.

And it having rained the whole time and the roads having so much [traffic] on them were one complete quagmire. Wherein horses and mules go out of sight and the wagons to

the boxes. The guns were stuck, the supply trains stuck, the pontoons stuck, and the soldiers stuck, but if they were tall they might by chance keep their head above the surface of the mud. And what was the most annoying of all, the rebels on the opposite bank put a board on which was painted in large letters, BURNSIDES ARMY STUCK IN THE MUD, as we floundered about. And still further up the river our men were pulling at one of the pontoons trying to extricate it, they hollered out "Don't you want us to lend you two or three regiments to help you get them pontoons out and for we want you to hurry over with them supply trains for Jackson and Lee want to help you unload them." It was a complete failure throughout. sl

## CVBT Communications

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust members have noted in the past year that we have "ramped up" our communications effort. This has been done in an effort to keep our members fully apprised of preservation land issues, events and critical news. Our popular newsletter is a well received quarterly publication, full of good information, yet times are such in this area of Virginia that preservation issues present themselves almost on a daily basis. For these reasons you have seen that our new website has been loaded with current information and is updated monthly, more so if needed.

We have also created a Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Communications e-mail program to inform members of issues and events as quickly as possible. To date we have the e-mail addresses of most of our members, but would like to add as many additional addresses as possible to complete this communication system. Be assured that we at Central Virginia Battlefields Trust will not share or use your address for any other purpose other than to send you timely information. We adhere to a strict privacy policy. If you have not received a Central Virginia Battlefields Trust e-mail in the past two months this means we do not have your address. If you would like to be a part of this communication network, with the assurance of strict privacy, please e-mail your address to Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Director of Communications at [comdir@cvbt.org](mailto:comdir@cvbt.org). sl



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 The Trust's mission is to purchase Civil War battlefield terrain and to advocate for battlefield protection at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

For information on membership, please write to the Trust at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402; call our office at (540) 374-0900; or visit our website at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

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Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

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## Join us for an evening with Gordon C. Rhea

On November 16th the Central Virginia Battle fields Trust will present “An Evening with Gordon C. Rhea.” The evening’s festivities will take place at Fredericksburg Square, in downtown Fredericksburg and owners Van and Deborah Perroy have stepped up to sponsor this event. The Perroys have been strong supporters of the CVBT and we thank them for their generosity.

Gordon Rhea, well known author and leading authority on the Overland Campaign, will be our guest that evening. Gordon has written extensively on the 1864 campaign in Virginia and has completed four volumes of what will eventually be a five volume set. Individual titles include the following:

1. *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5–6, 1864*
2. *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7–12, 1864*
3. *To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13–25, 1864*
4. *Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26–June 3, 1864*

He is currently working on the fifth and concluding volume in this definitive series of what is arguably the most critical period of the entire war.

All of these books will be available at our November event, but the highlight will be a newly published companion volume of photographs of the Overland Campaign battlefields. The title is: *In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee: The Wilderness through Cold Harbor*, and it is a superb selection of photos. Members of the CVBT who have been so supportive through the years will find this new book to be a compelling reminder of why we do what we do.

Gordon will also be on hand to sign copies of his new book as well as his other volumes, whether you purchase them that evening or bring in volumes from your own libraries. As we said, the event will take place at Fredericksburg Square, 525 Caroline Street, in downtown Fredericksburg. There is parking on site as well as at a parking deck within a half block. The evening will start at 6 PM and run until 9:00 PM. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar are included. Event costs are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 per couple. Please visit the CVBT web site at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org) for full details and registration information.

Don’t miss an opportunity to spend this evening with one of the most knowledgeable Civil War historians and authors today! We promise you an entertaining experience.

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# Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Offers Unique DVD

**I**t is certainly no secret that Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has been working diligently towards our one million dollar fund raising goal to help save the Slaughter Pen Farm on the Fredericksburg battlefield. The total twelve million dollar price tag is the most ever paid to protect a Civil War battlefield. As you are undoubtedly aware, the CVBT has been able to contribute \$625,000, so far, towards that goal.

To continue our Slaughter Pen Farm fundraising effort, we have produced, in-house, a unique DVD. Members should have received their own copy, which includes never before seen or released aerial video, with narration by Robert K. Krick retired Chief Historian of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Period and contemporary still photographs are also included.



This eighteen minute video was produced entirely by volunteers Tod Rheinholtz, (also the pilot), and CVBT board member Tom Van Winkle. We thank Tod for his brave venture into the airspace over the battlefield and for his time invested in this project.

The Civil War Preservation Trust has also distributed twenty eight thousand copies to its members with an invitation to donate to either organization to further the fund raising.

The CWPT have always been strong partners and both organizations have stressed that donations to either organization will go toward the acquisition of this hallowed ground.

While supplies last, this limited, one-of-a-kind DVD will also be sent as a thank you for future "generous donations" to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. **SL**



**ON THE SKIRMISH LINE** is published for the CVBT membership at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402. Contact CVBT at 540-374-0900 or [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org). The CVBT is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A financial statement is available, upon request, from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

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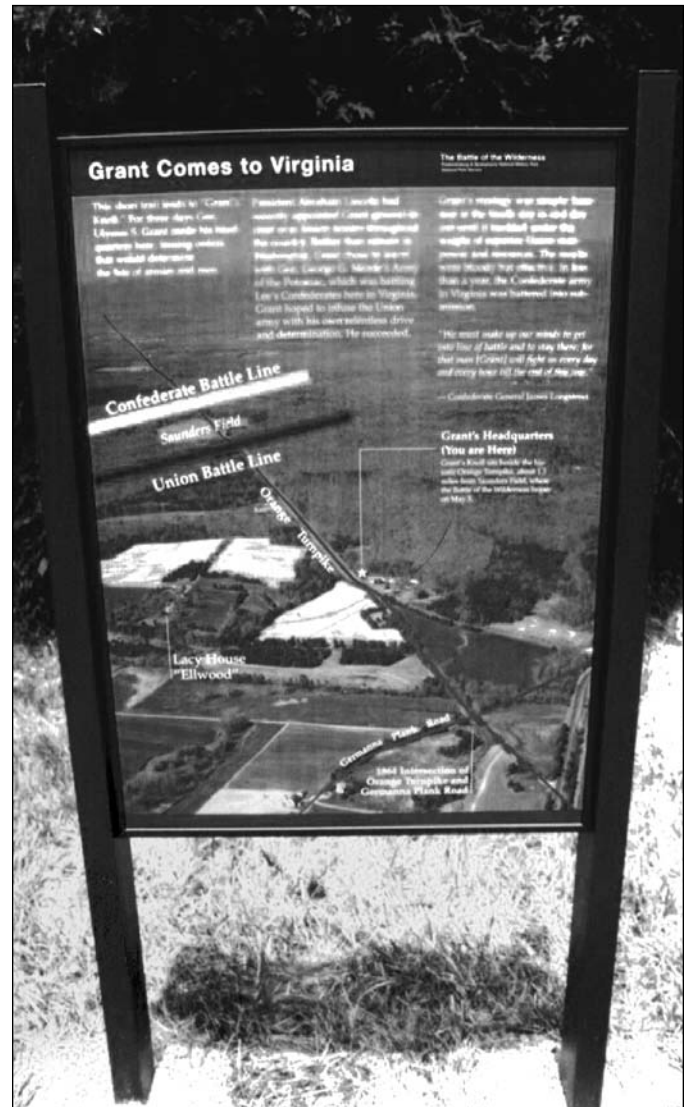
## CVBT Weighs in on Wilderness Crossing Rezoning

On Thursday, July 19, the Orange County Planning Commission met for the rezoning of a 176 acre tract, from agricultural to general commercial zoning. The application was for property west of Route 20, in the vicinity of Route 3. In a historical context, this area is in close proximity to the Grant's Knoll property held by the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the National Park property that includes Grant's headquarters in the Wilderness as well as the Lacy House, (Ellwood), site of Stonewall Jackson's amputated arm, field hospital in the 1863 Chancellorsville campaign, and focal point in the 1864 Wilderness battle.

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust board member Harriett Condon represented the organization at the meeting and spoke against this rezoning. A letter was also drafted to the Board by CVBT sighting the reasons the rezoning should be denied. Also on hand was Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park Superintendent Russ Smith who stated "Such a rezoning would degrade Orange Counties tourism resources" in that area.

If passed, the rezoning would pave the way for not only commercial and retail development but reignite the hotly debated proposal to make Route 20, the historic road that courses through the Wilderness Battlefield, into a four lane highway.

The Orange County Planning Commission firmly rejected the project. The issue was then brought before the Orange County Board of Supervisors, with the Planning Commission's recommendation against it, on August 28th. With a unanimous vote of no, the Supervisors denied the rezoning request. **sl**



## Changing of the Guard

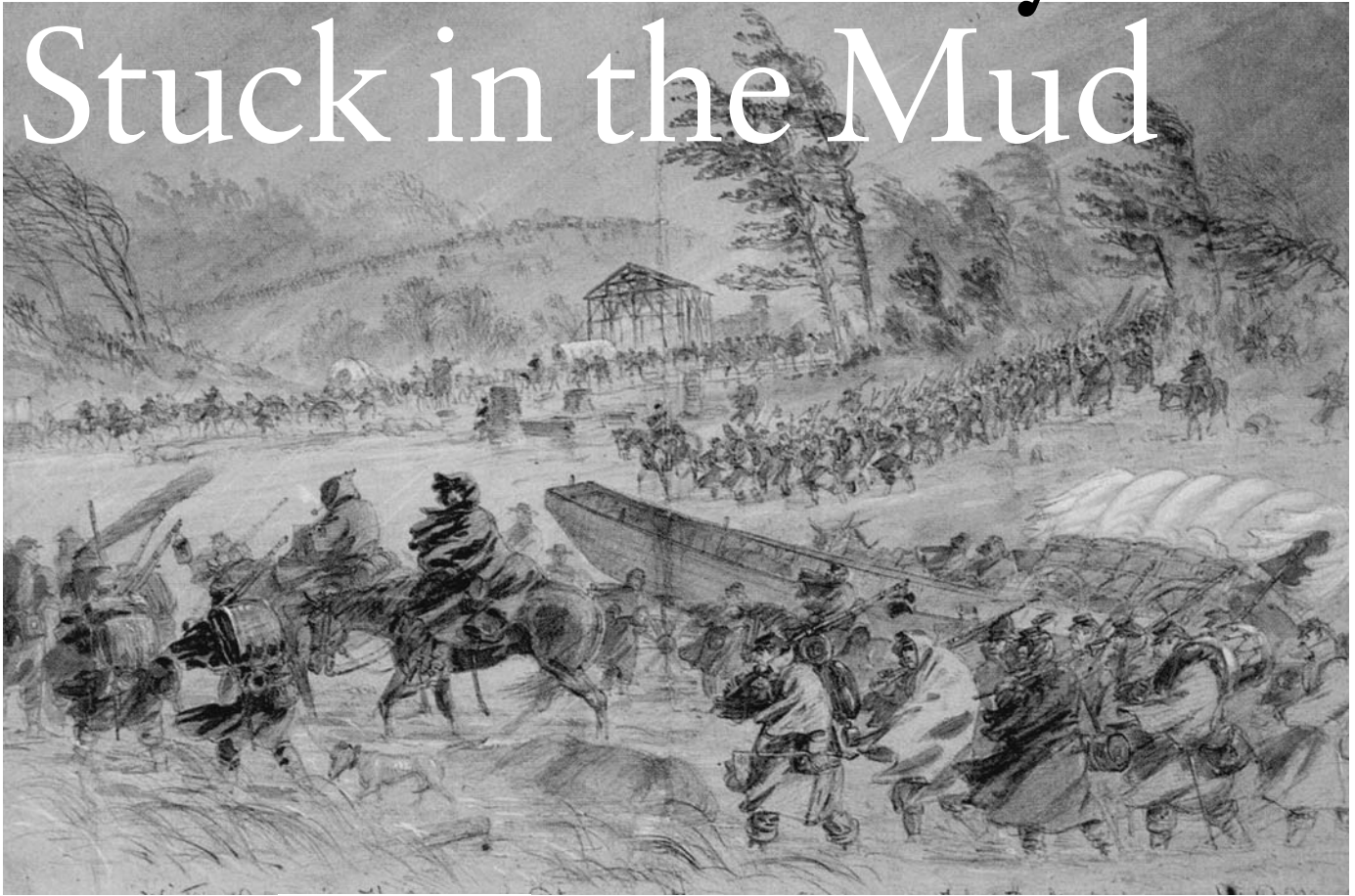
For years Central Virginia Battlefields Trust members have been enjoying the newsletter you are now reading, The Skirmish Line. These pages have always contained news from the preservation front, our accomplishments in saving hallowed ground and many interesting historical articles. What most members do not know is who has been behind this successful publication, the person tirelessly banging away at the keyboard to produce these pages. That individual is none other than Board Member and current Vice President Erik "scoop" Nelson.

After years of creating quarterly issues of our fine newsletter Erik has decided to retire his visor and notepad. As of the writing of this issue the new newsletter editor is Board member Tom Van Winkle. Tom is currently Director of Communications and Webmaster. Tom has vowed "I intend to maintain the high standards infused in The Skirmish Line by Erik. Where there is news I will write it, where there is no news I will make something up."

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust thanks Erik Nelson for his years of excellent work and determination to write the best newsletter in the preservation arena, well of course we are somewhat biased. **sl**

# Burnside's Army

## Stuck in the Mud



**T**he following excerpts are from the surviving journal of Henry Taylor, Private in the 21st NJ Regiment at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The 21st NJ served in Thomas H. Neill's brigade, of Albion Howe's division, of William F. Smith Sixth Army Corps. Neill's brigade crossed the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg and advanced to present day Route 2, then the Bowling Green Road. The regiment was in support of the First Corps, which attacked General Stonewall Jackson's Confederates at Prospect Hill. The following excerpts begin on December 15th:

**"...What was the most annoying of all, the rebels on the opposite bank put a board on which was painted in large letters, BURNSIDES ARMY STUCK IN THE MUD, as we floundered about."**

*Early in the morning we fell way back to the bridges and laid out in the open plain with not a tree to shelter us. We were right in front of the enemies guns and they could have killed all of us, but the pickets afterwards said that General Lee and the Army said it would be a great sin upon him to mow*

*down and exterminate us as he might have done as it was not the poor soldiers fault but the nearsightedness of our officers.*

*That night at 8 o'clock we commenced to retreat across the river. After crossing the river, we were drawn up in line of battle and remained until about*

*half past two the following day, the 16th.*

*That day six of us in our company were on guard duty at the General headquarters and the order came to march. We hurried and packed up to move. The wagon that was to carry the Generals tents {*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 }**