

# On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

## Talley Farm *Debt Reduced*

Member response to the Talley Farm campaign has been exceptionally strong. Consequently, we are pleased to announce that we have been able to make an additional payment of \$25,000, to reduce our overall interest costs. As our members already know, we paid a sizable down payment (\$90,000) when we purchased this property. The remaining \$100,000 was financed for a five year term. This additional payment has considerably reduced the time until this property will be held by us free and clear.

It is our pleasure to recognize those members who have contributed to this Talley Farm campaign:

Mr. Kenneth H. Adams Jr., Mr. Barton C. Allen, Mr. David W. Armstrong, Dr. G. Russell Aylor Jr., Mr. Kirk Baird, Mr. Richard P. Baker, Ms. Ethel Baxter, Daniel J. Beattie Ph.D, Mr. Robert A. Bermant.

Mr. G. Miles Biggs Jr., Mr. Richard C. Bowles Jr., Mr. & Mrs. McGuire Boyd, Mr. Edward C. Browne, Jr., Jon and Vonette Bryson, Mr. Childs Frick Burden, Mr. Randolph F. Caldwell Jr., Mr. Dale Call, Mr. Joseph R. Carraway, Ms. Katherin Chambers, Mr. Frank Chiles, Mrs. Elise Pinckney Cimmino, Mr. George K. Combs, Ms. Harriett M. Condon, Mr. Ralph D.

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## *From the President:* CVBT Preservation in 1999

This past year has seen the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust gain more ground. Several land purchases, pursued and negotiated in 1998, finally came together in 1999. Members who patiently stood by us during those times have been rewarded with dramatic progress in keeping hallowed ground unspoiled. As we celebrate these successes, however, even greater challenges loom ahead.

Before reviewing the Trust's 1999 acquisitions, I would like to remind our members that they are part of an award winning organization. This past March, the National Park Service presented the CVBT with its Northeast Region Conservation Award for 1998. This award generously recognized our first three real estate transactions - Willis Hill, Flank Attack, and Ashley (McLaws' Wedge). Members who participated in these campaigns should stand tall.

While awards are certainly welcome, our reason for being is to acquire dirt and grass. In May, the Trust held its annual meeting on battlefield land we purchased in 1998. A symposium on May 1st included National Park Service historians Frank O'Reilly, Don Pfanz, and Bob Krick who recounted the events of the Chancellorsville campaign, on the very ground where it occurred. In the late afternoon, members and guests gathered in this dramatic setting for a barbeque and business meeting. There was still more to come. Ed Bearss and Bob Krick capped the day's events with a candlelight program at the Lee-Jackson bivouac site - 136 years to the day - after these two re-

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## Fighting Sprawl: A Never Ending Battle of Preservation

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*Annual Meeting*  
*The Trust looks forward to you attending this year's Annual Meeting located on the grounds of the White Oak Civil War Museum. This year's meeting is surely to be memorable. Please see page seven for more information and registration form. See you in May!!*

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The Preservation Alliance of Virginia has published some rather startling statistics about land development trends. This issue is of increasing interest to preservation groups because patterns of development can either threaten or help to preserve a community's setting. The word "sprawl" is used to describe development that spreads out across the landscape, rapidly gobbling up land, changing rolling hills, farms, and woods into subdivisions, shopping centers, and parking lots. To understand how this consumption of land affects us all, we need only consider the statistics.

The rate of land development now exceeds the rate of population growth. Between 1960 and 1990, land included within Virginia's metropolitan areas increased 363 percent. The population within these metropolitan areas, however, increased by 161 percent. The population increase is certainly considerable, but it is less than half the rate of increase in land being bulldozed for development. Our population consumes more space per capita than ever before.

Other statistics reported by the Preservation Alliance of Virginia reveal the loss of actual farmland as well as forest land. Between 1965 and 1997, Virginia lost 3.8 million

acres of its farmland to development. The American Farmland Trust reports that Virginia is losing 45,000 acres of prime farmland per year (or an astounding 125 acres per day). Figures for the loss of forested land are not as complete, but are still revealing. Between 1976 and 1992, Virginia lost 370,000 acres of forest.

Land development is an inevitable part of human history. Development provides jobs, homes, and (if accomplished properly) communities. Projections for the next ten years indicate Virginia's population will increase by one million persons. This growth equates to a need for approximately 400,000 new homes. There is a clear market demand for more housing and the commercial development which will meet these needs. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust does not want to halt this inevitable growth. Instead, our interest is to help protect those areas of this region which are important to local citizens as well as to visitors, as places which define the American experience.

Since the Fredericksburg area is growing more rapidly than other parts of Virginia, the time for action is now. What is not preserved within the next decade or so will surely be gone.

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### On The Skirmish Line

is published for the CVBT membership at 604-A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Telephone numbers are 540-374-0900 (local), 888-374-0900 (toll free). 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.

#### The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. Board of Directors

John D. Mitchell <i>President</i>	Michael P. Stevens, MD <i>Treasurer</i>	Harriett Condon Lloyd Harrison Carroll Hayden Jerry Logan James M. Pates	Enos Richardson, Jr. Rebecca Rickey Anne W. Rowe Steven Stanley
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# The Presidents Message

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owned soldiers met there for the last time.

During the summer, our land negotiations finally began to show results. In July, the Battlefields Trust purchased a 5.39 acre house site along Route 3. Instead of a house, though, this land - with its Federal earthworks and historic road trace - will remain untouched and wooded. In August, a tiny parcel (approximately one-third of an acre) came into Trust ownership. This site is where Major John Pelham fired the opening shots of the Battle of Fredericksburg, on December 13th, 1862. One third of an acre is rather small, but we will try to acquire adjoining parcels to expand this holding. Finally, in September, we closed on 25 acres in the Jackson Flank Attack area. This site is a portion of the historic Talley Farm and also includes Federal earthworks.

While these successes are welcome, other challenges loom just ahead. In December, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors rezoned a significant part of the Chancellorsville battlefield for office and retail development. This area lies outside the authorized boundary of

the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, but is still important ground. The Trust will meet these events as we have met others - head on. We do so with the confidence that our members would have us do no less.

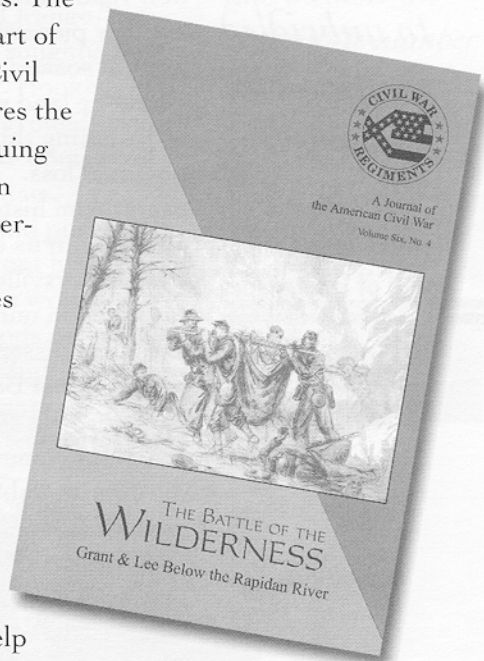
The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust wishes its members all the best for the coming new year and we look forward to working with you in the year 2000.

John Mitchell  
*President*

## Book Sales to Help Preserve Battlefields

Thanks to a generous proposition by the Savas Publishing Company, the CVBT can offer you, the member, an opportunity to purchase "Civil War Regiments: The Battle of the Wilderness." A part of the Journal of the American Civil War Series, this volume explores the many facets of this most intriguing battle. Articles include: Gordon Rhea's "The Battle of the Wilderness and its Place in the Civil War," Kelly O'Grady's "Plashes and Ambushes: Irish Antecedents and the Fighting in the Wilderness" and Melissa Delcour's "The Battles of Brigadier General John Marshall Jones."

For just \$19.95 (including shipping and handling), you receive a fantastic book and help the CVBT preserve our Nation's Heritage. Your volume will be autographed by some of the historians that are featured in this exciting issue. To reserve your copy today, call Mike Stevens at (540) 371-3115.



## Members' Privacy

Like most non-profit organizations, the Trust likes to publicly acknowledge member donations. We typically print a list of those who have contributed to the preservation of battlefields, in one of our newsletters. Members are listed under their various membership categories and we also like to recognize those persons who are Charter Members. Some of you, however, may not want such recognition. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please let us know and we will respect your wishes. If we do not hear from you, we will include your name as a contributor, in our next newsletter.

## Saving a Battlefield

*Already Zoned for Commercial use*

### The Challenge

On December 14th, 1999, the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors zoned a 56 acre tract of farmland for commercial use. Such land use decisions are how local jurisdictions guide development within their localities. This particular decision, however, threatens to obliterate a large portion of the Chancellorsville battlefield where significant fighting took place on May 1st, 1863. On January 5th, 2000, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust responded to this action by formally stating its intent to preserve this hallowed ground.

The pressure to develop land comes from a growing population and localities must certainly try to meet these needs. The pressure to develop this historic ground, however, appears to be driven by speculation on where a new federal aid highway is to be located. If this highway is built, the citizens of this country will not only pay for the anticipated new road (through their taxes), but lose yet another piece of their heritage - in this case, ground soaked with the blood of brave men, when the land is subsequently developed.

Rezoning this land is the first step in its potential loss. The sequence of events to overwhelm historic terrain with pavement has already run its course on another part of the Chancellorsville battlefield, at Salem Church (as noted in our Spring 1999 newsletter). Only one dissenting voice on the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors had the nerve to state the obvious, when this land was zoned for commercial use: "We're opening the door to unbridled commercial development of Route 3..."

What is it about this particular land that is so important? After all, there is plenty of other battlefield land to be had elsewhere. The Battlefields Trust finds two related reasons for taking a stand. First, this terrain is where General Robert E. Lee altered the course of the Chancellorsville Campaign, by seizing the initiative from his adversary, Major General Joseph T. Hooker. More about this later. Second, this area is the

eastern gateway to the Chancellorsville battlefield park. Whatever is not preserved within the next few years is going to be gone forever. Development has already consumed the Salem Church battlefield and will consume this area next.

### The Historic Events

On May 1st, 1863, the Union Army of the Potomac's spring campaign had been underway for several days. Already, Hooker had marched a two corps far upstream, to cross both the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, in order to approach the Confederate army, at Fredericksburg, from the west. Another Federal corps had crossed the Rappahannock, at Fredericksburg, and was preparing for battle.

Lee had watched the Union force at Fredericksburg set up its bridges and cross to the south bank. These Federals, however, did not appear aggressive enough to be the main effort. Lee responded by leaving a force of 11,000 infantry and 65 guns with crews at Fredericksburg, and headed west with the rest of his troops and Stonewall Jackson to meet the Union columns advancing from that direction.

Major General Richard H. Anderson already had a small Confederate force busy fortifying the ridge where the Zoan Church is located. When Lee and Jackson arrived, however, any plans to **await** the Federal advance were quickly superceded. Jackson intended to attack, even though his command was still strung out along the approach roads.

About mid-morning, when Jackson moved forward from Zoan Church, Hooker pushed three of his own columns forward. One of these, under Major General George G. Meade, advanced toward Banks Ford, on the River Road. Another, under Major General Henry W. Slocum, pushed out the Plank Road. Major General George Sykes led a column out the Orange Turnpike (State Route 3).

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*We're opening the door to unbridled commercial development of Route 3...*  
**Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors**

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# Saving a Battlefield

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The area north of the Orange Turnpike was open fields, much as it looks today. The area south of the Turnpike was wooded. The approaching action would occur north of the road, in the open. While Anderson advanced along the Plank Road, toward Slocum, Major General Lafayette McLaws pounded up the Turnpike. The point of impact would be the land recently zoned to allow commercial development.

On the morning of May 1st, 1863, the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry had its pickets at the Alsop Farm, where Confederate skirmishers of the 12th Virginia Cavalry found them. Their confrontation opened the day's fight. The Virginia troopers pushed back their Federal counterparts until they discovered Union infantry emerging onto the sloping field at the Reuben McGee farm. These bluecoats were United States Regulars, of Major General George Sykes' division and they quickly swept the Southern cavalymen back to the Lewis farm.

The Union army wasn't the only one feeding reinforcements into the battle. At the Lewis farm, Sykes encountered five regiments of Virginia infantry, Brigadier General William Mahone's brigade, deployed and ready to confront the advancing Federal line.

## Print Sales

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is pleased to announce that renowned Civil War artist John Paul Strain will be in Fredericksburg on May 27th to premiere his new print *After the Storm*. This outstanding print depicts downtown Fredericksburg on the morning of December 16, 1862, just a few days after the Battle of Fredericksburg. "Stonewall" Jackson and his staff are shown in front of Town Hall, surveying the devastation that took place during the battle. Proceeds from the sale of the Patron Edition will go to benefit the CVBT. To order your print call 540-371-3037.

The sound of concentrated musketry ripped across the landscape. Colonel Patrick O'Rorke's brigade of New York infantry moved up in support of the U.S. Regulars while Brigadier General W.T. Wofford's brigade of Georgia troops arrived on the Lewis farm in support of the Virginians. Georgia troops of Brigadier General Paul J. Semmes's brigade plunged into the woods south of the road.

Hooker, far to the rear, chose not to seek an advantage where the day's battle had unfolded. Instead of holding the ground where his artillery could be brought forward to dominate the open terrain, he recalled his three advancing columns and ordered them to concentrate around the wooded crossroads at Chancellorsville. The Federal troops on the Turnpike were the farthest advanced. Without support, they were forced to scramble back to where the Union lines were being established.

National Park Service historians estimate that between 10,000 and 20,000 troops were eventually engaged along the Orange Turnpike. Casualties amounted to roughly 2,000 killed, wounded, and missing. Hooker's decision to abandon the open ground where the Federal artillery could have dominated the battlefield proved unfortunate. Lee quickly seized his advantage and pushed his forces into the woods to confront his adversary where Federal advantages would be negated by the trees. The woods would also screen a flank march on May 2nd, by Stonewall Jackson, and mask his attacking infantry until they burst out of the woods on the Union army's exposed flank.

## Adverse Impacts

Developing the first day's field will severely compromise the integrity of the overall Chancellorsville battlefield. To fully visualize and grasp the significance of the fighting that took place there on May 1, 1863, it is necessary to be able to look westward from the

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[www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org)

*Our web page continues to expand, through the generosity of member Gary Embry. 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.*

# Talley Farm

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# Saving a Battlefield

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## 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**

Conrad, Mr. Stephen B. Cushman.

Mr. Robert J. Delark & Ms. Kimberley J. Woodie, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. DiMattina, Ms. Colleen Dougherty, Mr. C. R. Douglas, Mr. Larry Duncan, Ms. Jacqueline A. Eberstein, Mr. Gregory W. Edwards, Mr. John W. Faram, Mr. Tom Fioramonti, Mrs. Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, Ms. Marsha B. Franty, Mr. Lewis R. Gaty II, Ms. Sharon A. Glaser, Mr. John G. Griffiths, Ms. Elizabeth S. Grizzard, Mr. Richard G. Groome.

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Ms. Judy Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Spyros P. Lezimis, Loudoun County CWRT, Mr. Joseph E. Lowry, Mr. M. Philip Lucas, Mr. W. Anthony Major, Mr. Eric B. Martin, Mr. William D. Matter, Mr. Joseph W. McCarthy III, Dr. James M. McPherson, Mr. Harry A. Metz, Mr. Dennis A. Middlebrooks, Mr. William H. Miller, Monte and Patsy Moore, Mr. Robert P. Moran, Mr. Homer D. Musselman, Mr. Erik F. Nelson, Mr. Ian S. Norfleet, Mr. Keith C. O'Neil.

Olmsted-Kirk Paper Company, Mr. Ronald J. Pappert Sr., Mr. James M. Pates, Mr. Raymond E. Paul, Mr. Mark Perreault, Mr. David H. Rankin Jr., Rappahannock Valley CWRT, Mr. Ralph M. Reese, Mr. Bruce O. Riedel, Mr. David F. Riggs, Mr. Mark Rothert, Mr. Donald J. Sangirardi, Mr. George H. Scherer, Arlyn & Jeff Schlosberg, Mr. William P. Schuber, Mr. Randall Schulz, Mr. Warren R. Shepherd, Mr. Charles G. Siegel Jr., Mr. Bruce R. Smith.

Ms. Joyce E. Snider, Society of the Old

Alsop farm to the ridge where Sykes's troops deployed. If this view is lost to a series of fast food joints, drug stores, and service stations along Route 3, with office buildings in the background, this experience will be permanently lost.

This threat has been known to the County government for years. This property is highlighted in Spotsylvania County's Related Lands Study which identified historically significant land around the National Park. In fact, the Ashley Farm is one of only four areas on the entire Chancellorsville battlefield that is accorded a rating of Priority One, ranking it as one of the Civil War sites in the County most deserving of protection. The Battlefields Trust was under the impression that the County routinely used the Related Lands Study for long-range planning. The recent rezoning shows this not to be the case.

The adverse effects of this commercial project will reach far beyond the boundaries of the property itself. A precedent has been established for allowing additional commercial development west of the previously established growth area boundary. It will be only a matter of time before commercial uses push up against the federal holdings of the National Park Service, as has already occurred at Salem Church.

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Greek Cross, South Central Connecticut CWRT, Ms. Carol L. Speirs, Mr. Jerome B. Spier, Mr. John S. Stack, Mr. Alton E. Staples, Mr. Craig R. Stevens, Mr. Steven J. Stewart, Mr. Robert L. Stone, Mr. Carleton W. Sturtevant, Mr. Thomas K. Tate, Charles and Becky Toney, Mr. Samuel A. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest E. Tyrrell, Mr. David W. Urban, Mr. David G. Van Ormer, Ms. Virginia J. Vitucci, Mr. Frank S. Walker Jr., Mr. Edward T. Wenzel.

Barbara and Jack Westervelt, Mr. Raymond C. Wheeler, Mr. William E. Wilkin, William E. Rouse Library, Mr. H. Hugh Williams, Mr. Dana L. Wooley, Mr. Richard K. Young, Mr. Charles Zimmerman.



# A Gathering on the Rappahannock: The 2000 CVBT Annual Meeting

As a new year is upon us, it is time to reflect and ponder our past accomplishments and our future victories. This year's CVBT Annual Meeting gives everyone the opportunity to do just that. As in the past the CVBT Annual Meeting is a mixture of education and camaraderie, with Saturday and Sunday tours and an excellent opportunity Saturday evening to visit one of the area's premier Civil War Museums, the White Oak Museum. Saturday evening the Trust will also be holding a silent auction with numerous Civil War related items, i.e. Troiani print "Fire on Caroline Street", signed books and unique items. The Trust looks forward to seeing each and everyone of you there at the 2000 CVBT Annual Meeting: "A Gathering on the Rappahannock." It is surely to be a most memorable experience. For more info call Steve Stanley at (540) 659-6819.

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Battle of Fredericksburg Tour Part I  
*Street fighting/bombardment/Union attack walking tour led by Historian Eric Mink*
- 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. Silent auction (*items displayed in White Oak Museum*)
- 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. White Oak Museum open (*part of the dinner/museum price*)
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Cocktails
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Barbecue-Style Dinner at Museum
- 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. CVBT Annual Meeting (*election of officers*)

### SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Battle of Fredericksburg Tour Part II -- *Bus tour led by Historian Donald Pfanz*

### PRICE

Full weekend package -- \$100 members/\$135 nonmembers  
*(includes tours, museum, Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch)*

Saturday night museum tour and dinner -- \$20.00 adults/\$36.00 couples/\$10.00 children (*under 17*)

**REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 26, 2000**

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING 2000 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN ME UP FOR:  WEEKEND PACKAGE - \$100 (MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  WEEKEND PACKAGE - \$135 (NON MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  
 DINNER/MUSEUM ONLY - \$20 (ADULTS) x \_\_\_\_\_; \$36 (COUPLES) x \_\_\_\_\_; \$10 (CHILDREN) x \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) FOR BADGE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

CHECK

VISA

MASTER CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed registration form with credit card information or a check payable to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.  
Mail completed form to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, c/o Steven Stanley, 64 Brittany Lane, Stafford, VA 22554

# RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member       New Member

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:       ANNUAL MEMBER - \$35       ACTIVE MEMBER - \$155       SUSTAINING MEMBER - \$250  
 PATRON - \$500       BENEFACTOR - \$1,000       LIFE MEMBER - \$5,000       LIFE PATRON - \$10,000  
 CORPORATE MEMBER - \$500       CORPORATE PATRON - \$1,000

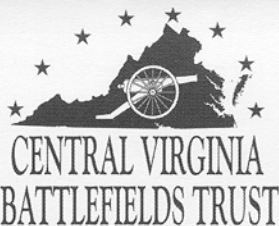
METHOD OF PAYMENT:       CHECK       VISA       MASTER CARD

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, the CVBT will not send out reminders for membership renewal. Instead, we will publish a renewal form in all issues of "On The Skirmish Line". Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal and clip out the form above and send it back to our office. If your membership is current, but you 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.



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