Volume 3, No. 1 Winter 1999

On The KINNISH LINE The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

From The President:

This year began with the daunting task of raising the necessary funds to complete the acquisition of McLaws' Wedge - the 100-acre tract in the heart of Chancellorsville battlefield that the Trust agreed to purchase in the fall of 1997. Through the generosity of our Members, we were successful. On March 25th, we took title to the property, and on May 2nd (the 135th anniversary of Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack) we held our Annual Meeting there. It was an enjoyable event, knowing that we had indeed succeeded in saving such an important part of the battlefield. The next day, we opened the area to the public so that our visitors could watch the "hard-core" reenactors of Jackson's Corps demonstrate how brave men could endure the harsh elements of march and battle. We are grateful to the reenactors, led by Robert Lee Hodge, for raising over \$30,000, which was donated to the Trust.

Having received an offer from the National Park Service to purchase McLaws' Wedge, our Members, at our Annual Meeting, agreed to transfer the property to the Park Service for \$420,000. Thus, in June, we presented the Park Service a deed to the property. By doing so, it is now part of the Park's Chancellorsville Battlefield and, more importantly, will be forever preserved. That we were successful in saving this tract demonstrates not only the interest and generosity of our Members, but also how we can leverage our funds to accomplish our mission. We are rapidly learning the tactics of preservation warfare!

Soon after our success with McLaws' Wedge,

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CVBT Receives the Anne D. Snyder Award

During the November Board of Directors meeting, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust founding members received the 1998 Anne D. Snyder Award, along with a check for \$1,000 from the Civil War Society.

The Civil War Society usually bestows this honor on an individual for their contribution to the cause of Civil War historic preservation. This year, however, the Society chose to honor the four individuals instrumental in founding the CVBT. In 1996, Erik Nelson, James Pates, Enos Richardson, Jr. and Michael Stevens formed the CVBT with a two-fold mission of acquiring historically significant battlefield lands and also representing the interests of Central Virginia battlefields at all levels of government.

Enos Richardson, president of the CVBT acknowledged that this award is for all members of the CVBT, whose dedication has paid off with over 130 acres of hallowed ground saved forever.

The Anne D. Snyder Award is named in honor

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An Editorial Correction

In our Fall newsletter, we acknowledged the contributions of active preservation organizations. Unfortunately, we incorrectly identified the locale of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. This group, which has been quite generous in support of our efforts to protect hallowed ground, comes from Philadelphia, PA. Sorry about the error. Hopefully, an apology on the front page of this Winter newsletter will indicate our sincere appreciation that this group is a member of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

De a Good Year for Preservation Update on the Battlefields Around F

During 1998, the National Park Service met with considerable success in its efforts to preserve important sites on the four battlefields around Fredericksburg. Intense development pressure in the region makes preservation progress especially critical at this time; before long, it will be too late to do more.

The CVBT played a crucial role in several of the preservation victories, but the park also accomplished more with its own land acquisition program than during any other year for at least a decade.

Several influential friends of preservation in the United States Congress led a drive that secured a Federal appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for use at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. First \$3.5 million and then an additional \$2.0 million became available to the park thanks especially to Senator Robert G. Torricelli (N.J.), Senator James M. Jeffords (Vt.), and former Congressman Robert J. Mrazek. With some of those funds the National Park Service acquired what Chief Historian Robert K. Krick called "the most important privately owned Civil War tract in Virginia" - a forty-acre parcel right where "Stonewall" Jackson's famous flank attack at Chancellorsville opened the final chapter of that legendary soldier's life. The prospect of allowing visitors onto such vitally important historic ground is invigorating. The park intends to be able to do that by next spring for especially interested visitors; integrating the site into the primary driving tour will take longer. Removal of a number of non-historic structures on the property, and creation of access points and other facilities, probably will go on for several years.

Using more of the special appropriation, the park hopes to purchase other land in the Jackson Flank Attack zone during 1999. At the same time, CVBT also is working hard toward a goal of saving land in that vicinity but outside the park's Congressionally authorized boundary, and thus impossible for the government to buy. The designation by the National Trust last May of Chancellorsville Battlefield as one of the country's eleven most endangered historic sites has helped to focus attention on preservation issues there.

During 1998 the park also acquired a number of small but crucial tracts near the Orange Plank Road in the Wilderness and in the field of the Federal attack at the foot of Marye's Heights. Only a bit of administrative detail remains to be ironed out before taking legal title to eight acres at the Brock Road/ Plank Road intersection, a site that was the focus of both armies' attention during the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-7, 1864.

For the significance of the NPS purchase in the Chancellorsville Battlefield. see the map located on page 5.

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

On The Kirmish 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

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The Trust in 1998

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we found out that a 5-acre tract located along the Orange Turnpike (present State Route 3) was under contract to be sold for an individual house site. It so happens that this tract is in the middle of Stonewall Jackson's flank attack, the point where his forces fell upon the unsuspecting Union XI Corps. We sprang into action and, after some difficult negotiations, we purchased this parcel. The cost was steep (\$73,900) but its historical importance outweighed any hesitancy in paying the price. The acquisition of this parcel further demonstrated how the Trust can act quickly and decisively when necessary. As the year drew to a close, we were (and are today) looking for our next acquisition. Land prices in this area are accelerating rapidly, but when the opportunity arises, the Trust will be in a position to use its growing financial resources to preserve another parcel of hallowed "dirt and grass."

None of our successes would have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm and generosity of our Board of Directors. Each of our Board members has given uncounted hours of time and generous financial donations to make the Trust truly a unique preservation organization. We have no paid staff, no luxurious offices, no elaborate equipment — just a commitment to put as many cents of each donated dollar as possible into "dirt and grass." Our results have been evident for all to see, and we are gratified to have been recognized by several preservation organizations during the past year.

Coupled with our Board is the interest and dedication of our Members, We have over 800 at the end of 1998. They live in all parts of our great country, some even in foreign countries. They are the lifeblood of our organization — the foot soldiers of our preservation efforts. To each of our Members, I extend my sincerest thanks — thanks for your interest, your suggestions, your help in telling our story and last, but certainly not least, your generosity. I hope each of you will

have the opportunity to visit this area in 1999, and when here, walk over the lands that were so contested in 1862, 1863 and 1864, knowing that you have played a vital part in saving them from being destroyed. Your children, grandchildren and all Americans will be forever grateful for your efforts.

Thus, we can say 1998 was a year of solid progress in our ongoing crusade. We look forward to 1999 with optimism, knowing that the challenges will be daunting, but through the interest, dedication and generosity of all of us, success will be assured.

Mark Your Calendars Set

Eurs Richards

As another year is upon us, it is now time to start planning for the CVBT's Annual Meeting. This year's meeting has been set for Saturday, May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd, coinciding with the 136th anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Following last year's success with our Annual Meeting and 135th Anniversary Events, this year's Annual Meeting will be a weekend of educational, entertaining and enlightening activities. A Saturday afternoon symposium and Sunday battlefield tour have been scheduled to help compliment our Annual Meeting and dinner. With the appropriate theme of "Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville", the Trust hopes to highlight recent acquisitions in the Stonewall Jackson Flank Attack area of the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

On Saturday, May 1st, a symposium on Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville will include such notable historians as Don Pfanz "The Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville", Frank O'Reilly "Stonewall's Flank Attack" and Robert K. Krick "The Wounding of Stonewall Jackson." After the symposium,

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On The Skirmish Line

Trust Closing in on Next acquisition

Renewal Note

Please check
your mailing
label to see if
your membership is due for
renewal and
clip out the
renewal form
and send it back.

Through its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, the National Trust for Historic Preservation highlighted the immediate and long term threats to Chancellorsville. The culprits were uncontrolled local growth and a major federal aid highway that is proposed to cut through the scene where this pivotal campaign unfolded. Your tax dollars are actively at work to destroy a significant part of your heritage. Tax dollars are also at work to preserve historic lands, though. During 1998, the National Park Service received funds to purchase privately owned property within the Congressionally authorized boundary of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. One such purchase was a farm in the area where Stonewall Jackson's troops slammed into the flank of the Union Eleventh Corps, on the afternoon of May 2nd, 1863. In fact, the Park Service's purchase is adjacent to a five acre tract the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust acquired this past summer, to preclude construction of a new home. The CVBT plans to compliment these recent purchases by preserving additional nearby

The Park Service will soon provide access to their new site and install interpretive exhibits. Whether one is a first time visitor or someone who has tramped this battlefield for years, being able to walk on this ground will be a dramatic experience. Chancellorsville is a challenging field to understand, because the woods that hindered military command and control in 1863, still obscures the terrain from the public. Now and forever, though, a visitor will be able to stand in the area held by the First and Second Divisions of the Eleventh Corps (commanded by Brigadier Generals Charles Devens, Jr. and Adolph von Steinwehr, respectively) and witness an exceptional view.

From a rise of ground occupied by these Federal troops, one can look to the west where the Alabama and North Carolina troops of Confederate General R.E. Rodes' Division burst out of the woods and into the Union rear. To the east, one can see where the startled Union troops hastily formed a second line to meet the Confederate onslaught. Troops from Wisconsin, New York, and Ohio (Major General Carl Schurz's Third Division) occupied an area called Hawkin's Farm, their line extending though a grove of trees around the Wilderness Church. Wilderness Church, by the way, remains an active house of worship, although the Civil War era structure is lone gone. Beyond this second line, one can see the area where a third Union line was briefly held by Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and Ohio troops (elements of both the Second and the Third Divisions). This latter line shows up in accounts as the north-south rifle pit or the Buschbeck Line and was just east of Dowdall's Tavern. Unfortunately, the Dowdall's Tavern site was paved over by the Virginia Department of Transportation when it constructed two eastbound lanes for the Orange Turnpike (State Route 3) in the 1970s.

Such an immediate and compelling scene, though, can still be compromised. To the south, across the Orange Turnpike (State Route 3), one can see the Talley Farm ridge. This area was the initial Union line, manned by Ohio, New York, and Connecticut troops who had dug a line of earthworks along the ridge, facing south. Skirmishers were posted in the woods beyond, although still facing south. From the new Park Service holdings, a visitor can readily see how that line was immediately untenable when Stonewall Jackson's attack immediately gained the Union rear.

The National Park Service cannot protect this part of the viewshed because the Talley Farm ridge lies outside the area where this agency is authorized to acquire land. A sizable portion of the flank attack area thus remains at risk. The CVBT, however, has

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Next Acquisition

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been negotiating with land owners to acquire this significant terrain.

In purchasing land in and around Fredericksburg, the Trust must contend with land speculation that anticipates a rapid increase in land values when (if) the anticipated highway is constructed. As a consequence, we negotiate quite carefully to ensure our donated funds are spent wisely. We are able to move quite rapidly when the bulldozers are on their way. Our purchase of a five acre parcel this past summer was an instance where speed was critical and we responded accordingly. When destruction of historic ground is not yet imminent, we prefer to expend our time and expertise (at no cost to members) to obtain the best price possible for our dirt and grass. In this manner, member donations are reserved for paying a property owner fair market value, as much as is possible. We will keep our members informed as we close in on our acquisition of hallowed ground on the Talley Farm ridge.

On The Kirmish Line Anne D. Snyder Award

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of the preservation activist. Anne Snyder who gained national prominence when she led the fight to block a shopping mall on the Manassas battlefield. Ms. Snyder also helped to prevent the Walt Disney Company from building a theme park near that battlefield.

The \$1,000 check, which was raised by members of the Civil War Society to assist in battlefield land purchase, will be put to good use. The Trust is actively involved in negotiations for the purchase of property on the southside of Route 3 in the Jackson Flank

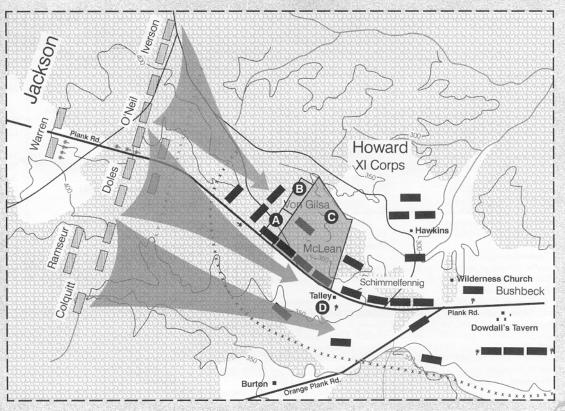
Attack area.

Receiving the Anne D. Snyder Award on behalf of all the members of the CVBT are: (l. to r.) Steven Stanley, Carroll Hayden, Anne Rowe, John Mitchell, Mike Stevens, Erik Nelson and Enos Richardson.



Stonewall Jackson's Flank Attack May 2nd, 1863

- -- 5-acres CVBT owns
- -- 5-acres National Park owns
- -- Recent purchase by the National Park
- D -- Area of interest for the CVBT



On The Skirmish Line CUBT Mender Contributions The Wilssion's Key to Success

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is able to preserve historic ground because our members are willing to donate funds for its purchase. We remain mindful that these contributions are made to acquire "dirt and grass" and continue to operate without paid staff (which keeps our overhead exceptionally low). We also like to recognize our supporters from time to time in this newsletter. In the Fall, we acknowledged the support of Civil War Round Tables and other groups. In this Winter edition, we recognize individual members who supported us during 1998 at the Active Member level or higher. Also listed are organizations which have become members since the last newsletter. Persons idenfied with a [CM] are Charter Members.

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Falls Church, VA [CM]
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Henry P. Trawick, Jr., Sarasota, FL
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Chris Utley, Benton, KY
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Dr. George M. Van Sant,
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William and Drusilla Vodra, Alexandria, VA Allan and Elizabeth Wagner,

Richmond, VA Frank S. Walker, Jr., Orange, VA [CM] Paul and Susan Ware, Fredericksburg, VA Thomas C. Webster, Mount Joy, PA

Russell and Budge Weidman, Springfield, VA [CM]

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Annual Meeting

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the Trust will hold it's Annual Meeting and dinner, which includes a barbecue-style dinner then followed by the meeting, with an evening candlelight event afterwards.

On Sunday, May 2nd, there will be a bus tour of "Stonewall Jackson at Chancellors-ville" highlighting his famous Flank March and Attack. During the bus tour, for the first time ever, you will be able to walk the Flank Attack on the newly acquired Flank Attack parcels. The tour will also visit such sites as the area of Jackson's wounding, the Wilderness Tavern site, and Elwood (where Jackson's arm is buried).

These events are being planned for you, our members, and at a cost of only \$100 for the weekend package, which includes the symposium, dinner and bus tour. If you can only come for dinner Saturday night, the price is just \$15 for a barbecue-style dinner and evening activities. More details will be mailed out in February.

We look forward to seeing you in May for a fun-filled and educational weekend.

Member Contributions

continueд from page 6

Nancy and Roland Wentworth, Columbia, MD [CM]
Edward T. Wenzel, Vienna, VA [CM]
Jeffrey D. Wert, Centre Hall, PA
David M. West, Richmond, VA [CM]
Benjamin T. Wharton, Charlottesville, VA
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699 Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Annual Meeting

"Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville"

May 1st & 2nd

Events include:

Symposium with Nationally Recognized Civil War Historians

Barbecue-style Dinner

Bus Tour of Jackson Sites at Chancellorsville Battlefield

First chance to walk Jackson's Flank Attack

"Come Walk the Flank attack"

More information to be mailed to members in February.

CVBT Receives an Unexpected Grant Ukrop's Fund Helps Battlefield Preservation

The Ukrop's Fund has awarded a \$700 grant to the Trust, through the newly established Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region. Since the Trust continues to operate without paid staff, these funds will be used to help purchase historic terrain. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust commends the Ukrop's Fund for its commitment to help meet area needs and looks forward to maintaining this very welcome partnership with an outstanding community leader.



RENEWTODAY!!

	Renewing Member New Member		
Name			
Address			
CITY, STATE, ZIP			
Type of Membership:	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		
Метнод ог Раумент:	□ Снеск	□ V _{ISA}	☐ 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.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

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