

THE RACE TO PROTECT FREDERICKSBURG AREA BATTLEFIELDS

It is said a picture is worth a thousand words.

The pictures seen here, all taken in the last two months, speak volumes.

Make no mistake about it, we are running out of time to preserve our history!





Copyright 2008, by the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc.
 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.

Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

Membership Categories

Annual Member	\$ 35	Patron	\$ 500	Life Patron	\$10,000
Active Member	\$135	Benefactor	\$ 1000	Corporate Member	\$ 500
Sustaining Member	\$250	Life Member	\$5,000	Corporate Patron	\$ 1000



Central
 Virginia
 Battlefields
 Trust

Post Office Box 3417
 Fredericksburg, VA 22402
 540-374-0900
www.cvbt.org

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID FREDERICKSBURG, VA PERMIT NO. 500



ON THE **skirmish line**

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust



From the President

Fredericksburg Goals Being Met

The CVBT has been focused on Fredericksburg since our founding in 1996. Our first victory on the Fredericksburg battlefield was Willis Hill, which was within the authorized boundary and was able to be incorporated immediately into the National Park. We held our annual meeting there this past May, with a special exhibit of Stonewall Jackson's sword and spurs, courtesy of the Museum of the Confederacy.

At Fredericksburg, we have also been able to acquire a 104 acre easement at Latimer's Knoll, which was a tactically important battery position on the south end of the field. Guns in this sector supported Confederate infantry defending against Union attacks. The terrain, across which the Federals advanced, subjected to this artillery fire, has also been protected, through a 205-acre acquisition, in partnership with the Civil War Preservation Trust. This assault route, known as the Slaughter Pen, will change the entire visitor experience at Fredericksburg.

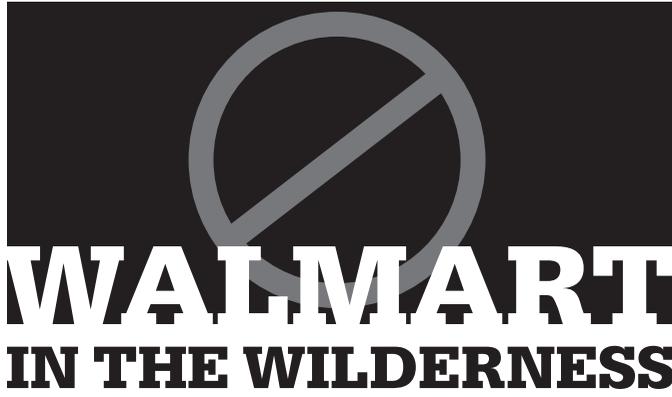
Further south, the CVBT also controls the position that Major John Pelham occupied with a single gun on the morning of December 13th and from where he disrupted several Union divisions preparing for an attack. He was

finally driven off by Federal guns, but he had disrupted the attack for about an hour, giving his comrades time to prepare for the assault.

Looking back, we have been remarkably successful in enhancing a nationally important battlefield that the Civil War Sites Commission once described as "fragmented." That characterization is no longer applicable, thanks to our members who have stepped forward to make all of this possible. Our strength as a local organization has been the ability to systematically (which sometimes seems to be slowly) pick up various tracts of land that would have otherwise succumbed to development.

The historic house known as Braehead (the Howison House) is another battlefield resource the CVBT has been able to save. We put the property under contract and have since helped the owner to put historic preservation easements on it and then found another buyer who intends to live in the house while undertaking the task of preserving it in its wartime configuration. Under the easement, the 18 acre lot upon which the house is situated cannot be subdivided. When the new buyers close on this property, we will have managed, in partnership with the seller, to save a

{ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 }



WALMART IN THE WILDERNESS

The CVBT acquires historic ground it has determined to be critical to the integrity of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park. That is our mission and our focus. We live in a region characterized by exceptionally aggressive commercial and residential growth, however, and sometimes development beyond what we will be able to purchase threatens to deface what we have saved. At present, a Walmart and other large retail stores are proposed to be built at the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20, a crossroads that is the primary gateway to the nationally significant Wilderness battlefield. To ensure appropriate attention to how this area develops, the CVBT has joined the coalition headed up by the Civil War Preservation Trust to protect this vitally important landscape. We ask our members to support both the CVBT and the CWPT in this fight.

Please visit our web site at www.cvbt.org for more information and find out what you can do.

Congratulations

DR. MIKE!

Mike Stevens Accepts CWPT Award

During its Grand Review special event held for Brigade Level or higher and Founding Color Bearers, the CWPT honored Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's Mike Stevens with the *Shelby Foote Preservation Legacy Award*. The evening was very special for many reasons, not the least of which was the location. The affair was held at the Arlington Cemetery and guests were treated to a tour of Robert E. Lee's home. Dinner was held on the grounds by the Arlington house under a typically humid Virginia night. Civil War Preservation Trust President Jim Lighthizer conveyed the award to Mike Stevens stating that this was a very special honor as the award is not an annual event but given only in special circumstances.

Citing Mike's life long commitment to Civil War battlefield preservation and his part in the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's one million dollar pledge to the Slaughter Penn farm purchase, Mr. Lighthizer also again stated his belief that Central Virginia Battlefields Trust was the best grass roots preservation organization in the country.

As he accepted the award, Mike, in his usual emotion provoking manner, explained why he felt the protection of the actual battlefields where the combatants fell was so important. Mike also graciously stated that the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust was a team and all its leaders were equally responsible for the organizations accomplishments and that its members and supporters are its backbone.



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. 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

Erik F. Nelson <i>President</i>	J. Michael Greenfield <i>Lands Maintenance</i>	<i>Contributing Authors This Issue:</i>
Harriett Condon <i>Vice-President</i>	Tom Van Winkle <i>Communications Director, Web Master, Newsletter Editor</i>	Tom Van Winkle
Linda Wandres <i>Executive Director</i>	William J. Kinnamon, Jr.	Erik Nelson
Jerry Brent <i>Treasurer</i>	Robert K. Krick	<i>Photographs:</i>
Michael P. Stevens <i>Secretary</i>	Robert Lee Hodge	Tom Van Winkle
	Bill Sherman	
	Lloyd B. Harrison	

historic house and its associated acreage in the middle of the National Park. The house will have new occupants to care for it and we will not have a mortgage.

We are close to meeting every one of our goals at Fredericksburg. The Slaughter Pen was the last parcel of available undeveloped land on this battlefield and it has been acquired, although we are still paying off our pledge of \$1 million to the CWPT for this dramatic terrain. To date, we have forwarded \$725,000 and will soon send another installment. We ask our members to consider sending an end of year donation as 2008 comes to a close. It is important to complete this purchase, because there is land on other battlefields to which we urgently need to direct our attention. Your generous donations will help us to close out our Fredericksburg efforts, so we can keep moving on.

Land We Seek to Acquire Will Change Ownership Only Once More Before It Is Developed

The CVBT mission is to acquire historic terrain on the area's four battlefields. In figuring out what to purchase, we have primarily considered those places that are outside the National Park boundary authorized by the United States Congress, but which are still important to maintaining the integrity of the Park. Using this standard, we identified key tracts of land and have worked diligently since then to acquire them. This focus has served us well, because the pace of development in this area is rapid. We experience fluctuations in the real estate market, but the commercial interest has been relentless.

An area that has always received our concerted attention is the western end of the Chancellorsville battlefield. This area is where Stonewall Jackson's Confederates surged out of the woods in the late afternoon on May 2, 1863 and devastated the Federal corps holding the Union right flank. Over the years, the CVBT has acquired a significant amount of ground in this area and has remained in contact with several landowners about additional parcels. Much of the ground we seek to acquire and preserve will change ownership only once more before it is developed. Your donations to help us pay off the Slaughter Pen will ensure we are ready when the next parcel at Chancellorsville becomes available. The economic downturn has made the real estate market as volatile as ever. It is impera-

.....
tive that we are able to move quickly when land we have identified as critical is put up for sale. If we are not able to make the purchase, hallowed ground will inevitably be developed and be lost forever.

Paying the Right Price for the Right Land

Although we seek to be as aggressive as possible, in acquiring battlefield terrain, we frequently encounter unrealistic expectations of certain property owners. Most landowners are quite reasonable and understand the market value of their respective properties. There are others, however, who believe that historic value adds to the market value. The misconception is that the preservation community will pay more for some land than a private developer because of its historic associations. This notion is something to which we do not subscribe, but which still causes problems.

For those who say that you cannot put a price on history, that we must pay whatever it takes to protect certain ground, we respond that there is a market value to everything. We are not going to get drawn in to pay more for land than the market will bear. In this area, the market is already quite expensive (as the \$12 million price tag on the Slaughter Pen made clear). In addition, our members do not expect us to make bad deals with their donations. As the local organization, we are able to monitor land we have identified for acquisition and stay in touch with landowners until such time as they desire to sell. If they have no intention of selling, we simply let them know that we would be interested if they changed their minds.

This pragmatic approach has been our method since we organized in 1996. CVBT founder Jim Pates had extensive real estate experience and knew that land always has a market driven cost. Our other board members are also well versed in real estate acquisition and have helped this organization to pay no more for land than is fair. On the other hand, we have also endeavored to be fair to property owners and not offer less than what could be considered appropriate. This reputation for fairness is important because we always want landowners to consider us as potential purchasers with the integrity to ensure that everyone wins.

In this effort to acquire historic ground, we must remain vigilant as well as be patient.

Two Fredericksburg Organizations Team Up for Battlefield Preservation

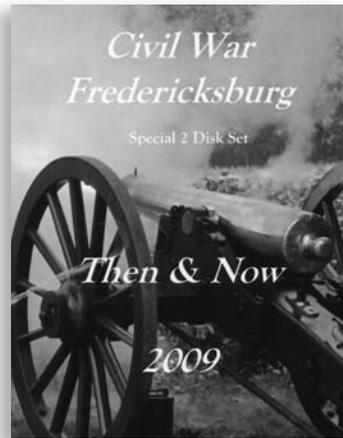
TODAY MANY PEOPLE ARE POOLING THEIR resources to better manage and increase productivity. In the business of today's Civil War preservation challenges this is also the case. Fredericksburg, Virginia's oldest Civil War Round Table and the area's most successful battlefield land trust are doing just that.

The Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table and The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust have joined forces to create a unique DVD entitled "Civil War Fredericksburg— "Then and Now".

The project is being produced completely by volunteers and will be a feature length DVD. The purpose of this DVD is a multifaceted fundraising and educational tool. *"The amiable all-volunteer production crew is amazing. They're passionate about preserving our Civil War heritage, experienced at making complex things happen, and skilled movie makers. If the audience enjoys viewing it as much as we are enjoying making it, we'll have a hit!"* said Scott Eyestone the film's director.

The Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable, one of the oldest in America having been founded in 1957, approached the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust with the idea of producing this DVD. The proceeds will go directly to the mission of battlefield land preservation for which CVBT has been extremely successful having had a part in saving more than 700 acres to date. A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to the Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg. The importance of educating the youth of today to face the preservation challenges of tomorrow cannot be overstated.

"In all, 100% of the profits from this project will go directly to preservation of our endangered area battlefields and the important efforts to educate today's youth and further the understanding of our history and culture.", states the projects Executive Producer Tom Van Winkle, also the Director of Communications for CVBT. *"We also hope this DVD will help to serve as a stimulus to public interest and tourism during the upcoming sesquicentennial,"* said Bill Huber, the originator of the idea at the Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table.



The high definition DVD will include five segments. The first segment, The "Battle Overview" will review the political situation prior to the Fredericksburg battle in December of 1862 and also cover the action from a military perspective. The "Then and Now" section is a virtual tour of the battle area with period and current photographs taken from the same camera angles. The third portion of the DVD is entitled "Then Remembered" and will

feature discussions of veteran's experiences whose units fought in the 1862 battle through the "minds eye" of four descendants. Segment four, "Preservation Challenges" is an overview of the challenges and accomplishments of the battlefield land preservation efforts in the area. Sites of proposed and current development will be featured. The last segment, "Planning Your Visit" is designed to give the visitor helpful hints in planning a trip to the Fredericksburg area. Karen W. Hedelt, Manager of Tourism Development for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the City of Fredericksburg stated, *"This DVD will be an invaluable tool for learning about and planning a trip to the Fredericksburg area's battlefields. The historic images and presentations are very interesting."*

A special "Educators Edition" will also be created. This edition will include the Civil War Fredericksburg "Then and Now" DVD as well as a specially designed CD for teachers, presenters and students. This CD will include photographs shown in the DVD, and articles written by historians and researchers involved in the project.

Since the inception of this project it seems everyone contacted wants to help in some way. "It's incredible the amount of support we are receiving" states Tom Van Winkle. "We have actually signed several more people on to our all volunteer production team, with talents ranging from scholastic backgrounds to professional movie making experience."

The DVD is scheduled for release in October of 2009 with a grand gala planned in Fredericksburg for its first public viewing. More information on how you may attend this limited seating event will be released as the date draws nearer.

Visit our web site at www.cvbt.org for more information.