



ON THE
skirmish *line*

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

Virginia Battle Parks

Introduction by Robert K. Krick

THE BATTLEFIELD IN 1935

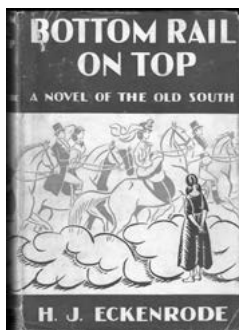
Hamilton James Eckenrode (1881-1952), son of a family that ran a leather-goods store in Fredericksburg, diligently plied the historian's art for five decades. For years he was the state historian, with an office in Richmond—but remained living in Fredericksburg and rode down on the train, accordingly to local lore. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery, not far from J. Horace Lacy of Chatham.

Eckenrode's professional production included at least sixteen books, among them biographies of James Longstreet, Rutherford B. Hayes, George B. McClellan, and Jefferson Davis, and a novel about the old South. He also launched the state-wide system of historical markers that is so familiar to motorists in the Old Dominion.

In the June 1935 number of *The Southern Magazine* (Volume III, No. 3), Eckenrode described the current condition of the Civil War battlefields in



Defenses at Cold Harbor—Richmond National Battlefield Park



Virginia. He of course mentioned the fields being preserved today by the CVBT. The grotesque trans-mogrification of “park” into a verb, as “parked,” deserves horrified complaint, but the status report from 80 years ago otherwise affords interest. Eckenrode's mention of strewing pine needles and sawdust atop the earthworks to protect them is something I have not seen mentioned elsewhere.

{Eckenrode's original publication on Virginia Battle Parks begins on page 3}

Community Give 2015 Program to Benefit CVBT



What is The Community Foundation? Beginning in 1997, The Community Foundation has provided a straightforward, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving. Its approach is simple—build a better community by making philanthropy easy. The Community Foundation receives gifts from individuals, corporations and organizations. These gifts are named and placed in endowment funds and invested to generate earnings. The Community Foundation coordinates with fund advisors to use these earnings to distribute grants to a variety of nonprofit programs, organizations and other community-oriented charitable efforts that benefit area residents and organizations.

OK, so what is Community Give 2015 and why is it important to CVBT? The Community Give is a 24-hour day of giving on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 12:00 a.m. until midnight. It is a day when everyone is asked to make a donation and show support for the local nonprofit organizations that positively impact our lives every day. The Community Foundation and generous sponsors of

The Community Give are offering \$100,000 in cash prizes (grants) for participating nonprofits as a way to build excitement and maximize the benefits for donors and nonprofits.

Last year close to 5,000 people gave nearly \$450,000 to their chosen nonprofits. Sponsors provided \$100,000 in prizes, and **EVERY** nonprofit received a donation! The event raised a stunning \$544,851 for area nonprofits—the most ever raised in a single day! CVBT received nearly \$7,500 in donations in its inaugural year participating in the program.

This year CVBT has a goal in mind. We want to raise at least \$20,000 in donations and also work toward obtaining several of the \$1,000 bonus awards that the Community Give program offers. YOU can help us achieve this goal!

We will soon be sending out some emails regarding the program, which will let you know how you can help us achieve our goals, and what exactly to do on May 5th. We will be posting this information on our Facebook site as well.

This is a once a year opportunity for CVBT to take advantage of a wide-reaching philanthropic program dedicated to nonprofits. Please help us out! More to come.

What is AmazonSmile?



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings will also be the same.



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.

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Virginia Battle Parks

By H. J. Eckenrode

Originally Published in *The Southern Magazine*, June 1935 (Vol. III, No. 3)

It will, no doubt, be a matter of interest to people of the Confederate tradition everywhere to know how admirably many of the battlefields of the War between the States in Virginia are being parked and cared for. They will be, when completed, the most beautiful military parks in the world.

Some years ago the Fredericksburg and Petersburg citizens thinking that something should be done to preserve the famous battlefields at and near those cities, organized associations and began the work of acquiring land on a small scale. These parks, or rather the beginnings of them, were turned over to the War Department of the federal government and were developed for a time by that department. Then they were transferred to the National Park Service two or three years ago, since which time the work of parking has been most energetically pushed.

At Fredericksburg a splendid road was built for several miles along the Confederate position at the battle of December 13, 1862, and the earthworks have been parked and cared for. Much land has been purchased at Chancellorsville and the Wilderness, which battlefields are also being parked. Care is being taken in this park, as well as at Richmond and Petersburg, to avoid injury to the trenches, those picturesque and interesting relics of the great struggle.

Mr. K. A. Tapscott, landscape engineer with the National Park Service, has given especial attention to the matter of protecting earthworks from erosion, the problem that faces everybody whose park areas containing (sic) such defenses. The trenches exist because they have been protected by trees or bushes, and when the trees are thinned and the bushes removed erosion ordinarily begins. However, Mr. Tapscott, by refraining from cutting out too many trees, by planting grass, and by covering the earthworks with layers of pine needles or sawdust, has been fortunate in avoiding the effects of erosion.

The Petersburg park, to which the government area known in the World War as Camp Lee has added, is becoming beautiful. A scenic road runs along the opposing lines of earthworks for a long distance and affords the visitor an opportunity to understand how warfare was carried on seven decades ago. Some of the fortifications have been admirably parked. This park, in conjunction with the famous Crater and the tunnels, is exceedingly interesting.

The Richmond park is a state property, though a bill has been introduced in Congress to transfer it to the federal government. About fifteen years ago citizens of Richmond organized a park association and raised money to purchase land. Property was acquired on the battlefields of Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Gaines's Mill, Malvern Hill and Fort Harrison. The highway commission built the Battlefield Park Route, connecting all of these battlefields and enabling visitors to visit them with ease and pleasure. The Conservation and Development Commission erected a number of historical

markers on the road and dedicated the park at the Confederate Reunion of 1932, the seventieth anniversary of the Seven Day's Battles around Richmond.

When the CCC camps were established, the Conservation and Development Commission secured a camp and developed Fort Harrison, Cold Harbor and Malvern Hill. It is a pleasure and an inspiration to visit this area and see the massive fortifications which still exist after more than seventy years of rain and wind. These defenses were the most elaborate field fortifications ever erected prior to the World War and revolutionized warfare. Before that time fortifications had been thrown up in sieges but not by armies in motion.

It is possible that a military park will be established at Appomattox, as a bill has been introduced in Congress for that purpose. Manassas may also be developed in the near future. The Manassas battlefield association owns land on the famous Henry Hill where Jackson received in a baptismal fire his name of "Stonewall."

The Conservation and Development Commission of which the Honorable Wilbur C. Hall is chairman, has done much work in surveying battlefields and has sought to awaken the people of the state to the importance of preserving memorials of the War between the States. Our people have been too careless in this respect, destroying many beautiful fortifications that would be of great interest if existing now. They should be informed of the value of these works, both historically and economically, so that the wastage may stop. The United Daughters of the Confederacy could aid greatly in establishing a sentiment against the destruction of any of the relics of our history, every day of more value to us.

It is possible that in a few years travelers will be able to go from a park at Manassas on to Fredericksburg, Richmond, and to Petersburg; from Petersburg to Sailor's Creek and Appomattox; and thence over the mountains to Cross Keys, Port Republic, Cedar Mountain, Kernstown and Winchester, finding everywhere beautifully parked areas with markers giving full information of military movements and, perhaps, panoramas showing the battles as they were. If so, Virginia will present to visitors one of the most interesting series of parks in the whole world. This development will be due, in the main, to the work of the National Park Service under the energetic and far-seeing control of Secretary of the Interior Ickes and Director Cammerer. The State Conservation and Development Commission, which has worked on several of the battlefields and made careful studies of them, as well as administering the Richmond battlefield park, has also done much to push this important phase of historical work. Of the hundreds of thousands of visitors to our state each year, an appreciable portion come to see the battlefields of the War between the States, now in process of being so carefully developed and beautifully parked.

2015 Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Annual Meeting & Dinner

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – MAY 22ND THROUGH THE 24TH

“Remembrance”

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is pleased to announce plans for our 2015 annual meeting and dinner. This year’s event will return to our three-day format which has been very popular in the past. Our weekend will incorporate the area’s Memorial Day events as well as our own unique tours, including visits to several local historic cemeteries to learn about their famous residents.

On **Friday, May 22nd** arriving members and their guests may sign in at the CVBT’s registration table located at the Fredericksburg Hospital-ity House, beginning at noon. At **1:30 PM** we will depart the hotel by bus for a tour of **Fredericksburg National Cemetery** on Marye’s Heights, led by retired NPS historian Donald Pfanz. Don will tell us about the cemetery’s origins, its residents, and its evolution as both a site for interpreting the Battles of Fredericksburg in 1862 and 1863 and as a memorial to the soldiers who gave their “last full measure of devotion” there. We will also enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit **the historic Rowe House** on Hanover Street. This structure is one of a mere handful that survive from the 1862 battlefield. It is privately owned and has been recently renovated.

After a break we will reconvene at The Hospitality House for the **CVBT Annual Banquet at 6:30 PM**. It will include a delicious buffet dinner, a premium cash bar, and a silent auction to raise funds for battlefield preservation. You may peruse a list of select auction items on our web site annual meeting page, at www.cvbt.org. This year we are honored to welcome special guest speaker William C. Davis. Mr. Davis is the author or editor of more than fifty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. He was the on-camera senior consultant for 52 episodes of the television series *Civil War Journal*, as well as a number of other productions. In 2013 he retired after thirteen years as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech. His book *The Battle of New*



Market is the basis for the motion picture *Field of Lost Shoes*. He is a four-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award for book-length works on Confederate history, including an award for his newest publication, *Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee—The War They Fought, the Peace They Forged*. The *Wall Street Journal* gave Davis’s new book a strongly positive review in a March 7, 2015 article entitled “The Odd Couple.” That article calls *Crucible of Command* “smoothly written”; lauds the author’s “meticulous drive for facts”; and concludes that the result is a book that is “brilliant and balanced.” Davis’s talk for our annual meeting dinner will be “Grant and Lee, The Generals Nobody

Knows,” based on his recently published work. Davis will cover both men’s full lives, introducing new information into their stories. Mr. Davis will be on hand to autograph your books prior to dinner only. His newest book, *Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee—the War they Fought, the Peace they Forged*, will be available for purchase. (Books sales and signing are exclusive for registered guests of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust event).

On **Saturday, May 23rd**, Bob Krick will lead a morning tour to sites around Fredericksburg where Confederates are buried. The largest of those is the **Confederate Cemetery** and the adjacent **Fredericksburg City Cemetery**. These two cemeteries contain more than three thousand Southern dead, including generals Perrin, Barton, Maury, Stevenson, Sibley, and Ruggles. Numerous other familiar and interesting Confederates are buried there; so too are CVBT’s longtime friend Jerry Brent and some other modern historical figures. We will also walk north on Washington Avenue, through a battle zone, to the private **Kenmore Cemetery** behind the Mary Washington Monument. The bus will stop briefly near the burial site of dead from local hospitals in late 1861 and early 1862, as well as the private **Thornton Family Cemetery**, which contains the remains of a staff officer who was killed in the same volley that mortally wounded Stonewall Jackson. Finally, we will visit the **Masonic Cemetery** downtown, which holds more Confederate dead, as well as a stone that is alleged to date back to 1666. A few feet from

that cemetery lies Ristorante Renato, where we will enjoy an elegant and delicious lunch.

After lunch, the bus will carry us southeast into Caroline County, to visit the magnificent 1850s home of the Corbin Family, “**Moss Neck,**” where Jackson spent most of the last winter of his life, and where he gave his hatband to 5 ½ year old Janie Corbin. We will walk across the grounds for about a mile (roundtrip) to the family cemetery, where archaeologists have recently confirmed that Janie is buried. Because Moss Neck is privately owned, and touring opportunities are strictly limited, we are delighted to have this chance to gain access to the site.

The owner of **Grace Church,** a little antebellum Episcopal chapel on the Bowling Green Road, a few miles west of Moss Neck, has also agreed to open the chapel for our tour group. Grace Church served as headquarters for General Robert E. Rodes during the winter before Chancellorsville, and has some interesting early-20th-century connections too.

On the way back to town, we will stop briefly at the “**Slaughter Pen Farm**” that was saved in a mammoth preservation coup through the combined efforts of CVBT and the Civil War Trust.

The bus will return to the hotel to provide tourers time for dinner on their own before the evening program. After dinner CVBT will provide bus transportation to the Fredericksburg National Cemetery and the Confederate Cemetery, for Luminaria commemorations hosted by the NPS and the Fredericksburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, respectively. It is a beautiful and evocative experience that you will not want to miss.

On **Sunday, May 24th** we will turn our attention to the west, touring sites that CVBT has successfully preserved on the **Chancellorsville and Wilderness battlefields.** Jim Pates and other CVBT board members will relate for tourers the historic significance of these sites, as well as war stories of a more modern vintage: how these sites were saved from destruction and loss to the demands of an exploding population. This will be a behind-the-ropes look at these crucial but seldom-visited sites, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the tools and methodology of historic preservation. CVBT supporters will come away with a deeper understanding of where, and how, their generous support is applied in the noble work of saving our nation’s history. The tour will include a picnic stop at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. Participants will have the opportunity to pre-select their sandwich choice for lunch. The tour will conclude back at the hotel by mid-afternoon.

Our billet: Fredericksburg Hospitality House hotel, at 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg (just inside the Central Park retail center). CVBT is holding a block of guest rooms at the Hospitality House, which will be available for the rate of \$89.00 per night, for both single and double rooms. Room reservations must be made by May 10, 2015 to take advantage of the group rate. Please note that the ground floor of the hotel is designated as “pet friendly.” *Please call the hotel for CVBT rooms.*

Hotel Web Site:

www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com

Hotel Phone: 540-786-8321

Toll Free: 1-800-682-1049

CVBT Event Pricing:

<u>*Before April 25</u>	<u>After April 25</u>
Full weekend (less lodging)	
\$195.00	\$245.00

Pricing for individual events is as follows:

Friday tour	45.00	60.00
Friday night Banquet	60.00	75.00
Saturday tour, lunch and bus to evening luminaria	60.00	75.00
Sunday tour and picnic lunch	45.00	60.00

***DON’T FORGET THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!**
Register before April 25, 2015 and receive a 25% discount on all events.

For questions, please contact us at:
chiefadministrator@cvbt.org

To register online, please go to our website at:
www.cvbt.org

“The mission of Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is to preserve land associated with the four major campaigns: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania.”

Fredericksburg History & Biography:

The 2014 Volume is Now Available

CVBT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the publication of the 13th volume of our annual scholarly journal. Copies have been mailed to all CVBT members at the Active level or above. Journals are also available at some local bookstores, the NPS Battlefield Visitor Center, and through our web site.

Like previous journals, Volume 13 includes new historic research and previously unpublished primary source material, and an examination of local Confederate burials. The opening article, “The Vermont Brigade at Fredericksburg, December 1862,” was written by Dr. Thomas P. Fortune, who resides and practices medicine in town. This piece examines the transformation of the Brigade’s raw recruits of 1861 into battle hardened veterans. After serving on the Virginia peninsula and at Antietam, the First Vermont Brigade was ordered into battle on December 12, 1862. The article describes in detail the terrain south of town and the movements of the Vermont regiments from December 10-18. Altogether, the Brigade sustained only 144 casualties—a fraction of the more than 12,000 suffered by the Union as a whole—largely because the Vermonters were deployed as skirmishers, and often remained flat on the ground, not in the line of battle. Dr. Fortune’s account is thorough, with great insight into the specifics of the battle and the leadership skills of Union commanders. He also humanizes the story with interesting background information and quotes from many of the Green Mountaineers.

The second piece, “West Wall Soldiers,” was penned by Roy B. Perry, Jr, a member of the SCV Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp 1722, which has invested much effort to memorialize the soldiers buried in Fredericksburg. Mr. Perry details the work of the Ladies Memorial Association in preserving records of grave sites, purchasing land for the Confederate Cemetery, and bringing the remains of many soldiers to their final resting places along the western perimeter wall. Since then, Robert A. Hodge and Robert K. Krick have compiled additional inventories of graves. Mr. Perry has supplemented these inventories by adding more details about the burial locations; birth dates; ranks; ages at time of enlistment, injury and death; causes of death; and other known details. This well-researched article provides new



information on 151 Confederates buried at Fredericksburg. His article concludes with a poignant poem entitled “The West Wall Soldiers.”

The third article, “Minutes of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, 1864-1865,” was transcribed and annotated by Erik F. Nelson, who serves as Fredericksburg’s Senior Planner and Archivist, and was a founding member of CVBT. This entry supplements two prior articles on the town Council Minutes that covered the periods from 1860-1861 and 1862-1863. In this piece, Mr. Nelson provides a detailed record of the workings of the Town Council during the waning years of the war. While the minutes discuss many mundane activities of the Council, other entries clearly show the deep effect the war had on the community. The purchase of food to aid impoverished residents was noted, and the minutes further describe citizens’ efforts to arrest straggling or wounded Union soldiers, and the City’s later work to exchange those Federals for Confederates hostages. During much of this period, the Council was clearly involved in both civic and military matters. But by April 1865, the minutes reflect that the end of the war was at hand. Since the military had withdrawn, there is discussion of calling on citizens to act as a voluntary police force. Thereafter, on April 27-28, there is clear acknowledgement that the war has come to an end, followed by a call for citizens to submit to the authority of the United States. These minutes also note the assassination of President Lincoln, and call for punishment of the perpetrator. By June 1865, the minutes largely return to discussions of typical civic matters. All in all, this article provides a fascinating picture of the workings of the Town Council during a time of great upheaval.

The final article, part of our ongoing Southern Exposure series, focuses on an aerial photograph of Fredericksburg that was taken by the U.S. Army Air Corps in May 1933. This image shows the relatively flat and open terrain along the Rappahannock River south of the City, which was virtually unchanged since the time of the war. This open land put the Federals at a considerable disadvantage as they moved toward Confederate forces in the western hills. An interactive version of this photo is available on the NPS blog site *Mysteries and Conundrums*.

CVBT Open House a Grand Success

On the evening of March 11, CVBT hosted an open house at our new office, which is located at 1115A Tyler Street, in the Fredericksburg Battlefield Industrial Park, just below Lee's Hill and across the street from Braehead Farm. The goal of this event was threefold: to give local business and government leaders, and some of our longtime supporters, the opportunity to meet our new Chief Administrator, Ben Brockenbrough; to give attendees a chance to talk and share their thoughts with CVBT Board members; and to show off our new office space.

CVBT has been given this space—rent free—due to the incredible generosity of one of our Board members, Charlie McDaniel. The office has roughly 2,560 square feet, and it includes a large central area for Board meetings and other events, along with four offices, two storage rooms, and a kitchenette. While we previously rented a tiny room that we used primarily for storage, all of the work that was done by CVBT Board members and previous executive directors had to be done in their own homes or offices.

Needless to say, we are thrilled to have this new office as our official “home base.” Charlie and the Hilldrup Moving and Storage Company, and Liberty Place Partners, have also provided us with a nice complement of gently used office furniture for our new space, including desks, filing cabinets, tables, book cases and a variety of chairs. We have truly been blessed by these gifts. Last but not least, it has been fun to realize that groundhogs from Braehead Farm are frequent visitors to our new home site!

The addition of Ben as our new Chief Administrator in January of this year has also proven to be a godsend to CVBT. Ben has settled in very nicely, coordinating many aspects of the move, and has eased seamlessly into the various tasks of working closely with president Mike Stevens and the Board, taking on the administrative work that comes with the job, and working to meet and develop good relations with you, our valued members. A big “Huzzah” for Ben! We hope that many of you will have the chance to talk with him at our upcoming annual meeting.



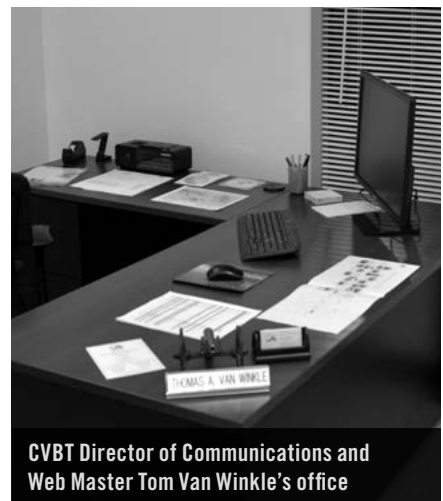
Guests mingle in the central room of our new office



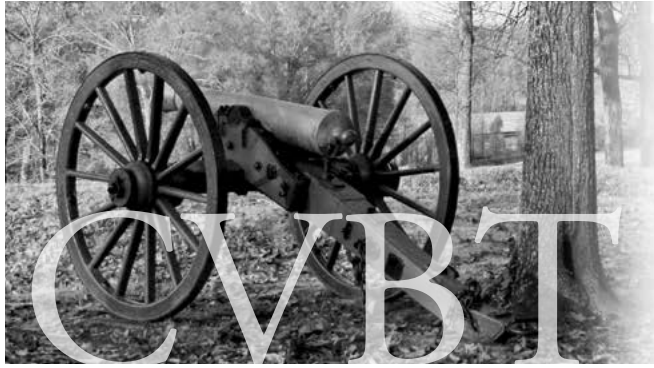
CVBT Chief Administrator Ben Brockenbrough and Lisa Van Winkle



Chief Administrator Ben Brockenbrough's new office



CVBT Director of Communications and Web Master Tom Van Winkle's office



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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**. Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

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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