

On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

Thanks to the Generous Brits

Round table organizations are the way in which many serious minded people study the Civil War. The first such group was the Chicago Civil War Round Table, formally organized in 1940. More have followed and round tables now exist nationwide. The concept has also jumped oceans, to Europe and Australia (although whether the Aussies got the word by way of the Pacific Ocean or the Indian Ocean is unclear).

The American Civil War Round Table of Great Britain is one such overseas (at least to us) organization and their active role in battlefield preservation is truly impressive. This group has contributed to past CVBT projects and they have come through yet again for the Talley Farm purchase. This summer, Peter Gasgoyne-Lockwood forwarded \$1,000 from this British group. The CVBT Board of Directors took this contribution and combined it with \$9,000 of its reserves, to buy down the principal on the Talley property. As before, this amount will significantly reduce the overall interest we will pay on our note. The result will be money saved to purchase other lands.

Many thanks to the American Civil War Round Table of Great Britain.

2000 CVBT Annual Meeting A Roaring Success

Members of the CVBT gathered on May 6th, for Trust's fourth annual membership meeting. This year, we met at White Oak, in Stafford County, near the famous White Oak Church and on the grounds of the increasingly famous White Oak Museum. Attendees were able to tour the museum at their leisure, enjoy what is becoming the standard barbeque dinner, and visit with old friends and new.

Students of the Civil War know that the Army of the Potomac spent the winter of 1862/1863 in much of Stafford County, supplied from a depot established at Aquia Landing. The CVBT meeting occurred in the area where the Union Sixth Corps was encamped. A Union cavalryman recalled the army's impact on the county:

"Our camps extend for several miles along the northern shore above and below Falmouth . . . [N]early the whole territory between the Rappahannock and the Defenses of Washington, a dark, forsaken wilderness region, with only here and there a plantation or a village, was soon converted into a vast camping ground and became the most populous section of Virginia . . ."

(Glazier, Willard. *Three Years in the Federal Cavalry*).

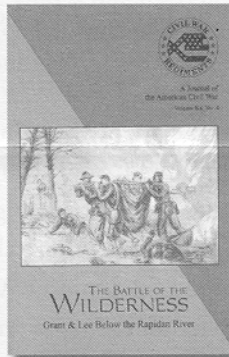
The owner and proprietor of the White Oak Museum is Mr. D.P. Newton. He has amassed a remarkable collection of artifacts from these camps and it is these that are on display. There are the usual bullets, buckles, and buttons, although in

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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.



To help keep our costs down, please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal and clip out the form on the back and send it back to our office.

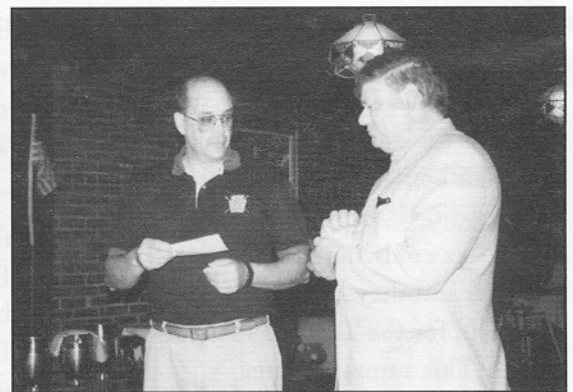
Round Table Corner

In June, the CVBT was honored to be included in the weekend events of a visiting Civil War Round Table to the Fredericksburg area.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown (PA) University chose to visit the Fredericksburg battlefields this summer as part of their annual membership trip. At their Saturday night, June 10th dinner at Renato's, they presented the CVBT with a \$1,000 check to be used in the Trust's preservation efforts.

The Round Table, which is only three years old and located in the Berks County/Reading, PA area, made the presentation as a follow-up to last year's donation of \$500. Even though the Round Table has a membership ceiling of only 100 members, their commitment to preservation has no ceiling.

The Trust would like to express it's heartfelt thanks to the Round Table membership.



FDCWRT Treasurer Arlan Christ (left) presents a \$1,000 check to CVBT President John D. Mitchell.

PHOTO BY STEVEN STANLEY

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 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

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Annual Meeting

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enormous quantities. Mr. Newton has also unearthed a diverse collection of tools and other equipment left behind by the well supplied Northern army. The collection represents approximately 30 years of fieldwork and its sheer magnitude and variety makes it a treasure. One small display, for instance, is a collection of coins with a soldier's name scratched on each one and holes bored in them so a string or leather strip can be used to hang it around the neck. These are an early version of what would be called dog tags in future wars. A coin would not rot even if the body did. On the other hand, a coin would tempt battlefield looters. Another display recreates a set of winter huts with a remarkable level of detail. Not only are the huts authentic in size, materials, and construction, but a careful observer will see a lost button on the ground, a beetle climbing on a stack of firewood, and a candle stuck in the socket of a bayonet thrust into the ground.

In addition to being able to see this museum, there were other opportunities that weekend. Some of our members travel great distances for this event. Consequently, the Trust plans a range of activities for those who wish to do more than have dinner and attend a short meeting. On Saturday, National Park Service historian Eric Mink led a walking tour of the Fredericksburg street fighting that occurred on 11 December 1862.

Fredericksburg is the Civil War's only real urban battlefield and many of the buildings that were in the line of fire that day are still visible in a National Register Historic District. Visible bullet holes have long since been repaired, but homeowners still encounter battle damage on occasion, in the course of various home repairs. On Sunday, National Park Service historian Donald Pfanz led a bus tour of the Fredericksburg battlefield that saw action on 13 December 1862.

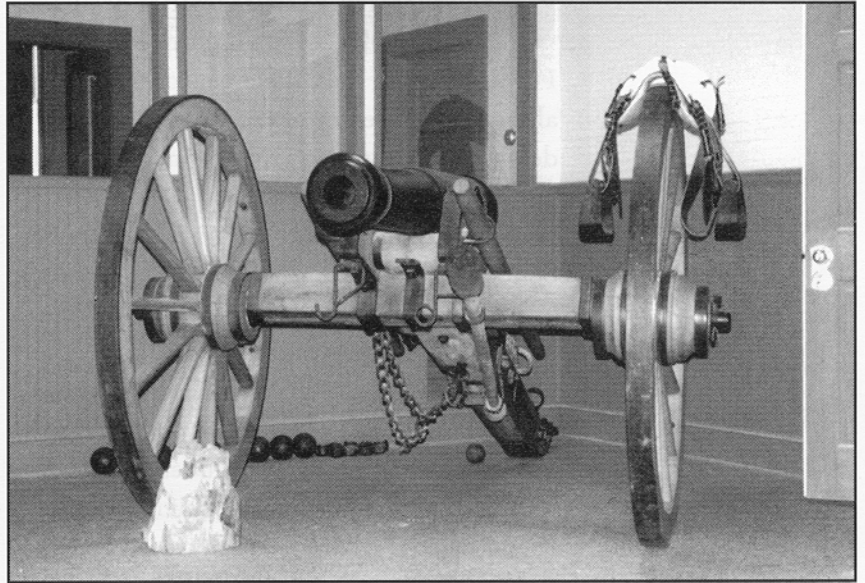


PHOTO BY STEVEN STANLEY

One of many exhibits in the White Oak Museum that made this year's event a favorite.

Both Eric and Don are excellent historians and their tours were well presented.

One old friend we missed this year is Mark Rothert, of Portland, Oregon. His letter is quoted here because it reflects the spirit of our membership:

Dear CVBT:

Due to a scheduling conflict, I will be unable to attend this year's annual meeting. After attending last year's meeting, I was looking forward to making it an annual pilgrimage. I very much enjoy getting together with fellow members, getting some education, and hearing where the organization is headed. It is also a point of pride to see the sites that I have had a small part in helping to preserve. Being a dirt and grass organization makes meeting with fellow members more like a gathering of friends rather than some sort of convention. So it is with deep regret that I will be unable to attend. If there is anything I can do to help out or give me another excuse to come to Fredericksburg, please do not hesitate to ask.

Since my smiling face will be absent from

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Buy a Brick: A Way to Honor the Men and Preserve the Battlefields

One of the Trust's first victories occurred at Willis Hill, where a portion of the Fredericksburg battlefield was preserved for all time. This sector of the Confederate defensive position was readily incorporated into the Fredericksburg - Spotsylvania National Military Park and visitors can now better appreciate the strength of the Confederate line on Marye's Heights that confronted the Army of the Potomac.

The view from Willis Hill, however, is over land that is not within the National Military Park. Instead, this vista includes the neighborhoods and streets of the thriving City of Fredericksburg. Fredericksburgers, for the most part, recognize that they live in a special place. The city government has worked with the National Park Service to enhance the visitor experience outside the Park boundaries, through strategically placed wayside parks that include benches and exhibit panels. One such park is at the corner of Hanover Street and Kenmore Avenue. From this site, one can see where the canal ditch was located, view the embankment that sheltered the Union formations before they made their final, futile attacks, and appreciate the distance involved and contours of the land over which the Federal troops advanced.

The City of Fredericksburg developed the small, landscaped sitting area, the National Park Service provided visitor wayside exhibits, and the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust contracted for the park's design. We will also administer a program of memorial bricks on this site. This brick program is meant to honor those who fought across this ground. Bricks will be sold year round, but will be set in place only once a year, to correspond with Memorial Day. The etched bricks will cost \$100 each and proceeds over and above the actual cost for the brick will be used to preserve battlefield land in the Fredericksburg area.

The Trust invites you to help preserve hallowed ground while memorializing the soldiers whose blood was spilled here. Each brick has room for three lines, with 18 characters per line. Commas, periods, numbers, spaces, and apostrophes each count as one character. Information is limited to a soldier's name, rank, and unit and the submitted name must be that of a Civil War soldier who was in or around Fredericksburg during the period 1861-1865. If known, and if there is room on the brick, you may also consider additional information such as whether the soldier was killed or wounded, and where.

Bricks may be ordered by sending the desired information and a check for \$100 to the CVBT. The Trust reserves the right to abbreviate and/or move words, to maintain balance and to provide the clearest, most legible, etched brick. In the event we are unable to verify the submitted data from known sources, we may ask for corroborating information.

This program is a new one for us, but there is already one brick in place. By next Memorial Day, we anticipate having many more. We hope yours is one of them.

Annual Meeting

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this year's meeting and tour, I would like to do something to make my presence felt. I am enclosing a check for some of what I would have spent making the trip back east. I am somewhat leery of doing this as I do not want to set a precedent of sending a check instead of myself. Hope the meeting goes well and I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

Mark, we look forward to seeing you next year. We promise a good program to make it worth your while.

Renewal Note

Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal. The date appears in the upper right hand corner of the label. Clip out the renewal form and send it back.

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc.

Balance Sheet

December 31, 1999 and 1998

ASSETS:	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998 (unaudited)</u>
Unrestricted cash	\$ 51,661	\$ 93,605
Board restricted cash	17,543	11,682
Deposit on land contract	900	74,521
Land	252,824	
Total Assets	\$ 322,928	\$ 179,808
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Note payable	\$ 74,154	\$ 25,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 74,154	\$ 25,000
NET ASSETS	\$ 248,774	\$ 154,808
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 322,928	\$ 179,808

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc.

Income Statement

Years Ended December 31, 1999 and 1998

REVENUES	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998 (unaudited)</u>
Dues and Donations	\$ 129,458	\$ 174,946
Interest	110	341
Total Unrestricted Revenues	\$ 129,568	\$ 175,287
EXPENSES		
Fundraising:		
Rent	\$ 1,950	\$ 4,779
Telephone	1,150	993
Licenses and fees	225	5,456
Insurance	144	439
Printing and Postage	7,394	7,472
Office Expenses	276	3,952
Supplies	19	10,533
Dues	100	
Promotion	3,786	397
Repairs and Maintenance	100	
Internet website expenses	1,018	550
Annual Meetings	4,321	16,516
Professional Fees	1,300	1,200
Other:		
Interest Expense	2,683	11,161
Grants and Donations	10,335	30,000
Property taxes	801	
Total Expenses	\$ 35,602	\$ 93,448
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 93,966	\$ 81,839
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	154,808	72,969
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$ 248,774	\$ 154,808

www.cvbtt.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.

RENEW TODAY!!

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

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 publishes 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.



604-A William Street, Suite 1

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 374-0900 ■ fax (540) 371-4505

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