

# ON THE skirmish line

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

## Now Beginning Our 17th Year of Preservation *From the President—A Look Back at 2012*

2012 PROVED TO BE AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR CVBT, AND HERE'S A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR EVENTS:

☆ One of CVBT's most passionate and effective leaders passed away this year. In April, Bill Kinnamon, long time Board member and legal counsel, died, leaving all of us who had had the great good fortune to be his friend deeply saddened and bereft. It has been said that there are many things in life that will catch our eye but only a few that will catch our heart. There are many people we'll meet in our life but only a few who will affect us so profoundly that we will be changed forever for having known them. Bill was one such person, and he is, and forever will be, missed.

☆ Three parcels of hallowed ground were purchased this year. Two of these tracts were a part of Jackson's flank attack. One was a 13 acre parcel on the south side of Rt. 3 (the historic Orange Turnpike) near the intersection with the Orange Plank Road. (You may be familiar with the property because



CVBT President Mike Stevens speaks at the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

of the "Castle," an old relic shop that long occupied the land.) We have named this parcel "the Rodes-Doles" tract. The other was a 9 acre parcel we're calling "the Stonewall Brigade" tract, also on the south side of Rt. 3, and representing the first land preserved on the south side of the road from Wilderness Church east to the National Park Service Visitor Center. It lies less than a mile from the Rodes-Doles property. With these two acquisitions, we have now preserved a total of 58 acres on the south side of Rt. 3.

At the end of the year, we also closed on an 81 acre tract to the north of Rt. 3 in the Wilderness. This land, which we're

calling "Wilderness Crossroads II," consists of three nearby but noncontiguous parcels that include the site of both the historic Wilderness Tavern and the Confederate Second Corps Hospital. These important acquisitions have brought us to a total of almost 1000 acres of hallowed ground preserved on all four of our major battlefields since CVBT came into existence in late 1996.

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The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is pleased to announce its annual meeting, which will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville. On Friday, May 3, 2013, noted authors and historians Robert K. Krick and Gary W. Gallagher will join us to discuss Chancellorsville and the pending clash at Gettysburg. Bob's presentation will focus on Lee's direction of Chancellorsville, his greatest victory of the war. Gary will present "Looking Toward Gettysburg's 150th Anniversary: How Important Was the Battle in 1863?" CVBT hosted an event with Bob and Gary during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg that was attended by almost 200 people! Several of their books will again be available for sale in the banquet hall, and Bob and Gary will be happy to inscribe them. The duo will be conducting a Chancellorsville tour with Civil War Tours on May 2-3, and they are adding our annual meeting to their agenda. Details about their tour, which is not a CVBT event, can be seen at <http://www.civilwartours.org>.

The annual meeting will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel, 2801 Plank Road in Central Park. It will include a delicious buffet dinner and a premium brand cash bar. Please join us at this special anniversary event. It is an opportunity you will not want to miss! For those of you who may be interested, CVBT is holding a block of guest rooms at the Hospitality House Hotel, which will be available for the rate of \$85.00 per night, for both single and double rooms. Please note as well that the ground floor of the hotel is "pet friendly." The National Park Service (NPS) will be providing a wide range of events during the anniversary. Rather than providing our own tours in conjunction with the annual

# DON'T MISS the Annual Meeting in May!

meeting, CVBT is encouraging everyone to attend the NPS events. To accommodate our members who plan on attending the NPS programs, our room block will begin on Tuesday, April 30 and run through Saturday, May 4. When the NPS

program has been formulated you may view it at <http://www.nps.gov/frsp/index.htm>.

**WHEN:** May 3, 2013. Cocktail hour at 6:00, followed by dinner, the program and the meeting.

**WHERE:** The Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. For room reservations at the CVBT block rate, please contact the hotel directly at (540) 786-8321. To ensure the block rate, please make your reservation no later than April 10.

**EVENT COST:** \$60.00 (before March 22)  
\$75.00 (after March 22) (Room not included)

If you are interested in joining us, please mail your check to: CVBT, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402. You may also pay by credit card on our website, [www.CVBT.org](http://www.CVBT.org), by clicking Pay by Credit Card. If you have any questions, please contact us by phone at **540-374-0900**, or by email at [excdirector@cvbt.org](mailto:excdirector@cvbt.org).

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Members will receive a mailed notice of the meeting in February, but please act now, as this event is open to both CVBT members and the general public, and will sell out quickly. We look forward to seeing you on May 3!



**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](http://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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Civil War Trust

★ Six years ago CVBT pledged one million dollars to the Civil War Trust toward the purchase of the Slaughter Pen Farm. This was a HUGE amount of money for a small organization like ours, but it is with humbled pride that I can announce that this million dollar pledge was paid off in full this year.

CVBT SPECIAL EVENTS  
THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

★ In February, a fundraising weekend was made possible by a local movie theater/bowling alley complex, Muvico Village 12 (now Paragon) movie theater/Splitsville bowling alley. On Saturday the movies "Gone With the Wind" and "Glory" were shown on the big screen, all proceeds coming to CVBT. On Sunday, bowling lanes were made available for the public, again with all proceeds coming to CVBT.

★ CVBT hosted Park Day in March, a hands-on effort to bring maintenance projects to the Chancellorsville battlefield.

★ In March, there was the premiere of a 30 minute documentary, "A Place Where the Past Is Always Present: Preserving Civil War Battlefields," produced by **Arch DePeppe** and **David Jennings**, explaining why CVBT takes its preservation mission so seriously.

★ Our Annual Meeting was held in April, with tours of Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford (with dinner at the Inn at Kelly's Ford), Brandy Station, historic homes Auburn and Rose Hill, the White Oak Museum, and the grounds of Brompton. **Bob Krick** was our keynote speaker at the annual meeting itself.

★ A special dinner was held on December 13, 150 years to the day after the battle of Fredericksburg, with **Bob Krick** and **Gary Gallagher** speaking and answering questions. Almost 200 people attended, making it the most well-attended event CVBT has ever put on.

★ In December, the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of our journal *Fredericksburg History & Biography* was published and CVBT held a public event where copies could be purchased and personally autographed by the authors themselves. Among those authors was **Erik Nelson**, who has been the editor of the journal since its beginning and who, more than any other person, is responsible for the extraordinary quality of its production.

★ This year our 4.9 acre Harris Farm property was included in the Civil War Trails program.

★ Over 40 trees were planted on our 1 acre Pelham's Corner property in November which, as they grow, will provide valuable screening for this important ground.

★ Special recognition of several individuals is appropriate:

**Joe Kress**, both for donating to CVBT a piece of original work, the Jackson desk that was used in the movie "Gods and Generals," and for sponsoring a hospitality suite during our annual meeting weekend. Thank you, Joe!

**Scott Eyestone**, for helping to evangelize about CVBT both through his presence as CVBT representative at various functions this year and through the use of his exceptional video skills. Thank you, Scott!

**Kevin Jones**, a local lawyer who has spent untold hours helping us with various legal items, all pro bono. Thank you, Kevin!

**Russ Smith**, Superintendent of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, who has supported CVBT in many ways over the past year. Thank you, Russ!

★ And to my fellow CVBT Board members, the best in the business:

Harriett Condon	Jim Pates
Lloyd Harrison	Rob Hodge
Tom Van Winkle	Joe Rowe
Mike Greenfield	Kevin Leahy
Linda Wandres	Champe Corbin
Robert Krick	

★ And the heart and soul of the leadership of CVBT, **Jerry Brent**, our Executive Director.

To you all, it is an honor to stand with you in the preservation effort. Thank you!

★ And finally, to you, our members. The success CVBT has had simply would not have been possible without your ongoing and very generous support, and on behalf of the leadership of the organization I thank you and ask that you continue to stand with us. Together, we ARE making a difference!

# CVBT Acquires 81 Acres at Wilderness Tavern

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has added an important new acquisition to our existing holdings in the Wilderness. On December 31, we closed on the purchase of an 81 acre tract, which we have now designated as “Wilderness Crossroads II.” This land consists of three nearby but noncontiguous parcels, all of which have significant frontage on the historic Orange Turnpike (modern day Route 3). The property, which lies on the north side of the turnpike, near its intersection with the Germanna Plank Road, is directly across

from the 93 acre tract that CVBT acquired in 2009. While it is located outside of the National Park Service boundary, the property is of such historical significance that CVBT was committed to acquiring it once the necessary funding became available. Founding CVBT Board members John Mitchell and Enos Richardson were instrumental in acquiring and preserving these key parcels of land.

This land was owned by William M. Simms during the time of the Civil War, and it includes the site of the historic Wilderness Tavern. During and after the Battle of Chancellorsville, which was fought approximately three miles to the east of this ground, the tavern and its appurtenant buildings and surrounding grounds, which came to house many tents, served as the site of the Confederate Second Corps Hospital. Many of the Confederates who

were wounded at Chancellorsville were brought to the Wilderness Tavern hospital and other nearby hospitals. At one point, more than 3,000 soldiers were ministered to on this land.

The most famous person to be treated at the Wilderness Tavern Hospital was Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, who was accidentally wounded in “friendly fire” by men from Jim Lane’s North Carolina brigade in the darkness on the night of May 2. Several of Jackson’s compatriots were also killed, or had their horses shot from under them.

General Jackson’s left arm was shattered by two musket balls, and he was transported to the Wilderness Tavern hospital, where Dr. Harvey Black had a large tent prepared for his arrival. Dr. Hunter H. McGuire accompanied General Jackson to the hospital and performed surgery on him. However, given the severity of Jackson’s wounds,

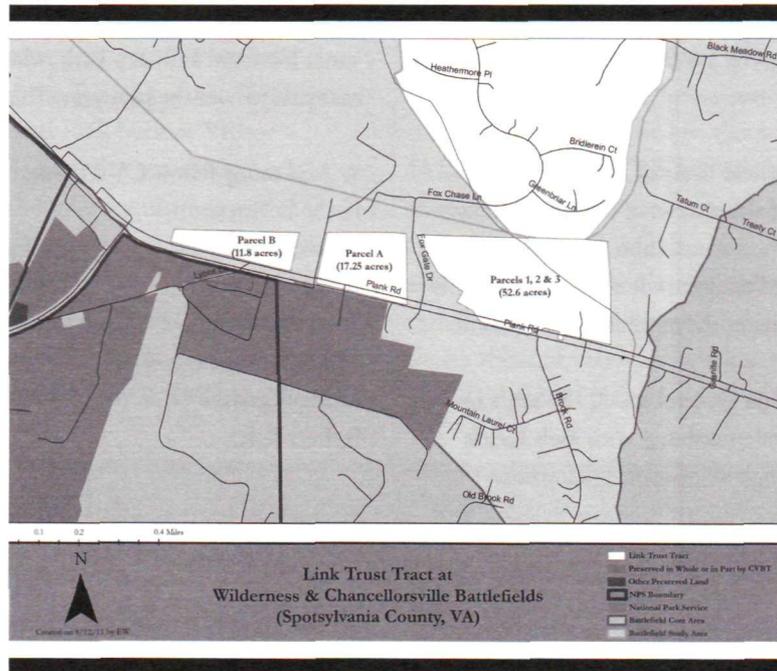
Dr. McGuire had to amputate his arm.

General Jackson was then transported to Guinea Station, where he died eight days later.

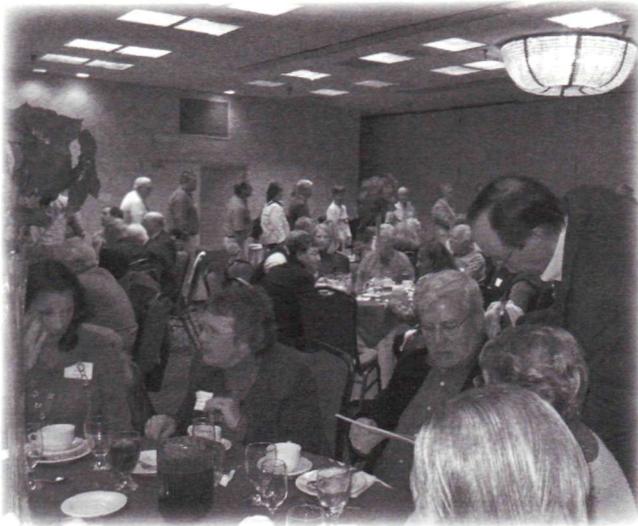
During the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864, this land was again the focus of much military activity. The Union Army of the Potomac established its headquarters at this crossroads, and Generals Ulysses S. Grant and George G. Meade were present here. The land today is well preserved, and it appears

much as it did during the time of the Civil War.

The purchase price for these three parcels was \$575,000. CVBT was able to purchase this land using matching grants from both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the American Battlefield Protection Program, along with assistance from our good friends at the Civil War Trust.



The Civil War Trust



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## *CVBT's Special Dinner in December*

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On December 13, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust hosted a truly memorable dinner event coinciding with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg. Noted authors and historians Robert K. Krick and Gary W. Gallagher joined us to discuss two specific aspects of the Battle. Bob's presentation focused on "Fredericksburg under War's Savage Heel: the Plight of the City's Civilians," and Gary's lecture was entitled "Confederates Respond to the Battle of Fredericksburg." Both presentations were enthusiastically received by the crowd of nearly 200 people.

Historian and battlefield preservationist Ed Bears was also in attendance, and he signed copies of his book *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg—The Campaigns That Changed the Civil War*. Moreover, CVBT used this special evening to unveil our newly published volume of *Fredericksburg History & Biography*, and the journal authors were on hand to sign copies. The CVBT Board and our guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel, which will also be the site for our 2013 annual meeting on the evening of May 3. All in all, the evening of December 13 was an excellent time for our Board to spend some time with you—our valued members—and to share friendship and camaraderie, a keen interest in history, and a commitment to preserve the battlefields that are all around us.

## A NATION REMEMBERS

**F**rom December 7-15, residents and visitors were treated to an extraordinary series of programs as the National Park Service commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Battle of Fredericksburg. The event was conceived and executed flawlessly by Superintendent Russ Smith and the extremely dedicated and knowledgeable staff of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. The local Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration Committee, led by educator Eric Powell, worked closely with the Park on an excellent series of reenactor and living history programs entitled "Fire on the Rappahannock."

The commemoration events examined many aspects of the battle. NPS sponsored activities included a bus tour, numerous walking programs, "real time" tours—faithful to the times and places where events occurred, and formal presentations by NPS historians Frank O'Reilly and John Hennessy. The tours involved visits to the Slaughter Pen Farm, Prospect Hill and Belvoir, as well as the Sunken Road and Marye's Heights. The walking programs addressed a number of subjects, including river crossing sites, the looting of the city by Union forces, the plight of civilians during the battle, and the transformation of Fredericksburg into a "City of Hospitals."

The Committee presented a wide variety of living history programs, including activities designed for local students. It also recruited and brought in 1,500 reenactors to bring the battle to life. In partnership with the NPS, the reenactors demonstrated the beginning of the Union assault (with cannons roaring), the first amphibious assault—under fire—in U.S. history, the intense battle for the land south of town, and the first block-to-block street fighting on American soil. The Committee also orchestrated a breathtaking large scale reenactment of the Battle of Marye's Heights, which was observed and applauded by more than 1,000 spectators.

The Park's extraordinary "Culminating Event" proved to be a highlight of the week. It began with a large procession of reenactors and guests from the riverbank, tracing soldiers' footsteps through the town, accompanied by the sounds of shells, bells and drums. The march concluded at the Sunken Road, where an extremely evocative culminating program of music, words, reflection and military salutes was held. At the conclusion, marchers placed flowers on the stone wall in remembrance of the fallen.

We of CVBT were privileged to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event. Huzzah to the NPS and the Committee for their extremely hard work and dedication in bringing the battle to life!

# CVBT Adds Another Parcel at Jackson's Flank Attack

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is excited to announce that we have acquired yet another key piece of land at the site of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's famed Flank Attack during the Battle of Chancellorsville. The 9.2 acre parcel, which we have designated as "The Stonewall Brigade Tract," is located along the southern shoulder of the Orange Turnpike (modern day Route 3), and includes more than 350 feet of frontage along Plank Road, to the east of the intersection between the Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road. It is the first property that we have preserved on the south side of the Turnpike from Wilderness Church east to the National Park Service Visitor Center. The Stonewall Brigade tract lies less than a mile from our recent 13 acre Rodes-Doles acquisition and the other Flank Attack properties that we have saved—which now total 58 acres.

This is the land where Jackson and his men burst out of the Wilderness to confront the Federal troops of General O.O. Howard's Eleventh Corps on May 2, 1863. As the



Union troops fled eastward, the last of Howard's force, led by Adolphus Buschbeck of the 154<sup>th</sup> New York, formed a rallying line of last defense which has since been called "The Buschbeck Line." After the fall of the Federal forces, Union soldiers fled eastward across this land. Shortly thereafter, five Virginia regiments from the Stonewall Brigade arrived on the land and made preparations to camp for the night. Many of these men would die in intense fighting on the following day.

The purchase price for this parcel was \$264,400, and we closed on the property on December 28. Our friends at the Civil War Trust have contributed \$63,750 toward this acquisition, and we are also seeking a federal grant of \$132,200. Thus, CVBT will need to raise \$68,450 to save this critical piece of property. Eventually, we will also need to raise funds to demolish a residential structure and several outbuildings that lie upon the land. Currently we have raised over \$25,000 towards our goal and would like to thank those of you who have contributed. If you have not already done so, please help us with this important project!

## Stay on the Skirmish Line!

Take a look at the mailing label on your latest *Skirmish Line* newsletter. You will see that it includes your CVBT membership expiration date. As a dirt and grass outfit, members can help us save on mailing costs by checking that expiration date and sending in their renewal on their own. If the date is highlighted, your membership has expired. While we would like to share the Skirmish Line with everyone, we can only afford to send it to current members. So please renew your membership at the appropriate time. You might also consider upgrading your membership level, to increase our capability to save hallowed ground in central Virginia.



**Remember to order all your Amazon.com items through the CVBT Amazon web link. CVBT receives a percentage of the order to help preserve hallowed ground!**

# Fredericksburg History & Biography:

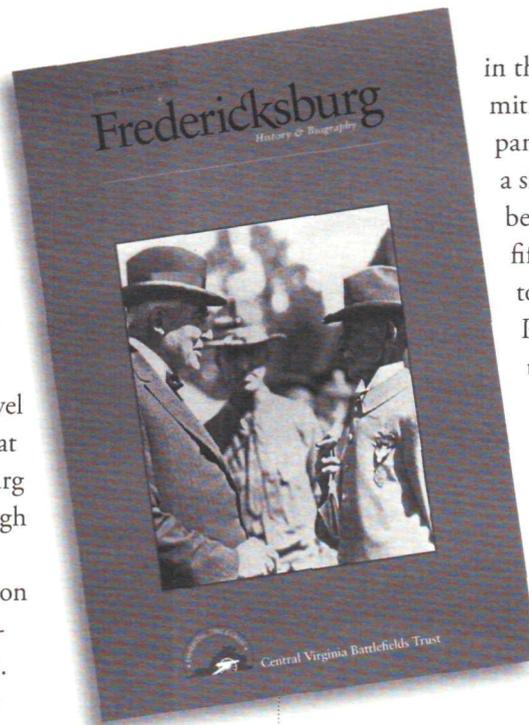
## *The 2012 Volume is Now Available*

CVBT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the publication of the 11<sup>th</sup> volume of *Fredericksburg History & Biography*. While CVBT remains focused on battlefield preservation, we take pride in the publication of our annual scholarly journal. We hosted a book signing on December 16, and copies have been mailed to all members who are at the active level or above. Journals are also available at local bookstores, at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center, and through our web site at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

Volume 11 includes a combination of new historical research and previously unpublished primary material. The opening article, written by Eric Mink, Cultural Resources Manager at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Military Park, is entitled "Aerial Bombs and Amphibious Landings: The 1921 Marine Corps Maneuvers on the Wilderness Battlefield." This piece provides an interesting insight into the preparedness maneuvers that Marine Brigadier General Smedley Butler led on the Wilderness Battlefield in autumn 1921. Butler assembled a force of roughly 4,000 men, who conducted an "amphibious landing" (crossing Wilderness Run) and subsequent aerial exercises in which bombers attacked the outline of ships in a local field.

The second piece, "It Does Appear as if Our Soldiers Were Made Altogether of Patriotism": The Civil War Diary of Mary Gray Caldwell, Part I, was transcribed and annotated by Superintendent Russell Smith of the F&SNMP. This well researched article includes numerous diary entries by young Mary Caldwell, who lived in Fredericksburg and turned fourteen in November 1860. This transcription of her diary from March 1863 to June 1864 includes an account of the civilian evacuation of Fredericksburg and a detailed description of Mary's life in Fredericksburg in 1863.

The third entry, introduced and annotated by CVBT Executive Director Jerry Brent, is entitled "Experience of an Old Soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1862-1865 by W.P. Goodwin of Caroline County, Virginia (reprint of a 1907 pamphlet)." Jerry based this article on the sole remaining 1907 pamphlet, which has descended



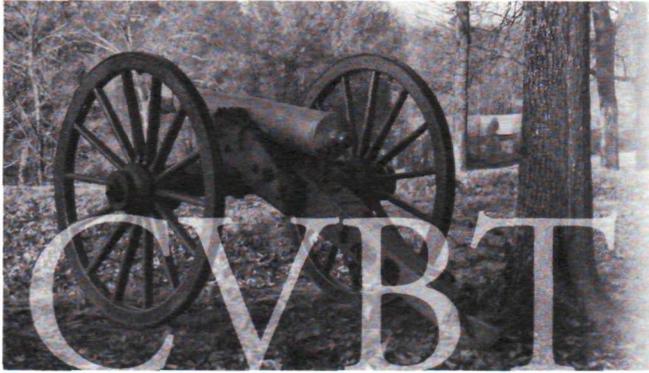
in the family due to their strong commitment to stewardship and history. The pamphlet provides a riveting account of a signalman in the Confederate service, beginning in 1862, when a determined fifteen year old Goodwin left school to join the combat action at Slaughter Pen Farm. The narrative continues through Goodwin's signal duties along the James River, and finally ends with the 1865 Confederate surrender at Appomattox.

The fourth article is entitled "Minutes of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, 1860-1861," as transcribed and annotated by longtime editor of *Fredericksburg History & Biography*

Erik Nelson. Erik has provided a fascinating view of the pre-war town council during a period of great transition. While the Minutes begin by noting many rather mundane activities of the 1860 Town government, the Council's notes change considerably in 1861, given "the present crisis in the condition of the Country..." Minutes from April to December 1861 increasingly reference very serious issues as the tension increases and the war creeps closer. The contrast between the 1860 and 1861 minutes is striking.

The final piece, part of our ongoing Southern Exposure section by Eric Mink, is entitled "Stonewall Sells: The 1863 Jackson Photograph." In this article, Eric discusses the 1863 photograph of Stonewall Jackson taken by Daniel T. Cowell at Belvoir in late April 1863. Of the six photographs that were ever taken of Jackson, only two were taken during the Civil War, with Cowell's photograph being the best known of the two. Since Jackson was shot by his own men at Chancellorsville soon after the photo was taken, this is the final photograph we have of him today.

CVBT is extremely grateful for the significant amount of time, energy and expertise that our journal authors devote to writing their scholarly articles, and sharing their knowledge with us. We are also most appreciative of the countless hours that Erik Nelson continues to devote to the editing and publication of *Fredericksburg History & Biography*.



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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](http://www.cvbt.org). Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

Annual Member	\$ 35	Patron	\$ 500	Life Patron	\$10,000
Active Member	\$ 135	Benefactor	\$ 1,000	Corporate Member	\$ 500
Sustaining Member	\$ 250	Life Member	\$ 5,000	Corporate Patron	\$ 1,000

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