

On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

More Hallowed Ground Saved Trust Scores Another Victory at Chancellorsville

The Trust is pleased to announce the purchase of additional land on the Chancellorsville battlefield. Buying land in the Fredericksburg area had become difficult because owners knew a battlefield preservation group (us) was seeking real estate. They also thought, apparently, that we were exceptionally well funded (we are not) and were often asking price that were higher than the fair market value. The Trust could not see its way clear to feed such speculation by acquiring land at artificially inflated prices. Still, we actively pursued many possible purchases as the months passed and one of them has finally come through.

This recent land acquisition is a 5.39 acre parcel along State Route 3

(the Orange Turnpike), just east of Chancellorsville and north of our 100-acre McLaws' Wedge purchase. On May 1st, 1863, United States Regulars of Major General George Sykes' division (Major General G. Meade's Fifth Corps) traversed this area as they moved out of the woods toward the open ground around Fredericksburg. Major General Joseph Hooker had skillfully opened the campaign by moving his Army of the Potomac across two rivers to a position behind the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Sykes' column advanced along the Orange Turnpike while other units moved along parallel roads to the north and south. After two of these columns collided with Confederate units under Stonewall Jackson, however,

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Tricord Homes: Partner in Battlefield Preservation

A growing population seeking places to live, work and shop inevitably collides with other interests and values. Historic events and persons touched so much of Fredericksburg and the surrounding countryside that almost any effort to build something has an impact on some tangible part of our collective past. A founding member of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust once noted that our mission to preserve significant sites is made difficult because we are surrounded by so many. For many developers, historic earthworks and battlefield terrain are so prevalent as to be almost mundane. During this time of relentless growth in central Virginia, a private development firm called Tricord has stepped forward to make a difference and has donated \$7,500 to the CVBT.

Tricord purchased a 100-acre site in Stafford County with plans to construct

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More Purchases

As we go to press, the CVBT has just purchased two more tracts of land. The first is a 1/3 of an acre located on Fredericksburg battlefield where John Pelham stalled Union forces for over an hour on the morning of December 13, 1862. We also purchased is a much sought after portion of the Talley Farm located in the Jackson Flank Attack area of the Chancellorsville battlefield. More information about this 25-acre tract and the Pelham property will be in the our fall newsletter.

Syke's Division moves east along the Orange Turnpike towards Fredericksburg. A few hours later, they would be moving across this ground again in the opposite direction.



Dedicated Preservationists
The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Civil War round tables are one of the mainstays of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. They respond generously when payments are due for battlefield land and they keep their members informed of ongoing preservation efforts. We are proud to list them as members of the CVBT and try to keep them informed of what we are doing. We are especially enamored of our local Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, a group that came into being on February 13, 1989.

Ten years ago, as several local citizens discussed founding this round table, two contractors installing insulation in the historic Kenmore mansion uncovered a 12-pound cannonball. Fired from a Federal gun during the December 1862 battle of Fredericksburg, it had lain undiscovered for 126 years. Reports filed by Federal artillery officers, after the campaign, complain of the high failure rate of their explosive rounds. The cannonball found under the attic floorboards was clearly fuzed, but had obviously failed to function. Fortuitously for the preservation of this historic town on the Rappahannock River, the Federal bombardment was not as destructive as it could have been.

Less conspicuous at the time, but also with far reaching consequences for preservation, were a few brief paragraphs announcing the formation of a group that would meet on a regular basis to study the Civil War as well as seek to preserve its historic sites. The paper

read: "A new Civil War roundtable has formed for men and women in the Fredericksburg area who are interested in learning about the war and working toward preservation of the nation's Civil War heritage." The group would be called the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table.

The new round table held its first meeting on February 13, 1989, at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center. Despite falling snow and a somewhat remote venue, several dozen dedicated people showed up to become charter members and thus bring this organization into being. National Park Service historian Karen Rehm set a standard for excellence in round table programs by recounting the early efforts of Civil War veterans to acquire the fields and woods where they had confronted one another in the not too distant past.

During the ensuing ten years, the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table has steadily grown in membership as well as in preservation expertise and effort. They have held monthly meetings for their members, provided battlefield tours during the summer months, organized an annual series of battlefield preservation conferences, and raised impressive amounts of money to help purchase battlefield land. Donations to the CVBT alone exceed \$9,000! Throughout their existence, they have held true to their mission to learn as well as protect. Groups like this are simply invaluable.

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

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. Board of Directors

John D. Mitchell <i>President</i>	Michael P. Stevens, MD <i>Treasurer</i>	Carroll Hayden	Rebecca Rickey
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The CVBT Annual Meeting A Weekend of History and Comradery

One could almost feel Stonewall Jackson's presence. The symposium held on May 1st, after all, took place on the very ground that this legendary figure had achieved his greatest triumph. The CVBT held its Annual Meeting and celebrated "Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville", the weekend of May 1st and 2nd, on a 5-acre parcel it had purchased to prevent it being bulldozed and cleared for a house. The Trust has since sold this property to the National Park Service, but the setting proved to be captivating. As historian Donald Pfanz noted: "Just to be able to give this talk about the Eleventh Corps on the very land that they were to defend is a treat in itself."

Over 40 members of the Trust enjoyed a two-day weekend which consisted of a Saturday seminar as well as a Sunday bus tour. On Saturday, these members heard from three noted historians who are intimately familiar with the Chancellorsville battlefield and those who fought there. Donald Pfanz conveyed a comprehensive picture of the Army of the Potomac's position and their actions up to and during Jackson's flank attack. Next, Frank O'Reilly discussed the Confederate flank march, their attack late on May 2nd, and Jackson's wounding. Robert K. Krick wrapped up the afternoon with an insightful look at Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson as they determined how best to flank and attack an overwhelmingly larger opponent.

Later that evening, over 200 Trust members and their guests enjoyed a barbeque dinner. Excellent food and the chance to catch up with old friends created a festive atmosphere. We were also honored to have two well established groups join us on this historic terrain. The Society of Friends of the National War Museum, from London, England were on tour and came for dinner. In addition, the long established and well respected Chicago Civil War Round Table, on tour with Ed Bearss, joined us.



PHOTO BY ALLAN BAUER

A stiff wind precluded a planned bonfire, but the evening concluded with a special candlelight ceremony at the Lee-Jackson bivouac site, at the corner of the Orange Plank Road and the old Furnace Road. Bob Krick and Ed Bearss gave a dramatic rendition of that famous meeting, exactly 136 years later, to the day and to the hour.

Members of the Trust enjoy dinner and a chance to stand on the ground traversed by Jackson's attack.

The next day, May 2nd, our 40 members enjoyed a special bus tour of sites related to Stonewall Jackson and his action during the Chancellorsville campaign. Under the excellent guidance of Frank O'Reilly the group gained new insights about this most famous Civil War general during his finest hour of the war. The tour started at the Zion Church ridge where Jackson first took charge of the troops at Chancellorsville and wound its way to the area of his flank attack. The group was able to stand and walk on the actual ground where Jackson attacked the flank of the Union army. The tour finished up where Jackson was wounded. Frank presented new evidence about the exact site of this event that many say doomed the Confederacy.

What a delightful weekend. The weather was perfect with cool temperatures and plenty of sunshine. The time just flew by for

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Hallowed Ground Saved

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Hooker ordered his troops back to Chancellorsville. The Southerners pressed the retreating Federals hard and were able to capture valuable haversacks, overcoats, blankets, and even some weapons.

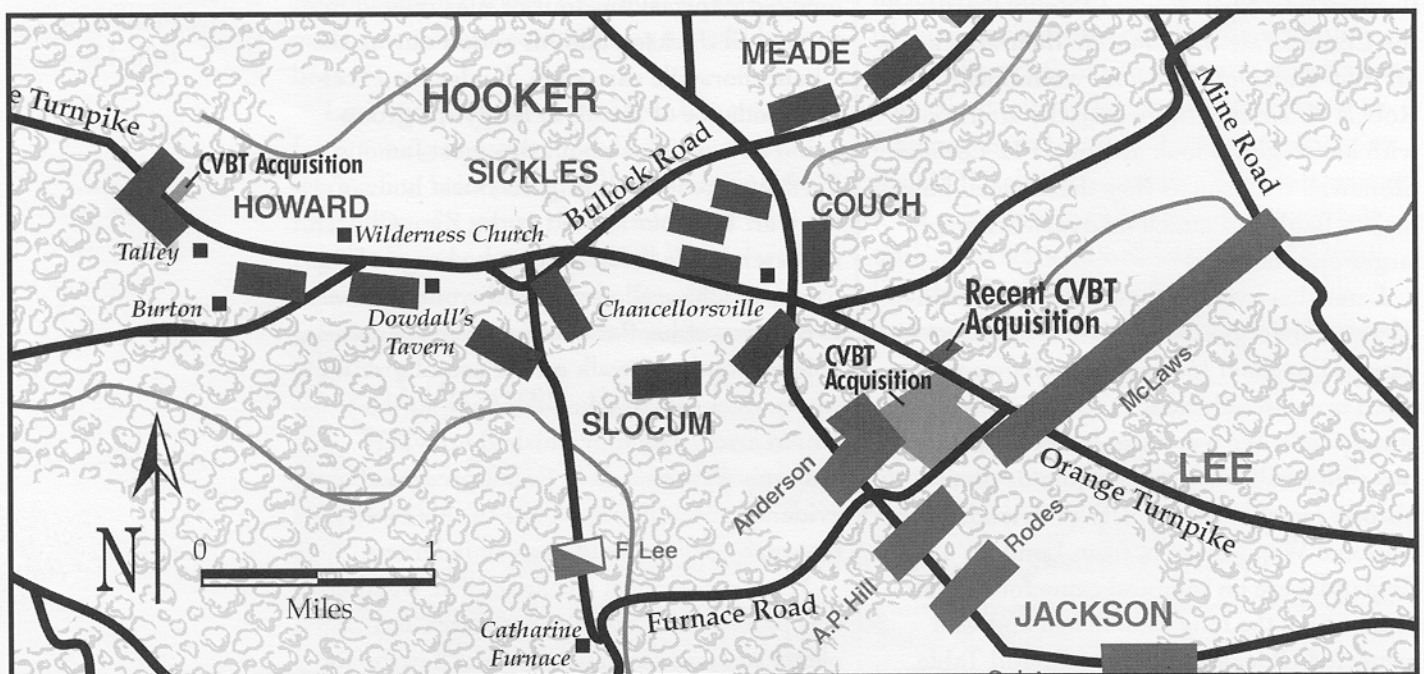
The Trust land remained contested ground during May 2nd and 3rd. During those days, General Robert E. Lee risked everything. He maintained a small force under Major General Lafayette McLaws to keep the Federal army focused on this part of the field while Stonewall Jackson marched a striking column across the Union front to get onto their unprotected right flank. Jackson's troops attacked out of the woods on the evening of May 2nd and pressed harder toward Chancellorsville on the 3rd. Southern troops swept across the Trust's land when Major General Richard H. Anderson launched an attack late on May 3rd, in conjunction with the Confederate attacks closing in from the west.

This purchase is not as dramatic as some of our earlier acquisitions. This 5 acres, through, is part of a larger effort to acquire unprotected land around the critically impor-

tant crossroads known as Chancellorsville. As many of our members already know, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the Chancellorsville battlefield as one of America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites in 1998. The immediate threat is very rapid growth and development. The long term threat is a federal aid highway that is proposed to be built through the battlefield and which will bring overwhelming pressure for more development. This new road would cross State Route 3 in the vicinity of the first day's battle. The Trust's latest purchase is meant to remove the possibility of pavement on top of this hallowed ground.

The new property cost \$45,000 and the Civil War Trust has agreed to provide half of this amount. The CVBT certainly appreciates this generous assistance. We were privileged to be a part of the Civil War Trust's Willis Hill purchase, on the Fredericksburg battlefield, and this partnership is equally gratifying. We are moving on to our next purchase and will keep you informed as we gain momentum.

Recent CVBT acquisition of 5-acres along Route 3 in relation to previous CVBT purchases. Battle map shown is the situation on the evening of May 1st.



Tricord Homes

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houses. As many of you know, during the winter of 1862/63, the Union Army of the Potomac occupied the area, its various units encamped wherever they could find access to wood and water. A huge supply depot operated at Aquia Landing, on the Potomac River. Pickets kept watch along the Rappahannock. As this massive Federal host prepared for active campaigning, President Abraham Lincoln came down from Washington to confer with its commander, Major General Joseph Hooker. During six days in early April 1863, Lincoln, his wife Mary Todd and their young son Tad camped with the army, their tents located on the site slated for housing development in 1999. Noah Brooks, a contemporary reporter who accompanied the president wrote:

At Hooker's headquarters, we were provided with three large hospital tents, floored, and furnished with camp beds and such rude appliances for nightly occupation as were in reach (Brooks, Noah: [Washington in Lincoln's Time](#), pp. 52-53).

Realistically, the Battlefields Trust could not consider preserving this land where Lincoln had slept. There are so many places around Fredericksburg with historic associations that it is impractical to preserve them all. We seek to identify those places that are truly important while recognizing that others will be lost. Tricord's donation of \$7,500 is tremendously gratifying as a consequence. The Trust's president, John D. Mitchell, noted, "It's a genuine gesture of goodwill. We'll take those funds and utilize them in a different spot." The Trust has gained unexpected, but very welcome funds to continue its mission to protect battlefields. Tricord will also be able to benefit. Their property's connection to Lincoln will certainly enhance marketing and, as Michael A. Jones, one of Tricord's owners, said, "It will also give homeowners an appreciation of where they live." Mr. Jones could not have said it better. We seek to preserve parts of our past so we can all appreciate where we live.

Annual Meeting

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PHOTO BY ALLAN BAUER

all those in attendance though and the weekend ended all too soon. The Trust would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all those that helped make this weekend so memorable. The National Park Service historians Donald Pfanz, Frank O'Reilly and Robert K. Krick captivated their audiences. Other rangers helped with parking and traffic control. Thank you also to all those who attended our Annual Meeting weekend. We hope to see you back again next year.

The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield president Tom Van Winkle presents a \$1,000 check to CVBT president Enos Richardson. The Friends raised the money by raffling off a Don Troiani print furnished by the CVBT.



PHOTO BY STEVEN STANLEY

Frank O'Reilly captivates the Sunday bus tour with his wealth of knowledge on the Battle of Chancellorsville and Stonewall Jackson.

Membership

We know that our membership fees are high. We established them in good conscience, though, because we do not have paid staff and only minimal overhead expenses. Instead, we are able to dedicate most of our funds to the acquisition of battlefield dirt and grass. Members continue to respond positively to this policy and have been exceedingly generous with what we know are hard-earned dollars. We are truly thankful for this support and strive to act responsibly with these funds.

Many of you have expressed a desire to do more and have inquired about ways to attain Life Member and Life Patron status over a period of years. A budget plan of sorts. The Trust's Directors considered these requests and have come up with the following program. Members who desire to attain Life Member status may do so over a period of three years. Life Members are those people who donate \$5,000. This amount can be accumulated in any combination over any consecutive three year period. The same conditions apply to those who would like to become Life Patrons. Life Patrons are those persons who donate \$10,000 and this amount can be donated over a period of six years.

All of these donations are most welcome. The Trust has expenses such as office rent, telephone service, postage stamps, stationary, newsletters and so on. The bulk of all donations, however, are used to purchase critical battlefield terrain. We gladly recognize the generosity of those who are and will become Trust members and are especially appreciative of those who selflessly seek to provide even more. As always, these donations will result in tangible assets that will remain intact in perpetuity for you and your descendants to visit, walk upon and appreciate.

Buy a Print . . . *. . . Preserve a Battlefield*

You can help preserve battlefields and enhance your art collection at the same time. Reknowned Civil War artist John Paul Strain is releasing a soon to be named print about the Battle of Fredericksburg. In conjunction with this release, Mr. Strain will set aside 100 prints as preservation prints with the proceeds of the sale of these prints going to CVBT.

The print features Robert E. Lee near Hazel Run in Fredericksburg, on the night of December 13, 1862. In the background of the print will be the cityscape of Fredericksburg including prominent features. The print will sell for \$200.00 each and can be ordered now. Buyers of this special preservation print will be extended an invitation to a reception held on October 23rd in honor of the artist where they can have their prints signed and dedicated by Mr. Strain.

John Paul Strain will also be appearing at the Fredericksburg Historical Prints from Noon till 4pm on October 23rd to sign and dedicate his prints. We will be sending you more information about this print when it becomes available to us, so watch your mail towards the end of September.

To reserve your preservation print of this upcoming print, you need to call now! You do not have to attend any of these signings to purchase a print, so please call the Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center at (540) 371-3037, Visa and MasterCard accepted. We look forward to seeing you on October 23rd in Fredericksburg.

In a constant endeavor to keep our costs down, the CVBT will not send out reminders for membership renewal. 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.

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.

Already Paid For

At the Trust, we recognize that battlefield preservation is accomplished in many places and by a variety of organizations. Of recent note is the ongoing struggle to acquire and protect sites that are familiar to students of the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. In that fourth year of the Civil War, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant launched two major thrusts into the South, to bring the war to close as quickly as possible. As George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River and moved into the Wilderness of Virginia, William T. Sherman launched his columns into northern Georgia. In mid-May, the western armies fought a sharp action at a place called Resaca, on the Oostenaula River.

The present situation at Resaca is that an enormous part (1,200 acres) of the battlefield remains exceptionally intact. The State of Georgia has tried to purchase this acreage, to preserve its terrain and earthworks. The current owner, however, has apparently not been negotiating in good faith. As we have seen in Virginia, there are persons who will deliberately develop, or threaten to develop, historically significant land, while anticipating a public outcry which can result in their

obtaining more than fair market value.

The situation in Georgia is still fluid, but many groups and citizens are involved, including the Atlanta Civil War Round Table and the Georgia Civil War Commission. That area's leading newspaper - The Atlanta Constitution - has also weighed in on the side of history and preservation of heritage. They have stated editorially that the Resaca battlefield has already been paid for with the blood of those who fought there. The State of Georgia, therefore, ought not to be required "to pay extra to those who would milk that sacrifice for personal profit."

Concerned members should write Governor Barnes, at the State Capitol, Atlanta GA 30334.

Though distant from central Virginia, the Atlanta Campaign is inextricably linked to the Overland Campaign in Virginia. Each was intended to relentlessly engage a major Confederate army so neither could detach troops to reinforce the other. This strategy worked, but the road was long and often discouraging. These difficulties are worth remembering as we seek to preserve significant battlefields. We must work together and we must keep pressing on.

... ought not to be required to pay extra to those who would milk that sacrifice for personal profit.

"Do right e³ let others do wrong if it suits them."

R.E. Lee to J.E.B. Stuart, September 11, 1863

Genl.

Camp Orange 11 Sept '63

I enclose a dispatch from Genl Fitz Lee. Try & find out where the troops go to. I will see what can be done in reference to the subject of your letter of yesterday. But do not mind what he says. Do right & let others do wrong if it suits them.

Very truly,
R E Lee

Genl Stuart

RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member

New Member

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

PATRON - \$500

CORPORATE MEMBER - \$500

ANNUAL MEMBER - \$35

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

CORPORATE PATRON - \$1,000

ACTIVE MEMBER - \$135

LIFE MEMBER - \$5,000

SUSTAINING MEMBER - \$250

LIFE PATRON - \$10,000

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 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.



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