

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVI, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1976

26TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR: MANASSAS — ANTIETAM

By Terry Carr

The 26th annual Battlefield Tour of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago takes us to the battlefields of Northern Virginia and Maryland. The tour begins on Wednesday evening, May 5th, with a dinner flight on American Airlines, leaving at 5:30 p.m. from O'Hare Airport, and arriving at Washington National Airport at 8:06 p.m. We then travel by bus to our headquarters at the new Quality Inn Motel in Leesburg, Virginia. Because our arrival at the motel will be rather late, the remainder of the evening will be free to relax and renew old acquaintances.

Honorary Member Edwin Bearss will be our chief guide for the entire tour. Ed will be aided by Homer Davis, John Devine, and Josh Billings, all of whom are members of the Washington, D.C. Round Table, and very familiar with the area we are to cover. Guides from the National Park Service will also be made available to us.

Thursday, following breakfast on our own, we journey to Manassas, Virginia to study the two great battles fought there. First Bull Run, which took place in July, 1861 will be covered in the morning. After our lunch break, we will view the fields of Second Bull Run where Lee's Army of Northern Virginia defeated General Pope in August, 1862. Ed Bearss will be the evening speaker that night, briefing us on the next day's tour.

On Friday, we travel to some of the lesser known battlefields. For those who wish, an alternative is available as one bus will tour the plantations and historical sights of Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, Virginia. Jack Sanderson, historian for the National Park Service, has agreed to be bus guide for this special tour. The main group will make its first stop that day at the site of the 1861 Battle of Balls Bluff where John Devine will describe the conflict for us. We will then leave Virginia and travel into Maryland to cover the 1864 Battle of Monocacy, with Homer Davis as our guide. After lunch in Frederick, Maryland we will retrace the battles of South Mountain which were the delaying actions of General Lee prior to Antietam. Stops are also planned at the Reno Monument at Fox's Gap and the War Correspondents Memorial Arch located in Gathland State Park, at Crampton's Gap.

Our guest speaker Friday evening will be Rev. John Schildt who has written several books about the history of the Sharpsburg area and the Battle of Antietam.

Saturday will be spent entirely on the Antietam battlefield, with a box lunch provided. For our Fun Night, we will enjoy a relaxing evening attending a performance of "My Fair Lady" at the Mosby Dinner Theatre located near Leesburg, Virginia.

Sunday morning is free and those who wish may attend services at one of the local churches in the area. Lunch will be at the motel, followed by a tour of Arlington National Cemetery and the Custis-Lee Mansion. The tour will leave Washington National Airport at 6:30 p.m. on American Airlines (dinner enroute) and arrive at O'Hare in Chicago at 7:38.

COST OF TOUR

\$285, Two to a room (*); \$305, Single

(* Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

INCLUDES: Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, motel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners, (breakfasts are "on your own") group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

FOR VARIATIONS: Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone, Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone (area 312) Whitehall 4-3085.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through registrar so that caterer can be notified of number to prepare for and payment can be made.

FIRST BULL RUN

By Henry Pomerantz

Believing that hostilities between the sections might end quickly, the administration in Washington wanted to get the war over before the 90 day volunteers returned home. Under the leadership of Irvin McDowell, the 35,000 man Union Army left Washington on July 16, 1861, reaching Fairfax Court House on the 17th and the heights of Centreville by the 18th. Here, in a strong defensive position, McDowell camped on the 19th and 20th. While the Federals advanced, the Confederates with 22,000 men under P.G.T. Beauregard fell back to a line of defense at Manassas, 30 miles from Washington. Beauregard's army was extended over an eight mile stretch on Bull Run, concentrating at seven crossing points.

Appreciating the strong Confederate positions, McDowell wisely chose to hold the enemy in check with his left flank at the fords while advancing with his main army along the Warrenton Turnpike. His plan called for crossing Bull Run at the Stone Bridge and the Sudley Springs Ford, then advancing upon the Manassas Gap Railroad. However, Confederate reinforcements began to arrive as Joe Johnston's Army of the Shenandoah with 8300 men reached Manassas on the 20th. Johnston had left 5,000 men in the Valley to hold Robert Patterson's 18,000 Federals while he took the remainder of this army via the Manassas Gap Railroad to help Beauregard.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. on the morning of the 21st, McDowell's divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman marched out of Centreville advancing westward along the Warrenton Turnpike towards Cub Run and the Stone Bridge at Bull Run. Being composed of raw recruits, discipline was lax and progress was very slow. About a quarter mile past Cub Run, there

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was a turn off along a narrow road which led north toward Sudley Ford. Here, along this road, Hunter and Heintzelmen's divisions advanced as Tyler continued to feint in the direction of the Stone Bridge. By 5:00 a.m., Tyler's artillery opened fire upon Evans' Confederates guarding the approach to Stone Bridge. Upon hearing the shots, Richardson's Federals opened fire at Blackburn's Ford giving the impression of a major Union assault in this sector. At 6:30, Beauregard, at Blackburn Ford, received a message from Evans stating that Union troops were deployed in his front at Stone Bridge. Bee and Bartow's 2800 men, just arriving from the Valley, were ordered by Beauregard to move immediately to the Confederate left to support Evans. Two hours later Evans saw dust clouds on his left. It was Hunter and Heintzelmen's men sweeping along the dirt road towards the Sudley Ford. Quickly Evans reacted by positioning four companies at the Stone Bridge and withdrawing the remaining six companies, 1100 men, about 3/4 mile to the high ground just north of the Stone House on Matthew's Hill. Here Evans formed his battle line deploying howitzers on each end facing the Sudley Ford crossing and road.

As Ambrose Burnside's brigade of Hunter's division crossed the Sudley Ford at 9:30, Evans opened fire. For one hour Evans held his position on Matthew's Hill. Meanwhile, Tyler had ordered the brigades of Sherman and Keyes to cross Bull Run about 800 yards above the Stone Bridge and advance to support Burnside. Evans small force began to waver as the Federals strength increased. Bee and Bartow came to Evans' assistance and deployed north of the Turnpike while Imboden's batteries fired from Henry Hill upon the oncoming Federals. Hunter was wounded but McDowell had arrived and assumed personal direction of the attack. By noon, because of the strong Union pressure, Evans, Bee and Bartow fell back south of the Turnpike to a position behind the Robinson House and toward the high ground near Henry Hill where

Jackson was positioned with his brigade. Upon spotting Jackson, Bee pointed and shouted to his men "Look! There stands Jackson like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!"

Beauregard and Johnston were now on the field at Henry Hill. Between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m., not much fighting took place as Beauregard was hurrying reinforcements from their positions along the fords. Around 2:00 p.m. the Union assaulting columns of Sherman, Porter, Franklin, and Wilcox drove the Confederates back on both flanks. Griffin's and Rickett's Batteries of 11 guns moved upon Henry Hill within only 300 yards of the Confederate guns and McDowell was now seriously threatening to turn both Confederate flanks. Five assaults were made by the Federals on Henry Hill but each time Beauregard drove the Union soldiers back. The battle shifted back and forth until 4:00 p.m. when, coming up from the direction of Chinn Ridge, Early's and Elzey's reinforcements emerged upon the Union right flank and rear at Henry Hill. The entire Confederate line now opened a countercharge that drove the Union soldiers off Henry Hill. By 4:30, the Federals stopped fighting and fell back. What began in disorder ended in confusion as McDowell's army poured across Bull Run, through the fields and along the Turnpike back to Centreville. The next day, the tired, discouraged, and disappointed army passed through Alexandria and crossed the Chain Bridge entering Washington.

BATTLE OF BALLS BLUFF, OCTOBER 21, 1861

By Irwin Levin

On October 19, 1861 Maj. Gen. George McClellan sent a division led by Brig. Gen. George A. McCall on a major reconnaissance toward Leesburg which was occupied by Confederates under Brig. Gen. Nathan G. Evans. He also ordered Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone, at Poolesville, Md., to maintain posts along the Potomac River to determine if McCall's advance forced the Confederates to evacuate Leesburg. McClellan further suggested to Stone "Perhaps a slight demonstration on your part would have the effect to move them." Stone gave this assignment to Col. Edward D. Baker who was instructed to cross the Potomac if the move could be made without endangering his 1,700 man brigade.

Unfortunately for the Federals, Col. Baker was an advocate of "sudden, bold, forward, determined war". He ferried his command across the Potomac on an inadequate fleet of scows and led it up the steep eminence of Balls Bluff. This movement was done without preliminary reconnaissance. As Gen. McCall had already completed his movement and returned to camp, Col. Baker ran into Gen. Evans main body. He was killed in the ensuing battle and his command routed. Over 200 were killed or wounded, many deaths caused by drowning as the troops attempted to swim back over the Potomac. More than 700 were captured because of the inadequate transportation across the river.

Although the battle was minor, it was to have major political and military repercussions. General Stone was selected as the scapegoat and he was jailed for several months for treason before he was able to clear himself. More important was the fact that the hue and cry raised by the radicals led to the ultimate resignation of Winfield Scott and his replacement by George McClellan as general-in-chief.

SECOND BULL RUN

By Henry Pomerantz

The events which led to the Battle of Second Bull Run began on June 26th, 1862 when General John Pope was appointed to command the newly formed Army of Virginia. Pope's instructions from Halleck were to protect Washington and help ease the pressure on McClellan's army, allowing the Army of the Potomac to return from the Peninsula Campaign. By August 25th, Pope determined to hold the Rhappahannock line against Confederate attempts to cross that river. Lee arrived with most of his Army at Gordonsville and summoned Jackson

and Stuart to a conference where they formulated campaign strategy. The plan called for dividing the army and moving behind Pope, cutting the railroad communications at Manassas Junction, alarming Washington, forcing McClellan to speed his retreat from the Peninsula, and making Pope withdraw from the Rhappahanock. Lee would then reunite his army and crush the Army of Virginia before McClellan could arrive with additional reinforcements.

On August 22, Jeb Stuart launched the campaign by attacking Pope's rear at Catletts Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Meanwhile, Jackson, on the 25th, maneuvered with his three divisions, 25,000 men commanded by Talifarro, Hill and Ewell. He advanced to the west and then eastward via Salem, Thoroughfare Gap, and Gainesville, to Bristow Station where he cut the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, capturing and then destroying the Federal warehouses at Manassas Junction. When Pope realized that Jackson's entire force was in his rear, he knew that Lee's Army was divided and vulnerable. As Pope considered this to be a great opportunity to destroy Jackson before Longstreet arrived, he ordered his army to withdraw from its positions along the Rhappahanock River and concentrate at Manassas.

Jackson's objective at this point was to bring about a state of confusion in Pope's Army and allow enough time, without a confrontation, for Longstreet to arrive. Jackson, being familiar with the area, took his divisions during the evening of the 27th to a well concealed area behind an unfinished railroad embankment a few miles east of Gainesville and north of the Warrenton Turnpike near a hamlet known as Groveton. By noon on the 28th Jackson was in a strong defensive position, well hidden in the midst of a densely wooded area with a high embankment of the unfinished railroad in his front.

Pope indeed was surprised and confused when he arrived at Manassas and could not locate Jackson. Pope ordered his divisions to search the countryside and concentrate at Centreville. McDowell, at Gainesville on the 28th, ordered Ricketts division to guard Thoroughfare Gap and block the possible approach of Longstreet. Longstreet, however, sent three brigades to the north, passing through Hopewell Gap and forced Ricketts to retire back to Gainesville. As McDowell's Corps moved along the Warrenton Turnpike in compliance with Pope's order to concentrate at Centreville his rear was suddenly attacked by Jackson, who knowing that Longstreet's five divisions of 30,000 men were just a few hours march away believed it was now safe to reveal himself. Both sides became heavily engaged without advantage to either. Only darkness brought an end to the fighting which is known as the Battle of Brawners Farm.

Early on August 29th there began a series of sporadic attacks along the left and center of Jackson's line. Pope attacked north of the Turnpike with Reynolds on his left at Groveton, and Schenck, Sigel and Schurz to his right. From noon until 4 p.m. all was quiet. Then Hooker and Kearney renewed the battle by attacking A.P. Hill. Longstreet had arrived on the field at 9:00 a.m. and all of his divisions were present by 11:00 a.m. The 5th Corps of Fitz John Porter was positioned in front of Longstreet along Dawkins Branch and the Manassas Gap Railroad, south of the Turnpike. Longstreet's position was along both sides of the Warrenton Turnpike facing east and linking up with Jacksons far right near the area of Brawners Farm. Longstreet and Porter held each other in check, neither entering the fighting on the 29th. In the morning of the 30th, Pope, believing that Jackson was retreating as a result of the fighting the previous day, moved forward to attack along a three mile front. He had Porter and Hatch on the left against Starke and Lawton near Groveton, and Hooker's and Kearney's divisions on the right near the Sudley Church with Ricketts as their support. Jackson was prepared and expected the attack. He had been readjusting his lines throughout the early morning hours thus perhaps creating the impression of a retreat. Around 4 p.m., Porter advanced with Morell's division toward the railroad embankment. Upon their reaching it, heavy hand to hand fighting took place as the

Union soldiers penetrated that portion known as the "Deep Cut". Reynolds was ordered to cross the Turnpike from Bald Hill and support Porter, leaving only Warren's brigade to defend the area south of the Warrenton Road. The Federal left was vulnerable.

Longstreet, who had until this time remained uninvolved, now positioned S.D. Lee's batteries and fired upon the Union flank. Within ten minutes the Union troops broke and withdrew from the areas near the unfinished railroad. Longstreet now ordered an attack on both sides of the Warrenton Turnpike. He advanced eastward, sweeping Warren's defenders back towards Bald Hill, Chinn Ridge and Henry House Hill. Jackson, at the same time, ordered a countercharge which drove the collapsing Union army to Henry Hill, where Pope concentrated and stood. Darkness brought an end to the battle as Pope withdrew in good order across the Stone Bridge back to the camps at Centreville.

On September 1, Jackson's men encountered Pope's right at Chantilly. Lee then broke contact and, on Sept. 2, marched north to Dranesville and then along the Leesburg Pike. At Leesburg, Lee turned north and headed to the Potomac River and Maryland where he hoped to win the support of that state and recognition of the Confederacy from France and England. Two weeks later both armies met at Antietam Creek.

GENERAL LEE'S MARYLAND CAMPAIGN — SEPTEMBER, 1862

By Terry Carr

The Confederates crossed the Potomac River near Leesburg, Virginia on September 5th and moved to the town of Frederick, Maryland. Before Lee could seek out the Army of the Potomac, he had to first capture Harper's Ferry, garrisoned by 10,000 Federals, to avoid any possible interruption of his line of communications. Lee proposed to send Jackson to capture Harper's Ferry while the remainder of the army moved behind the sheltering screen of South Mountain, which runs northeast from Harper's Ferry. Conditions changed when a lost copy of Lee's orders was found by a Union soldier and sent to General McClellan on the evening of September 13th. McClellan now knew that Lee's army was divided and where it was located. Lee at that time was near Hagerstown, Maryland with Longstreet and nine brigades, while five more brigades under D.H. Hill were twelve miles south, at Boonsboro, a few miles west of Turners' Gap where the National Road crossed South Mountain.

McClellan made a grave mistake by not moving toward South Mountain on the evening of the 13th. Instead the Union forces did not begin their march until the next morning, thus allowing Lee time to prepare for delaying actions at the gaps of South Mountain. The main Federal effort was directed toward Turner's and Fox's Gaps, while the Sixth Corps, under Franklin, was to attack Crampton's Gap about five miles farther south. Desperate fighting took place during the entire day and into the evening as D.H. Hill's division delayed Hooker's First Corps at Turner's Gap and a mile south Hood's division held off Reno's Ninth Corps at Fox's Gap. Crampton's Gap was defended by only a small portion of McLaw's division against Franklin's Sixth Corps. McLaw's troops gave stubborn resistance until sunset when they were overwhelmed by the Union assaults and forced back through the Gap. The battles on South Mountain helped Lee to buy time for the completion of Jackson's operations against Harper's Ferry.

On September 15th Lee concentrated his troops under Longstreet and D.H. Hill behind Antietam Creek at Sharpsburg, Maryland. McClellan again helped Lee by not attacking on the 15th or the 16th, thereby allowing Jackson enough time to reach Sharpsburg. Jackson joined Lee on the 16th after capturing Harper's Ferry the day before. Only A.P. Hill's division had been left behind to finish the surrender details. Lee held a curved line position around Sharpsburg, with the left under Jackson near the Potomac, the center held by D.H. Hill's troops, and the extreme right under Longstreet on



Antietam Creek at the lower bridge.

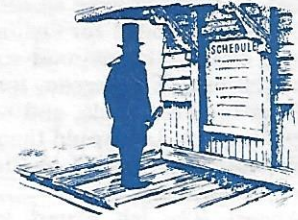
The battle of Antietam began at dawn on September 17th as Federal skirmishers of Hooker's First Corps moved down the Hagerstown Pike toward Sharpsburg. On their left was a big cornfield owned by D.R. Miller, on the right were open pastures, and about a mile straight ahead was the Dunkard Church. Jackson had placed his infantry in the cornfield and also west of the turnpike. His artillery was positioned around the church. When the Union skirmishers found the strong Confederate position in the cornfield, Hooker had the field blasted by his artillery, which was positioned at the southern edge of the North Woods. After the guns stopped firing, Hooker's troops attacked, pushing the Confederates out of the cornfield and overpowering the troops west of the turnpike. The First Corps succeeded in driving the rebels back toward Dunkard Church. At this point Jackson called for help from John B. Hood, whose men attacked from the West Woods, behind the church. Their fierce attack, aided by the brigades of D.H. Hill, broke the Union line, forcing them back to their original starting point until Hooker's artillery stopped the Confederate drive.

McClellan then sent into action the Twelfth Corps under Joseph Mansfield. This Federal attack again forced the Confederates from the Miller cornfield and cleared the woods to the east, with a portion of the Federals reaching Dunkard Church before coming to a halt. After a brief lull a third Union force came on the field, three divisions of Edwin Sumner's Second Corps. At approximately 10:30 a.m. the First Division under John Sedgwick attacked, but was flanked and driven back by McLaw's Confederate division, which had just arrived from Harper's Ferry, and by Walker's division, just up from Sharpsburg. The Second Division tried to storm the sunken lane which ran along the Confederate center, held by the troops of D.H. Hill. The attack failed, but the Third Division came up, flanked, and then carried the sunken lane, forcing the Rebels back to their last line of defense. It was at this point that Lee's army could have been broken, but the Union troops were exhausted, so this attack also came to a halt.

The last Federal assault of the day came at approximately 3:00 p.m. when four divisions of Burnside's Ninth Corps were directed at the extreme right of Lee's line along Antietam Creek. Burnside was to have crossed the lower bridge much earlier in the day, but delayed and, as a result, this attack was committed after all the other actions had already ceased. As was the case in all the earlier attacks, Burnside's Corps was sent into the fight one division at a time. Thus they were not able to completely crush the thin Confederate line, defended only by approximately six hundred men from Toomb's brigade. Even so the Union drive might have succeeded, but for the timely arrival of A.P. Hill's troops from Harper's Ferry. Hill arrived on the field at about 4:00 p.m. and immediately attacked, driving Burnside's Corps back almost to Antietam Creek. Hill's arrival saved Lee's army from certain defeat and ended the fighting.

September 17, 1862 proved to be the bloodiest day of the war, with both armies having a combined total of 23,000 casualties. Lee remained on the field the next day, but no battle was initiated by either side. The Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River that night and the Maryland campaign was ended.

BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN-TIME: 4:30 p.m. (CDT), Wednesday, May 5th, at American Airlines terminal, O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packet will be passed out.

DEPARTURE: 5:30 p.m. (CDT), American Flight #340. Arrive: Washington National Airport at 8:06 p.m. (EDT).

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times as we will be operating on a close schedule. Bus marshals will be on hand for guidance. If you plan a side excursion or join a car group, you must notify your bus marshal.

RETURN: Sunday, May 9, depart Washington National Airport, American Flight #437 at 6:30 p.m. (EDT). Arrive at O'Hare Airport at 7:38 p.m. (CDT).



BATTLE OF MONACACY JULY 9, 1864

By Irwin Levin

On June 13, 1864, Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early commenced a movement down the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederates marched northeast down the Valley to Martinsburg which was abandoned by Maj. Gen. Franz Siegel on July 3. The withdrawal left warehouses full of stores, providing replenishment of Gen. Early's depleted provisions. On July 5, the Confederates crossed the Potomac into Maryland after bypassing Harper's Ferry. The way to Washington was open. The city was ringed by fortifications, but there were not enough men to garrison them. Relief was to be obtained from Gen. Grant, in front of Petersburg, but it might take two days for help to arrive.

Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace, commanding the Middle Department in Baltimore, received warning of the Confederate advance on July 2. He did not know if the movement was directed against Washington or Baltimore. The route from Harper's Ferry to either city was through Frederick, Md. From there, the Washington and Baltimore pikes crossed the Monacacy River at the railroad junction. He determined to make his stand there with his command of 2,300 men. Fortunately, before the battle commenced, he was joined by the division of Brig. Gen. James B. Ricketts sent by Grant, who had finally realized that Early's corps was gone from the Petersburg defenses. Even with the reinforcements, the Union troops would fight against great odds. The best that could be hoped for was a delaying action.

At Monacacy Junction there were three bridges over the river. The Baltimore Pike crossed on a stone bridge, the railroad on an iron bridge, and the Washington Pike on a wooden bridge. Wallace took position to cover the three bridges with Ricketts on the left flank guarding the Washington Pike and the brigade of Brig. Gen. Erastus B. Tyler on the right. The Confederates found a ford about a mile below the wooden bridge. The cavalry brigade of Brig. Gen. John McCausland crossed the Monacacy and attacked Ricketts but was beaten off. At 2:00 p.m., the division of Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon crossed and renewed the attack, but was also repulsed. A third assault was launched by 4:00 p.m. and finally broke Rickett's front. He retired across the stone bridge covered by Tyler.

Although a defeat for the Union, the battle delayed Early's advance for one day. By the time he reached Washington, reinforcements had begun to arrive from the Army of the Potomac. All hope Early had of entering the Federal capitol was gone.