

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XL, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1980

## 30TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR: SHENANDOAH VALLEY

The 30th Annual Battlefield Tour of The Civil War Round Table will take campaigners to the historic Shenandoah Valley—from Winchester to Lexington. For four days, May 14-18, we will retrace the steps of Jackson's foot cavalry and Sheridan's ride, visiting the sites of the great events of 1862 and 1864. In addition to the major battle sites, we will visit the place where General Turner Ashby was killed; the renowned field of Tom's Brook; the grave of the man whose name is synonymous with the Shenandoah Valley, Stonewall Jackson; and that of the man whose name is the Southern cause, Robert E. Lee.

Travel will be by American Air Lines and air conditioned Greyhound highway cruiser, complete with the most modern conveniences (and, of course, necessary refreshments). Accommodations will be provided by the Quality Inn in New Market, Virginia, which has swimming and excellent dining facilities. New Market is a town which hasn't really changed in the last 100 years.

The featured dinner speakers will be: Thursday, Ed Bearss, who will prepare us for our campaign to Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek; and, on Friday, Robert Krick who will prepare us for our sojourn on Saturday up the Valley. (Ed and Bob are also serving as bus guides.) Fun night will be an evening to long remember. Mr. Jefferson C. Davis of Richmond, Virginia, will speak about his trying time as the Confederacy's first president. Mr. Davis is portrayed by Samuel J.T. Moore, Jr., who comes to us as highly recommended as Dick Blake and Harold Howard, who excellently portray Lincoln and a Confederate veteran respectively. In addition, the fun night awards committee has been very busy combing the Valley for appropriate awards for those whose hearts go out to the Valley and those who fought there.

We will embark on Wednesday, May 14, 1980, from O'Hare. Check in time with Registrar Margaret April is 3:45 p.m. Our flight leaves at 4:45 p.m. Mrs. April will have a special desk in the American Air Lines departure area from which she will dispense luggage tags and tour kits. Please do not check your luggage without seeing Mrs. April for instructions. Dinner will be served aboard the plane. Upon arrival at Washington National Airport at 7:22, we will immediately board buses for the ride to New Market, arriving at the Quality Inn at 10.

Thursday morning will see us off bright and early for our trip to Winchester. To avoid the last minute rush and the harried waitresses in the coffee shop, which have been problems on past trips, breakfast this year has been tentatively scheduled as buffet style. (As usual, breakfast is on your own.) Our morning will be taken up by the three batt-

## COST OF TOUR

\$395, Two to a room (\*); \$428, Single

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

**INCLUDES:** Round trip plane fare, bus 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 nonrefundable 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 (312) 787-1860.

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.

ties of Winchester with lunch at Middletown. That afternoon, we will stop at Front Royal and Kernstown, and return to New Market at 5 p.m. The Command Post and dinner will commence at 6:30 and 7:30 respectively.

Friday we trek down the Valley (north) to Fisher's Hill; thence to one of the more famous battlefields, Tom's Brook; and on to Milford with lunch at Royal Front. After lunch we will tour Cedar Creek with a stop at Belle Grove Mansion and plan to return to New Market by 5 p.m. The Command Post and dinner again will commence at 6:30 and 7:30 respectively.

We will spend Saturday morning touring New Market Battlefield and their wonderful museum, the Hall of Valor. Lunch will be at the Quality Inn and then on to the site of General Turner Ashby's death and the Battles of Port Republic and Waynesboro. We will return to our motel about 4 p.m. Fun night will commence with cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30.

On Sunday morning, luggage should be packed and breakfast completed so that we can be on the road to Lexington by 9 a.m. At Lexington, we will have a conducted tour of V.M.I., Jackson's grave, and Robert E. Lee's tomb. Because of the size of our party, we will need to split our lunch hour. One bus will dine at 12:30 while the other tours V.M.I.; the second bus will dine at 1:30 while the first tours. Departure from Lexington will be 3 p.m., arriving at Roanoke Airport at 4. Our return flight, Piedmont #73, departs at 5:10.

# THE CIVIL WAR BOUND TABLE

FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chesnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

## OFFICERS

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Contributing Editors.....Richard E. Clark  
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Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

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## 1980 TOUR COMMITTEE

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Newsletter.....Robert Walter, Marshall D. Krolick,  
David R. Richert  
Chief Marshall.....Al Meyer  
Book List.....E. B. (Pete) Long  
Itinerary.....Edwin C. Bearss  
Fun Night.....Don Anderson



## JACKSON'S CAMPAIGN OF 1862

Often cited as a near perfect example of military strategy and execution, the main purpose of Jackson's campaign of 1862 was to prevent the reinforcement of McClellan's army, then beginning the attempt to capture Richmond by way of the Virginia Peninsula. In early March, 1862, the main Union army in the Shenandoah Valley was composed of 18,000 troops commanded by Banks. Jackson, with less than 5,000 troops, evacuated Winchester on March 11 and it was occupied by the Federals.

Unable to penetrate Ashby's cavalry screen protecting Jackson's movement up the Valley, Banks erroneously assumed Jackson was leaving the Valley and made plans to move eastward to cover Washington. Fearing he was failing in his assignment to keep Banks in the Valley, Jackson turned around and marched northward, spurred on by Ashby's reports that only small numbers of Union troops remained in the Winchester area. However, Ashby was wrong—Banks had left Shield's entire division, 9,000 men, at Winchester. Arriving at Kernstown on March 23, Jackson found Ashby's troops being driven back by Shields and Stonewall committed his army to battle.

The main force of the Union's superior strength fell upon the old Stonewall Brigade whose commander, Garnett, ordered an unauthorized withdrawal. The

Southerners were driven from the field and Jackson fled about three miles South before going into camp.

While certainly a Union tactical victory, Kernstown's strategic effect on the Northern high command fulfilled all the hopes of the Southern generals. Banks' overestimates of Jackson's strength, at 15,000, and his reports led to his being ordered to return with the rest of his troops to the Valley. At the same time, the instructions to McDowell and his 40,000 men to join McClellan were cancelled—he was ordered to remain in the Washington area to protect the city.

Jackson retreated up the Valley with Banks following cautiously to Harrisonburg where Jackson turned East to Elk Run. There he was reinforced by Ewell's division of 8,000 men. On April 30, Jackson decamped and, leaving Ewell to hold Banks, travelled south and then west by foot and rail. His purpose was to protect Staunton and the upper Valley from Fremont's army of 20,000 men, then advancing from the west. Uniting en route with the troops of Ed Johnson, 2,800 strong, Jackson crossed the Shenandoah range and engaged Fremont's troops, under Schenck and Milroy, at McDowell on May 8. Repulsed in their attack, the Federals retreated and a few days later Jackson moved back toward Harrisonburg to deal with Banks.

Shield's division had been ordered to join McDowell at Fredericksburg and Banks was thus left with only 8,000 soldiers. He retreated down the Valley to Strasburg where he fortified the town. To strengthen his left flank and protect the Luray Valley, Banks sent Colonel Kenly with 1,000 men to Front Royal, 12 miles east. Now reunited with Ewell into a total force of 17,000 soldiers, Jackson decided to surprise Banks by falling upon his left flank under Kenly at Front Royal instead of attacking from the direction of Harrisonburg which Banks expected him to do.

The plan worked perfectly. Marching through Luray, east of the Massanuttons, the Confederates routed Kenly on May 12. Realizing that Jackson was on his flank, Banks abandoned Strasburg on May 24 and moved to Winchester. Jackson missed an opportunity to intercept the Federal retreat at Middletown because of his unexplained slowness of movement. The pursuit was further impeded by Ashby's stopping to destroy a Federal wagon train at Middletown. On May 25, Banks reached Winchester ahead of Jackson, but was unable to stay there. A fierce attack, spearheaded by Ewell, drove the Federals from the town and their retreat northward did not end until they had crossed the Potomac at Williamsport on May 26. For the next few days, Jackson camped in the Harpers Ferry area.

The Northern high command then developed a three-pronged attack to defeat Jackson—McDowell with 20,000 from the east; Fremont with 15,000 from the west; and Banks with 20,000 from the north. If Fremont could reach Harrisburg and McDowell could reach Front Royal before the Confederates could escape to the south, Jackson would be cut off and trapped. During this march, the "foot cavalry" earned its reputation. With the advantage of the excellent condition of the Valley Pike and the Union leaders lack of aggressiveness, the Southern rear guard just cleared Strasburg on June 1, ahead of Fremont, who was delayed by Ashby and Ewell, and Shield's division of McDowell's corps, which was slowed by one Southern infantry brigade.

Closely pursued, Jackson reached Harrisonburg on June 5 and again turned east. Reaching Port Republic, he decided to halt and resume the offensive. Leaving Ewell at Cross Keys, just west of Port Republic, he stationed the rest of his army at the latter place. Fremont, unaware of

Shield's position, attacked Ewell on June 8, but utilized only one-fifth of his available strength and was repulsed. Leaving one of Ewell's brigades at Cross Keys, Jackson recalled the rest of his division to Port Republic and, with its assistance, defeated Shields on June 9. Jackson then went into camp until June 17, when he left the Valley to join Lee before Richmond. In three months he had fought and beaten elements of three armies, marched his troops over 500 miles and kept 55,000 Union soldiers occupied and away from McClellan.

### NEW MARKET

In May, 1864, Union General Franz Sigel was moving south up the Shenandoah with about 6,000 men in the two divisions of Generals J.C. Sullivan (infantry) and Julius Stahel (cavalry). The railway center of Staunton was his objective. The only Confederate force in the area at that time was the 5,000 men of General John C. Breckinridge. His command consisted of infantry brigades under Generals John Echols and Gabriel Wharton, the Valley District Cavalry under General John D. Imboden, and a battalion of 229 Virginia Military Institute cadets under Lt. Col. Scott Shipp. An artillery battalion commanded by Maj. William McLaughlin included a VMI cadet section of two three-inch rifles, commanded by Cadet First Captain C.H. Minge, class of 1864.

The Battle of New Market commenced south of town near Shirley's Hill at about 11 a.m. on May 15, although skirmishes had gone forward near 9 a.m. and the artillery duel started shortly before that time. In the early afternoon, the battle was joined in earnest with the Confederates pressing from the south and the Union forces slowly retiring northward. The main part of the battle took place after the Union forces had withdrawn to the commanding ridge approximately 500 yards north of the Bushong House. The main Confederate line was in and along the Bushong farmyard, immediately north of the house and along the fence. The VMI cadets, following a four-day march from Lexington (80 miles south of New Market) took up positions in the Confederate line, two companies to the east and two to the west. In the final advance of the Confederate line, Lt. Col. Shipp was wounded and Capt. Henry A. Wise commanded the cadets.

About 4 p.m., Sigel ordered a general retreat and fell back to Strasburg, 32 miles to the north. The Federal withdrawal was hampered by heavy rain. In the battle, Federal casualties numbered 841 (96 killed); Confederate casualties were 531 (43 killed including 10 VMI cadets).

### 1864 CAMPAIGNS OF EARLY AND SHERIDAN

In an attempt to divert Federal attention from the Petersburg front and also to block Hunter's march up the Valley, Lee dispatched Early to the Shenandoah on June 12, 1864. Arriving in time to help Breckinridge defeat Hunter at Lynchburg on June 18, Early then took overall command and began to advance down the Valley with 14,000 men. Brushing aside Sigel, Early crossed the Potomac, but was delayed by Wallace's stand at Monocacy on July 9 before reaching the outskirts of Washington on July 11. Learning the city had been reinforced by the Federal VI Corps from Petersburg, Early retreated up the Valley to Berryville, engaging in several small actions with the pursuing Union troops.

Realizing the seriousness of Early's presence in the Valley, Grant dispatched Sheridan on August 7 to take command of a combined army drawn from several fronts.

*(continued on page 4)*

## TOUR SCHEDULE

(all times local daylight saving)

(variations in schedule will be announced at lunch or dinner)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

- 3:45 p.m.—Check-in with Registrar-Margaret April at American Air Lines desk, O'Hare Airport.
- 4:45 p.m.—Depart American Airlines Flight #562. Dinner on Board.
- 7:22 p.m.—Arrive Washington National Airport.
- 10:00 p.m.—Arrive Quality Inn, New Market, Virginia.

### THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1980

- 8:00 a.m.—Depart for Winchester—3 Battles of Winchester.
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch at the Middletown Wayside Inn.
- 2:00 p.m.—Depart for Front Royal Battlefield and Battle of Kernstown.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Edwin C. Bearss on Fisher Hill and Cedar Creek.

### FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1980

- 8:00 a.m.—Depart for Fisher's Hill.
- 9:00 a.m.—Battle of Fisher's Hill, Tom's Brook and Milford.
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch at the Front Royal Quality Inn.
- 2:00 p.m.—Tour Cedar Creek and Belle Grove Mansion.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Robert Krick on New Market and Port Republic.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1980

- 9:00 a.m.—Depart Motel.
- 9:10 a.m.—Tour New Market Field and Hall of Valor
- 12:00 p.m.—Lunch at New Market.
- 1:30 p.m.—Visit site of Ashby's Death, Battles of Port Republic and Waynesboro.
- 4:00 p.m.—Return to New Market.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Fun Night. Speaker: Samuel Moore, Portrayal of Jefferson Davis.

### SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1980

- 8:00 a.m.—Check out of motel.
- 9:00 a.m.—Board buses for Lexington.
- 10:00 a.m.—Tour Lexington-Virginia Military Institute.
- 12:30 p.m.—First bus lunch while second bus continues tour.
- 1:30 p.m.—Second bus lunch while first bus tours.
- 3:00 p.m.—Depart for Roanoke.
- 3:45 p.m.—Arrive Roanoke Airport-Check in at airline.
- 5:10 p.m.—Leave Roanoke Piedmont Flight 73—snack on board.
- 6:29 p.m.—Arrive O'Hare Airport.

## MARCHING ORDERS

by E.B. Long  
University of Wyoming



The following is a partial bibliography of the military campaigns of the Civil War in the Shenandoah. There is such a vast literature that this is a selective list of the most available.

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*Military Historical Society of Massachusetts Papers, The Shenandoah Campaigns of 1862 and 1864.*

Oates, Stephen B., *To Purge This Land With Blood, A Biography of John Brown.*

O'Connor, *Sheridan the Inevitable.*

Phillips, Edward, *The Shenandoah Valley in 1864.*

Poague, *Gunner With Stonewall.*

Pond, George E., *The Shenandoah Valley in 1864.*

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Stackpole, Edward J., "Jackson in the Shenandoah," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Nov., 1964.

Stackpole, Edward J., *Sheridan in the Shenandoah.*

Tanner, Robert G., *Stonewall in the Valley.*

Vandiver, Frank, *Jubal's Raid.*

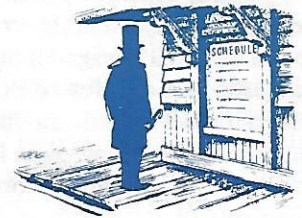
Vandiver, Frank, *Mighty Stonewall.*

*Virginia*, American Guide Series.

Wayland, John W., *Stonewall Jackson's Way.*

*War of the Rebellion; Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, particularly Series I, Vol. XII for 1862; XXVII and XLIII for 1863 and 1864.

## BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN TIME: 3:45 p.m., Wednesday, May 14 at American Air Lines Terminal, O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special American Airlines desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packet will be passed out. Please do not check your luggage before registering at desk.

DEPARTURE: 4:45 p.m. American Airlines Flight #562. Arrive Washington National Airport at 7:22 p.m.

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times because 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 18, depart Roanoke Airport on Piedmont Airlines Flight #73, Snack en route. Arrive at O'Hare Airport at 6:29 p.m.



(Continued from page 3.)

Sheridan commanded 48,000 troops while reinforcements had raised Early's strength to just under 20,000. After several weeks of inconclusive maneuvering, the two armies finally met on September 19 in the 3rd Battle of Winchester (Opequon). The initial Union assaults on that day were repulsed and a Confederate counterattack was partially successful until Crook's advance drove Early's troops back into their lines in front of the city. However, these lines soon also fell and Early was forced to retreat up the Valley past Strasburg.

The Confederates took up a strong position at Fisher's Hill, but, weakened by battle losses and the detachment of troops needed elsewhere, they were not able to maintain it when Sheridan attacked on September 22. Defeated again, Early once more moved south until Sheridan turned back north at Staunton, devastating the Valley as he marched. Early followed, looking for an opportunity, until he found the Federals camped along Cedar Creek on October 19, awaiting Sheridan's return from a Washington conference.

Confident of victory, Early attacked and forced the blue-clad soldiers down the Valley for two miles in a near rout. However, Sheridan, at Winchester, heard the sounds of battle and began his fabled ride south, rallying his retreating soldiers as he galloped.

With his line stabilized and the Confederates engaged in looting the Union camps instead of pressing their advantage, Sheridan counter-attacked, driving Early in defeat all the way back to Fisher's Hill. Early's army was now so completely destroyed that it ceased to be an effective fighting force and no further action of major importance occurred in the Valley during the balance of the war.