

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIV, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

May 2-6, 1984

34th Annual Battlefield Tour: Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia

The 34th Annual Battlefield tour of The Civil War Round Table will take us to Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. In addition to a day of touring in our nation's capital, we will spend a full day examining the Civil War sites of Loudoun County and a day and one-half covering the battles of First and Second Bull Run.

Our headquarters will be Tyson's Westpark Hotel near McLean, Virginia, about 20 minutes from downtown Washington at Tyson's Corners (off I-495 at exit 10W—Route 7). Persons traveling by air should note that, in a departure from previous years, transportation between the airport and the hotel will not be provided. The Westpark offers plenty of free parking and among its amenities is an indoor swimming pool. When checking in, please identify yourself as a Chicago Civil War Round Table member. Tour kits will be distributed in the lobby of the hotel on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday, our itinerary will take us through Loudoun County, the site of much activity throughout the war. The focus will be on the cavalry battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, and on the sites associated with the famed Confederate guerrilla, John S. Mosby. Even today, this area is known as Mosby's Confederacy. Guiding us through Loudoun County will be Marshall Krolick and one of our most beloved campaigners, John Divine, a life-long resident of the area. At dinner Thursday evening, Eldon "Josh" Billings, District of Columbia Round Table member, veteran of many of our tours, and an acknowledged expert on the city of Washington will speak on economic and social conditions in the city during the war.

Friday will be spent in Washington itself. Under the guidance of Ralph Newman and Josh Billings, we will visit the White House and the U.S. Congressional Cemetery. Following lunch in the Mansfield Room of the U.S. Capitol, we will tour that building itself and then visit Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House which is across the street. If time permits, we will stop at Fort Stevens where Lincoln "saw the elephant." The speaker at dinner that evening will be our own lead guide and close friend, National Park Service Chief Research Historian Ed Bearss.

Saturday Ed will lead us on an extensive review of the Battle of Second Bull Run, beginning in the morning with the important sites of the campaign which led up to the battle itself. That same morning, rather than on Friday as previously announced, an alternate tour will be offered to the Robert Carter family plantation, Oatlands, which dates from 1798. Both the magnificently restored house and the



Cost of tour

\$285 per person double occupancy, or \$345 single accommodation. (Please indicate person with whom you wish to share room.) Transportation to and from McLean, Virginia is not included.

Includes: motel room, all lunches and dinners (breakfasts are on your own), bus transportation in the field, group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour kits, literature, badges, and a non-refundable \$10 registration fee per person.

For variations: portions of tour, joining enroute, individual meetings, write or phone Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone (312) 787-1860.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through the REGISTRAR so that caterers can be notified of number to be prepared for, and so payment can be made.



gardens will be visited. Those going on the alternate tour will rejoin the regular tour for lunch and the afternoon at the battlefields of Second Bull Run. Dinner and Fun Night Saturday evening will be at the Marriott Hotel at Dulles Airport.

The Battlefield Tour will conclude with a review of First Bull Run on Sunday. Once again, our guide will be Ed Bearss.

Loudoun County

The itinerary on Thursday will take us through the border land of northern Virginia where hardly a day passed without hostile shots being fired. Many of these skirmishes did not make the general histories of the war, but they were important to the troops involved, and the local citizens affected. From the hotel we will follow along the line of the outer defenses of Washington, the area commanded by Col. Charles R. Lowell of the 2nd Mass. Cavalry during the winter-spring of 1863-64. It was on this road that John R.

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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(continued from page 1)

Chambliss and Wade Hampton led their brigades of cavalry toward the Potomac on the morning of June 27, 1863 as Stuart belatedly marched toward the Potomac on his way to Gettysburg.

At Fairfax Court House there will be a momentary pause at the house where partisan ranger John S. Mosby captured Brig. Gen. E.H. Staughton while in bed. President Lincoln reportedly commented on this, possibly tongue in cheek, "I can make another Brigadier General, but it will be more difficult to replace the 59 horses carried away." Our route will take us through the battlefield of Chantilly where Stonewall Jackson attempted to flank Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia. We will be following along the Little River Turnpike, more recently named John S. Mosby Highway, an ancient road that leads from Tidewater on the Potomac to Winchester in the lower Shenandoah Valley.

At Aldie, a gap in the Bull Run Mountains, we will explore the cavalry battlefield where the brigades of Judson Kilpatrick and Tom Munford fought on the afternoon of June 17, 1863. This was the beginning of five days of skirmishing and fighting between the forces of J.E.B. Stuart

and Alfred Pleasonton. These would be bloody but indecisive engagements. More importantly, they would mark the coming of age of the Federal cavalry. Five miles west on June 19th the fighting was resumed at Middleburg. This time it was the Union brigade of J.I. Gregg versus Beverly Robertson and John R. Chambliss. During this fighting Heros VonBorcke, Stuart's Prussian aide, was seriously wounded, ending his career as a Confederate cavalryman.

On June 21st the battle was resumed at Upperville as Pleasonton pressed the Confederate lines toward Ashby's Gap in the Blue Ridge. As on previous days new actors would hold center stage. Wade Hampton fought against Strong Vincent's infantry brigade, the cavalry Reserve Brigade and Kilpatrick along the Little River Turnpike, while John Buford and "Grumble" Jones slugged it out about a mile north of Upperville.

After five days of fighting, and heavy casualties, it would be difficult to select the winner. Pleasonton had failed to reach the Blue Ridge and ascertain Lee's movements west of the mountains. Yet, Stuart did not enhance his image, somewhat tarnished at Brandy Station on June 9.

Our next stop will be at Paris, a village nestled in Ashby's Gap of the Blue Ridge, which was the site of several stirring scenes, particularly during the First Manassas Campaign. Through this small village the Army of the Shenandoah under Joseph E. Johnston hastened in answer to Beauregard's call for help. Six miles down the road is Delaplane, then known as Piedmont Station, where the brigades of Jackson (not yet Stonewall), Bee, Bartow, Elzey and Kirby Smith were loaded on cars of the Manassas Gap Railroad to hasten their advance to Manassas Junction. Bring your cameras, as two of the original buildings still stand.

While few shots were fired in anger at Salem, present day Marshall, the village was often the parade ground for passing troops. McClellan, Lee, Jackson, Longstreet and others passed through to keep their rendezvous with fate. Here at Salem Mosby dismissed his rangers rather than surrender. This little hamlet was also the site from which Stuart started on his Gettysburg trip. The site is still undeveloped.

Thoroughfare Gap will be a fitting place to end the day's tour as many of the events covered during the day touched this pass in the Bull Run Mountains. The two Manassas Campaigns, Lee's anxious moments on the evening of August 28, 1862, destruction of the Confederate meat packing plant, Buford, Dufie, Stuart and Mosby, are just some of the events and personalities linked to this most famous of all of the Virginia mountain passes.

First Bull Run

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 Centerville by the 18th. 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.

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. 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 Blackburns Ford giving the impression of a major Union assault in this sector. At 6:30, 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 Heintzelman'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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the high ground just north of the Stone House on Matthew's Hill.

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. 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 counter-charge 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.

Second Bull Run

On August 29 and 30, 1862, the armies of Lee and Pope met on practically the same ground which had been the stage for the war's first major conflict thirteen months before. The 62,000 troops of Pope's newly formed Army of Virginia included the former forces of Banks, Fremont and McDowell in addition to elements of the Army of the Potomac. Lee's army was united again after Jackson's brilliant movement around the Federal right flank and his ensuing actions in Pope's rear.

(continued on page 4)

Tour Schedule

Variations in schedule will be announced at lunch or dinner. All times are dependent on variable factors.

Thursday, May 3, 1984

Breakfast on your own, as on each day of tour.

- 8:30 a.m.—Board buses.
- 8:50 a.m.—Fairfax Court House, Staughton House.
- 9:15 a.m.—Chantilly, and the Kearney and Stevens markers.
- 11:00 a.m.—Aldie.
- 11:30 a.m.—Middleburg.
- 11:40 a.m.—Goose Creek; Rector's Crossroads (now known as Atoka).
- Noon—Lunch at Middleburg Methodist Church.
- 1:00 p.m.—Upperville.
- 2:00 p.m.—Ashby's Gap.
- 2:20 p.m.—Piedmont-Manassas Gap Railroad.
- 3:00 p.m.—Salem (now known as Marshall).
- 3:20 p.m.—Thoroughfare Gap.
- 3:50 p.m.—Dranesville.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to hotel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Josh Billings on "Social and economic conditions in Washington during the war."

Friday, May 4, 1984

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Washington; morning spent at the White House and the Congressional Cemetery.
- Noon—Lunch in the Mansfield Room of the U.S. Capitol.
- Afternoon—Tour the Capitol, Ford's Theatre, and the Peterson House.
- 6:00 p.m.—Return to hotel.
- 7:00 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Ed Bearss on "Pope and his generals at Second Manassas."

Saturday, May 5, 1984

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Second Bull Run; first stop at the Manassas Visitor Center.
- 9:00 a.m.—Alternate tour departs for Oatlands Plantation.
- 9:45 a.m.—Depart Manassas Visitor Center.
- 10:15 a.m.—Thoroughfare Gap.
- 10:30 a.m.—Bristow Station, Manassas Junction.
- 11:00 a.m.—Dawkins Branch.
- Noon—Lunch at the Holiday Inn. Alternate tour rejoins regular tour.
- 1:30 p.m.—Brawner Farm (Groveton) and Battery Heights.
- 3:00 p.m.—Deep Cut; Dogan House; Chinn Ridge; Henry Hill; and Stone Bridge.
- 5:30 p.m.—Return to hotel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Depart hotel for dinner and fun night at the Marriott Hotel at Dulles Airport.

Sunday, May 6, 1984

- 8:30 a.m.—Board buses for tour of First Bull Run.
- 9:00 a.m.—Blackburns Ford; Stone Bridge; Sudley Church; Matthew's Hill; Stone House; Henry Hill; and Chinn Ridge.
- Noon—Lunch at the Holiday Inn.
- 1:30 p.m.—Cub Run Bridge.
- 2:30 p.m.—Return to hotel.

Armchair Generalship



by Josh Billings and Marshall D. Krolick

The literature of these campaigns is so vast that any bibliography must, of necessity, be very selective. Emphasis has been placed on more recent books and those more readily available, as well as on the "classics."

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First and Second Bull Run

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Alexander, Edward P. *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*.

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Davis, William C. *Battle at Bull Run*.

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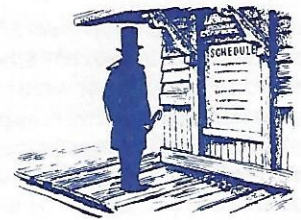
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Freeman, Douglas S., *R.E. Lee, Vols. I & II*.

Gordon, George H., *History of the Campaign of the Army of Virginia Under John Pope*.

BULLETIN BOARD



On the Tour: Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the appropriate time each morning to allow maximum time for touring. A bus marshal will be on each bus to help you. If you plan a side excursion, join a car group, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that buses are not detained waiting for you.

(continued from page 3)

On the 29th, Pope opened the battle with a series of poorly coordinated frontal attacks from the east against Jackson's position on Stony Ridge, northwest of the intersection of the Warrenton Turnpike with the Manassas-Sudley Road. Longstreet had reached the field at 11:00 a.m., a fact Pope was unaware of, and was in position on Jackson's right. However, Longstreet failed to attack the Union left flank which he overlapped, despite Lee's urgings that he do so. Pope's ignorance of Longstreet's presence lead him to order Porter to attack the Confederate right, which would have resulted in Porter's advancing straight into Longstreet. Porter's disobedience of this order lead to his celebrated court martial.

Jackson succeeded in repulsing the Union attacks, but then withdrew his line, a move which convinced Pope that Jackson was in retreat. Thus Pope ordered a major attack for the 30th, still not realizing that Longstreet was in position. When the Federals again attacked Jackson, they presented their flank to Longstreet and this time Lee's "War Horse" did not fail, delivering a smashing blow that soundly defeated Pope. Only a successful stand on the Henry House Hill permitted the withdrawal of his army to Centreville in a fairly orderly manner.

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