

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LIX, Battlefield Tour Edition

Chicago, Illinois

April 28-30, May 1-2, 1999

49th Annual Battlefield Tour: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station The 1862-63 Campaign

Our Round Table's 49th annual battlefield tour will take us to historic Fredericksburg, Virginia, a charming colonial town and scenic river port where, in the Winter and Spring of 1862-63, the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia struggled. It was in Fredericksburg that Robert E. Lee's Confederates won perhaps the most lopsided victory of the war. Five months later, at Chancellorsville, Lee and his "right hand," Stonewall Jackson, conceived and executed perhaps the most daring attack in military history, achieving the Confederacy's most spectacular triumph. Triumph came at a price the South could not afford—the mortal wounding of Jackson. We will also visit Brandy Station, site of the largest cavalry battle in American history, and Kelly's Ford.

Few, if any campaigns in the Civil War contain so many human interest stories. On the Union side, Ambrose Burnside and Joseph Hooker make their one appearance leading the Army of the Potomac. Each of these men unexpectedly fails, their all-too-human flaws surfacing under the pressure of command. On the Confederate side, we visit the site of Lee's masterpiece, the Chancellorsville campaign, where, outnumbered 2 to 1, he nonetheless outmaneuvers and outfights an overconfident Union army. We will visit the spot where that eccentric genius, Stonewall Jackson, is accidentally shot and mortally wounded by his own men, just at the time when his troops threaten to destroy the Union army.

We are fortunate to again have the dean of Civil War history, Edwin C. Bearss, former National Park Service chief historian and author of many books, to lead our group. We all know him—some by reputation only, most from prior year's tours. Ed will be supported on the daily tours by the veteran guides of the National Park Service. Our own Marshall Krolick will be lending his special expertise during our Sunday tour of Brandy Station. In addition, noted authors/historians Robert K. Krick and John Hennessy will address the group.

THE FREDERICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

General George B. McClellan's failure to vigorously pursue the Confederate army after his victory at Antietam cost him command of the Army of the Potomac. On November 9, 1862, President Lincoln replaced him with Major General Ambrose Burnside, who had hitherto commanded a corps in that army.

Upon taking command Burnside abandoned McClellan's line of advance in central Virginia and instead swung the Union army toward the coast and Fredericksburg. Burnside's hope was that, by a rapid movement, the Union



Cost of the Tour

\$390 per person, double occupancy

\$520 single occupancy

Non-members please add \$25 per person to the above prices. Please indicate on your registration form the person with whom you wish to room.

Tour costs include accommodations at the Holiday Inn Fredericksburg, Route 17 & I95, Wednesday evening, April 28 through Sunday morning, May 2; bus service for all activities; lunches and dinners; refreshments on the buses; guides; admission fees; tour kits and badges; group service gratuities; and evening programs. Breakfasts are not included. A cash bar will be available during the evening Command Posts.

We reserve the right to change scheduled arrangements.

Bus boarding policy: Boarding and seating on specific buses will be accommodated on a first-come, day-to-day policy. Once seated for the day on a specific bus and seat, squatter's rights will prevail for the remainder of the day. For each subsequent day, the choice of buses and seat selection will continue on a first-come basis.

Shuttle bus service from the Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport to the Holiday Inn will be offered the evening of Wednesday, April 28th at a nominal cost of \$20. Reservations are required. Based on the most likely flight arrivals from Chicago, buses will depart BWI at 6:30 and 10:00 p.m. EST. Incoming tour members should meet at the Southwest baggage areas 7 and 8. A greeting area will be set up. Please adjust your flight schedules to meet within the timeframe of our shuttle service. Buses will be available to take tour members back to BWI by 4:00 Sunday afternoon.

Private shuttle service is available from Reagan National Airport. Contact tour chairman for details.

army could cross the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg before Robert E. Lee's Confederate army arrived to defend the river crossing. From Fredericksburg Burnside intended to march straight on Richmond. At first the strategy promised success; Burnside's vanguard reached Stafford Heights, across the river from Fredericksburg, on November 17, well

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817
 Chicago Illinois 60605
 Phone: 847-698-1438

Officers

President	James Nethery
Senior Vice President	Charles Bednar
Vice President	Bruce Allardice
Vice President	Roger E. Bohn
Treasurer	Janet Linhart
Secretary	Norman Potesman
Assistant Treasurer	Donni Case Hewitt
Assistant Secretary	Ted Birndorf
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Tour Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert Larry Gibbs, Mary Munsell Abroe Roger E. Bohn

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1999: Paul Feiss, Michael Marienthal, Frank Patton, Marge Smogor
Terms expiring in 2000: Paul Eastes, Larry Hewitt, Nancy Jacobs, Jerri-Jennifer Smart

Committee Chairs

Spring Battlefield Tour	Bruce Allardice
Co-chair	Kurt Carlson
Registrar	Carole LeClaire
Registrar Emeritus	Margaret April
Tour Kits	Roger E. Bohn, Marvin Sanderman
Newsletter	Bruce Allardice, Barbara Hughett, Muriel Underwood
Book List	Marshall D. Krolick
Bus Marshalls	Terry Carr, Robert and Pat Franke, Marshall D. Krolick, Richard McAdoo, Joe Wisehart
Planning & Itinerary	Bruce Allardice, Kurt Carlson, Marshall D. Krolick
Chief Guide	Ed Bearss
Tour Guides	Mac Wyckoff, Melissa Delcour, Keith Alexander

(continued from page 1)

ahead of Lee's vanguard. However, the pontoons needed to bridge the river and allow a mass crossing were, in a series of blunders, delayed. By the time they arrived Lee and the main Confederate army has already staked out a defensive line on the low hills west and southwest of the city, directly blocking any Union advance.

Burnside nevertheless persisted in his intention to cross the river here and advance. In the fog early on December 11, Union engineers began laying pontoon bridges at two points opposite Fredericksburg and a third point a mile to the south. The upper crossings were hotly contested. Confederate sharpshooters, concealed in the city, laid down so hot a fire that the engineers could not complete their bridges.

Eventually, Union infantry had to be ferried over on boats. They effected a landing and, after sharp street fighting, cleared the town of Confederates. Burnside's army could now cross unmolested. On December 12, the Union army massed for the attack, while the scattered elements of the Confederate army concentrated in their defensive line, scarcely believing that the Union army would attack them in their strong position.

At about 9 a.m. on December 13, the Union left wing, under General William B. Franklin, attacked the Confederate right, held by Stonewall Jackson's corps. Only two divisions actively attacked Jackson's lines. Deploying through heavy artillery fire, the Union troops penetrated a gap in Jackson's line and, for a moment, threatened to break it. However, Jackson's ample reserves contained the penetration, counterattacked and drove the Union assault force back.

The Union right, massed in and about the city of Fredericksburg itself, faced a Confederate position on Marye's Heights, a low bluff west of town. On the base of the bluff was a road which, over the years, had been eroded by traffic—the soon-to-be famous "sunken road," a natural trench that General James Longstreet, who commanded the Confederate left, had packed with riflemen. Confederate artillery crowned the heights—its commander bragged before the battle that "a chicken could not live on that field when we open on it." Burnside nevertheless ordered assault after assault on the heights. Division after division marched out of the town, faced a hurricane of shot and shell, and went to ground short of the heights. General Sumner's wing and part of General Hooker's wing bled itself to death in futile attacks that lasted until after dark.

Burnside stubbornly desired to renew the attack the next day—at one point contemplating leading an attack himself with his old corps. However, his officers dissuaded him from further attacks. On the night of December 15-16 the Union army recrossed the Rappahannock and went into winter quarters. In the battle the Union army lost 13,000 men (out of 112,100) and the Confederates 5,000 (out of 78,000).

CHANCELLORSVILLE

That winter General Joseph Hooker replaced Burnside as the Union commander after yet another abortive offensive, the aptly named "Mud March." Hooker, known as "Fighting Joe," worked miracles reorganizing the demoralized army. On April 27, 1863, he resumed offensive operations against Lee's Confederates, still manning their Fredericksburg defense lines. Hooker's plan, labelled by many the best plan ever attempted against Lee, called for General John Sedgwick's corps to cross the river at Fredericksburg as a feint to occupy Lee's attention, while Hooker took the bulk of the army miles upstream to cross the river there and come down on Lee's left rear. Initially, the plan worked perfectly. With little opposition Hooker brought his 3-corps advance to the country estate of Chancellorsville, 10 miles west of Fredericksburg. Here the advance stalled. Lee's had detected Hooker's turning movement and, leaving one reinforced division at Fredericksburg to hold off Sedgwick, brought the bulk of his army westward and drove in the Union advance guards. Hooker, disconcerted by the Confederate's quick and vigorous response, halted his advance and assumed a defensive position in and around Chancellorsville.

Lee had temporarily halted the Union advance, but his army was still in a dangerous position. Most commanders would have retreated. Lee and Jackson, however, initiated a daring maneuver that would further divide his own army, sending Jackson and three divisions on a day-long march around the Union right flank while Lee and two

divisions confronted Hooker's entire wing. On May 2, in the heavy woods west of Chancellorsville Stonewall achieved his last surprise, a crushing flank attack that routed an entire army corps. Darkness fell before Jackson could complete the victory. About 9 p.m., Jackson rode out from his lines to scout the ground in front. On his return, he was wounded by gunfire from his own men, who mistook Jackson's party for a federal patrol. Jackson would die on May 10; a sorrowful Lee would never find another subordinate of his genius.

On May 3, the Confederates renewed their attack, Jackson's corps (now under cavalryman Jeb Stuart) attacking eastward and the two divisions under Lee's personal supervision northward, all aimed at the crossroads at Chancellorsville. The Union wing, positioned in a semicircle around Chancellorsville, put up a stout defense. But Confederate artillery blanketed the semicircle with a storm of shot. One shell struck a post upon which Hooker was leaning, stunning the Union commander and leaving the Union army temporarily leaderless. Slowly the Union wing was forced northward, driven back into a position with its back to the river.

At Fredericksburg, on May 3, Sedgwick had assaulted the undermanned Confederate lines at Marye's Heights and, after sharp fighting, carried them. He set out westward to relieve Hooker. Learning that Sedgwick had burst out and that his right rear was now threatened, Lee moved part of his army away from Hooker to confront this new threat. Sedgwick's advance was first halted at Salem Church, four miles west of Fredericksburg. On the evening of May 4, a Confederate attack drove Sedgwick back to the Rappahannock. During the night of May 4-5 Sedgwick escaped over Bank's Ford to the Union side of the river. Lee then counter-marched his troops back west to Hooker's line, to find that Hooker had also recrossed the Rappahannock at United States Ford. At Chancellorsville, the Federals lost 17,000 men (out of 130,000) and the Confederates 12,000 (out of 60,000).

KELLY'S FORD

On March 17, 1863, under orders from General Hooker to attack the Confederate cavalry, Brigadier General William W. Averill led his cavalry division across the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, capturing 25 prisoners. Confederate Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee, a prewar friend of Averill, learned of the Union crossing and led his 800 troopers forward to stop Averill's advance.

The Confederate found Averill's men in a defensive position about a half mile from the ford. Federal skirmishers manned a position along a stone fence. Lee's 3rd Virginia cavalry charged the stone fence; during this charge a shell fragment hit Major John Pelham, the brilliant young commander of Jeb Stuart's horse artillery, mortally wounding him. On the opposite flank a Union attack drove the outnumbered Confederate cavalry back to a position about a mile behind their initial position. Despite achieving this advantage Averill called off the attack, settled for a partial success, and withdrew across the river. However, this half-success had shown both sides that the newly reorganized Union cavalry could contend on an equal basis with Stuart's cavalry, which until that time had generally dominated its underaggressive foe.

BRANDY STATION

On the evening of June 8, 1863, Stuart had five brigades loosely concentrated along the south bank of the Rappahannock River west of Kelly's Ford, near Culpeper. This concentration of Confederate cavalry had been observed by Union scouts. The concentration was thought to be in preparation for another of Stuart's famous raids. To

Tour Schedule

Variations to the schedule are sometimes necessary. Should this occur, announcements will be made as soon as possible.

Day 1 (Wednesday, April 28th)

Rendezvous at the Holiday Inn Fredericksburg, with our shuttle bus bringing in tour members from BWI airport. At the Holiday Inn tour members will receive their tour kits and room accommodations.

Day 2 (Thursday, April 29th)

"The Battle of Fredericksburg"

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses at the Holiday Inn. Tour of the battle of Fredericksburg, starting at Chatham House on the river, continuing to the Visitor's Center and Marye's Heights, and then to where Jackson was attacked.
- 5:00 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn. Clean-up time
- 6:30 p.m. Command post, cash bar in the George Washington room.
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner. Speaker: Edwin C. Bearss

Day 3 (Friday, April 30th)

"Chancellorsville—the Opening Engagements"

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses at the Holiday Inn. Tour of the beginning portions of the battle of Chancellorsville, starting at Ely's Ford, going on to the Chancellorsville Visitor Center, and tracing Jackson's famous flank attack.
- 5:00 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn. Clean-up time
- 6:30 p.m. Command post, cash bar in the George Washington room.
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner. Speaker: John Hennessy

Day 4 (Saturday, May 1st)

"Chancellorsville-Salem Church. Hooker's retreat"

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses at the Holiday Inn. Tour of the later portions of the battle of Chancellorsville and the battle of Salem Church, starting at Hazel Grove, going on to the Chancellorsville, Salem Church, and the death of Stonewall Jackson.*

* *Optional Walking Tour. See separate notice*

- 4:30 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn. Clean-up time
- 5:00 p.m. Command post in the George Washington room. Awarding of the Purple Heart and CWRT activities.
- 5:30 p.m. Board buses at the Holiday Inn
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and ceremony on the Chancellorsville battlefield, to celebrate the purchase of the land where Jackson launched his flank attack. Program by the National Park Service and the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, including talks by Robert K. Krick and other dignitaries.
- 8:30 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn

Day 5 (Sunday, May 2nd)

"The Clash of Cavalry—Kelly's Ford and Brandy Station"

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses at the Holiday Inn. Tour starting at the Kelly's Ford battlefield, then going on to Brandy Station, St. James Church and Fleetwood Hill.
- 12:00 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn for luncheon.
- 1:30 p.m. End of tour. Buses depart for BWI.

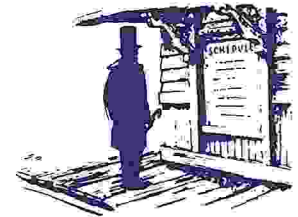
Armchair Generalship

Compiled by Marshall D. Krolick



- Bates, Samuel P., *The Battle of Chancellorsville*
 "The Battle of Fredericksburg," *Blue and Gray Magazine*,
 January, 1984
- Bigelow, John, Jr., *The Campaign of Chancellorsville*
- Borcke, Heros von and Justus Scheibert, *The Great Cavalry
 Battle of Brandy Station*
- Catton, Bruce, *Centennial History of the Civil War*, Vol. III
(Never Call Retreat)
- Catton, Bruce, *Glory Road*
- Chambers, Lenoir, *Stonewall Jackson*
- Cullen, Joseph, "Chancellorsville," *Civil War Times Illus-
 trated*, May 1968, special issue
- Cullen, Joseph, *Where a Hundred Thousand Fell*, National
 Park Service publication
- Dodge, Theodore, *The Campaign of Chancellorsville*
- Downey, Fairfax, *Clash of Cavalry. The Battle of Brandy
 Station*
- Finfrock, Bradley, *Across the Rappahannock*
- Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War, A Narrative*, Vol. II
- Freeman, Douglas Southall, *Lee's Lieutenants*
- Freeman, Douglas Southall, *R.E. Lee*
- Ferguson, Ernest B., *Chancellorsville 1863*
- Gallagher, Gary W., "Brandy Station: The Civil War's Bloodi-
 est Arena of Mounted Combat," *Blue and Gray Maga-
 zine*, October, 1990
- Gallagher, Gary W. (ed.), *Chancellorsville*
- Gallagher, Gary W. (ed.), *The Fredericksburg Campaign*
- Hall, Clark B., "The Battle of Brandy Station," *Civil War
 Times Illustrated*, June, 1990
- Hamlin, Augustus C., *The Battle of Chancellorsville*
- Happel, Ralph, *Salem Church Embattled*, National Park
 Service publication
- Harrison, Noel G., *Chancellorsville Battlefield Sites*
- Henderson, G.F.R., *Stonewall Jackson*
- Hebert, Walter H., *Fighting Joe Hooker*
- Johnson, Robert U. and Clarence C. Buel, *Battles and
 Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. III
- Krolick, Marshall D., "The Battle of Brandy Station," *Vir-
 ginia Country's Civil War Quarterly*, Vol. VII
- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson (eds.), *The U.S. Army
 War College Guide to the Battles of Chancellorsville and
 Fredericksburg*
- Martin, David G., *The Chancellorsville Campaign*
- Marvel, William, *Burnside*
- Nye, Wilbur Sturtevant, *Here Come the Rebels*
- Robertson, James I. Jr., *Stonewall Jackson*
- Sears, Stephen W., *Chancellorsville*
- Stackpole, Edward J., "Battle of Fredericksburg," *Civil War
 Times Illustrated*, December, 1965, special issue
- Stackpole, Edward J., *Chancellorsville, Lee's Greatest Battle*
- Stackpole, Edward J., *Drama on the Rappahannock, The
 Fredericksburg Campaign*
- Sutherland, Daniel E., *Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville*
- Sword, Wiley, "Cavalry on Trial at Kelly's Ford," *Civil War
 Times Illustrated*, April 1974
- Thomas, Emory M., *Bold Dragoon, the Life of J.E.B. Stuart*
- Thomason, John, *Jeb Stuart*
- War of the Rebellion*. Official Records of the Union and
 Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. XXI for
 Fredericksburg, Vol. XXV for Chancellorsville and
 Kelly's Ford, Vol. XXVII for Brandy Station
- Whan, Vorin E., *Fiasco at Fredericksburg*
- Williams, Kenneth P., *Lincoln Finds a General*, Vol. II

On the Tour



Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the schedules times 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, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that the buses are not delayed waiting for you.

(continued from page 3)

prevent that raid, Hooker ordered his own cavalry chief, General Alfred Pleasanton, to cross the river with his cavalry and "disperse and destroy the rebel force."

On the morning of June 9, the Union cavalry, backed by two infantry brigades, crossed the river at two separate places. At Beverly's Ford the main Union assault, commanded by General John Buford, forced back Confederate pickets, at the cost of the life of Colonel Benjamin F. "Grimes" Davis, who led the Union vanguard. Stuart quickly rallied his surprised troopers, who formed a line north of Stuart's headquarters on Fleetwood Hill. A series of charges and countercharges followed, with the Union advance slowly grinding to a halt near St. James Church.

Stuart's staff, on Fleetwood Hill, then saw a shocking sight—an unopposed Union column coming from the South straight for Fleetwood Hill and Stuart's rear. This was the other Union assault column, General David M. Gregg's cavalry, that had crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, evaded the Confederate brigade stationed to block it, and now threatened to trap Stuart's main force. Stuart detached a cavalry force that galloped to Fleetwood, arriving at the crest of the hill just in time to blunt the Union advance. Charge after countercharge flowed over the hill in this, the largest cavalry battle ever to occur on the North American continent. The fighting was at many times hand to hand.

By late afternoon, the Confederates held the hill. Both sides were too exhausted to continue. After dark the Union cavalry recrossed the river. They had lost 900 men; the Confederates 500. But they felt victorious, even though they failed to "disperse and destroy the rebel force." For the first time in the war, the maligned Union cavalry had surprised Stuart, had fought him on equal terms, and had returned to tell about it. Many speculate that, in order to recover his reputation, Stuart embarked on a raid during the Gettysburg campaign that, while spectacular, deprived the Confederate army of its "eyes and ears" and contributed to the Confederate defeat there.

SPECIAL FREDERICKSBURG WALKING TOUR

On Saturday, May 1, an optional walking tour of historic downtown Fredericksburg will be offered. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. immediately after our lunch that day. A special shuttle bus will take walking tour members to Fredericksburg. Your tour guide will be Living History's "Jane Beale."

The tour will begin in downtown Fredericksburg. You will see various colonial and antebellum homes and shops associated with the history of Fredericksburg. After the tour ends, time will be available to visit the numerous shops, antique stores, and historic sites of downtown Fredericksburg. Walking tour members will rendezvous with the battlefield tour later in the day.

The cost of the walking tour is \$20 per person.