



# *The Signal Flag*

## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Campaign # 23

Skirmish # 8

April 2010

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*From the Rear Ranks:*

### **APRIL 9, 1865: SIGNING AFTERMATH**

By now, a crowd of anxious sightseers was clustered around the front porch to catch a glimpse of the Confederate general. His face flushed a deep crimson; Lee emerged onto the porch, carrying his hat and gloves. Here he paused, put on his hat, and slowly drew on his gloves, absent-mindedly gazing out into the field beyond. Once, then twice, then a third time, he unconsciously balled his left hand and pumped the fist into the palm of his right. Still seemingly oblivious to his surroundings, he automatically returned the salute given to him by Union officers crowding around the porch, then descended the stairs. Now, as if drawing himself back from a daze, he glanced deliberately in one direction and then the next. Not seeing his horse, he called out in a half-choked and more than half-tired voice, "Orderly! Orderly!" The horse was brought around. The general smoothed Traveller's forelocks as the orderly fit the bridle, then with a slow, exhausted tug, pulled himself on the horse, letting out a long deep sigh, almost a groan. By then, Grant had walked out on the porch, too, and as Lee rode past him, their eyes met. Each silently lifted his hat to the other. On the porch and in the yard, countless other generals also returned the gesture.

In no small measure, this one poignant moment captured the spirit of Appomattox more than the words ever written about that day. But this didn't stop the participants from trying to give voice to the event, including Grant himself. "I felt sad and depressed," Grant later explained of this moment, "at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought."

Source: Winnick, Jay. "April 1865: The Month That Saved America", 2001, page 190.

*I remain your most obedient servant  
Robert Paul Sprague*

~ Officers ~

**President:** John Walls  
**Vice President:** Chip Crowe  
**Secretary:** Ted Pawlik  
**Treasurer:** Dave Walter

~ Committee Members ~

**Preservation:** Bob Sprague, John Walls

**Nominating Committee:**

Vince Carosella

**Speakers:** Roger Arthur

**Trips:** Greg Buss

**Credentials:** Vacant

**Greeter:**

**Publicity:** Bill Stiman

**Historians:** Bill Sitman and Bob Sprague

**Social Dir:** Flo Williams

~Members at Large ~

David Hoffritz, James Lawler, Lynne Fulton

~ Official Sutler ~

Bob Sprague: Books / Periodicals  
610-644-0353

~ Annual Membership ~

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$15.00  
(Full time student up to age 23)

? Questions ? Contact:

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West Chester, Pa 19382  
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[JohnFWalls@verizon.com](mailto:JohnFWalls@verizon.com)

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**Signal Flag Editor:**

Lynne Fulton

610-647-1039

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Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.  
Please contact Lynne!

*\*We are wheelchair assessable*

**What is the BVCWRT all about???**

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

**Welcome New Members & Reenlistments**

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

**New Members:**

*Thomas Mealey*





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*April 7, 2010*

**Speaker:**

**Roger Arthur**

**Topic: "Second Manassas"**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street**

**Roger's Bio:** An interest in history is something Roger has had since childhood. It was his major in college, taught it in school, has read monographs of many prominent historians, read many of the original documents and have visited most of the important Lincoln and Civil War sites throughout the country. He currently teaches Modern American History at Bishop Shanahan High School located in Downingtown, PA. In the evenings during the spring and fall he offers a variety of adult enrichment courses at both the Chester County Night School and the Mainline School Night. These include The War of the Rebellion, "Discover Mr. Lincoln," "Meet Colonel Roosevelt," The American Revolution, World War II and Presidential Greatness. I often speak to Civil War Round Tables and other community groups. This past February he gave a series of seven Lincoln Lectures at the Chester and Delaware County Libraries to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. This fall he will continue lectures as a first person portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt—"Meet Colonel Roosevelt." Roger will be filling in for Gary Eckelbarger who was unable to make the meeting. He will be discussing 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas. This will prepare those taking the field trip on April 10.

**Education:**

M. A. American History – West Chester University (2003)

**Other Graduate Study:**

Public History – Rutgers University (1998)

American History – Miami University (1968-9)

B. S. Ed History, Government & Speech – Bowling Green State University (1965)

**Professional:**

Teach: Modern American History– Bishop Shanahan High School (Downingtown PA) (2004-Present)

Teach: Adult enrichment courses- Night School for Chester County and Mainline School Night (2001-Present)

"Meet Colonel Roosevelt" – first person portrayal of America's most dynamic President

Lecturer: Historic topics (1991-Present)

Sales: Marketing Department – Sunoco, Inc. (1970-2000)

Taught: American History & Government – Cincinnati Public Schools (1965-1970) Academic:

The Copperhead Vallandigham (2004) [book-unpublished]

Conference paper: "The 'Copperhead' Vallandigham and the Use of Military

Commissions: A Case Study." James A. Barnes Club Annual History Conference – Temple University (2002)

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**Editor Note:**

**Spring Social** – The membership would like to thank all those who helped with the March Social last month. Thanks again to Flo Williams for pulling everything together.

**Spring Trip – Last Call for Trip to Manassas** – If you are interested please contact Greg Buss as soon as possible. Trip to 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas is April 10<sup>th</sup>. The bus will be leaving West Chester approximately 6 AM. Participants are to pack their own lunch to eat in route. The tour will stop for dinner. If interested please contact Greg Buss at 610-321-1792 or email at [grbuss@yahoo.com](mailto:grbuss@yahoo.com).

**Minutes of the March 3, 2010 Meeting  
BVCWRT**

***Submitted by Ted Pawlik***

**John Walls - Presiding:**

**Treasurer's Report: (Dave Walter):**

- The bank balance as of February 1, 2010 was \$3,486.87. Expenses for the month of February were \$708.88. Receipts for the month of February were \$480.00. The bank balance as of March 1, 2010 was \$3257.99. This includes \$1000.00 that has been paid for the field trip.

**Field Trip: (Greg Buss)**

- The field trip to 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas is scheduled for April 10, 2010. To date, there are 27 people signed up who paid for the trip. 43 people are needed to make the trip economically feasible. The total cost of the trip is approximately \$2130.00. This estimate includes the price of the bus (\$1430.00), the guide for the day (\$500) and tip for bus driver (\$200). In the event of a shortfall in the number of people signing up the following options were discussed to make up the difference between receipts and expenses:
  1. Have the Round Table pay the difference.
  2. Increase the cost to those going on the trip. The amount will depend on the number actually going. The worst case, if no one else signs up, would be to charge participants an additional \$29.00. However, if an additional 5 people sign up for example, the additional charge would be \$17.00 The Round table would advance the cost until the extra fee is collected
  3. Cancel the trip.
- A commitment has to be made to the bus company by March 26, 2010. It was decided at the meeting to go ahead with this commitment.
- Other suggestions made to reduce the cost were (1) pass the hat for a tip for the bus driver (in lieu of the flat fee of \$200.00). (2) try to get a smaller bus (Greg will follow up) and (3) send notices to other Round Tables.
- The sense of the meeting was to go with option #2 in the event we do not get the number needed to keep the cost at \$50.00
- **Therefore, anyone interested in the trip but has not signed up as of yet is asked to contact Greg ASAP. His contact information is below. Also the trip is open to those who are not members of the Round Table including family members and friends.**
- The details of the trip are as follows. The bus will leave the West Chester Municipal Building at 6:15 PM. The current cost is \$50.00 per person. Checks are to be made payable to the BVCWRT and can be sent to  
Gregory R. Buss , 502 Langford Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335  
610-563-1117 – grbuss@yahoo.com

**Preservation Committee: (Bob Sprague)** – Bob reported that the campaign to save the Snyder Farm in the Gettysburg Battlefield has been successful. The Round Table made a contribution to this effort.

**Social Committee: (Flo Williams)** - Following the meeting, the spring social was held.

**Other items of Interest:**

**Dan Cashin** reported that there would be a presentation at the Delaware County Institute of Science in Media, PA on Duffy's Cut. The program is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

**Bob Sprague** announced that information on the BVCWRT Banquet to be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> will be sent out shortly.

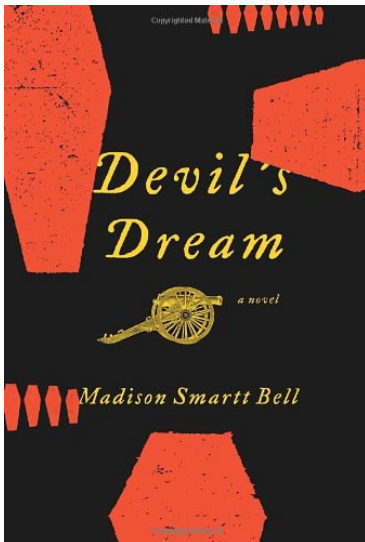
Speaker for the Evening (Introduced by Chip Crowe): David Booz – The Morning Bloodbath at Antietam

# Hero or Monster? A portrait of a General - Book Review

## Devil's Dream

By Madison Smartt Bell - Pantheon. 337 pp. \$26.95 - Amazon \$17.79

Reviewed by Bill Kent Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 26, 2010



Was Civil War Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest a hero or a monster? Both, neither, or something in between?

On the heroic side, Forrest can be seen as an early example of the American dream, even if he made his fortune growing cotton and trading slaves. Then, without having any military experience or training, he joined the Confederate army and rose to the rank of lieutenant general, distinguishing himself as a ferociously brave cavalry commander.

Tall, wiry, foulmouthed, and a charismatic leader of both white and black troops (whom he promised freedom after the war), Forrest is renowned among military historians for the speed at which he moved his troops, his relentless attacks, his brutally effective saber-and-six-gun fighting style, and his strategic use of terrain.

Yet, this is the same commander who presided over the slaughter of hundreds of surrendering African American Union troops at Fort Pillow. Most heinous of all, after the Civil War concluded, Forrest joined the Ku Klux Klan and transformed what had been a secretive white-supremacist social club into a paramilitary terrorist organization.

Biographers have tended to group Forrest and Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman together as marginal types who found their calling in acts of incomprehensible wartime barbarity (Forrest at Fort Pillow, Sherman with his horrendous devastation of Georgia) and then used what they had learned to ill effect: Forrest with the Klan, Sherman on a genocidal campaign against Native Americans.

Five years ago in *The March: A Novel*, E.L. Doctorow turned "Uncle Billy" Sherman into a brooding depressive whose mental problems and dislike of his fellow generals animated his destructive zeal.

In *Devil's Dream*, Madison Smartt Bell, the prolific Baltimore novelist who has just finished a three-volume fictional biography of Haitian revolutionary leader Toussaint L'Ouverture, plays fast, but not loose, with a 20-year slice of Forrest's life, from 1845 to 1865. His story isn't so much about the man, but the people around him who dance - reluctantly or eagerly or against their will - to his peculiar tune (the novel's title refers to a traditional fiddle tune).

We meet Forrest's wife, slaves, brothers, children (legitimate and not), and fellow soldiers, the most interesting of whom is Henri, a dark-skinned man who could be a Native American, but is actually the Haitian equivalent of Che Guevara.

Claiming to be a descendant of Toussaint L'Ouverture, Henri has come to the United States to incite slaves to rebel (and, he admits later, to kill as many white people as possible). He has the uncanny ability to see ghosts, glimpse the future, and sense the thoughts of animals. He finds himself fascinated and appalled by Forrest, who invites him to join his regiment. Capriciously, Henri accepts, and proceeds to kill white Union soldiers.

Bell lets his narrative skid back and forth in time (the perplexed can turn to a 26-page biographical time line appended at the end of the book). We see Forrest in combat and in intimate public and private moments. A stern, proud, vulgar, and explosively violent man who abhors liars and pretense, Forrest loses himself - and a fortune - in dice games.

He has an astonishing ability to endure pain, a fiery stoicism about war, and fierce determination to vanquish every enemy. He makes love to his slaves, acknowledges his offspring but never quite accepts them until they follow him into battle, where bravery under fire means more than who wins, loses, suffers injury, or dies. In a peculiar but moving vignette set before the war begins, we see Forrest buying back a female slave to appease a slave who loved her.

The Fort Pillow massacre is mentioned, but it isn't central to the story. Bell also avoids consideration of what led Forrest to the Klan in the years that followed. Instead, he shows us the sad irony of one who can buy and sell human beings, make love to them, raise his children from that union, free them, fight beside them, but never accept them as equals. We feel the bitterness of a fighter of such consummate skill that he can win so many battles, but lose the war.

And finally, we taste the bitterness of a man whose world ended not with the surrender at Appomattox, but from the moment he entered the war. "Hit's sometimes I wonder," Forrest says, standing over a horse that served him well but perished in battle, "what in the Hell are we doin this for?"

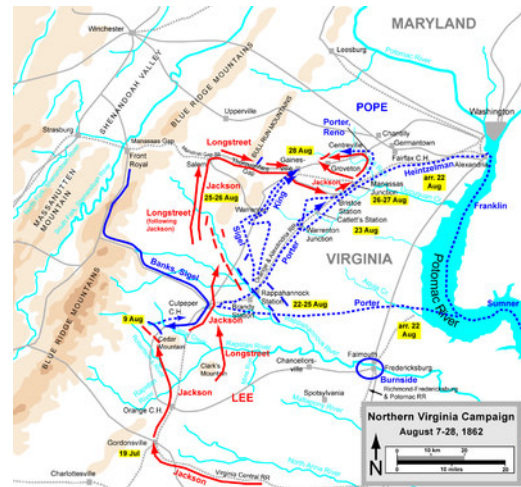
Bell has given us a remote, disturbing portrait of a man who was never understood in his own time, and probably will remain an enigma for generations to come.

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## Second Manassas, Second Bull Run Gainesville, Brawner's Farm

August 28-30 1962

In order to draw Major General John Pope's army into battle, CSA Major General Thomas Jackson ordered an attack on a Federal column that was passing across his front on the Warrenton Turnpike on August 28. The fighting at Brawner Farm lasted several hours and resulted in a stalemate. Pope became convinced that he had trapped Jackson and concentrated the bulk of his army against him. On August 29, Pope launched a series of assaults against Jackson's position along an unfinished railroad grade. The attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties on both sides. At noon, Longstreet arrived on the field from Thoroughfare Gap and took position on Jackson's right flank.



On August 30, Pope renewed his attacks, seemingly unaware that Longstreet was on the field. When massed Confederate artillery devastated a Union assault by Fitz John Porter's command, Longstreet's wing of 28,000 men counterattacked in the largest, simultaneous mass assault of the war. The Union left flank was crushed and the army driven back to Bull Run. Only an effective Union rearguard action prevented a replay of the First Manassas disaster. Pope's retreat to Centreville was precipitous, nonetheless.

**Result(s):** Confederate victory

**Other Names:** Manassas, Second Bull Run, Manassas Plains, Groveton, Gainesville, Brawner's Farm

**Location:** Prince William County    **Date(s):** August 28-30, 1862

**Principal Commanders:** Major General John Pope [US]; General Robert E. Lee and Major General Thomas J. Jackson [CS]

**Forces Engaged:** Armies                      Estimated Casualties: 22,180 total (US 13,830; CS 8,350)

### *Prelude to Second Manassas*

The First Battle of Manassas lasted more than eight grueling hours and culminated with the wounded Union army fleeing for its life. It was a sobering event that proved the civil war would be anything but short and bloodless. Thirteen months later, the Union and Confederate armies once again clashed at Manassas. However, both armies were a far cry from the novice soldiers that squared off the previous summer. The troops were now seasoned veterans, hardened to the gruesome realities of warfare. And with numbers twice the size of the previous battle, it ensured a level of destruction that was unparalleled up to this point in the war.

In the spring of 1862, General George McClellan and the Union army fought their way up the Virginia peninsula to the Confederate capital of Richmond. But a newly appointed Commander of the Confederate army-- General Robert E. Lee, stopped McClellan at the gates of Richmond. In a matter of weeks, Lee forced the Union troops away from Richmond. He then re-organized his army into two "wings". The famed General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson



captained the left wing, while Lee's "Old War Horse", General James Longstreet assumed command of the right wing.

While Lee was busy reorganizing his army, President Lincoln was desperately seeking a commander who could match wits with the Confederates. He called upon 40-year-old General John Pope, a West Point graduate of the class of 1842. Pope was also connected by marriage to President Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

In July, Lee learned that McClellan's army was retreating off of the Peninsula. They had been ordered to join forces with Pope, a combination that would produce a colossal army of 150,000 men. Located in the middle was Lee's army of 55,000 men. Lee knew he had to destroy Pope before the two Federal armies could combine their forces. In mid August, Lee found the opportunity he was looking for. Pope's Army of Virginia that was positioned between the confluence of the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers, an ideal location for Lee to isolate and destroy it. But on the morning of August 18th, a detachment of Union Cavalry captured a copy of Lee's attack orders. Pope immediately withdrew his army from the trap and established a strong position on the north bank of the Rappahannock. Time was running out for Lee. McClellan's army was fast approaching. Lee's plan was to lure Pope away from his advantageous position on the Rappahannock River. To achieve this, he would cut the North's line of supply and communication.

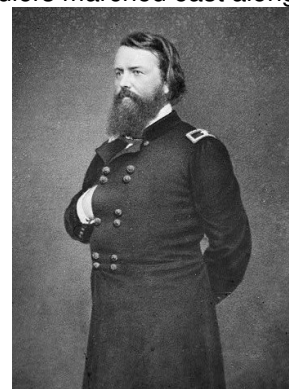
In the pre-dawn hours of August 25th, Jackson's men started a 54-mile march around Pope. In less than 40 hours, Jackson's men descended on the Bristoe Railroad Station, cutting Pope's supply line, the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, and his telegraph communications with Washington. Next they ransacked the supply depot at Manassas Junction and burned what they couldn't take. It was a remarkable feat even by modern military standards.

Pope reacted quickly. He knew that Jackson was isolated. He ordered his army, nearly 60,000 strong, to concentrate at Manassas Junction. But by the time he arrived, Jackson was nowhere to be found. Upon receiving a report that Jackson was near Centerville, he ordered his army to once again take to the roads. Like a horse with blinders on, Pope fixated on finding and destroying Jackson. Somewhere out there in the Virginia countryside was the other half of Lee's army; 30,000 men of Longstreet's Wing.

As evening approached on August 28th, Pope was finally about to find Jackson. Unfortunately for Pope, it would be on Jackson's terms. With no lit fires to give their position away, Jackson's men patiently waited along a rise of ground known as Stony Ridge north of the First Manassas battlefield. As a division of Federal soldiers marched east along the Warrenton Turnpike, they passed right in front of Jackson's waiting troops. Turning to his field commanders, Jackson issued the orders, "Bring out your men gentlemen". The Second Battle of Manassas was about to begin.

## Second Manassas

On August 28, 29, and 30 1862 the Union and Confederate armies collided for a second time in little over a year on the fields of Manassas. The first meeting saw a green Union army fleeing for its life on the roads to Washington. Now 13 months later, a confident and arrogant Union General John Pope bragged that he would destroy the Confederate army in short order. Unfortunately for Pope, Southern General Robert E. Lee was now in command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Second Manassas would be one of Lee's most decisive victories.



Maj General John Pope

**August 28 1862 - A standup fight at Brawner Farm:** About 6:00 PM on August 28th, Union General John Gibbon observed a group of horses emerge from the trees in the far distance. Gibbon was an experienced artillerist and knew by the action of the horses that Confederate artillery was present. Within moments a Confederate cannon opened fire, sending shells hissing over the heads of the Union division spread out on the turnpike. Believing that the enemy battery belonged to JEB Stuart's horse artillery, Gibbon sent his only veteran regiment, the 2nd Wisconsin, to charge the guns and capture them. Even though they had seen action at Manassas the previous summer, the 2nd Wisconsin regiment was not prepared for what followed.

They were not simply chasing off an unsupported battery of light horse artillery, they were heading right into the veteran infantry of "Stonewall" Jackson. Gibbon's men left the turnpike, plowing their way through the thicket of woods that bordered the road. Meanwhile, Jackson called his infantry forward. First to arrive was the famed "Stonewall" brigade. These were the same men that Jackson had personally led at the First Battle of Manassas the previous year. Back

then the brigade numbered 2,500 men. Now, they had withered to just over 800 rifles but they were some of the best in the Confederate army. Both sides surged forward and unleashed volleys of musket fire. The fighting quickly escalated as both sides threw in additional troops. Within 40 minutes, the men from Gibbon's and portions of another brigade found themselves in a battle for their lives against a Confederate force that had swelled to nearly three times their size. It was a brutal contest of wills. Seventy yards separated the lines. Both sides stood their ground firing into each other's ranks. Neither side advanced, and neither side retired.

Darkness finally brought an end to the bitter contest. The musketry that Gibbon described as a "long and continuous roll" gave way to the anguished cries of the wounded. One in every three soldiers was shot. The "Stonewall" Brigade lost 40% of their men, while the 2nd Wisconsin lost almost 50%.

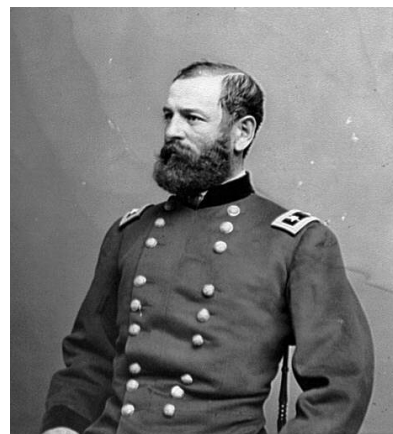
**August 29, 1862 - A day of bloody diversions:** After the fighting at Brawner Farm the night before, Pope mistakenly believed that Jackson was trying to escape. Pope envisioned a pincer movement against Jackson's fleeing troops. He would send units straight ahead to keep Jackson pinned down while the entire 5th corps, 10,000 men commanded by General Fitz-John Porter would swing around and strike Jackson's exposed right flank or end. There was only one problem. The flank attack would never happen. The battle orders Porter received were vague, but more importantly, Longstreet arrived with his 30,000 men and sat squarely between Porter and the right flank of Jackson.

The attack, as originally planned was no longer realistic and Porter halted his corps. Nevertheless, Porter's inaction did ensure that the piecemeal attacks made by the other Union troops on the 29th faced the full brunt of Jackson's men. Sadly, the men who marched forward on those attacks, had no idea of the diversionary role they were playing. They struck with every ounce of energy they could muster, thinking that their prime objective was to destroy Jackson. German born, Major General Franz Sigel led the way. At first light on the morning of August 29th, his men advanced on a broad front. Their purpose was to locate and probe the Confederate line. He achieved his goal. Well before 10:00 AM, Sigel's men were heavily engaged with Jackson's troops positioned behind an unfinished railroad bed. By 12:30 Sigel had settled into a stalemate in front of the unfinished railroad and a deceptive lull settled over the battlefield. Then suddenly in the afternoon in quick succession, two Union brigades hurled themselves in unsupported attacks on Jackson's Line. Each attack met with initial success but was swiftly beaten back by Confederate counterattacks.

At around 5 pm Pope ordered the fiery one-armed general, Phil Kearney to assault the left end of Jackson's line, held by AP Hill's famed "Light Division". After 9 hours of near continuous fighting, Hill's men were nearing the limits of human endurance. Hill's men were slowly pushed back and on the verge of collapse when Jackson threw his last reserves into the fray. A large brigade under the command of Confederate General Jubal A. Early slammed into Kearny's men like a hammer blow and sent the Federals all the way back to their starting line. Back at his headquarters, Union General John Pope continued to delude himself. Despite the failure to crack Jackson's line and the obvious arrival of Longstreet's corps on the battlefield, Pope believed that the next day a grand pursuit of Lee would bring a great victory. He was soon to learn otherwise.

**August 30, 1862 - The very vortex of hell:** Pope's grand pursuit never happened. In fact, it was Pope's army that became the pursued that day. The first Union troops to discover the truth belonged to general James Ricketts. His men advanced at around noon and were immediately repulsed by Jackson's troops. Pope could delude himself no longer. Lee was not retreating and he knew it. But that realization did not stop what happened next. Pope sent orders for the 10,000 men of Fitz John Porter's V corps to hit Jackson hard.

Ironically, this is exactly what Lee hoped for. Porter's attack set the stage for one of the largest and most successful flank attacks of the war. At 3:00 PM. like a giant avalanche, Porter's men stormed out from the protection of the woods into the open fields in front of Jackson's line.



Maj General Fitz John Porter

## Porters Attack

The Confederate artillery wasted no time. Jackson's batteries along with eighteen cannons under the command of Stephen D. Lee (no relationship to Robert E. Lee) were in a perfect position to rake the Union advance. Despite the devastating artillery fire, Porter's men along with Hatch's division closed ranks and pushed forward. The Union ranks degenerated into confused clusters of men. A fierce battle raged along the Unfinished Railroad, behind which



Jackson's men had take cover. At some spots along the line Confederates ran out of ammunition and began to hurl stones at the assaulting Union troops. The Union attack stalled and Porter refused to risk sending reinforcements into the artillery death trap. Porter's assault was shattered an hour after it had started. Nearly 3,000 men now lay dead, wounded, or missing on the field. One of the men who witnessed Porter's attack crumble was Union Third Corps Commander General Irvin McDowell. In July of the previous year, McDowell had commanded the Union troops that were routed on these same fields at the First Battle of Manassas. Now, from his vantage point, it appeared that the center of the Union line was in total disarray and in danger of collapsing. McDowell promptly ordered General John Reynolds to move his men to the north side of the Warrenton Turnpike and shore up the weakness. It was one of the worst decisions of his military career. With Reynolds' departure, it left a mere 2,500 Union troops south of the turnpike.

For the Confederates, the moment to strike was at hand. Longstreet's 30,000 fresh troops surged forward in one of the largest flank attacks of the Civil War. The Confederate juggernaut was about to steam role everything in its path. Leading the way was John Hood's Texas Brigade and only Union resistance in their path was a small brigade of New York Zouave's commanded by Colonel Gouverneur K. Warren. In a matter of ten minutes the 5th New York lost approximately half its men. For a single infantry regiment, it was the largest loss of life in any single battle of the entire Civil War. Longstreet was guiding his men straight for Henry Hill, the key to cutting off the Union retreat back across the Bull Run. With only a handful of troops in their path, it appeared as if nothing could stop the Confederate onslaught. Pope was rapidly reaching the same conclusion. His next series of orders would reveal how desperate the situation had become.

On Chinn Ridge Pope sacrificed one brigade after another in an attempt to buy time while his army established a last ditch defense on Henry Hill. The Union troops defending Chinn Ridge were grudgingly pushed back by successive waves of Confederate infantry. Following a brief but valiant attempt by Koltes' brigade to recapture a Union battery, Longstreet's men finally conquered Chinn Ridge around 6:00 PM. It had been 90 minutes of the most intense and sustained fighting of the battle.

Lee's army was now poised to take Henry Hill and destroy Pope's army. But the struggle for Chinn Ridge had been costly. As darkness approached, Longstreet's troops were becoming disorganized and tired. He had three more divisions remaining for the final assault on Henry Hill. Two of these were fresh divisions but were still some ways off the front line. That left David R. Jones's Division. The Union line braced itself, leveled their rifles atop the road bank and let loose a deafening volley. The Georgia troops of Colonel George T. Anderson's line staggered. Anderson urged his men forward. "Knock hell out of those blue shirts," he yelled. His men were now within 50 yards of the road, but The Yankees would not give an inch. Union artillery belched canister into the Confederates lines with dreadful effect. Still the Rebels pushed forward.

The weight of the Confederate attack was beginning to show. Pushing through the Federal line, Georgians from Benning's Brigade forced a toehold on the Manassas-Sudley road. Union reinforcements rushed forward to seal the breach. The Confederate attack began to wane. Darkness had nearly enveloped the battlefield when Confederate troops finally maneuvered around the southern end of the Union line. Inexplicably, however, the Confederates did not exploit their advantage. JEB Stuart, the Confederate cavalry commander, urged General Armistead to advance his brigade and attack the exposed Union line. Armistead declined. In the smoke and darkness, he feared his men would not be able to tell friend from foe.

With that the Confederate sweep to Henry Hill ground to a halt. By 11:00 PM, most of the Union army had retreated across Bull Run, bloodied but intact. As the Union troops filed across the wooden bridge on their way towards the Washington defenses, they left behind nearly 10,000 of their men dead, wounded or captured on the fields of Manassas. Lee had lost just over 8,000 men. His telegram to Confederate President Davis read as follows: "This army achieved today on the plains of Manassas a signal victory over the combined forces of Generals McClellan and Pope."

From: <http://Americancivilwar.com/statepic/va/va026.html> Maps and Pictures from Wikipedia

## *Scheduled Speakers for 2009 - 2010*

**Sep 2, 2009:** James Lawler – “Survival – Andersonville and Sultana”

**Oct 7, 2009:** Roger Arthur – “Importance of John Brown” (Tentative)

**Nov 4, 2009:** M. Borowick – “Fitz-John Porter’s Court Marital

**Dec 2, 2009:** BVCWRT Members - Discussion of selected topics, plus our Christmas Social

**Jan 6, 2010:** Mike Kochan – “Monitor”

**Feb 3, 2010:** Marc. Leepson – “Battle of Monocacy”

**Mar 3, 2010:** J Booz – “Antietam”

**Apr 7, 2010:** Roger Arthur – “2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas” (Tentative)

**Apr 10, 2010:** Field Trip: 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas (To sign up please contact Greg Buss 610-321-1792)

**May 5, 2010:** ChipCrowe – “Hunter McGuire”

**May 25, 2010: (Annual Banquet): Speaker will be Elizabeth Brown Pryor**, who is an American diplomat and historian. In 2008, Pryor was awarded the Lincoln Prize for *Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee through his Private Letters*. She shared the honor with James Oakes, who won for *The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics*. Pryor's book is notable for using hundreds of Lee's previously unpublished private letters to create a fresh biography of the Confederate general.

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### **Ed Bearss's New Book**

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) and the Blue & Gray Education Society present a great offer for Edwin C. Bearss's new book, "**Receding Tide: Vicksburg & Gettysburg: The Campaigns That Changed The Civil War**". A portion of the sales from each book ordered from this offer goes to CVBT for battlefield preservation!

Please use the link below to the CVBT website for more information and how to order this exciting publication. Thanks for your support!

[http://cvbt.org/BGES\\_CVBT\\_Bearss\\_Book\\_offer.html](http://cvbt.org/BGES_CVBT_Bearss_Book_offer.html)

*Saw on Temple website*

Jerry H. Brent

Ex. Director, CVBT



Ruins of Stone Bridge at Bull Run Creek, Manassas, Virginia, March 1862.

ANNUAL BANQUET  
BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WHEN: Tuesday, May 25, 2010  
- 6:00 pm: Cash Bar and Hors d'oeuvres  
- 7:00 pm: Dinner  
- 8:00 pm: Guest Speaker

WHERE: The Elks Lodge  
335 West Washington Street  
West Chester, PA 19381

MENU: Tossed Garden Salad  
Choice of:  
- Boneless **Breast of Chicken** Marsala, with sliced mushrooms and herbs in a Marsala wine sauce, with oven roasted potatoes  
- Roasted **Prime Rib** of Beef (10 oz.), All jus, with oven roasted potatoes  
- Pan Seared **Tilapia Filet**, served with lemon butter sauce over rice  
All entrees include: Vegetable medley, rolls and butter, coffee and tea  
Dessert: Raspberry Cheese Cake

Speaker: Elizabeth Brown Pryor – “Lee’s Views after the War”

Cost: \$40.00 PER PERSON - (First increase in three years!)

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – May 14, 2010 at NOON! - NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

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Order Form: Detach, complete reservation, and send with payment to:

**Dave Walter, Treasurer, 937 Thorne Drive, West Chester, PA 19382 - (610-363-8900)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Fish

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Fish

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Fish

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Fish

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 = Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_ (DEADLINE – May 14, 2010 at NOON!)

Checks made payable to: **Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table**  
(Checks are your receipt) BANQUET DATE – Tuesday, May 25, 2010