



BUGLE CALL ECHOES

Vol. 8 No. 6, June 2000

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.

JUNE PROGRAM

The speaker for the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table's June meeting is Dr. Wayne Bowen. A round table member since the beginning of the group, Wayne, now a resident of Southern California, returns to Fresno on occasion; and he always makes time for the San Joaquin Valley CWRT. We're pleased he will be our featured speaker at the June potluck.

Wayne Bowen was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and served in the US Navy from 1943-46. He attended Ohio State University after the war, graduating with a BA in History. He received his MA in Spanish from Emory University in Atlanta and his PhD from Ohio State. Before retirement, Wayne taught Spanish at UC Davis and Fresno State. He has two sons, Juan and Jose, and two grandchildren. Wayne and his wife Bonnie live in Ventura.

Wayne will speak to the round table on Ella Carroll's role in the Civil War.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

While attending the West Coast Civil War Symposium put on by our Program Chairman Bill Head in May, I agreed to help with the ticket sales for two prints (one each by Don Troiani and Dale Gallon). Sales were going well and the group was charged up, so we challenged several other round tables and individuals to match a \$300 contribution from our round table. All monies were earmarked for the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust.

By the end of the Symposium we had raised \$1,420 dollars. This money will go towards the purchase of the Talley Farm, which is contiguous to the Chancellorsville battlefield. The Talley Farm is where Stonewall Jackson turned the right flank of the Union Army. I feel our \$300 dollars is well spent.

At our last board meeting we voted to contribute \$100 to Rich Mountain Battlefield in Beverly, West Virginia, a site we have contributed to in the

June 2000 MEETING

The June meeting of the SJVCWRT will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2000, at Ken and Barbara Moat's house, 4780 N. Delno, Fresno, on the NE corner of Delno and Acacia.

This will be our yearly potluck. If your last name begins with the letters A-M, please bring a casserole or salad. N to Z's please bring a dessert. Plates, eating utensils, soft drinks and beer will be provided. BYOB if you prefer.

Social hour will begin at 6:30, followed by dinner and the program. Please call Ken or Barbara to let them know if you will attend (559-229-3654). A \$5 fee will be collected for each couple attending.

past. (See the August 1999 newsletter for information about this site.) This spends the \$900 dollars we raised at the 1999 fund raiser.

Again, thanks for your excellent support. Hope to see you all at the potluck on the 29th of June at our house. Dr. Wayne Bowen is coming back to be our featured speaker, so come out and welcome Wayne and Bonnie back to Fresno.

KEN MOATS

PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

by Rick Kubiak

General George Brinton McClellan: A Biographical Sketch

George Brinton McClellan was born in Philadelphia, PA, on December 3, 1826. McClellan came from a well-to-do family. His

father, George McClellan, was a medical doctor, had a surgical practice specializing in ophthalmology, founded the Jefferson Medical College, and was the head of its faculty. His mother, Elizabeth Brinton (George's middle name comes from his mother's maiden name), came from a leading Philadelphia family. She was known as a woman of culture and refinement and she saw to it that her children (five including George) had the best education Philadelphia could offer. General McClellan remarked in his memoirs that before he went to West Point, he had received an excellent classical education, was well read in history for a boy, and was a good French scholar.

At the age of 13 McClellan entered the University of Pennsylvania. He began his studies with the idea of a career in law, but after two years he changed his goal to the military. In 1842 his father wrote to the Secretary of War asking for his son's acceptance into West Point. After some delay George McClellan, at the age of 15½ (with an age waiver) was admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

McClellan graduated from West Point in the summer of 1846. He placed first academically and was in second place overall in a class of 59 cadets. His class contributed 20 full rank generals to the Union and Confederate armies, including his roommate and good friend, Ambrose Powell Hill, and Thomas Stonewall Jackson. McClellan was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

The Mexican War had begun in May of 1846 and in September the young graduate of West Point, with his company of engineers, left for the front. McClellan played a prominent and brilliant part--for so young a man--in the later events of General Winfield Scott's campaign, which ended in the capture of Mexico City. He was promoted to the rank of brevet first lieutenant for gallant conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco and brevet captain for his services at Chapultepec. The Mexican War was a training ground for army Civil War generals, both Confederate and Union. McClellan met and became friends with Pierre (P.G.T.) Beauregard, Joseph Johnston, George Meade, Gustavus W. Smith and also met engineer Captain Robert E. Lee. Much of Clellan's defensiveness and hesitancy was due to his great respect for the fighting skills, abilities and knowledge of the Confederate generals Lee, Beauregard, Johnston and G. W. Smith, with whom he had fought along side of in the Mexican War.

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In the 1850s McClellan's duties were varied and his accomplishments many. He was a member of the engineering faculty at West Point; translated into English a French manual on bayonet exercises; and served on engineering duty at Fort Delaware (during his tour there he had time to study, read, and learn to speak German). In an expedition under Captain Randolph B. Marcy (McClellan married Marcy's daughter Ellen in 1860), he explored the sources of the Red River in Arkansas. McClellan was in various surveys of possible transcontinental railroad routes; a member of a board of officers sent abroad to study the armies of Europe and the Crimean War; and he invented the "McClellan Saddle"--adopted from the Hungarian--which remained standard equipment until horses were eliminated from use in the army.

In 1857 McClellan resigned his army commission of captain to become chief engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was living in Cincinnati and was now the president of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad at an annual salary of \$10,000.

On April 23, 1861, McClellan became a major general of Ohio Volunteers with command of all the forces of the state. Three weeks later President Lincoln, who had become aware of McClellan's organizational efficiency and personal magnetism, appointed him major general in the Regular Army where he was out outranked only by the aged and sickly General Winfield Scott.

McClellan's successes in western Virginia in the Rich Mountain Campaign, minor as they seemed in retrospect, coupled with Irvin McDowell's disaster at First Manassas (Bull Run), was decisive in Lincoln's selecting him as the commander of the Army of the Potomac in August 1861 and General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States on November 1, 1861, upon the retirement of General Scott. At the young age of 35 McClellan became the head of the greatest military establishment ever assembled by the United States up to that time.

McClellan arrived in Washington five days after the defeat of the Union at Bull Run. He brought order to the army, restored discipline, and in so doing won a respect of his men which would be difficult to equal. McClellan, greatly against his own judgment (he did not think that his men were ready yet or that the weather right) but on orders of the administration, moved against the Confederates via the Virginia Peninsula in the spring of 1862. During the campaign and against McClellan's strenuous

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protests, his forces were reduced by 40,000 men by Secretary of War Stanton for the defense of Washington. McClellan had overestimated the Confederate forces of Joseph Johnston and, later, Robert E. Lee. He had received his estimates from Allan Pinkerton, a federal spy who firmly believed his count of Confederate soldiers to be correct. During the Peninsula Campaign McClellan was for the most part victorious in every battle between Williamsburg to Malvern Hill, including the Battle of Seven Pines and the subsequent battles of the Seven Days. He moved his troops to Harrison's Landing on the James River in what McClellan stated as an offensive flanking movement. During this time he was constantly at odds with Lincoln and Stanton over their unwillingness to send reinforcements.

While McClellan was attempting to capture Richmond Lincoln replaced him with General Henry Halleck as General-in-Chief. Lincoln's concern over what he called the "slows" in McClellan caused him to remove his army to the north and put it under the control of General John Pope. Pope's attempt to capture Richmond ended in failure at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Lincoln felt that he had no choice but to ask McClellan to resume command of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan accepted and once again brought order out of chaos and restored his troops' spirit.

In September of 1862 Robert E. Lee decided to take the offensive by moving his troops across the Potomac and into Maryland. On September 17, 1862, the battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) was fought. It was the bloodiest one day's fighting of the entire Civil War. Before the battle ended 4,710 men lay dead, 18,440 wounded, and another 3,043 were missing. McClellan had fought Lee's smaller Confederate forces to a draw. Lee stopped his Maryland Offensive and recrossed the Potomac River back into Virginia. As a result of the Battle of Antietam, which Lincoln considered a victory of sorts, he issued his Emancipation Proclamation on September 23, 1862, to become effective on January 1, 1863.

After Antietam McClellan would not be induced to move against Lee in a full offensive until serious shortages of equipment and horses could be resupplied to his army. The Lincoln Administration grew increasingly impatient with McClellan. On November 7, 1862, Secretary of War Stanton ordered McClellan to turn the Army of the Potomac over to General Ambrose E. Burnside and ordered

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McClellan to proceed to his home in Trenton, New Jersey, to await orders, which never came.

In 1864 McClellan was nominated for President of the United States by the Democratic Party on a "peace at any price" platform. McClellan rejected this platform, saying that a reunion of the North and the South had to be a precondition for any peace settlement with the Confederacy. "Anything less," he declared, "and I could not look into the faces of my gallant comrades of the Army and Navy, who have survived so many bloody battles, and tell them that their labors, and the sacrifices of so many of our slain and wounded brethren had not been in vain." McClellan's nomination expressed his stand on ending the fighting and gaining peace. Lincoln stood for a peace settlement with a reunion of the North and South and abolishment of slavery. In September 1864 Atlanta fell to General Sherman, Admiral Farragut had been victorious at Mobile Bay, and General Sheridan's forces had defeated General Early in the Shenandoah Valley. It was McClellan's fellow generals who gave the presidential election to Lincoln. McClellan only carried electoral votes in New Jersey, Delaware, and Kentucky. He resigned his army commission on election day.

McClellan's post Civil War days were highlighted by his election to the office of governor of New Jersey from 1878-1881. General George Brinton McClellan, "Little Mac," died on October 29, 1885, of heart failure a month and a few days short of his 59th birthday. He is buried in Trenton, New Jersey.

Sources: *Generals in Blue* by Ezra J. Warner; *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, edited by Patricia Faust; *The Mexican War Diary of George B. McClellan*, edited by William Starr Myers; *George B. McClellan, The Young Napoleon*, by Steven W. Sears; *The Gentleman and the Tiger, The Autobiography of George B. McClellan Jr.*, edited by Harold Syrett.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MOVES TO TAKE GETTYSBURG TOWER

05/18/2000

Associated Press Newswires

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HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - The federal government has moved to take control of the land around the Gettysburg Tower so that it can tear down the structure that looms over the Civil War battlefield.

In papers filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Harrisburg, the Interior Department assumed immediate title to a six-acre parcel surrounding the 307-foot tower, and the government also asked the court to give it possession of the structure by June 2.

A hearing will be scheduled on the possession issue, a Department of Justice spokeswoman said.

The tower, built on private land in 1972, has spurred the contempt of preservationists who say it detracts from the battlefield. Union and Confederate forces clashed at Gettysburg in the pivotal three-day battle in July 1863.

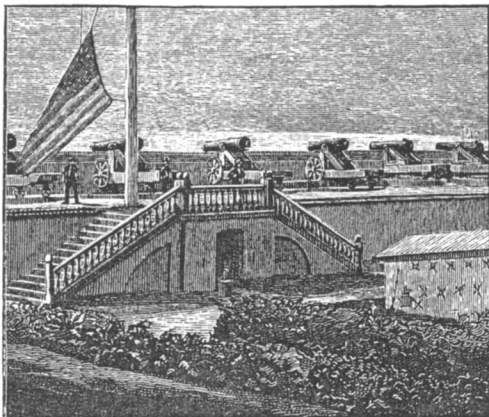
Officials at Gettysburg National Military Park have made acquisition of the tower site a top priority at the park. The government had asked the court in December to condemn the structure.

The tower stands near where President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address four months after the battle.

(Note: The tower is scheduled to come down July 3 around 5 p.m.)

God and the Soldier,
all men adore
in time of strife,
and not before
When the danger is past,
all wrongs arighted
God is forgotten
the Old Soldier slighted

*Anonymous soldier under the Duke of Marlborough
c1705*



Sea Battery at Ft. Moultrie

BUGLE CALL ECHOES BOARD TAKES UP BANNER ON BEHALF OF SMALL BATTLEFIELDS

By Michael Laris
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, May 18, 2000

The cavalry battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville in June 1863 have stood in the historical shadow of the Battle of Gettysburg, one of the Civil War's most savage and pivotal clashes. But Fairfax County police detective Robert F. O'Neill Jr. hopes to shed light on the battles in Loudoun and Fauquier counties to help save them from obscurity and the march of development.

O'Neill is one of 33 members of a new citizens committee formed Monday by Loudoun's Board of Supervisors with the goal of protecting the areas along Route 50 where the battles took place. The committee plans to create a driving tour with roadway turnouts and detailed markers. It also hopes to encourage landowners to put their property in voluntary conservation easements to protect the historic landscape.

Supervisor Eugene A. Delgaudio (R-Sterling) voted against forming the committee. He questioned whether it would lead to some type of involuntary arrangement and said "the government should encourage the private development of these historic areas."

Supervisor J. Drew Hiatt (R-Dulles) abstained, raising questions about nonresidents of Loudoun serving on a county citizens committee.

The local conflicts "were an early cog in the Gettysburg campaign," said O'Neill, author of "The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville: Small But Important Riots, June 10-27, 1863." He said there is a rare opportunity to preserve battlefields that have virtually been frozen in time.

"It's a very well-to-do area. The ground hasn't been broken up into small tracts and subdivided again and again. It's still easy to get a feeling for what happened out there, and that's something that's fast disappearing," he said.

The preservation effort was first proposed in "A Citizens' Strategy for Smart Growth in Loudoun County," a document prepared at the behest of board chairman-elect Scott K. York before he took office earlier this year.

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"Fortunately, many open spaces still remain along the route of these cavalry battles," the report stated. "However, almost every day more of this land is being developed. If nothing is done right away, this land will be gone forever."

York (R-At Large) appointed Paul Ziluca, chairman of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, to put together the new Citizens Committee for the Historic Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville. "There were about 10,000 cavalry troops riding through the countryside in these areas" and about 1,400 casualties, Ziluca said.

At the heart of the battles was a struggle to reach a strategic vantage point atop the Blue Ridge mountains. At the time, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was leading troops through the Shenandoah Valley west of the Blue Ridge in an aggressive push north.

Lee ordered his detachments to run a screening operation east of the Blue Ridge to prevent Union troops from reaching the top of the mountains and seeing the dust clouds that would have been a telltale sign of Lee's secret troop movements.

A succession of battles was fought, beginning in Aldie and continuing westward toward the Blue Ridge. A group of Union scouts eventually made it to the mountaintop, but only after several costly fights and delays.

Ziluca said the committee plans to pursue a three-pronged strategy, emphasizing historical exploration, land conservation and tourism. The group will launch a survey to locate and map the battlefield sites and trace the movement of troops between them. The owners of the land delineated on the maps will be asked to consider voluntarily putting their land into conservation agreements.

In his experience at the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the largest holder of land conservation easements in the state, Ziluca said he has seen landowners take tax write-offs for placing their properties in permanent no-development arrangements. Others put their land in easements simply for the sake of history or the environment, he said.

If necessary, Ziluca said the new citizens committee may end up seeking state and federal funds to purchase easements. He said the panel's job could take five years or more to complete.

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The effort has attracted Civil War buffs from throughout the region. "Communities and development are just consuming the historical sites in Northern Virginia," said Horace Mewborn, an amateur historian who has researched the battles and has been appointed to the citizens committee. "Hopefully, it will preserve the areas these men fought and died over."

O'Neill, 44, published his book on the battles in 1994 out of a lifelong interest in Civil War history. He chose to move to the Washington area after working as a police officer in Detroit in part because of the area's proximity to historic sites.

The 24-year police veteran said he never considered himself a writer, but after publishing an article on the three battlefields in 1986, he was prodded "kicking and screaming" by friends to keep it up. The result was his book, the most complete historical account available so far of the battles. O'Neill said his historical sideline uses the same skills as his full-time job as a police investigator.

"The committee is trying to take facts that are 130 years old . . . and trying to weave a case, to develop what's truthful and what has been fogged by an older man's memory," he said. "You try to take three divergent viewpoints and come up with a coherent version of what happened."

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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

To see a copy of the Gettysburg Address in President Lincoln's handwriting, go to this site:

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/gadd/frstdrt1.jpg>

The Gettysburg Address is part of the Library of Congress' "Top Treasures" which are available for viewing on their website. Other documents at that location include:

- Emancipation Proclamation – The First Draft
- The Original Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence
- George Washington's Records on the Surrender at Yorktown

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2000

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 27, 2000	Membership	<i>Show and Tell</i>
February 24, 2000	Robert Snowden/ Black History Month	<i>The Underground Railroad</i>
March 30, 2000	Cathy Rehart/ Women's History Month	<i>"A Twist of Fate"</i>
April 27, 2000	Fred Bohmfalk	<i>William Sherman: His Early Years</i>
May 25, 2000	Ken Bruce	<i>McClellan and the Seven Days Before Richmond</i>
June 29, 2000	Wayne Bowen	<i>Ella Carroll's Role in the Civil War</i>
July 27, 2000	Phil Avila	<i>Brush Strokes of War: A Slide Presentation of Civil War Art</i>
August 31, 2000	Bob Ritchey	<i>Lofty Goals, Resolute Struggle and Deep Disappointments</i>
September 26, 2000 Note date change! This is a Tuesday.	Vern Crow	<i>Generals Grant and Lee at Spotsylvania</i>
October 26, 2000	TBA	TBA
November 30, 2000	Dave Davenport	<i>The Battle of Stone's River</i>
December 2000	No meeting	

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. My membership category is checked below:

_____ Individual \$25 _____ Family \$35 _____ \$10 Student or Newsletter

Name _____

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Clip this membership form and send it with your check to the SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755.

The membership year is from January to December. Five dollars of each membership goes towards preservation.