

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

December, 1999

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

An Evening
At The
BELLAMY MANSION
503 Market Street

With Authentic Period Music By
SOUTHERN HORIZON
Of
Richmond, Virginia

Friday Evening, December 10
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Tickets Available Now
Eight Dollars Each or Two for Fifteen Dollars

The Cape Fear CWRT will host an antebellum Christmas Open House at the Bellamy Mansion on Friday evening, December 10, from 6:30 pm til 10:00 pm. *Southern Horizon*, a wonderful period music group from Richmond, Virginia, will provide Civil War era music. Light refreshments will be served.

Southern Horizon has performed for many years for numerous Civil War Balls, Living Histories, and related events. John Robison, who is practiced with vocals, banjo, guitar, autoharp, pennywhistle, and harmonica, began his musical career during the folk boom of the 1960's in the coffee houses of suburban Washington DC. He's experienced as a solo performer and with folk, country and blue grass groups. Su Tarr is gifted with vocals and the violin. She is a classically trained violinist and has performed with the Richmond VA, Charleston WVA, and the Huntington WVA Symphonies. Su is a balladeer for Colonial Williamsburg and is experienced with folk, Celtic, country, blue grass and jazz. Robert Watts performs with vocals, guitar and harmonica. His musical background includes national tours with sacred choral groups. His involvement in acoustic folk music began in the 1960's and includes both solo and group performance in folk, country, blue grass and rock groups.

Several of us heard *Southern Horizon* perform at the APCWS annual conference last April and were deeply moved by the beauty of the renditions which are authentic to the period.

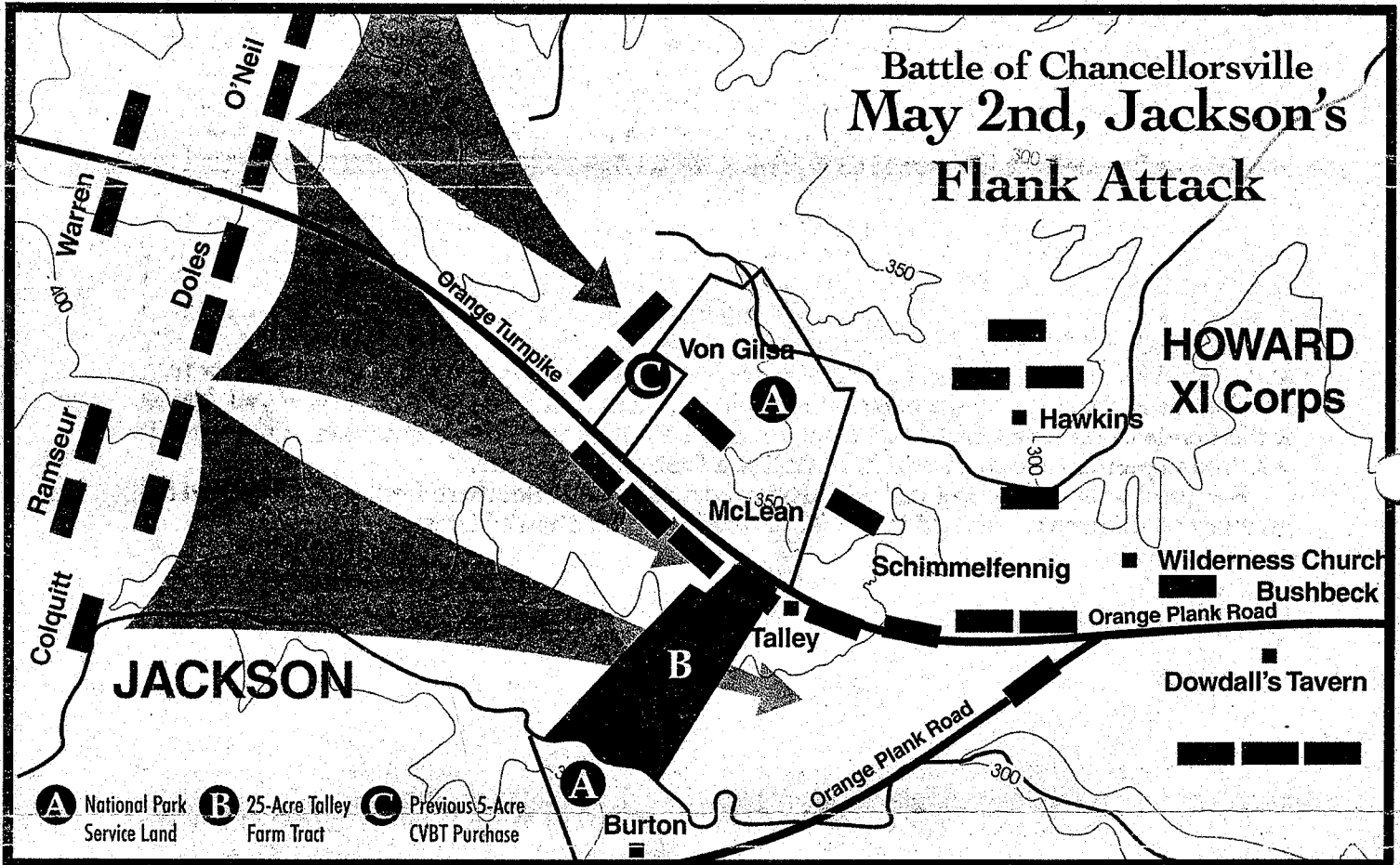
Tickets are \$8.00 each or two for \$15.00. Tickets will also be on sale at Hanover Iron Works, 1851 Dawson Street; the Bellamy Mansion downtown; and the Cape Fear Civil War Shop at 209 South Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach. Tickets will also be available at the Open House. Bring guests!

Please make every effort to buy your ticket well before the event or call Tommy King's office at 763-7318 to reserve a ticket! We need to know how many to expect as refreshments will be prepared ahead of time. Dress is casual, though many members have indicated they will wear a coat and tie.

Save Chancellorsville Battlefield

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) in its continuing quest to save hallowed ground has acquired 25 acres of the Talley Farm in the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The Talley Farm is where Stonewall Jackson launched his famous flank attack. We need your help in completing this purchase. The CVBT has 501(c)3 status from the Internal Revenue Service, so all donations are tax deductible.



"On May 2, 1863, General Stonewall Jackson marched clear across the front of Joe Hooker's Federal army and dealt it a savage blow on the flank. The result has been called Lee's greatest victory. The CVBT's initiative in preserving this tract deserves support from everyone who cares about America's historic heritage."

Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service

"Stonewall Jackson's surprise onslaught at Chancellorsville was the most dramatic Confederate moment of the war in Virginia. Saving this piece of the Talley Farm, right where Jackson struck, is a tremendous achievement that will be of benefit to the American public for centuries to come!"

Robert K. Krick, Chief Historian, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Name _____
 Address _____
 Address _____
 Amount of Contribution _____

Make checks payable to "CVBT" and mail with form to:
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc.
 604-A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

For more information call:

Local: (540) 374-0900 • Toll Free: (888) 0900

Visit our website at: www.cvbt.org

THE REBEL YELL

Though it originated in a particular period of history, the Rebel Yell has endured as a tradition down to the present day. I have never seen a written description of its true history, nor have I ever heard an authentic demonstration. Yet it lives on as an integral part of Confederate folklore and culture.

We know that it was heard at First Manassas and in every subsequent battle and was considered one of the most effective Confederate weapons. The yell has been described as a high-pitched shout or call and was probably a variation of the Southern fox hunter's cry. It might have been a variation of the small farmer calling his hogs from the back corner of his farm. Its origin may well remain one of the little mysteries of that turbulent era.

Though there is no record that the Yankees ever turned tail upon hearing it, invariably it produced an eerie feeling within the enemy lines. One of the best commentaries is from the memoirs of Private Levi Wagner of Company A, First Ohio Infantry, who vividly recollected the famous yell:

"We never could quite equal the rebel yell. You who have never heard it may wonder where lies the difference, but I assure you there is a great difference. You all know what it is to cheer anything that is smart, sharp or witty, some great feast or public event, such as a political speech or a victory at the polls. Also at some great religious demonstration we love to cheer, it does us good, quickens the pulse, clears the mind, brightens the eye, makes the blood flow freely and we feel like new creatures; but did you ever hear a man yell who was in mortal pain or fear, or when he is about to engage in some fiendish, inhuman deed? Such was the rebel yell, just as if the fiends of darkness had been turned loose, bent on death and destruction. Of course, it was like a spontaneous combustion, come like a flash and was gone."

For good or bad, the rebel yell will always be a part of our Southern heritage as it was in the memory of all those who heard it at the crossroads of our nation's history.

- Jim McCallum

BATTLE REPORT November 11 Meeting

After dining on some delicious refreshments provided by Bernice and Wayne Carver, our members enjoyed another enlightening program. The raffle, conducted by Mike Budziszewski, took in \$107.00 for the RT. The winners and donors (in parentheses) were Don Patience (*The Battle of the Wilderness* by Jean Lynch in memory of Ted Lynch), John Moore (Year 2000 Kunstler Civil War Calendar by Cape Fear Civil War Shop), Bill Oakley (1st National Flag License Plate by Cape Fear Civil War Shop), and Ed Gibson (Sheet of CW Centennial Postage Stamps by Wilbur Jones).

We were very pleased to welcome John Allred as a first time member of the RT! We also enjoyed having as guests at the meeting Rod and Neil Andrew, direct descendants of CSA Major General Bryan Grimes, the subject of our program. Other guests who indicated an interest in membership were Charlie Harrison and Don Hessenflow.

The presentation on Bryan Grimes by Dr. Harrell Allen was excellent. Dr. Allen focused on Grimes' personal qualities as he traced the general's career from childhood and education at the University of North Carolina, which he entered at age 15; to his brilliant and exceptionally courageous service to the Confederacy, first as an officer in the "Bloody 4th" North Carolina Regiment, then as brigade and division commander, and, finally, his postwar life and tragic death. Harrell noted that Grimes' extensive postwar correspondence never contained any reference to the war, reflecting his modesty and his ability to transcend any rancor or regret.

SABRE STROKES

Thanks and congratulations to Dr. Harrell Allen who declined to accept reimbursement for travel expenses to the November program and suggested a contribution to battlefield preservation instead! So we have sent a check for \$100.00 in Dr. Allen's honor to Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT), the Fredericksburg VA group which was the recipient of a large gift from the CFCWRT in 1998.

You'll notice CVBT's latest plea from active members, Ed Bearss and Bob Krick, in the current newsletter. This is an excellent preservation group which can boast that, because each of its officers are volunteers, all contributions received go to battlefield preservation. CVBT has been successful in saving battlefield property in the Fredericksburg-Chancellorsville area since its inception.

Member Chris Fonvielle has kept a busy schedule in recent months giving talks to various Civil War and historical groups. Chris was the guest speaker for the November meeting of the Richmond VA CWRT, his second presentation for that group. Chris gave a program on *The Life and Times of Lieutenant Commander William B. Cushing, USN*, the subject of his current research and writing.

Palmer and Mary Royal were honored at the October meeting of the CFCWRT at the Cape Fear Club. Treasurer Dan Geddie observed that Palmer and Mary have attended *every* monthly meeting and *every* event of our RT since its beginning in October, 1994! Congratulations to these very enthusiastic members who are the only ones among us with a perfect record of attendance!

Louisiana State University Press, which publishes numerous classic CW titles, has just issued a special Civil War sale catalog which lists books at "devastatingly low prices." Write LSU Press, Box 25053, Baton Rouge LA 70894. Telephone orders not accepted. The sale ends February 14, 2000.

The big news on the CW battlefield preservation front is the Civil War Preservation Trust, arising from the merger of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and the Civil War Trust. Carrington Williams, an attorney in Richmond VA and a board member in both organizations, will serve as chairman of the new 40 member board. James Lighthizer, former vice chairman of the Civil War Trust, will serve as president. The new and enlarged non-profit organization is positioned well to utilize the \$8 million dollars in federal money which Congress recently appropriated for battlefields. These funds must be matched by \$16 million in private contributions, so it's easy to imagine that the new group will be planning some heavy fund-raising endeavors.

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! LAST CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ! **December 22 Deadline**

Be sure to submit your check for \$25.00 for your 1999-2000 membership soon! This will be the last newsletter for those who don't renew their membership. The deadline is Wednesday, December 22. Mail your check for \$25.00 for your 1999-2000 membership to the CFCWRT, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28404 or bring it to the December meeting.