



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
July 2023, Volume 20, Issue 7

Speaker: John Kanaster
Topic: “After the Battle of Chancellorsville: The Confederate Hospital at Ellwood”
When: Monday July 10, 2023
Location: Brock’s Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

John Kanaster “After the Battle of Chancellorsville: The Confederate Hospital at Ellwood”

John Kanaster is originally from Torrance, California. He served in the U.S. Army and attended the University of Alabama. John was the education & events director for the Fort MacArthur Museum in San Pedro, California. He currently works for the Department of Defense in the Washington area. John is also the owner & operator of “Battlefield Tours of Virginia”, a private

battlefield guide service. He is also a member of the “Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield”. Today he resides on a portion of the Fredericksburg battlefield below Marye’s Heights.

Robert E. Lee’s victory at Chancellorsville came at a high cost. Following Jackson’s wounding, May 3, 1863 became the bloodiest morning of the Civil War. As Confederate casualties mounted in a Wilderness region, wounded rebels reached the doorstep of Ellwood Manor, an 18th Century plantation home.

John Kanaster was part of a research team who examined Ellwood Manor’s role as a Confederate hospital during the battle of Chancellorsville. For the 160th Anniversary of Chancellorsville he will share his findings which ultimately became a permanent NPS exhibit. While Jackson’s wounding has been extensively studied, we will examine Johnny Reb’s medical care & treatment on the battlefield.

“Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Army of Northern Virginia’s Two Invasions”

by Brad Gottfried

A Review of the June 2023 Program by Greg Mertz

Brad Gottfried has written several books featuring maps depicting the troop’s movements and battle positions for several campaigns. In his study of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns for these volumes, he noticed some interesting similarities and differences in the two Confederate raids into the north and wrote a book about them.

Among the similarities affecting the decisions by Confederate army commander Gen. R. E. Lee to head north each time were recent Confederate victories and the ability to strike the Federal army when it had been weakened. Lee had soundly defeated Union Gen. John Pope at Manassas in August, 1862 just days before he entered Maryland, and though badly outnumbered at Chancellorsville in May 1863, the Confederates defeated Gen. Joseph Hooker, exactly two months prior to the battle of Gettysburg. Both times Lee went north, he planned to gleam supplies from areas that typically provisioned the Federal troops and animals.

Among the differences, were the Confederate political goals. With the mid-term elections taking place in November, 1862, Lee hoped that his

September, 1862 Maryland Campaign would influence the northern elections and result in Lincoln losing some of his Republican supporters. The next national election after Gettysburg, however, would not come for another sixteen months. The Confederates were also aware that the British and French governments were poised to recognize their nation if they could gain a victory on northern soil in the fall of 1862. The most significant wide-ranging influence that Lee considered that the Gettysburg Campaign might affect was the possibility that his presence in Pennsylvania might force Lincoln to draw off troops from other theatres of operations to oppose Lee – particularly hoping that Confederates in Pennsylvania might provide some relief to the Confederate garrison at Vicksburg, Mississippi – a possibility that never materialized.

The armies that fought at Antietam were small. Lee's army numbered only about 36,000 men, who were exhausted by the hard campaigning of the summer of 1862, but it was a veteran army. Nearly every member of Lee's army had already been in a fight, with 60% of the men being in three or more battles. In George B. McClellan's Federal army of 58,000 men, 20% of them had never fired a rifle, including the 16th Connecticut that only learned how to load their guns on the morning of the battle of Antietam. Both armies were substantially larger during the Gettysburg Campaign, where 72,000 Confederates fought 94,000 Federals, and both sides comprised veteran soldiers by the summer of 1863.

In comparing the artillery in the campaigns, both armies had about the same number of cannon in their armies in each of the battles. But both armies had improved the types of cannon assigned to their batteries. Among the bronze guns, both armies made strides to reduce the numbers of obsolete howitzers and increase the number of 12 pounder Napoleons. The Union army had 21 howitzers at Antietam but had only two by the time it reached Gettysburg. The Confederate army had only 27 Napoleons at Sharpsburg, but had more than 100 at Gettysburg.

The opposing cavalries had changed substantially between the two campaigns in both numbers of troopers and in superiority. During the Maryland Campaign, the Confederates had more cavalrymen (5,300) and they had superior skills over the 4,300 Federal troopers. By Gettysburg, the Union horsemen were more numerous -- 12,000 vs. 8,100 gray-clad

troopers. Union cavalry was better organized -- formed into three divisions reporting to a corps commander whereas Confederates had five brigades led by a single division commander. And while the Confederates initially operated efficiently at the start of the campaign, the Federal cavalry had improved and were frequently able to hold their own and even gain victories over the Confederate horsemen.

A factor believed to be quite significant was a difference in the high-level leadership between the two campaigns. At Antietam, all of the Federal army corps commanders had prior experience at that level and though the Confederates had not yet authorized a unit designated as a "corps," Lee had grouped several of his divisions into wings commanded by generals James Longstreet and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who both had previous responsibility during the war in coordinating multiple divisions. But at Gettysburg, both armies had new corps commanders. The loss of Jackson at Chancellorsville resulted in the Confederates entering the Gettysburg campaign with *two* new corps commanders in Richard S. Ewell -- who is often criticized for his decisions, and A.P. Hill -- who is an enigma in the war's most famous battle.

During the Maryland Campaign, both armies had elements of their army on the terrain that would become the battlefield two days before the battle was fought and both army commanders had an opportunity to get familiar with the area and do some level of planning. But during the Gettysburg Campaign, the vanguard of both armies arrived in Gettysburg on the same day that the battle began, and both army commanders reached the battlefield long after the initial shots were exchanged. Neither general had any opportunity to prepare for the fight.

Both campaigns had preliminary battles. Antietam was preceded by actions at South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, while several cavalry battles and fighting at Winchester and Stephenson's Depot were fought on the road to Gettysburg. But Gottfried argues that the preliminary battles in the Antietam campaign were much more significant than those in the early phases of the Gettysburg Campaign. In both campaigns, Lee intended to go into Pennsylvania, but in the Maryland Campaign Lee decided that he couldn't let the Federal garrison at Harper's Ferry remain along his line of communications, and he also wanted their cannon and supplies. So, Lee

sent Jackson on a detour to capture Harper's Ferry, altering the course of the campaign. McClellan moved faster than Lee anticipated – before Jackson completed the envelopment of Harper's Ferry. This, in turn, forced Lee to fight a battle at Sharpsburg in the state of Maryland – a place where he had not intended to fight.

Friends of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

As you know CVBT is a land trust. We focus on purchasing endangered battlefield properties. We do produce a large three-day annual conference, standalone events and need to interpret and maintain our lands, we need help in all of these. In the past, CVBT has had individuals from organizations assist us, and we are grateful, but now we would like to create an official volunteer group who would enjoy being part of CVBT's volunteer core.

We have created "**The Friends of CVBT.**" The intent is for this all-volunteer group is to be the "On Call" core of CVBT's volunteer group assisting in events and battlefield related needs. Active volunteer members will have the unique opportunity to be involved with events hosted by nationally acclaimed historians, assist in tours, and work on preserved battlefields. Participating volunteers will also be enrolled in the membership ranks of CVBT every year they contribute. CVBT will provide each volunteer with a CVBT volunteer staff shirt and CVBT official hat to wear at events or whenever wanted. We will be limiting this new group to 18 volunteers.

CVBT is now beginning our 27th year of preserving our local battlefields, the very battlefields you study and walk upon. We would be honored to have you join the ranks of CVBT volunteers to help us further our mission of preserving our Nation's history.

If interested please email our Executive Director **Terry**

Rensel at executivedirector@cvbt.org .

Office: 540-374-0900

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG (CWRTF)

CWRTF meets 9 times a year on designated Wednesdays at Mary Washington Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street. They offer a buffet dinner followed by a Civil War-themed presentation.

Reservations are required. Speaker/topic schedule can be found on their website at www.cwrftf.org, as well as below. As with our round table, things are subject to change due to the ups and downs of Covid.

CWRTF Schedule

September 27, 2023 - John Vagnetti, THE CIVIL WAR, A POSTAL SYSTEM DIVIDED

October 25, 2023 - Sarah Kay Bierle, THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

November 15, 2023 - Ken Rutherford, AMERICA'S BURIED HISTORY: LANDMINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

March 27, 2024 - Christian Keller, SOUTHERN STRATEGIES

Who We Are

The Drum and Bugle Newsletter is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg VA 22404. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Students are free. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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