



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2015, Volume 12, Issue 4

Speaker: Chris Mackowski
Topic: "The Battle of North Anna River"
When: Monday, April 13, 2015
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on Chris Mackowski, our Scheduled Speaker for Monday, April 13, 2015 by Jim Smithfield

Our scheduled speaker will be Chris Mackowski on April 13th, 2015. Chris is a professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at St. Bonaventure University and he is the editor-in-chief of *Emerging Civil War*. Chris has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he still volunteers. He is the historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the *Spotsylvania Battlefield*. Chris is also the author of a dozen Civil War books, including his forthcoming book, "Strike Them a Blow: Battle Along the North Anna River."

BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR RVCWRT's 2015 BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION RAFFLE



There are still a few remaining raffle tickets available for this raffle supporting the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). Remember up for grabs is a full 6 ft. x 6 ft. multi-colored hand sewn quilt honoring those heroes of the Civil War's Underground Railroad. This lovely, authentic quilt was crafted and donated by members of the Zion Methodist Church in Spotsylvania, VA, and it has an estimated value of \$2,000.00. Cost per ticket is just \$20.00 with a maximum of 100 tickets to be sold. Every penny of the proceeds will go directly to CVBT in support of their ongoing preservation efforts. The scheduled drawing will be held at our scheduled RVCWRT dinner meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015. Tickets will be available during our April dinner meeting, if not already sold out by then. If you can't make this meeting, arrangements to reserve a ticket can also be made via e-mail through RVCWRT Secretary, John Sapanara, at sapa6789@aol.com.

"RVCWRT MEMBERS" YOUR 2015 MEMBERSHIP IS DUE

It's that time of year again, when we need to request each member renew his/her yearly RVCWRT Membership. While other area organizations have raised their membership dues to cover rising costs, the RVCWRT has not. Individual yearly membership is still just \$30.00, family membership is only \$45.00 and our student membership remains \$7.50 . . .

Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner in advance

To Confirm Your Reservations; Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail 3dognight@Bigplanet.Com

"Chancellorsville: The Preservation of a Battlefield"

Presented by Eric Mink

Review of the RVCWRT's March Program by Greg Mertz

Chancellorsville, despite being third among all Civil War battles in number of casualties and a springboard for the movement that resulted in the *Battle of Gettysburg*, Eric Mink observed that the amount of acreage preserved on the *Chancellorsville Battlefield* is distinctively small when compared with other major battlefields. Efforts of the Federal government and preservation groups have managed to preserve just over 2,000 acres at Chancellorsville, yet *Antietam Battlefield*, for example was a concise, one day action, yet retains some 3,200 acres. Mink pointed out that the four battlefields in the Fredericksburg area are often viewed collectively, and each battlefield suffers because of the close proximity of the other three.

As the framework for his discussion, Eric defined four different periods of battlefield preservation. The first was the "*monumentation era*." This was a time in which Civil War veterans erected monuments - often on private property - with little or no land set aside for preservation. Second was the "*Golden Age*" of battlefield preservation. During this phase, starting in the 1890's, veterans returned to mark and document what were typically pristine battlefields. They played leading roles in preservation, using their influence to lobby for funds to preserve the most prominent battlefields. The third stage is labeled as "*preservation by government*" starting in the 1920s. While the government was often involved in preservation in the *Golden Age*, by the 1920's veterans were dying off, and had less sway in the decisions. Because of the diminishing role of the veterans, documentation was not as strong during this preservation period. We are currently in the "*modern preservation era*," which started in the 1990's. In this period non-profit organizations entered onto the preservation stage and began playing key roles in preservation. This phase began with the creation of the *Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites*, eventually culminating in the current Civil War Trust.

The *monumentation era* resulted in a modest seven monuments on the Chancellorsville Battlefield. It began with the "*Jackson Rock*" in 1879, marking the site of "Stonewall" Jackson's wounding; shortly followed by the more prominent monument erected on the 25th anniversary of the battle. These monuments were placed along existing roads with agreements between the organizations sponsoring each monument and private land owners and had no preservation benefits associated with the placement of the markers.

The *Golden Age* efforts at Chancellorsville began in 1891 with the *Chancellorsville Battlefield Association*. The association boasted that unlike the preservation efforts on other battlefields, this endeavor would involve no state or federal government funds. Shares were sold at \$10.00 each, enabling shareholders to own a lot upon which they could build a home or a business. A hotel was to have been built on the site of the Chancellorsville Inn, and people would be encouraged to come to the hotel and there to be restored by the miracle waters of the Mineral Springs on the northern end of the battlefield. Several small areas of greenspace would also be reserved for state memorials. Rather than preserve the battlefield, this proposal would have actually developed it, and fortunately the National Panic of 1893, brought an end to this attempt.

Then in 1896, the *Fredericksburg and Adjacent National Battlefields Memorial Park Association of Virginia* came into existence. As their name implies, the mission was not just at Chancellorsville, but the entire Fredericksburg area. Many prominent veterans, including Federal General Daniel Sickles, were part of this group. They were successful in having a bill submitted to Congress which called for 7,000 acres to be preserved in the Fredericksburg area. At the same time, more than a dozen other bills to preserve more than a dozen other Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields were before congress. However, Speaker of the House David B. Henderson refused to allow the bill to go forward because if he did so, he would have to allow all of the other bills to go forward as well, and this promising preservation effort died.

During the "*preservation by government*" phase, Major General George B. Davis thought that he saw a way that something could be done to enable many of the proposals that Henderson had shot down to proceed. While four major battlefields were protected via the acquisition of thousands of acres of land, the *Antietam Battlefield* had been preserved by a different method. Since the area was agricultural with the perception that it would always be agricultural, the federal government had only acquired enough land to build roads through the battlefield. It was proposed that this "*Antietam Plan*" of limited preservation would be appropriate for many of the battlefields Congress was being asked to preserve, including Fredericksburg. A commission set up to determine its feasibility, concluding that the four battlefields in the Fredericksburg area needed to acquire just 535 acres for access roads. They decided that Chancellorsville had such a sufficient road network that no land needed to be preserved there. This plan was passed by Congress on February 14, 1927, creating the *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Battlefields Memorial National Military Park*. Then after only six years in the War Department, the park was transferred to the *National Park Service* in 1933.

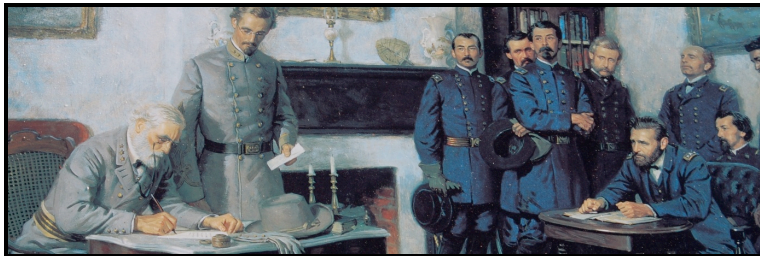
When World War II occurred, the nation's thrust was to devote available resources to the war effort and resulted in widespread timber operations in the Fredericksburg area. The undisturbed rural character, upon which the success of the "*Antietam Plan*" was based, was changing. Park Superintendent Branch Spaulding expressed concern about the timber operations on park boundaries. When a campaign to make improvements to the National Parks for the agencies 50th anniversary was implemented, and a visitor center for Chancellorsville was proposed, then new Park Superintendent Oscar Northington argued that the greatest need now was for land.

In 1974, the park conducted a boundary study to establish its first ever boundary to identify land that could be purchased by the park. It was in 1973, that Spotsylvania County passed their first zoning ordinance and the need for a park boundary became evident. Then soon after the zoning ordinance passed that the County Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning of 30 acres for a concrete plant beside the Federal artillery position at Fairview. In 1975, the park embarked upon what may have been the only time that it ever condemned land for inclusion into the park, as it acquired the Fairview tract. By 1989, legislation had been passed which effectively tabled the “*Antietam Plan*” and authorized the park to hold an amount of acreage similar to what Sickles had first proposed 100 years earlier.

While the park acquired a substantial amount of acreage as a result of the new legislation, the preservation effort was also entering a new era, the “modern preservation movement” with the advent of preservation groups. No greater example of the influence and impact of non-profit preservation groups on the *Chancellorsville Battlefield* can be found than the 1999, rezoning request for a town of Chancellorsville with 2,358 homes. The location was directly on the site of the first day of the battle, a portion of the battlefield that was outside of the *National Park Service* authorized boundary. The county denied the rezoning request and the *Civil War Trust* took the lead in acquiring 214 acres of that land. About one half of the 2,000 plus acres preserved at Chancellorsville have been done so by the *Conservation Fund*, the *Central Virginia Battlefields Trust* and the *Civil War Trust*, the later just recently closed on 479 acres of the Jackson Flank Attack.

Mink concluded his talk by reflecting upon the recent editorial by Donnie Johnston in the Free Lance Star, which proposed that our area has had enough battlefield preservation and that we need no more. Mink pointed out that the article could not have been written if preservation in the area had not been so successful, and this is evidence that preservation, the continuation of preservation and the setting aside of additional tracts is important to many Americans.

“THE SUN SETS ON THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA”



RVCWRT 2015 Bus Tour; Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26, 2015

150th Anniversary visit to:

- Five Forks Battlefield (April 1, 1865)
- Sailor's Creek Battlefield (April 6, 1865)
- Appomattox Court House (April 8/9, 1865)
- The Museum of the Confederacy

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. – Bus departs Fredericksburg – Bus to Five Forks Visitor Center; Box Lunch; Bus to Sailor's Creek Visitor Center; Dinner in Farmville at Charley's Waterfront Cafe; Bus to Hampton Inn in Farmville.

Sunday: Breakfast will be at the Hampton Inn; Bus to Museum of the Confederacy; Lunch to be at the Babcock House. Bus to Appomattox Court House Visitor Center; Bus returns to Fredericksburg.

Cost Per Person: **\$295.00** (If you share a room); **\$362.00** (If you use a single room).

Cost includes: Bus; Room; Fees & Donations; Box Lunch; Dinner; Breakfast; Lunch; Room and Meals for Tour Guide & Bus Driver; Handouts.

Attendees are responsible for any alcoholic beverages, additional food and beverages, and any purchases made at the various on-site gift stores.

Reservations: Contact Bob Jones at '3dognight@bigplanet.com' or telephone 540-399-1702
Send your deposits to RVCWRT, Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404

A Personal Thought

by Jim Smithfield

The above highlighted trip to Appomattox offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the noted battlefields and to visit Appomattox Court House along with the McClain house.

Ongoing Parking Issues at RVCWRT Dinner Meetings . . .

by Jim Smithfield

Recent *Survey Sheets* that members are asked to complete at Dinner Meetings, reflect that several members have noted their ongoing concerns about *Available Parking* along with *Parking Lot Lighting* at Brocks for our monthly Dinner Meetings. Please note, if parking in Brocks lot or along the nearby street is unavailable, there are still other fairly close-by parking options. There is the *Parking Lots* for Train passengers (these lots are open for public parking after 6:00 p.m. daily). Of course, there is also, the nearby downtown *Parking Garage* (this is just a short walk across the street). Also, further along Sofia Street there is usually available on street parking . . .

RVCWRT History Alert Program

by Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifies subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events in the Fredericksburg general area. This is done via subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members receive Alan's important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive Alan Zirkle's "*History Alerts*" please send your e-mail address to Alan noting this fact @ az@azirkle.com.



Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne (The Stonewall of the West)

by Jim Smithfield

Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne was by far, the most popular Confederate division commander and he's often been called the "Stonewall of the West!" Cleburne was a native of County Cork, Ireland and he was actually born on St. Patrick's Day. Cleburne was one of the first to answer the South's call to arms, and he immediately joined and raised a rifle company. He was the only one of the six Irish Confederate general officers to become a major general.

In 1846, at age 22, Cleburne failed the entrance exam to gain entrance to the Trinity College of Medicine; he wanted to be a druggist. Being the type to not accept defeat, Cleburne enlisted as a private with the British 41st Regiment of Foot, a Welsh Regiment. After being promoted several times for good conduct and after serving as an officer for several years Cleburne was able to procure (buy) his discharge. Even so, it wasn't until after the series of promotions and he had become an officer that Cleburne was able to purchase his way out of the British Army. Upon leaving the army he chose to immigrate to America, where he finally became a druggist. However, he then went on to law school becoming a highly successful property attorney in his new home state of Arkansas. Upon joining the Confederate army in 1861, Cleburne quickly rose from private to captain to major general.

The rifle company Cleburne founded was the *Yell County Rifles*, and he served as captain in the Arkansas state forces prior to being named commander of all state forces. Cleburne's rifle company was made up entirely of men from Yell County Arkansas, thus the name *Yell County Rifles*. After raising the rifle company he went on to join the 1st Arkansas Regiment, afterward known as the 15th Arkansas, in this regiment he was unanimously elected its colonel. His first campaign was with General Hardee in Missouri. At its close he went with Hardee to Bowling Green, Kentucky. During his short military service he had so impressed his superiors that he was assigned to command a brigade. Then, on March 4, 1862, Cleburne was commissioned brigadier general. At the battle of Shiloh he had proven that his abilities were not overrated. Then, at Tupelo, in the reorganization of the Confederate armies, he brought his brigade to a very high state of discipline and efficiency. Cleburne had that valuable combination of qualifications for command which enabled him to enforce necessary discipline yet, at the same time, still secure the esteem and confidence of his troops.

Cleburne was transferred along with General Hardee to Kentucky; there as noted he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He had fought at Shiloh and again during the long siege of Corinth. While taking part in the Kentucky campaign, Cleburne suffered wounds at both *Richmond*, and then again at *Perryville*. Promoted to Major General, Cleburne commanded a full division both at *Murfreesboro* and during the lengthy *Tullahoma Campaign*, and again at the *Battle of Chickamauga*. Patrick Cleburne was one of the most gifted officers of the Confederacy. Irish by birth, it was while in the British army that he learned his first lessons in drill and discipline!

He took part in the memorable attack upon the right of the Federal army at *Murfreesboro*; Cleburne's attack drove the Union lines until the front became too thick for further penetration. Then, again at *Chickamauga*, Cleburne led a charge, in which his men only by their desperate valor won the day and they held a position that had been assailed repeatedly without success. At *Missionary Ridge*, he was in command at the *Tunnel*, his troops defeated Sherman's troops, capturing flags and hundreds of prisoners. Afterwards when he became involved in the general defeat, Cleburne made a heroic fight at *Ringgold Gap* saving Bragg's artillery and wagon train. In their glowing recognition of his actions, the *Confederate Congress* passed a joint resolution, that stated "Resolved, that the thanks of Congress are due, and are hereby tendered to Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, and the officers and men under his command, for the victory obtained by them over superior forces of the enemy at *Ringgold Gap* in the State of Georgia on the 27th day of November, 1863, by which the advance of the enemy was impeded, our wagon trains and most of our artillery saved, and a large number of the enemy killed and wounded."

As noted previously while at Richmond, Kentucky, Cleburne commanded a division, whose impetuous charge had much to do with winning their magnificent victory over former Naval Officer, William "Bull" Nelson's *Army of the Ohio*? Although painfully wounded in the action, it was just a few weeks later, that Cleburne led his men in the fierce conflict at *Perryville* with his usual success. It was on December 13, 1862, that Cleburne was commissioned a major-general . . .

During the winter of 1863 - 64, Cleburne proposed that in order for the Confederacy to find badly needed reinforcements for their armies, slavery should be abolished within a "*reasonable time*" and that blacks should be openly recruited for military service with the standing promise of their freedom. Cleburne's proposal to recruit black troops was rejected by *Richmond*, yet it was only a couple of months after his death that the *Confederate Congress* passed Cleburne's very recommendation, but by then it was too late to make a difference. As noted Cleburne went on to command his own division, and briefly a corps, i.e., throughout the *Atlanta Campaign*. After Atlanta he marched with Hood into middle Tennessee and to the fateful *Battle of Franklin* . . .

One of the most brilliant episodes in the *Atlanta Campaign* of 1864, was Cleburne's victory at *Pickett's Mill* over Howard's Corps of Sherman's army? However, it was in the awful carnage at *Franklin*, on November 30, 1864, that Cleburne, the "Stonewall Jackson of the West," issued his last battle order. He was one of six Confederate generals killed that day. Cleburne was standing within twenty paces of the Union line, when he was pierced by three bullets and fell there on the battlefield and expired. His death was a disheartening blow to the *Army of Tennessee* and to the Confederacy as a whole. Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne's death was mourned throughout the entire South . . .

Did you know . . . **by Jim Smithfield**

. . . that like so many immigrant families, Cleburne came to America along with two brothers and a sister who'd each chosen to come to America at his urging? However, one brother like Patrick enlisted to fight for the South, while the other brother chose to fight for the North . . .

. . . that there were over 40,000 men of Irish heritage who enlisted and fought for the Confederacy during America's Civil War? However, there were well over 150,000 Irish troops fighting for the North, i.e., the Union . . .

. . . that one has only to listen to the Southern accent, and to hear the sort of tunes that Southern soldiers sang and you'll realize that a great deal of the South was settled by the Irish? Not just "Tara Plantation" by the O'Hara's . . .

. . . that the majority of the Irish fighting for the South were Catholic and that the largest amounts of Irish Confederate troops came primarily from the states of; Missouri, Louisiana, and Texas?

. . . that in many of the Irish Confederate units the enlisted men were mostly Catholic, yet their officers were often Irish Protestants?

. . . that officially Cleburne entered Confederate service as a private and rose to the rank of major general?

. . . that Cleburne began his life in America as a Druggist, yet studied law on the side and by 1861, he was well on his way to becoming a successful *Property Attorney*? In fact, the year 1861, found Cleburne practicing law in Helena, Arkansas, and enjoying his chosen profession along with an honored position in the local society . . .

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. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are still just \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's still only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

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