

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVIII, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1968

18th Battlefield Tour - Fredericksburg to Spotsylvania - May 2 to 5, 1968



Confederates Defending Stone Wall at Marye's Heights.

BY JERRY WARSHAW and ED WATERBURY

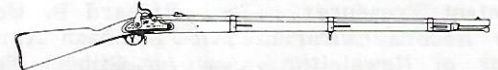
The 18th annual Civil War Round Table battlefield tour takes off on special charter plane, Gen. Ambrose Burnside, on Thursday, May 2. The campaign is an inspection of the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. There are visits to historic places of Fredericksburg, then to the restored Ford's theater in Washington, D.C., returning to Chicago Sunday, May 5.

Campaigners must check in at the Butler Aviation building (watch for large Butler sign before reaching the main terminal at O'Hare Airport) during the hour before departure to receive tour badge and packet. Features in the packet are "Where a Hundred Thousand Fell," the National Park Service booklet on the battlefields; special maps from Joseph Mitchell's "Decisive Battles of the Civil War;" Civil War Times Illustrated's special issue on Fredericksburg; a reprint of a Bruce Catton speech on Gen. U. S. Grant's 1864 campaign, and leaflets on Fredericksburg historic places.

Lunch will be served on the flight eastward, arriving at National Airport, Washington, D.C., at Page Airways dock at 1 p.m. Comfortable Greyhound buses will pick up campaigners and luggage and drive at once to the Fredericksburg battlefield. Our hosts will be William Hollman, superintendent of the National Military park, and Ralph Happel, chief historian and guide. Assisting will be Edwin C. Bearss of the National Park Service Washington headquarters. The afternoon will be spent touring the battlefield along the Rappahannock river and at Marye's Heights.

Then campaigners will check in at the Sheraton-Fredericksburg Motor Inn, Interstate 95 and Virginia highway 3. This fine motor inn will be our headquarters during the entire stay. It has a swimming pool.

(Continued on page 3)



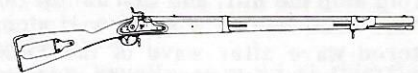
COST OF TOUR

\$175, Two to a room (*), \$185 Single
(*)Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

INCLUDES: Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, hotel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners (except where noted "on your own"), group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

FOR VARIATIONS: Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone, Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone (area 312) Whitehall 4-3085.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through registrar so that caterer can be notified of number to prepare for and payment can be made.



The Four Battles

BY GILBERT TWISS

FREDERICKSBURG - Gen. George B. McClellan's failure to pursue the Confederates after Antietam cost him the command of the Army of the Potomac. He was replaced on Nov. 9, 1862, by Gen. Ambrose Burnside. He presented to Present Lincoln a plan for a rapid move against Fredericksburg, thence a march southward against Richmond. Burnside's vanguard reached Stafford Heights across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg on Nov. 17. A delay in the arrival of pontoon bridges balked a crossing. The delay continued and Gen. Robert E. Lee concentrated on the heights west and southwest of Fredericksburg.

In a fog early on Dec. 11 Union engineers began laying pontoon bridges at two points opposite Fredericksburg and a third point a mile south. The upper crossings were hotly contested. Federal artillery, though devastating the town, couldn't still the Confederate sharpshooters. Finally, picked troops were ferried over, effected a landing and captured the city after sharp street fighting. On Dec. 12 both sides massed

(Continued on next page)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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BATTLES (Continued from page 1)
for battle. On Dec. 13, about 9 a.m., Gen. John Reynolds' corps attacked Stonewall Jackson's Confederate positions near Hamilton's crossing south of Fredericksburg. Despite heavy artillery fire, Gen. George G. Meade's division penetrated the Confederate line, but Jackson's reserves forced his withdrawal.

Gen. Edwin Sumner's wing began attacking Lee's center on Marye's Heights, back of Fredericksburg. Artillery from atop the hill, and Gen James Longstreet's infantry at the base behind a stone wall along a sunken road, shattered wave after wave of the Federal battle lines. Burnside wasted his troops in piecemeal frontal attacks against an impregnable position. During the night of Dec. 15-16 he retreated over the Rappahannock and put his army into winter quarters. In killed, wounded, and missing, the North lost 12,953 out of 142,551 and the South, 5,309 out of 91,760.

* * * * *

CHANCELLORSVILLE - Gen. Joseph E. Hooker succeeded Burnside in command of the Army of the Potomac. "Fighting Joe" reorganized the demoralized army and, on April 27, 1863, resumed offensive operations. He left Gen. John Sedgwick facing Lee at Fredericksburg and marched up the Rappahannock to cross and turn against Lee's rear. Lee was alert, left Gen. Jubal Early to face Sedgwick, and took his main force westward.

Hooker was at Chancellorsville, a country estate 10 miles from Fredericksburg. Lee's shift threw Hooker off balance, he dropped the initiative and assumed a defensive position. His left wing was on the Rappahannock, but his right wing was dangling. On May 2, in a daring move, Lee divided his forces. He sent Stonewall Jackson by roundabout woodland trails to strike Hooker's right and cut Union communications.

Hookers' right wing was routed, but darkness fell before the Confederates could complete their victory.

*from the
Editor's pen*



1968 TOUR COMMITTEE

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Book List—E. B. (Pete) Long.
Awards—Brooks Davis.
Arrangements—Ralph Newman and Edwin C. Bearss, Arlington, Va.

* * * * *

Committee and officers of the Round Table have joined to make arrangements for the tour. Credit is due others, too. Some are named in stories in this leaflet, others will be named as we go along, and to all, Thanks!

* * * * *

Col. Joseph B. Mitchell gave permission for the reproduction of three battle maps of the Fredericksburg area from his book, "Decisive Battles of the Civil War." The maps will be included in the tour packet. Large size reproductions will be installed for guidance on the tour buses. Col. Mitchell will join us on some of the tour.

* * * * *

Time does not permit other battlefields to be included in the Fredericksburg tour, but for persons who are driving to the area and can stay a longer time, there are the battlefields around Richmond and Petersburg, the Shenandoah valley from Lexington to Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg and Antietam, and Manassas at Washington's doorstep. All of them have a little bit of something new to offer folks who have visited them before.

While scouting at about 9 p.m., Jackson was wounded by gunfire from his own men, who mistook his party for a Federal patrol, and on May 10 the great Stonewall was dead.

On May 3, the Confederates struck Hooker's center. Jackson's troops, temporarily led by the cavalryman, Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, struck eastward, and Longstreet's men, personally directed by Lee, lashed out northwestward. The converging Confederates drove Hooker toward the river.

Lee learned that Early had lost the Fredericksburg heights. Leaving Stuart to occupy Hooker, he moved part of his army eastward to meet the oncoming Sedgwick, defeating the Union force at Salem church, four miles west of Fredericksburg, May 4-5. Sedgwick escaped over Bank's ford. Lee then counter-marched his troops to find that Hooker had retired across the Rappahannock at United States ford.

At Chancellorsville, the Federals lost 17,278 men out of 133,868 and the Confederates, 12,821 out of 60,892.

* * * * *

THE WILDERNESS - At dawn on May 4, 1864, Gen. Meade crossed the Rapidan and struck southward through the Wilderness, a tangled area of brush and trees west of Fredericksburg and near the battlefield of Chancellorsville. Lee sent Gen. Richard Ewell eastward along the Orange turnpike into the Wilderness. Gen. A. P. Hill followed along the parallel Orange Plank road, and Longstreet hurried from Gordonsville to join Hill.

Gen. U. S. Grant, now in command of Union armies, learning that enemy forces were approaching Meade's

flank, threw the troops of Gen. G. K. Warren and Sedgwick piecemeal at the Confederates on the Orange turnpike. Gen. W. S. Hancock struck Hill's column near the Brock road-Orange Plank road intersection. The Federals were repulsed on the turnpike, and darkness interrupted Hancock's attack.

The Federals resumed at 5 a.m. May 6. Warren and Sedgwick failed to develop an attack in force, and Gen. Burnside went astray in the woods while attempting to pass between Warren and Hancock, who had resumed his attack on Hill. As Hill's battered men quit the field, Longstreet's veterans came into action. A swift counter-attack stopped the Federal advance. Then a column of four Confederate brigades struck Hancock's rear with great effect.

Longstreet rode recklessly forward to reconnoiter. He met a volley from a Confederate regiment and fell dangerously wounded. Gen. C. W. Field took over and paused to re-form before moving against Hancock's reserve trenches along the Brock road. The assault, about 4 p.m., failed and another Chancellorsville vanished.

At sunset, Gen. John B. Gordon led a surprise attack against the Federals' right, but the stroke came too late for decisive results. During the night Grant began "sidling" eastward to turn Lee's flank. Lee recognized the movement and also moved. The Union army drew up at Spotsylvania Court House, only to find the southerners waiting for them.

Federal losses in the Wilderness were 15,387 casualties out of 118,769 and the Confederates about 11,400 out of 61,953.

* * * * *

SPOTSYLVANIA - In the 12-day battle of Spotsylvania Court House, both sides made the most of trench warfare. About 8 a.m. on May 8, Gen. Warren's troops struck the Confederate line about a mile from Spotsylvania Court House and were repulsed with heavy losses. During the day, Warren was joined by Gen. Sedgwick, while Confederates under Gen. Ewell joined the rebel line just in time to repulse a second attack by Warren.

On May 9, Gen. Hancock formed on the right of the Federal line, with Burnside holding the left. Misled by reports that Lee was withdrawing from the Federal right, Grant sent three of Hancock's divisions across the Po river to take Lee in left and rear. Gen. Sedgwick was killed in the fighting. Recalled on the 10th, Hancock was attacked by Gen. Early as he recrossed the Po. At 6 p.m. Col. Emory Upton with 12 picked regiments made the first of the Federal attacks against the Confederate salient in entrenched positions covering the Court House. Upton penetrated the front line and captured an artillery battery, but was forced to withdraw under artillery fire.

At dawn on May 12, Hancock attacked Ewell's front, capturing 20 guns, most of a division of about 4,500 men, and two generals. Grant ordered a general advance to prevent the dispatch of Confederate reinforcements. One corps was thrown against the west face of the salient on Hancock's right. At this point, known as the Bloody Angle, the fighting lines were so close that the troops were firing into one another's faces. The Confederates fought for more than 20 hours to regain their lost positions, finally retiring about 3 a.m., May 13, to new trenches across the base of the salient.

Late in the afternoon of May 19, Ewell's corps, thrown across the Ni river in a reconnaissance attack against the Federal right, struck a division of Hancock's corps near the Harris house. The attack failed when Federals received reinforcements. On the night of May 20, Grant, followed by Lee, moved by the left toward the North Anna river. At Spotsylvania the Federals suffered 17,555 casualties out of 110,000 men engaged, and the Confederates an unknown number out of 50,500 engaged.

TOUR SCHEDULE

(All times local daylight saving)

(Variations will be announced at lunch or dinner)

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1968

- 8:30 a.m. - Check-in with Registrar Margaret April at Butler Airways building, O'Hare Airport, Chicago.
- 9:30 a.m. - Depart on Gen. Ambrose Burnside Special charter, lunch en route.
- 1:00 p.m. - Arrive National Airport, Page Airways dock, Washington, D.C. Board buses.
- Afternoon - Tour Fredericksburg, Va. battlefield.
- 4:30 p.m. - Check-in, Sheraton-Fredericksburg Motor Inn, headquarters.
- 6:30 p.m. - Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m. - Dinner and speaker, Joseph P. Cullen.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

- Breakfast on your own.
- 9:00 a.m. - Tour Chancellorsville battlefield.
- Lunch
- Afternoon - Continue Chancellorsville tour.
- 6:30 p.m. - Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m. - Dinner and speaker, Ralph Happel.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 a.m. - Tour Wilderness battlefield.
- Lunch
- Afternoon - Tour Spotsylvania battlefield.
- 6:30 p.m. - Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m. - Dinner and Fun Night; Command Post re-opens.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- Breakfast and church on your own.
 - Morning - Tour Fredericksburg historic places. Buses will be available.
 - Lunch - Then all luggage on buses.
 - Afternoon - Inspect Ford's Theater and Museum, Washington, D.C.
 - 4:30 p.m. - Check-in with Registrar Margaret April at Page Airways dock, National Airport.
 - 5:30 p.m. - Depart on Gen. Robert E. Lee Special charter, dinner en route.
 - 7:00 p.m. - Arrive Chicago, O'Hare Airport.
- (Individual lunches, \$3; dinners, \$6; local groups please make reservations and payments with Registrar Margaret April.)

TOUR (Continued from page 1)

Virginia weather usually is mild at this time of year and it is azalea time.

Soon after check-in, The Command Post will be opened. After dinner the speaker will be Joseph P. Cullen, author of the booklet "Where A Hundred Thousand Fell," and public affairs officer for the southeast regional office of the National Park Service in Richmond, Va. He will discuss Gen. George B. McClellan's dismissal and Gen. Burnside's appointment; Burnside's plan and his reasons for it and his subsequent failure to carry it out, with tragic results.

The entire second day, except a break for lunch, will be devoted to the battlefield of Chancellorsville. In the evening, after Command Post and dinner, Ralph Happel will speak on the Chancellors of Chancellorsville, giving emphasis to the family whose name was attached to the battle and about which the average Civil War fan knows little. Some of the Chancellor ladies were in the house during the battle and their stories will be told.

The third day will be devoted to the battle of the Wilderness in the morning and Spotsylvania in the afternoon, with time out for lunch. Command Post and dinner lead off the evening which is the traditional Fun Night with surprises, awards, mirth, and special events. James J. Geary, director of the New Market Battlefield Memorial, will present a color film of the New Market

(Continued on page 4)

ORDERS AND AMMUNITION



BY E. B. (PETE) LONG

Every book covering the over-all military history of the Civil War gives attention to the battles around Fredericksburg. But there are special volumes and particularly valuable general sources that some of the more serious battle-fielders may wish to give attention to, a portion of which are here indicated:

GENERAL

Catton, Bruce, Centennial History of the Civil War, Vol. III, Never Call Retreat; also Glory Road, Stillness at Appomattox and This Hallowed Ground.

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, various articles pertain in Vols. III and IV.

Freeman, Douglas Southall, R. E. Lee and Lee's Lieutenants, indispensable.

Williams, K. P., Lincoln Finds a General, Vol. II. Virginia, American Guide Series, excellent general guide to state.

Cromie, Alice, A Tour Guide to the Civil War.

Steele, Matthew Forney, American Campaigns, for text, plus Vincent Esposito, Atlas of America's Wars, also available as Atlas to Accompany Steele's American Campaigns.

Eisenschiml, Otto and Ralph Newman, The American Iliad, eyewitnesses.

Henry, Robert Selph, The Story of the Confederacy. Official Records; Fredericksburg, Series I, Vol. XXI; Chancellorsville, Vol. XXV, two parts; Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Vol. XXXVI, three parts.

Military Historical Society of Massachusetts Papers, especially Vol. III, Chancellorsville, Vol. IV, Wilderness, Spotsylvania.

Cullen, Joseph P., Where a Hundred Thousand Fell, The Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House; very useful National Park Service handbook.

Hotchkiss, Jed., Virginia, Confederate Military History, Vol. III.

CHANCELLORSVILLE

Bigelow, John, Jr., The Campaign of Chancellorsville, probably the most thorough of all Civil War battle books.

Dodge, Theodore A., The Campaign of Chancellorsville. Doubleday, Abner, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, Campaigns of the Civil War.

Stackpole, E. J., Chancellorsville, Lee's Greatest Battle.

Hamlin, Augustus C., The Battle of Chancellorsville.

Bates, Samuel P., The Battle of Chancellorsville.

Hebert, Walter H., Fighting Joe Hooker.

Henderson, G.F.R., Stonewall Jackson.

Vandiver, Frank, Mighty Stonewall.

Chambers, Lenoir, Stonewall Jackson.

(also volumes by Freeman and all biographies of Lee.)

FREDERICKSBURG

Palfrey, F.W., Antietam and Fredericksburg, Campaigns of the Civil War.

Whan, Vorin E., Fiasco at Fredericksburg, useful modern study.

Stackpole, E. J., Drama on the Rappahannock.

Gough, John E., Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Redway, G.W., Fredericksburg, A Study in War.

(Also Freeman on Lee and Lee's Lieutenants and biographies of Jackson.)

THE WILDERNESS AND SPOTSYLVANIA

Steere, Edward, The Wilderness Campaign, useful modern study.

BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN-TIME: 8:30 a.m. (CDT), Thursday, May 2, at Butler Aviation building, with Registrar Margaret April at special desk. Luggage tags and tour packet will be provided.

DEPART: 9:30 a.m. on Gen. Ambrose Burnside Special charter, lunch en route, arriving at National Airport, Page Airways dock, Washington, D.C. at 1 p.m. (EDT).

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times. Bus marshals will be on hand for guidance. Notify them if leaving on a side excursion.

WASHINGTON CHECK-IN-TIME: 4:30 p.m. (EDT), Sunday, May 5, at Page Airways dock, National Airport, with Registrar Margaret April at special desk.

DEPART: 5:30 p.m., on Gen. Robert E. Lee Special charter, dinner on plane, arriving at O'Hare Airport, Chicago, at 7:00 p.m. (CDT).



TOUR (Continued from page 3)

battle in which cadets of Virginia Military Institute participated on May 15, 1864—the same time as the battle of Spotsylvania. Brooks Davis will present awards, including the special one, BAFFART, to the champion carouser. Last year it went to Paul Behanna. Afterward, the Command Post will open again and there will be gatherings around the piano for harmonizing.

The final morning is open for visits to Fredericksburg's historic places: President Monroe's law office; the Rising Sun Tavern, a Revolutionary war landmark; the Hugh Mercer Apothecary shop, a Virginia shrine to medicine and pharmacy and to American Independence; the home of Mary, the mother of George Washington; the Kenmore estate; churches, the Masonic lodge and cemetery; slave block; Washington's Horse Chestnut tree; Stoner's museum; George Rogers Clark marker, and Ferry farm, Washington's boyhood home.

After lunch, all luggage is to be loaded on the buses for the drive to Washington. The afternoon will be spent in visiting the restored Ford's theater which was reopened on January 21. At the time we are in Washington it will be nearing the end of a 14-week repertory theater. The theater was restored to the time of Lincoln's assassination. The basement has the Lincoln museum. Across the street is Peterson house where Lincoln died. If there is time, an optional tour may be offered.

Check-in at National Airport, Page Airways dock, will be during the hour preceding takeoff on the special charter plane "Gen. Robert E. Lee," with dinner en route. Arrival at O'Hare is at 7 p.m. Central Daylight saving time.

Schaff, Morris, The Battle of the Wilderness, still the best.

Humphreys, Andrew A., The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65, Campaigns of the Civil War, very able volume.

Vaughan-Sawyer, G. H., Grant's Campaign in Virginia, 1864.

Grant, U. S., Personal Memoirs.

Fuller, J. F. C., Grant and Lee and The Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant.

(Also volumes by Freeman and all biographies of Lee and Grant.)