

# WILDERNESS DISPATCH

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.

Vol. 13 No. 1 • Winter 2007-08

*Ellwood Phase I Progress Report*

## Ellwood Restoration in High Gear

*By Carolyn Elstner*

On November 26, 2007, **Noah Bradley** and his **Blue Mountain Builders (BMB)** arrived at historic Ellwood to start Phase I of the interior restoration. They were greeted by Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP) Superintendent **Russ Smith** and seven members of his staff, as well as by Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) President **Dan Nickelson** and Vice President **Carolyn Elstner**.

Following the meeting, Noah, younger Noah, Bob Forbes, and Garrett Irwin immediately set to work.

FoWB contracted with BMB to complete the restoration of the first floor Entry Hall, Parlor, and North Room. Carolyn serves as the contract officer. FSNMP construction specialist, John Stoddard, is the contract officer's technical representative. He knows the building well and is on-site to advise and inspect. Architect **Tony Bochicchio** has reviewed and complimented the



BMB craftsmen's work, "These men really know what they are doing." Tony continues to prepare drawings for all three phases of the project.

The first task facing BMB was to separate the front three rooms from the rest of the house, using heaving sheets of plastic. To protect the late 18<sup>th</sup> century flooring, padding and plywood were laid. Next began, from the interior walls of the three rooms, demolition of the compromised lath and plaster. The men were covered with dust for two days, but by the third day, there was no evidence that anything (save the bare wall posts) had happened, the cleanup was so thorough.

Bob has spent much of his time at Ellwood cutting and cleaning period brick and re-building the Parlor fireplace. Today, because of the aged brick, traditional mortar, and his skill, a visitor would never recognize that a 20<sup>th</sup> century firebox once stood there. The Parlor will return to its appearance as Warren's Headquarters when, in 1964, the General stood at the mantel strategizing the Union Fifth Corps through the two-day Battle of the Wilderness. Painstakingly shimming the walls and ceilings to receive drywall has been another major focus for Bob.

Meanwhile Garrett has taken the lion's share of repairing and re-creating the woodwork. He juggles saw, hand tools, level,



tape measure, and brackets like a magician. His meticulous eyes and talent have undone damage from squirrels, mice, birds, and insects. No more teeth and claw marks, no more termite damage. Only old but new door frames, wainscoting, and previously missing corners. Garrett's bonus was the discovery, in storage, of the original fifth window for the Parlor. No reproducing from early wood necessary on that one.

Boss-man Noah has great respect for Ellwood (and its builder, William Jones) as he does for all the houses he has restored in the past twenty years. He also cares deeply about his staff. He delivers and hauls away, gets his hands dirty, and continually coordinates and monitors, so that his men can remain consumed at Ellwood.

The sounds of sanding, the sights of refined edges on over-painted trim, and the smell of primer are refreshing physically and emotionally. Ellwood does not again stand alone these cold months. It is on the threshold of renewal by its winter friends, who abound in patience and perfectionism. The Ellwood family cemetery must be a-buzz....



*Photos by Alan Zirkle*

## FRIENDS OF WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD

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<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Carolyn Elstner
<b>ACTING SECRETARY</b>	Craig Rains
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Robert Williams (1995-1997)  
 Tom Van Winkle (1997-2002)  
 Dwight Mottet (2002-2006)

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to FoWB are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. All FoWB staff, officers and board members are non-paid volunteers.



*FoWB President Dan Nickelson presents a Certification of Appreciation to outgoing treasurer and board member Dave LeMay (right) at his final board meeting in December.*

## FoWB Elects Board Members

Retired General **Tom Cleland** and **Carolyn Ostrowski** were elected to three-year terms on the FoWB board of directors at the organization's annual meeting.

In addition, **Zann Miner** was reelected to her second three-year term.

Tom is a native of New York and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was a vice president of sales for Steelcase, Inc. and has served as a consultant for several government agencies.

An avid student of history, Tom volunteers for the National Park Service, and the Fredericksburg Area Museum, in addition to FoWB, where he is an interpreter at Ellwood. He volunteers at the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

Tom is chairman of the board of the newly formed Civil War Life Museum Foundation, which is raising funds to build a new museum at Spotsylvania Court House.

Carolyn has lived in Maryland and Virginia all her life. She holds two degrees from the University of Maryland.

In 2005, she retired from Marriott International after 20 years as an information technology project manager. Upon moving to Orange County, she became involved in the Ellwood restoration project as an interpreter and has worked with FoWB in various activities, including community outreach and fundraising.

Carolyn has worked with the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center and does volunteer work at Locust Grove Elementary School.

Zann lives on the family farm in Reva and has ancestors who fought on both sides of the Civil War.

She first learned of FoWB when some members of the group visited the Museum of Culpeper History where she served as executive director for a number of years.

She used her non-profit management training and skills to help develop the Ellwood capital campaign and continues to work closely with the Ellwood Committee in raising more than \$280,000 for the restoration project.

She also serves as chairman of the FoWB Board Enhancement Committee.

Zann writes a weekly column for the Culpeper Star Exponent and has developed several feature stories from a historical aspect.

FoWB is privileged to have these three board members volunteering to use their talents and experience on behalf of its membership and the battlefield.

### And the winners are ...

The triple raffle held this fall and winter created a lot of interest and was a great success. The Ellwood Restoration Project raised \$2,300.

Winners of the Catalpa vase: Jimmy and Carolyn Lee of Lake of the Woods, Va.

Winner of the Heriz Oriental rug: Al Conner of Stafford County, Va.

Winner of the Rappahannock County hand-made quilt: Dennis Buttacavoli of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Congratulations to these winners and many thanks to the hundreds of people who supported Ellwood through participating in the raffle. All of you are invited to come to Ellwood after it reopens in May to see how your donations have been put to use.

[2]

*Wilderness Dispatch* is published four times annually for the members of FoWB. All FoWB members are invited to submit articles for consideration by the Editorial Board for consideration. Articles should not exceed 500 words and may be edited. For comments or questions or to submit articles, contact Craig Rains, Editor, *Wilderness Dispatch*, FoWB, PO Box 576, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0576 or e-mail [Craig.Rains@att.net](mailto:Craig.Rains@att.net).

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*Orange County Supervisor Teri Pace addresses the FoWB annual membership meeting.*

## FoWB Annual Meeting Highlights Victories, New Challenges

The annual meeting of the membership of Friends of Wilderness Battlefield was held on November 17, 2007 at Lake of the Woods Church. FoWB President **Dan Nickelson** presided. With more than 50 people present, it was the largest crowd to attend an annual meeting.

The first segment of the meeting was a series of presentations on development pressures on the Wilderness Battlefield.

Orange County Supervisor **Teri Pace** encouraged the group to get involved in the county's issues of growth. She said freedom depends on participation or else the government will take over the citizens' duties. She pointed out the importance of tourism as a powerful tool that should not be compromised. Pressure on localities because of state budget problems is sending a signal that citizens need to be very careful in watching the development of the county budget and expenditures. She warned that sprawl can deplete Orange County's rural assets.

Spotsylvania County Supervisor **Hap Connors Jr.** said we all have responsibilities to take care of God's resources. He said the county needs to manage growth better, preserve property rights and preserve history. He does not believe zero growth is necessary to protect historic areas and that the county can work to do both. He gave two examples of efforts that brought together county government, builders and non-profit preservation organizations to work out benefits for all. One example was the Chancellorsville First Day battlefield project. He encouraged FoWB members to keep him informed about what is going on in the community to protect battlefields. He also said to continue going to the General Assembly with our legislative agenda.

Superintendent **Russ Smith** of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park complimented the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield and its members for the significant contributions they had made on behalf of the battlefield and in providing funds and resources to its benefit. He pointed out two victories for FoWB and NPS in 2007. One was the Orange supervisors voting to abandon plans to widen Route 20 to four lanes from Route 3 to the Town of Orange. The second was the unanimous vote against rezoning a portion of property within the Wilderness Battlefield park boundary to allow a large commercial development (Wilderness Crossing). He thanked those present who had worked to defeat these

measures but said the organization should remain alert because either of them could again be brought up.

FoWB Vice President **Carolyn Elstner** spoke about the Phase I work at Ellwood. She is chairman of the Ellwood Committee and is now the contractor officer for the contract signed for Phase I.

Superintendent Smith discussed the proposed National Park Service Centennial Project and its relationship to Ellwood. It is a ten-year plan to upgrade the parks by 2016 — the 100th anniversary of the founding of NPS. The administration's current plan is to contribute \$100 million a year for ten years, to be matched by private contributors. He said the program has not been finalized. Congress must approve the budget and the program. It is uncertain if the amount of \$500,000 requested for Ellwood will include any funds FoWB has already raised. He indicated the match would not be retroactive to funds already collected.

FoWB Director **Craig Rains** reported on the Battlefield Resources Committee's project plans for 2008 and on. He asked for volunteers to help in the FoWB work planned both on and off the battlefield.

Mr. Nickelson recognized **Dorothy Mosso** for her work as chairman of the Membership Committee.

Mr. Nickelson noted he had submitted to those in attendance a written report on the activities of FoWB this year and said the record of success by FoWB had been a group effort. He said the more people who are involved, the more work FoWB can accomplish.

Mr. Nickelson recognized two board members whose terms were expiring, and he thanked them for their valuable contributions to the organization. They were **Dave LeMat** and **Dianne Zumatto**.

Two new directors were elected and one was reelected. See the article on page 2.

Lake of the Woods Church was thanked for allowing FoWB to hold the annual meeting in its facility. Senior Associate Pastor **Jim Smith** noted that he was present at the meeting also as a member of FoWB and held the same passion for battlefield preservation as those in attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to a grand bar-be-que lunch catered by FoWB member **Lisa VanWinkle** and her dedicated band of elves.

# FoWB Hosts Popular Orange County Bus Tour

## Frank Walker again to provide unique view of local treasures on Friday, March 28

*By Brian Wolfe*

FoWB is pleased to present the celebrated tour of historic Orange County conducted by Frank S. Walker, Jr., Orange County's premiere historian and noted author, on Friday, March 28. FoWB has sponsored several of Frank's tours in recent years and they have always been sold out.

Dwight Mottet is coordinating the event. "This unique opportunity will offer a day long, comfortable coach tour of noted historic areas and homes within Orange County," he noted. "This tour is an opportunity to learn about one of Virginia's most historic counties from one of its most noted native sons,"

Orange County was a major combat area for the Civil War, with the Wilderness becoming one of the conflict's most famous battles.

The Civil War is, however, but one focus of the tour. The tour will include views of a host of antebellum structures, including churches and other public buildings as well as private residences. Historic areas to be highlighted include the Plank Roads, the Blue Ridge Turnpike as well as

Barboursville, Germanna, Gordonsville and Montpelier.

Walking on the tour is limited. Information venues and presentations are maximized, including a special narrated driving tour of the main Montpelier grounds and a visit to St. Thomas Church in the Town of Orange.

A handout summarizing the tour experience will also be available to all participants.

The coach will depart from the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse lower level parking lot promptly at 8:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Advance reservations are required. The cost for this tour is \$70 (\$65 for FoWB members), which includes snacks and a buffet lunch at Mario's Restaurant in the Town of Orange.

To RSVP or for further information, contact Dwight Mottet at 540-972-3204 or e-mail him at [dwightmottet@aol.com](mailto:dwrightmottet@aol.com).

Advance reservations are required. For reservations to be confirmed, payment must be received. Make checks payable to Friends of Wilderness Battlefield and mail to Dwight Mottet, 215 Creekside Drive, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

Proceeds from the bus tour will benefit a variety of Wilderness battlefield preservation projects undertaken by volunteers from FoWB.

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## Politics and Personalities: The Wilderness Campaign 1864" A Wilderness Conference Set for 144th Anniversary of the Battle

Sponsored by Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, the weekend of May 9 through 11 will commemorate the 144th anniversary of the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness.

Gordon Rhea and Greg Mertz will lead the activities that include bus tours, lectures, on-site events, entertainment and a dinner and fun-raising auction.

Rhea, noted South Carolina author and historian with expertise in the Overland Campaign, and Mertz, Supervisory Historian for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, are putting together what promises to be an enlightening and stimulating three days.

Presenters will examine in detail the influence of national politics, a presidential election year, and the diverse and sometimes controversial personalities of the military commanders of both armies.

Is it true, does history repeat itself? Were battles won and lost because of politics? Were human error and personality conflicts at the core of military outcomes? These are among the many questions that will be answered by the conference.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning participants will join leading historians as they explore the "real" story that began during the Winter Encampment of 1864 and was solidified in the horrific Battle of the Wilderness. These two events would set the tone for the Overland Campaign and the beginning of the end at Appomattox.

The conference will include a series of presentations, panel discussions, and battlefield tours.

Presenters and/or battlefield guides will include Rhea, Mertz and Clark "Bud" Hall, known as the leading authority on actions of the Civil War in and around Culpeper County. Other presenters are Dr. John Y. Simon, executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association at Southern Illinois University, and Chief Justice Frank Williams of Rhode Island, one of the country's most renowned experts on Abraham Lincoln.

On Friday evening, FoWB will host a reception for participants at Ellwood, which was Union General Gouverneur Warren's headquarters during the battle.

Later Friday evening there will be a candlelight memorial service at the Stonewall Jackson Shrine at Guinea Station, commemorating the 145th anniversary of the night before his death. The event will be led by National Park Service historian and author Frank O'Reilly.

On Saturday evening, FoWB will sponsor its annual Dinner and Auction at the Daniel Technology Center on the campus of Germanna Community College in Culpeper.

Proceeds from the weekend benefit FoWB's Ellwood restoration program.

Reservations for the conference are limited, and a strong response for this first-ever FoWB weekend conference is expected. Please check the FoWB web page for updates, fees, and registration information. <http://www.fowb.org>.

# Volunteers Needed for CWPT Park Day 2008 on April 5

The Wilderness Battlefield will be one of 110 Civil War battlefields, parks and historical sites that are participating in Park Day 2008 on Saturday, April 5.

On Park Day, thousands of volunteers throughout the United States work together to clean up and repair facilities, exhibits and grounds that represent significant historical significance.

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) is coordinating the activities on the Wilderness Battlefield, which is the largest of the four battlefields that make up the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

This is the 11th year that Park Day has been sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and the History Channel.

Craig Rains, chairman of FoWB's Park Day 2008, said volunteers were needed to pitch in that day.

"This will be a great time for hands-on participation by people who care about preserving the Civil War history of this part of Orange and Spotsylvania counties," Rains said.

"Even something as simple as picking up trash along the highway is paying tribute to the thousands of men who fought in this horrible battle that helped shape our country."

Rains said those who participate at the Wilderness will receive a free Park Day t-shirt. Scouts will receive a patch, while supplies last. FoWB will provide free water and snacks.

Wilderness Battlefield projects will include litter pick up on roads throughout the battlefield, painting of the National Park Service exhibit shelter on Saunder's Field, repairing and repainting a foot bridge at Saunder's Field and painting metal signs denoting entrenchments along Hill-Ewell Drive. Other projects will include clean up of the Longstreet wounding site on Orange Plank Road and the parking area of the Vermont monument at the intersection of Brock Road and Orange Plank Road. Other projects may be developed.

Volunteers should bring work gloves. The National Park Service is providing trash bags for those who will pick up litter and furnishing paint and paint brushes for those doing painting projects.

Rains said volunteers from as far away as North Carolina and Ohio scheduled to participate on the Wilderness battlefield last year. In addition, 18 Cub Scouts and their parents from Spotsylvania County joined in to clean up the Saunder's Field portion of the battlefield.

In 2007, approximately 4,000 volunteers played vital roles in sustaining the participating parks, providing more than 12,000 hours of service.

Rains said volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the Wilderness Battlefield Exhibit Shelter, located on Route 20, about two miles west of its intersection with Route 3 at Wilderness. Extra parking will be available along Hill-Ewell Road at Saunder's Field.

To begin the day, a local historian will give the volunteers overview of the importance of the Battle of the Wilderness, which was fought in May, 1864 and was the first time Generals Grant and Lee faced each other on the battlefield.

In case of inclement weather, as happened last year, the event will be rescheduled for April 19.

For more information on Park Day 2008, go to the Civil War Preservation Trust and <http://www.civilwar.org/parkday>.

CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its goal is to preserve the nation's endangered Civil War sites and to promote the appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism.

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is a nonprofit volunteer organization with members in 29 states and three countries. Its mission is to preserve, promote and protect the historic Wilderness battlefield, along with the history of its battles and the soldiers and area citizens whose lives were affected by the

events of that time. For more information about FoWB, visit its web site <http://www.fowb.org>.

For more information about Park Day 2008 at Wilderness Battlefield, contact Craig Rains at (540) 972-2844 or by e-mail at [craigrains@hotmail.com](mailto:craigrains@hotmail.com).



*Among the participants in last year's Park Day on the Wilderness Battlefield were Debra Helm and her son, Dale, who attends Fork Union Academy.*

## WANTED: ELLWOOD INTERPRETERS

Do you think you might be interested in being an interpreter at historic Ellwood Manor on the Wilderness Battlefield? Every year, thousands of visitors tour the beautiful old house and hear the story of its history as told by volunteers from Friends of Wilderness Battlefield.

Ellwood is special. It is the only structure on the Wilderness Battlefield that was there when this historic battle was fought in 1864. And we are pleased to be able to interpret it to the people who walk through its doors.

If this sounds like a great volunteer opportunity for you or if you would like to learn more about being an Interpreter and giving these short tours from time to time, you are invited to attend the training session for new interpreters on Saturday, April 5. You may attend the all-day session, but you are not obligated to commit to serve as a volunteer unless you want to. The session includes what prospective interpreters would cover and is a comprehensive presentation by National Park Service personnel and others.

Three requirements of Ellwood interpreters are (1) be a current member of FoWB, (2) attend the mandatory NPS training session in April and (3) sign up for at least three days to serve between May and October.

To find out the specific time and location of the interpreter instructional session, call Carolyn Elstner at (540) 373-6240 or email at [MElstner@aol.com](mailto:MElstner@aol.com).

Give it a try. It is a most rewarding service.

# Defining history so history doesn't define us

An article that appeared in the Culpeper, Va., *Star Exponent* on January 10 drew attention to the importance of preserving history, which is part of what we at FoWB are about.

The newspaper published a letter that **Charles Crist** of Culpeper had written in reference to the column, in which he lamented that his teachers in secondary school and college never addressed WHY it was important to study history.

Crist wrote that as he grew older he discovered the importance of the study of history and that the *Star Exponent* column "aptly explained the WHY."

He wrote, "I hope today's history teachers read your article and explain to their students the great importance of knowing the history that surrounds us as a world, a nation, a state and a locale."

The column that sparked Crist's comments was written by **Zann Miner**, who is a director of Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. It is reprinted here with permission of the *Culpeper Star Exponent*...

The vacillating - and at times ambiguous - concept of history feeds a constant struggle to commend its importance. Many with the power to vote a thumbs up or down on funding for preservation, research and historical programs argue - not entirely without justification - there is no significant value in what has gone before. However, plans for advance, without the benefit of an analysis of current and past conditions and activities are guaranteed to be flawed. It is this analysis that frames the value intrinsic to historical study.

Institutions of education guide students through a litany of historic events to be memorized for the next exam with often little or no thought to the "whys" and "what ifs." Predetermined curriculums, SOLs and time are the perpetrators of a routine focused unfortunately on regurgitating facts without a true study of their meaning. Is it any wonder that history as we know it is boring?

This thinking has given birth to familiar colloquialisms that add an air of legitimacy to an inaccurate position. "You are history" doesn't translate to significance, but rather a quality of vaporization and nonexistence, implying that history is truly a thing of the past and not a factor in one's current life. How about, "it's done," "it's in the past," "move on," "put it behind you," or my all-time favorite "get over it?"

Wikipedia defines history as "the study of the past, focused on human activity and leading up to the present day in relation to humans and humanity." The significance of any specific occurrence, place, structure or personality is difficult to determine at any arbitrary point in time-and therein lies the importance of preservation!

The pool of knowledge and subsequent value is cumulative. In 1880, who could have predicted the 20th century wars, the forthcoming economic disasters or the advancements in medical science? If asked at the time, would those in leadership positions have espoused the value of preserving military diaries, collecting financial data, or studying the historical medical practices of Native Americans?

Wikipedia's definition of history also addressed its role in current-day or future-day decision making with the following: "History is not just the past as an object." Thus history often signifies the production of events having transformative potentials that ushers in the future connecting the past, the present, and the future. Predictions for the coming year offered during any January are keenly read, studied and discussed. We hang on every word regarding what the future holds for the economy, the real estate market, trends in agriculture and industry and the intensifying or deescalating of current military conflicts.

(See history, page 7)

## Area Calendar of Winter Events

**January 31, 7:30 p.m.**

*William Fitzhugh, First Congressman from*

*Fredericksburg*

Presented by **John Hennessy**, NPS chief historian

Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, Free

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1 and 8, 10 a.m.**

Orange County history lecture series presented by local historian and author **Frank Walker Jr.**, each session will involve chapters in his book, "*Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia*".

OCHS Research Center, 130 Caroline St., Orange. Free.

Presented by the Orange County Historical Society. For more details call (540) 672-5366 (afternoons).

**February 2 and 3**

*A Freedman's Farm: Tour of the Enslaved Community*

*Sites at Montpelier and the Gilmore Cabin*

Montpelier estate in Orange County

<http://www.montpelier.org>

For hours and tour time call (540) 672-9272. Fee.

**Friday, February 8, 7 p.m.**

*Nora Brooks* portrays *the Woman Behind "Stonewall" Jackson*

Spotsylvania Middle School Auditorium. Free.

Sponsored by Spotsylvania County Department of Economic Development

For more information call (540) 507-7210

**February 10, 2 p.m.**

Freedman's Farm Tour and 1863-64 Confederate Winter Camp Site Walking Tour led by Montpelier interpreter

**Jayne E. Blair**. Fee or free to Montpelier Members. For more information call (540) 672-9272.

**February 18 President's Day**

Celebrate President's Day with a tour of the home of President James Madison, the Father of Constitution.

Montpelier estate in Orange County

For more information call (540) 672-2728.

**Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.**

**Jay Vogel** portrays General James Longstreet

Spotsylvania Middle School Auditorium. Free.

Sponsored by Spotsylvania County Department of Economic Development

For more information call (540) 507-7210

**March 16**

James Madison's 257th Birthday Celebration at Montpelier

Free admission all day. For more information call (540) 672-2728.

**March 22, 12 noon to 3 p.m.**

*A Taste of History*, wine-tasting fund raiser for the Civil War Life Foundation to build a new Civil War Museum of the Soldier at Spotsylvania Court House.

Kenmore Inn, 1200 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg.

\$55 per person. For tickets or information call (540) 734-1859.

**March 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

FoWB-sponsored **Orange County historical tour**, hosted by **Frank Walker, Jr.** See information in this Wilderness Dispatch

**March 30, 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

*The Music of the Civil War* with Evergreen Shade (**John Tole** and **Ann Howard**)

Graffiti House at Brandy Station.

\$5 donation suggested

Sponsored by Brandy Station Foundation

For more information (540) 727-7718

**May 11-13**

*FoWB Battle of the Wilderness Conference*, remembering the 144th anniversary of the battle. See details in this Wilderness Dispatch or at <http://www.fowb.org>

(history, continued from page 6)

If it were not for preserving historical data and the study and analysis of that same material, the predictions might as well be based on palm reading and fortune cookies. Not all, but enough facts are available to allow for judicious decision-making requiring that one need only review the history.

It is often said, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." If indeed that is a truism, then even more critical is the mandate to preserve and study history. If our tasks are to improve on education, health, transportation, housing, safety and the economy, we would be well served to examine how our predecessors managed similar issues. What worked, what did not, what is different and what remains the same?

I would suggest to you, that those we hold in high esteem due to their ability to be creative and innovative problem solvers possess no more magic than you or I. They simply have done their homework; they have studied and analyzed the historical data.

We, as individuals, families and community have been and will continue to be faced with challenges requiring planning and thoughtful decisions. The review of historical record whether personal or communal is the best asset we can call on. It is our crystal ball; to ignore its use would fulfill a joking expression my father used, "Don't confuse me with the facts, I have already made up my mind."

The value of preservation isn't rocket science. If one hasn't preserved the historical record, worse yet, if one has destroyed the historical record, it is safe to say, "One has cut off his own nose to spite his face." Could we then be guilty of executing the proverbial Golden Goose?

Enjoy the gift of balmy weather. My prediction based on historical record is that we can expect old man winter to come yet for his annual visit.

## ITEMS SOUGHT FOR ELLWOOD AUCTION

The Acquisition Committee for the 144th anniversary auction is seeking items for both the silent and live auctions that will take place on Saturday, May 10.

Last year, auction items included were artwork, trips, home accessories, wine and food, restaurant dinners, Civil War memorabilia and books.

Proceeds of the auctions will go toward the Ellwood restoration project. Donated items may be eligible for a tax deduction in accordance with federal rules and regulations.

If you have an item to donate or you know of someone or a company that might donate something, contact **Carolyn Ostrowski**, chair of the auction acquisitions committee, at (540) 972-3901 or e-mail [crostrowski49@comcast.net](mailto:crostrowski49@comcast.net).

## Membership Activity - Winter 2008

### Renewals

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard ARNOLD, Locust Grove, Va.; Jonathan B. BOWER, Colchester Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. BRADIE, Locust Grove, Va.; Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Jim BROWN, Fredericksburg Va.; Berkeley and Lois BOYD, Ruther Glen, Va.; John BRIAR III, Alexandria, Va.;

Henry Lee CARTER, Orange Va.; Tom CLELAND, Spotsylvania Va.; Joyce L. DARR, Fredericksburg, Va.; Barb DAVIDSON, Locust Grove Va.; Anthony and Michele DELACY, Gettysburg Penn.; R. DuVal and Anne DICKINSON, Fredericksburg Va.; James FARRAR, Malta N.Y.; Madeline GARCIA, Bozeman, Mont.; Christopher GEEST, Culpeper Va.; Gary and Anne-Marie GARRISON, Fredericksburg Va.; Chris HEISEY, Mechanicsburg Penn.; Linwood & Marlene IMLAY, Culpeper, Va.; Dr. and Mrs. Eugene JACOBS and Daisy, Spotsylvania, Va.; Agnes Reid JENNY, Roanoke, Va.; Cecilia KEEFER, Stafford Va.; Darla KEEFER, Stafford Va.; John KELLY, Locust Grove, Va.;

Ludvig J. KROGH, Green Brook, N.J.; David LANGBART, Arlington, Va.; Craig LAWSON, Seattle Wash.; Mark LEBER, Locust Grove Va.; Thomas MACALLISTER, Orange Conn.; Ronald MALMQUIST, Spotsylvania Va.; Gregory C. MARTIN, Sr., Fredericksburg, Va.; John MATSON, Locust Grove Va.; Greg and Diane MERTZ, Spotsylvania, Va.; Daniel J. MICHALAK, New Lenox, Ill.; Fred M. MONNER, Spotsylvania, Va.; David and Michelle O'HEARN, Culpeper Va.; Carolyn OSTROWSKI, Locust Grove Va.; Eugene M. OTT, Catonsville, Md.;

John F. POLIS, Spotsylvania, Va.; Jerrold POSLUSNY, Rochester N.Y.; Wally ROSHEIM, Locust Grove, Va.; Sam RYAN, Fredericksburg, Va.; Lacy W. SALE, Mechanicsville Va.; Eugenia SANFORD, Arlington Va.; William P. SCHUBER, Oradell N.J.; Rev. James SMITH, Locust Grove, Va.; James M. SMITH, Stafford Va.; Frank WALKER, Orange, Va.; Raymond WHEELER, East Windsor, N.J.;

### New Members

James FORD, Spotsylvania, Va.; Keith MALMQUIST, Andover, Minn.;

Charles and Susan TITUS, Richardsville, Va.

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### Please have someone contact me about: \_\_\_\_\_

- Becoming an interpreter and visitor guide at Ellwood, the Lacy House, on the battlefield (FoWB membership reequired)
- Helping the National Park Service in maintenance of landscaping, trimming, mowing or general upkeep of the grounds surrounding Ellwood as well as painting and repair of signage, monuments, trails and other areas of the battlefield
- Being part of a public relations program that promotes FoWB through such things as a speakers' bureau, civic and social club presentations and area school projects
- Assisting in answering genealogy questions concerning ancestors who may have fought in the battle of the Wilderness or were in the area at any other time during the War
- Becoming a member of one of FoWB's other ongoing committees: Battlefield Preservation, Board Enhancement, Communications, Education, Ellwood, Finance or Membership (circle the committee you would prefer)
- Making myself available wherever needed.
- Send me an application kit for the Wilderness Brigade.  Send me an application kit for Ellwood Descendants.

### Membership Benefits

Quarterly newsletter *Wilderness Dispatch* • Advance notice for FoWB-sponsored tours and events  
Reduced rates for some FoWB events • Invitation to special FoWB events at historic Ellwood on the Wilderness Battlefield  
Pride in knowing you are playing an important part in preserving, protecting and promoting the Wilderness Battlefield.

**FRIENDS OF WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD**

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**Grab your work gloves for Park Day 2008.  
Mark your calendar for the 144th Anniversary  
Weekend, May 9-11.  
Read about both big events inside.**

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?** Your expiration date is shown on your mailing label above.



**JOIN / RENEW Friends of Wilderness Battlefield TODAY (Clip and mail this form)**

Yes, I want to help preserve, protect and promote this significant area in our country's history.

Please indicate the desired annual membership level. This membership includes you and your immediate family members. FoWB is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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(This information for use only by Friends of Wilderness Battlefield to inform you of FoWB events and announcements. It will not be made available to any other organization or for any other use.)

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