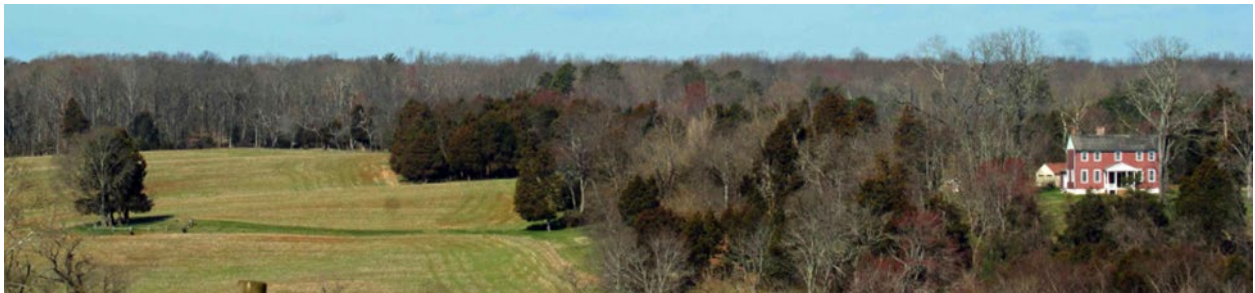


# History in our Backyard

2019



Compiled by:



**FRIENDS OF WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD**

*To preserve, protect and interpret the Wilderness Battlefield in partnership with the National Park Service*

**FoWB**

**P.O. Box 576**

**Locust Grove, VA 22508**

*Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the preservation, advocacy, and interpretation of the Wilderness and the battlefield. For more information, or for information on joining, please visit our website at [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org).*



## PREFACE

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.** (FoWB) began in 1995 as a small group of local residents who recognized a need to assist the National Park Service (NPS) in the preservation and maintenance of the Wilderness Battlefield which was located in their back yard. Over the years the organization has evolved and grown to over 200 members with dozens of member volunteers who not only provide maintenance assistance to NPS, but also provide interpretation and advocacy for the Park, the battlefields and the local area.

-- Mark Leach, President FoWB

**History in our Backyard** (HIOB), a product of FoWB, was created by the Special Programs and Education Outreach Committees. It is a living and growing series of articles written by FoWB volunteers and designed to share the history of the Wilderness with the residents who live in and around this hallowed ground. The articles focus on either a particular event or a historical period that brings to life the area's rich and vibrant history dating from the earliest settlers to the present day. These brief glimpses into the Wilderness' history are intended to encourage residents of all ages living in and around Spotsylvania and Orange Counties to learn and appreciate the significant impact that this area has had on our local and national history.

The stories appearing in this compilation as well as in local social media capture our members' wealth of knowledge about Wilderness history. They are not intended to be scholarly works but rather a narrative snapshot about the area. In the words of our President, this growing series of articles "will hopefully help local residents, and all visitors for that matter, realize that the local history...needs to be preserved and shared with generations to come."

We welcome your comments and suggestions for improving our product and for future subjects. We would even welcome your participation as an author of an article on a topic that is of interest to you and would add to the knowledge of our readership.

– Dick Rankin, Education Outreach Committee Chairman, FoWB



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**1 UNTOLD STORIES 2019: “LOOKED FOR IN THE HOUR OF DANGER – BUT TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT IN THE TIME OF PEACE”**

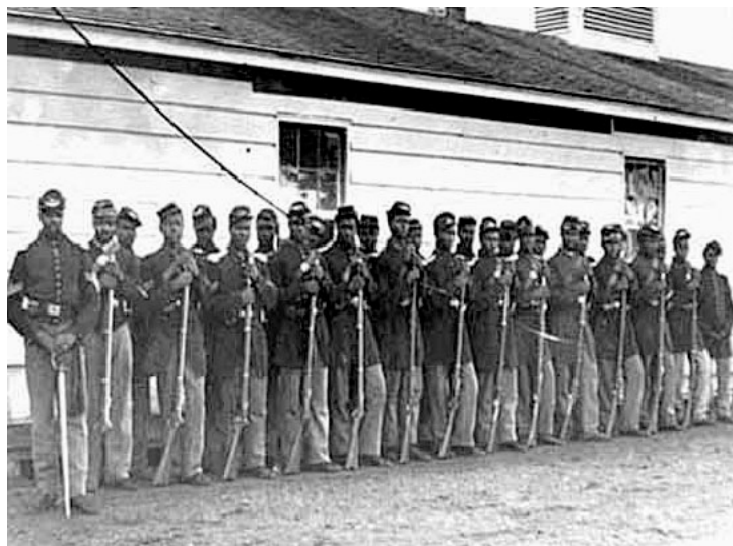


**Black History Month Special Event**

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) is co-sponsoring a Black History Month event on February 22 (rain date, March 1) composed of four vignettes in several churches in old town Fredericksburg. Each vignette will depict a scene portraying African American involvement in one of four major wars, from the Revolutionary War to World War II (WWII). The history of the nation’s response to their service is conflicted!

From the outset, African Americans performed with honor, and many died in service to their country. They fought on both sides during the Revolutionary War with a promise of freedom from slavery after the conflict ended. During the Civil War, nearly 180,000 blacks served in the Union Army and Navy. Twice that number (350,000) joined the American Expeditionary Force in Europe in World War I, and over 700 African Americans died in the European and Pacific theaters during World War II. Many of these veterans were awarded medals for courage.

**Exhibit 1 US Colored Troops during the Civil War**



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Exhibit 2 Phillis Wheatley



based on real people and after a particular war. the relationship between Phillis Wheatley, the first American poet; a view of near the present day training ground for the all-Infantry; a moment in a Urbane Bass, a who gave his life for his country; and finally, a discussion with a local resident who served with the Navy during WWII.

Yet their brave service and sacrifices, both during wartime and after they returned home, were often not recognized. In wartime, African American participation was usually marked by prejudice and the segregation of races. After hostilities ended, they returned home to a continuation of Jim Crow opposition and enmity. It wasn't until President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 in 1948 that the Armed Forces were officially integrated. Even after that, resistance persisted.

Next month, there will be an opportunity to experience some of this history "first hand". Each vignette will have local

Exhibit 3 Dr. Urbane Bass



actors portraying scenes their service before and Included will be a look at George Washington and U.S. female African the "lost" Camp Casey Pentagon that served as a black 23<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Colored foxhole in France with Dr. Fredericksburg physician

This is FoWB's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Black History Month Untold Stories event and is co-sponsored by the John J Wright Educational and Cultural Center and the churches in Fredericksburg. To attend, visit [www.FoWB.org](http://www.FoWB.org); a \$10 donation is your entry fee. For more information, contact Dick Rankin at 972-2862 or Barry Thompson at 972-3757.

Author: Barry Thompson  
Date: January 2019





## 2 I'M SHOT, GET THE DOCTOR! (PART 1 OF 2)

Imagine you are a young Civil War Soldier and you have just been wounded on the battlefield. Immediately, you want the assistance of the regimental doctor. But, who was that doctor and how capable was he? (A surgeon, assistant surgeon and a hospital steward were optimally assigned to each regiment.)

At the outbreak of hostilities the surgeon was likely to be the community doctor where the company of which you were a member was recruited or formed. Not all community doctors were equal. Some of them might have gotten their medical knowledge through their career as a drug salesman. Others might have been pharmacists who simply hung up their shield and began treating the needy. Many were not accredited! These lesser-trained doctors were more likely to be assigned as the assistant surgeon with the regiment.

If he had the financial resources a future surgeon may have studied at a university (such as Virginia or Maryland or South Carolina) or a medical school in the eastern United States such as Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College. The curricula at those institutions in the late 1840's and 1850's usually consisted of 4 to 7 lectures, which were bought individually. In the first year the student studied those topics in the lecture hall. The same series of lectures were repeated in the second year and an optional written thesis was added. When the thesis was accepted the student was granted his medical degree. At almost no point during those two years of study did the student experience laboratory or practical application of his classroom studies. He certainly had little experience in treating gun-shot wounds or cannonball shrapnel injuries or broken bone injuries prior to his assignment to his regiment.

Confederate Army regulations were adopted in 1862 requiring an examination of medical applicants before their promotion and/or appointment to a regiment. Dr. Alexander A. McQueen of Alabama passed through the examination process in Richmond. Upon his successful completion, he was appointed to the 2nd NC Infantry Battalion, of Daniels Brigade, Rhodes Division.

At Ellwood, two Confederate Infantry Regiments were left behind when Stonewall Jackson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps moved away following the Flank March after the Battle of Chancellorsville. Dr. John A. Graham was a prominent physician in Lexington, VA prior to his assignment to the 5<sup>th</sup> VA

Exhibit 4 Civil War  
Apothecary Case





Infantry Regiment, one of the Regiments left at the mansion house. Dr. Graham, who was medical-school trained, was placed in charge of this convalescent hospital.

The wounded Civil War soldier, if he was fortunate, was retrieved from the battlefield by his recovery/burial unit and taken to a regimental/brigade hospital. If your wounds were too severe, you might be transported to the corps hospital. At any one of these medical stations a doctor might perform an amputation of your seriously injured arm or leg. Recovery from the wounds and surgery would occur at a convalescent hospital like the one set up at Ellwood.

Authors: Bob Epp/Bob Lookabill/John Kanaster

Date: February 2019

### 3 THE HOSPITAL AT ELLWOOD MANOR (PART 2 OF 2)

After the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863, the Confederate medical staff had at least 132 soldiers who were too severely wounded to be moved. The solution was to create a hospital at the Lacy House/Ellwood roughly one mile from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps hospital at Wilderness Tavern. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps surgeon Harvey Black wrote his wife on the 10 May, “All the wounded have been left under the charge of Dr. Graham (John Alexander Graham) at Major Lacy’s house, a beautiful place, fine house and an ice house well filled.” Dr. Lafayette Guild (Chief Surgeon) wrote to Dr. Samuel Moore (Surgeon General) about the situation on 22 May, “Most of the cases were comminuted fractures of the upper head of the thigh and the thigh amputations. They are comfortably provided for with bedding, bunks, change of clothing, medical supplies & dressings.”

While the hospital at Wilderness Tavern is famous as the site of the amputation of Stonewall Jackson’s arm, it also probably provided most of the supplies and beds for Ellwood. We have a copy of the invoice where tavern owner William Simms was reimbursed for “1000 pailings (sic) (for bunks)” (quotes in original document) used in the beds at the field hospital and by association probably at Ellwood. That is the extent of our knowledge about the hospital itself. Dr. Guild states that by 6 June “only thirty will remain at Ellwood hospital, yet in no condition to be moved”.

The staff was led by Dr. Graham. He graduated from Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1858 and the University of the City of New York

Exhibit 5 Dr. Graham



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Medical Department the following year. He enlisted as assistant surgeon with the Rockbridge County artillery and was ordered to General Jackson's staff in May of 1862. He signed an invoice in August 1863 for reimbursement to J. Horace Lacy for food stuffs consumed at Ellwood hospital. Dr. Graham returned to Lexington after the war and practiced medicine. Another surgeon was Alexander A. McQueen, born in Alabama. He enlisted as Assistant Surgeon on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1861 and transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Battalion on August 18<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Exhibit 6 Examples of Civil War Era Hospitals



One identified patient is Adam Jehu Wilson, a member of Company L of the Fourth Virginia Regiment. On May 3, 1863, he was wounded and his right arm was amputated by Dr. Harvey Black. He survived the war, married and named his second son Harvey Black Wilson. We also know the names of seven men who died while patients. They were buried on the property and later moved to the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg.

It appears the hospital was closed sometime shortly after September 14th 1863, the date of the death of patient Daniel Humphrey. Given Dr. McQueen's transfer on 18 August, it appears the facility was moving toward closure probably with only a few terminal patients remaining.

Authors: Bob Lookabill/John Kanaster/Bob Epp

Date: March 2019



#### 4 CULPEPER BESIEGED: CIVILIANS ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Major General George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac occupied the area around Culpeper, Virginia, during the winter encampment of 1863-1864. Its headquarters and forward logistics base were at Brandy Station, but its camps stretched from Cedar Mountain to Rappahannock Station, today's Remington, VA, and for several miles along both sides of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. It also guarded the railroad between Culpeper and Manassas.

Exhibit 7 Culpeper, Virginia 1862



Meade had a problem. Civilians loyal to the Confederacy lived within his lines. These people were starving. He could not allow them outside of the army's lines to buy food because they might provide intelligence to their Confederate countrymen. Yet, Meade could not feed them because giving aid and comfort to the enemy was treason. By the same token, it was criminal to let them starve.

The army was permitted to feed civilians within their lines if they took an oath of allegiance to the United States. But doing so provoked two questions: (1) would these civilians honor an oath coerced by the threat of starvation; and, (2) could these civilians be protected from Confederate irregulars once the army decamped?

Meade's problem was policy, not logistics. The Orange and Alexandria Railroad could easily handle the requirement to feed the destitute local civilians while still feeding his army's soldiers and animals. Meade's army never numbered over 125,000 soldiers, leaving the capacity to feed 175,000 people, many times more than the wartime population of Culpeper.



Exhibit 8 Brandy Station with Civil War Railroad Rolling Stock and Army Wagons



The problem was recognized well before the winter encampment of 1863-1864. General Orders No. 11, Army of the Potomac, dated February 11, 1863, attempted to solve the problem of providing humanitarian assistance to hostile civilians within the army's lines. The obvious problem with this "solution" was the requirement to take an oath of an allegiance to the United States. The problem continued, and it existed in Warrenton as well as Culpeper.

The problem was finally solved on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1864 when General Order No. 7 was issued by the Army of the Potomac. In non-bureaucratic terms, the Provost Marshall of the Army determined who was destitute and therefore entitled to subsistence from the United States. No oath was required.

Brigadier General James C. Rice optimistically estimated that the civilian population within the army's lines was about 30,000 men, women and children. One trainload of 16 cars per train (the average number of cars per trainload in Virginia at that time) every five days would furnish the needs of the destitute civilians. Thirty-eight wagonloads loaded with 1,756 pounds of food furnished one day's humanitarian rations for 30,000 people.

The Army of the Potomac left winter encampments at midnight, May 3, 1864, just 62 days after finally solving its humanitarian relief problem. Clearly, this is an example of too little too late.

Author: Rod Lackey

Date: April 2019



## 5 LONGSTREET WOUNDED

Early on the morning of May 6, 1864 - the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness - the Army of Northern Virginia faced almost certain disaster. Union General Hancock's 2nd Corps had just routed A.P. Hill's men in Tapp Field, sending the Confederates fleeing back across the field, directly towards General Robert E. Lee's headquarters. Only the timely arrival of General James Longstreet - Lee's "Old War Horse" - rescued the army from defeat.

At the head of Longstreet's column was the famed Texas brigade. As the unit moved to force back the Union masses, Lee attempted to lead the counterattack himself, only to be halted by his men with shouts of "Go back, General Lee, go back!"

It was quite common for Civil War generals on both sides to operate at the very vanguard of their lines, often leading attacks in the thick of combat. The casualty list of commanders killed and wounded is staggering. A few of those killed were: Confederate Army commander A.S. Johnston (Shiloh), generals Stonewall Jackson (Chancellorsville), Armistead, Garnett (Gettysburg), A. P. Hill (Petersburg); Union generals Mansfield (Antietam), Reynolds (Gettysburg), McPherson (Atlanta). John B. Hood, whose Texas brigade led the Confederate charge at the Tapp Field, was wounded twice, losing use of his left arm while at Gettysburg and having a leg amputated at Chickamauga. Union corps commander Dan Sickles lost a leg at Gettysburg. Both had been in the very forefront of the fighting.

Exhibit 9 "Longstreet Wounded" a Print from Longstreet's Memoirs



So it was not unusual for Longstreet himself to reconnoiter his position after his successful counterattack, seeking to turn his rescue mission of that morning into a victory parade that

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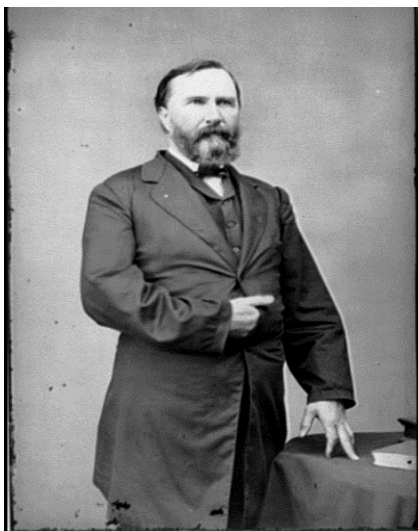


afternoon by rolling up the Union left flank. An unfinished railroad embankment offered an opportunity to move his units through the Wilderness woods and then send them forward, smashing Hancock's already shattered lines.

As Longstreet and members of his staff rode along the Plank Road, the 12th Virginia regiment crossed in front of them, splitting into two halves because of a forest fire. When one of the two forces turned back to reunite with the rest of the regiment, its fellow soldiers mistook them for the enemy and fired on them. Longstreet's group was caught in the deadly crossfire.

A Minie ball pierced Longstreet's right shoulder and exited through his neck. According to one account, he "was actually lifted straight up and came down hard". Still in command of his senses, Longstreet ordered his men to cease fire, but then slumped in his saddle. Aides quickly rushed to dismount him and move him to safety. General Jenkins of Longstreet's party had been shot in the head and killed, as well as another officer and a courier.

Exhibit 10 James Longstreet



This incident was eerily similar to the wounding of Stonewall Jackson, which had occurred a year and four days prior, during the battle of Chancellorsville, May 2, 1863, a short distance from the Longstreet wounding site up past Brock Road along the Orange Turnpike (today's Route 3). Jackson too had launched a successful flank attack and was reconnoitering his front lines when he was mistakenly shot by his own men.

Jackson would linger for eight days after his wounding, finally succumbing on 10 May, 1863. Longstreet would live for another 40 years.

The severity of Longstreet's injuries put him out of action for months. He would not return to the Army of Northern Virginia until October, 1864 but, by then, the Confederacy's situation had become dire. Lee's army could no longer even contemplate the kind of attack that Longstreet undertook on May 6th. It would all end some six months later, on April 9th, 1865, at Appomattox Court House.

Author: Dr. John Yurechko

Date: May 2019



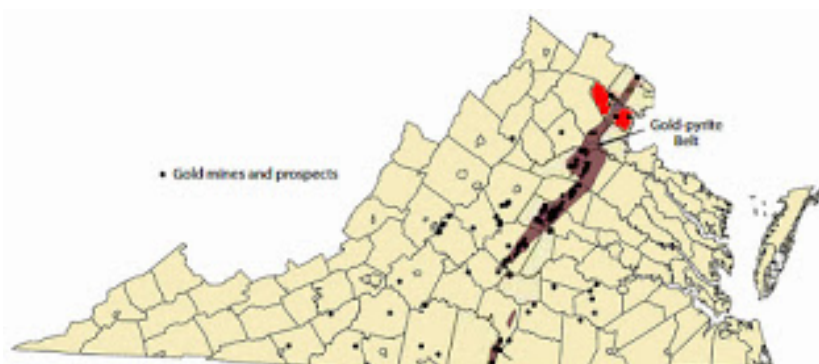
## 6 GOLD! ...IN THE WILDERNESS?

The 1825 discovery of gold along the Germanna Plank Road caused quite a stir in the Wilderness. Soon thereafter a flood of individual miners and land speculators descended on the area. The region was previously known as an iron ore district, developed by Alexander Spotswood in the early 1700s, a man who was intent on expanding the industry in the English colony. Gold, if found, and indeed known, was largely ignored.

So how was it that gold was even present in this part of the world? Without getting too technical there are two forces that created the geologic condition that placed gold in the soils of the Wilderness: they are volcanic and tectonic. The volcanic activity took place 400 million years ago when the region was underwater. Lava flow from submerged volcanoes created the sub-soils that consisted of the pyrite aggregates containing gold. The tectonic forces then raised those submerged soils to the surface where they became accessible for discovery and mining.

Specifically, the low lands along the eastern side of the Allegheny Mountain range (roughly from Frederick County, Virginia, on the Maryland/Virginia border SSW to the area of Atlanta, Georgia) are the historic traces of those volcanic deposits. Most of Virginia's gold mining was in the "gold-pyrite belt", a nine-mile to sixteen-mile-wide, nearly 140 mile-long northeast trending volcanic-plutonic belt that extends from Fairfax County to southwestern Buckingham County. More locally, that zone lies along a line from Goldvein on the north side of the Rappahannock River to the city of Orange, Virginia. The Germanna Plank Road discovery was directly in the middle of that zone.

Exhibit 11 Gold-Pyrite Belt of Virginia







Three styles of mining occurred in the Wilderness: 1) pan mining (also known as placer mining) took place in the small streams such as the Flat and Wilderness Runs; 2) Surface or strip mines along the surface where veins of the gold-laden soils could be detected; 3) and lastly, deep shaft mining, where shafts were dug as deep as 300 feet in one local mine.

The actual profitability of these mining operations varied. Local Historian Frank Walker contends that there was more profit realized by the speculators than there was ever pocketed by the actual miners. When the mining companies are researched, one discovers that they were financed through massive sales of bonds, and when fully capitalized, they were often marketed to the next speculator who came along. Virginia Corporate records show that ownership and company names changed frequently in the first 25 years of mining operations.

Exhibit 12 Rappahannock Gold Mining Company Stock Certificate



Innovation in mining technology did have its era in the Wilderness. Stephen Ambler, a New Yorker, came to the area and while working at the Woodville Mine and later his own mine, developed a new separator machine. At the Vacluse mine, a large (and unique) steam engine driven mechanism was placed in operation. The engine was later purchased by Henry Ford and removed to his museum in Michigan.

[The second article will focus on local mines and their miners.]

Author: Bob Epp

Date: June 2019



## 7 ORANGE BLOSSOMS

A volunteer regiment in the Civil War was a soldier's home away from home. The volunteers often came from the same neighborhoods or towns and gave themselves names and outfits to distinguish themselves from all other regiments in the army. One of the most famous and colorful is the Zouaves. The first Zouave regiment in the Civil War, the 9th New York Volunteer Infantry or Hawkin's Zouaves, was mustered in on April 23, 1861.

Exhibit 13 Uniform of Hawkin's Zouaves



The 124<sup>th</sup> New York State Volunteer Infantry (N.Y.S.V.I.) Regiment was formed in Orange County, New York, and mustered into the United States Army on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1862. They were commonly known as the “Orange Blossoms.” The regiment's history is famously woven into Civil War literature. Stephen Crane listened to the stories of the Orange Blossom's veterans after the war and incorporated them into *The Red Badge of Courage*, his classic book about the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Infantry regiments numbered about 1,000 soldiers when they entered Federal service. Statistics assembled after the Civil War document that a regiment totaling 1,000 men averaged 662 combat infantrymen and 338 support troops but losses from within the ranks (killed, wounded, disease and missing in action) often reduced the number to an average of 660 or a loss of thirty seven percent (37%).



Exhibit 14 Brigade Flag of 124th NYSVI, the “Orange Blossoms”



The Overland Campaign began with the Battle of the Wilderness, which was fought on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Orange Blossom regiment, which started with 930 men in 1862, broke camp at Culpeper at 11:00 p.m. on the night of Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1864 with a total of 406 officers and men and marched 20 miles from their camps and crossed Ely’s Ford on pontoon bridges. They broke for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. on May 4<sup>th</sup>, after an eleven-hour march, averaging a respectable 1¾ miles per hour, and were on their way again by 11:00. They bivouacked on the old Chancellorsville battlefield at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday afternoon.

The Orange Blossoms fought along the Old Plank Road, west of the intersection with the Brock Road, as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the Second Corps. The opposing armies marched for Spotsylvania Court House during the night hours of May the 7<sup>th</sup>.

During its service, the regiment was active at the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. They fought in the Appomattox Campaign and were present during the Battle of Appomattox Courthouse. The regiment of 130 officers and men was mustered out on June 3, 1865 near Washington, DC. The total enrollment during service was 1,320, of whom 516 were killed or wounded or thirty nine percent (39%) of its enrolled force.

Author: Rod Lackey

Date: August 2019



## 8 WHENCE THE WILDERNESS TAVERN?

Today, thousands of vehicles pass through the Wilderness Tavern site daily. However, unless the occupants of those vehicles brake and pull off into the small roadside parking lot along the east-bound lanes of modern day Route 3 just east of the intersection with Route 20, they will certainly miss entirely what remains of the old tavern complex.

So what do we know about the origin of the original tavern? Local historian Frank Walker in his tome *“Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia”* notes that “by the mid-seventeen hundreds, long wagon trains were rumbling through the Rapidan shallows at Germanna” destined to the Spotswood and Lord Fairfax lands beyond. Clearly, commercial activity along the route encouraged the construction of a tavern.

In the early 1770s young William Jones, eventual owner of the Ellwood Manor property, on a mission for his Uncle William Churchill, traveled the road. Jones may very well have required accommodations at the tavern for himself and his horse.

National Park Historian Ralph Happel conducted extensive research on the tavern site in the 1930s. His findings suggest that there were a minimum of four buildings along with a couple of stables at the complex. Two buildings were situated on the north side of the local roadway and two on the south side. Happel notes that the tavern was no longer in operation by the beginning of the 1864 Wilderness Battle. The completion of the Orange Plank Road (modern day Rt. 621) in the 1850s had drawn away some of the former traffic (and business) that traveled the old Turnpike.

Exhibit 15 Near the Wilderness Tavern During the Civil War



Local resident Isaac Jones rented one of the buildings for a brief time in the 1850s; Isaac and his family were burned out of the residence at the nearby old Jones Mill and sought one of the tavern buildings as a temporary residence. Deed and Census records show that the William Simms family owned the property by 1860.



In May, 1863, the tavern site became famous as the property where General “Stonewall” Jackson’s left arm was amputated. Jackson’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps hospital was arrayed in the fields around the old tavern building; some 3,000 Confederate soldiers are said to have been injured during the Chancellorsville Battle and brought to the hospital complex. Upon hearing of Jackson’s wounding, a special tent was erected nearby the house and the Simms’ dining room table was moved there. The operation took place on the table.

Meanwhile, the building that the Simms family was residing in was also utilized as a hospital. One of the young Simms girls recounted having snuck down the stairs to observe the medical happenings, only to fall and injure herself.

**Exhibit 16 Remnant of Wilderness Tavern Outbuilding**



Morris Schaff, a Staff Officer with the Federal 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, visited the site in the 1880s and commented in his book *The Battle of the Wilderness* that the tavern building was no longer in use as a commercial facility at the time of the 1864 battle. The building across the road evolved as a general store and had become the sustaining endeavor of a number of tavern occupants.

Aside from the remnant of the chimney at the Route 3 pull-off, and the Simms table now on display at the Gettysburg Battlefield Museum, the only other public

vestige of the old tavern site is the piece of jewelry on display at the Ellwood Manor house. It was discovered during the modern widening of the highway.

Author: Bob Epp

Date: September 2019





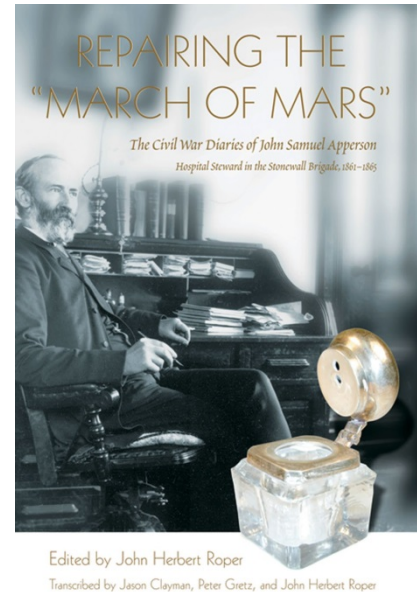
## 9 DIARIES OF SUPPORT

We generally think of the Civil War in terms of the battles. Yet we often forget the time after battles when civilian families organized to support the wounded. Two personal diaries give examples from the Wilderness area after the Battle of Chancellorsville:

### Exhibit 17 Diary of John Samuel Apperson

John Samuel Apperson, a son of the Alfred Apperson family of Locust Grove, wrote a personal diary, primarily accounting for his experiences during the Civil War. He served as a Medical Steward in the 4th VA Infantry Regiment, and was responsible for daily record keeping for his regiment as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade under which the 4th served.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, commanded by Gen Thomas Jackson, in late April, 1863, when Jackson led the Corps on the famous “Flank March.” Apperson was a Medical Stewart on Dr. Harvey Black’s staff. As the wounded were brought back to the Wilderness Hospital from the fields at Chancellorsville, Apperson worked tirelessly in the medical tents. He reported occasional meals supplied by women residing locally. As the action wound down on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Apperson visited the Woodville (Hospital) Barn. He mentioned his meeting local ladies, Mrs. Henry Roach and her sister, Mrs. Sanders, who were returning home after visiting the wounded at the hospital.



Capt. John Melhorn, a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry Regiment also kept a diary of his wartime experiences and was recovering at the Wilderness hospital complex from his injuries suffered on May 3rd. Melhorn mentioned that he was brought back to the Wilderness Tavern and Ellwood for treatment. He reported that a “Mr. Buckner of Raccoon Ford” was the supplier of foods and other stuffs that were delivered to the injured troops at the 1863 Wilderness hospital complex.

Most likely, the “Mr. Buckner” referenced in the Melhorn diary was C. C. Buckner. He had a checkered civil war history. He first enlisted in 1861, in both the 46th and 59th regiments; it is not clear as to the extent that he served with either regiment. He appears to have had a lengthy break in service before being conscripted with the 7<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. It would have been during that interruption in service that he sought to provide support to the Wilderness hospital.





Exhibit 18 A Union (2<sup>nd</sup> Corps) Field Hospital on the Battlefield of Chancellorsville



His inclination to support the troops apparently stood him well with the Confederate Military leadership. Soon after his joining the 7<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry, he was detailed to the Quartermaster Department for a month. At a later point, he boasted to his Raccoon Ford neighbors that his horses were the better animals available. It seems that his horses were requisitioned before the equine stock of his neighbors.

Buckner's Obituary infers that he attained the military rank of Major, probably a result of his service with the Quartermaster Department. His Wilderness neighbor, J. Horace Lacy, attained a similar rank during his quarter master assignment.

Civilians are known to have been extremely active in supporting both the Union and Confederate armies during the long war period. The diaries of both Apperson and Melhorn are documented examples of that support following the 1863 Chancellorsville military actions.

Author: Bob Epp

Date: November 2019



## 10 GREENFIELD

The modern-day community of Fawn Lake in western Spotsylvania County is a community with a 288-acre lake formed by the damming of the creek that runs through it. It borders the Wilderness Battlefield to its west and sits south and west of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. However, long before it became Fawn Lake, the area was known as Greenfield.

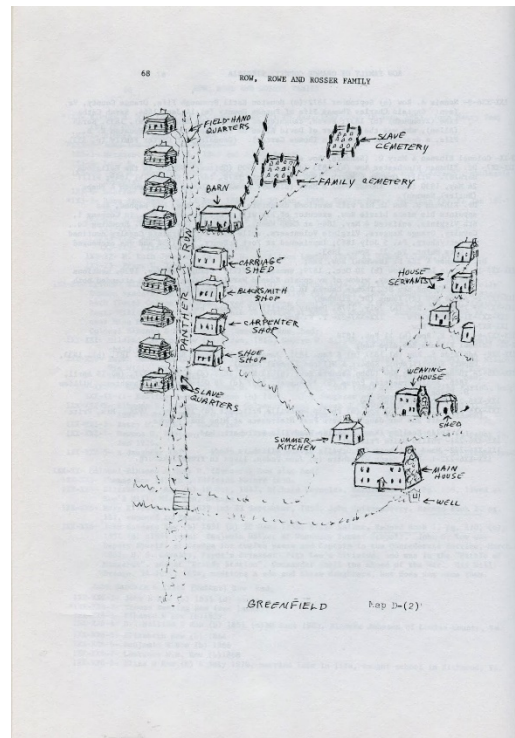
In 1795 the property was owned by Edward Herndon, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth and was sold in February of that year to Richard Estes. At that time, Greenfield consisted of 337 acres. Upon the death of Richard Estes in 1832, his son-in-law, Absalom Row purchased the three tracts of land comprising Greenfield and lived there with his wife Nancy Estes Row until his death in 1855.

Nancy Row became the executor of Absalom's will and proved to be a competent and conscientious custodian of her husband's estate until her death in 1873. The estate and land remained in the Row family until 1905 when, despite the efforts of Absalom "Abbie" Row, Nancy Estes Row's grandson, mounting debts forced the sale of the property. From then until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Greenfield passed through a number of hands until it became the development called Fawn Lake in the early 1990's.

So, what did Greenfield look like?

Unfortunately, no photographs of the old place are known to exist. We do know that the property extended along modern Jackson Trail West from Brock Road to Orange Plank Road. Mabel Row Wakeman, great aunt of the author, left detailed descriptions of what Greenfield looked like. She provided WPA researcher Mildred Barnum with the basis of her report on Greenfield in January 1937. In addition, Mabel also shared a great deal of information with Roger Mansfield in her correspondence with him during the 1950s and 1960s. Her efforts enabled Roger to sketch a view of Greenfield and also write a short history of the place.

Exhibit 19 Sketch of Greenfield





“The house was of frame construction, a two-story affair with a basement and a shed room on the west end. The house, which faced north, was said to be inconveniently laid out, a fact which did not seem to bother its owners until after Emancipation. The road into Greenfield arrived at the well yard, where a beautiful flower garden had been planted. Three large blocks of locust wood served as carriage steps. On the east side stood a log weaving house with two porches. The kitchen had a dirt floor and had two stories - the cook lived upstairs. There was an ice house on Panther Run, which had been dammed to create an artificial pond. South of the main house were the shops and the slave quarters. The cabins where the slaves lived were screened from view by a stand of trees. All of the provisions and the outbuildings were kept under lock and key. A former slave remembered how Nancy Estes Row used to bustle about the plantation with her keys jingling.”

None of the original buildings still exist but there is a fence built around the Greenfield family cemetery. There is another cemetery to the right of this one as you face the dam that is the final resting place of the enslaved people who lived and worked there. That is all that remains today of Greenfield.

Exhibit 20 Greenfield Family Cemetery



[Editor’s note: This article is condensed from information at Spotsylvania Memory (<http://spotsylvaniamemory.blogspot.com/>). FoWB is indebted to Mr. Sullivan for permission to publish.]

Author: Pat Sullivan

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