

History in our Backyard

2020



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.



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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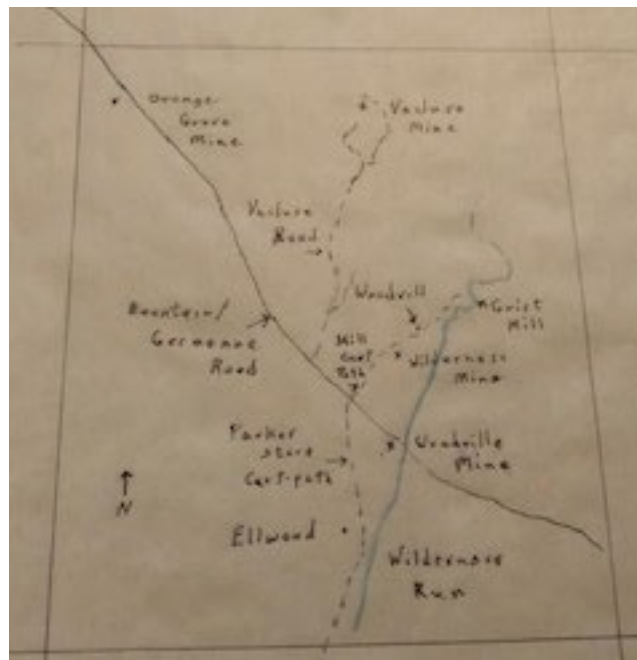


1 GOLD MINES AND THEIR MINERS

An earlier article -- *GOLD! ...In the Wilderness?* dated June 2019 -- dealt with the discovery of gold in our region. This article presents some information about the gold mines and their miners.

The most recent Virginia Division of Mineral Resources report on *Gold in Virginia* was published in 1980 and authored by Palmer C. Sweet. It contained brief information on all known gold mines in Virginia. Of those mines located within the local Wilderness area, the most prominent were the Woodville, Vacluse, Orange Grove and Wilderness mines. Here are some facts on each of them.

Exhibit 1 Sketch of Gold Mine Locations



The Woodville Mine was probably the initial mine opened in the local Wilderness area. William Jones of Ellwood, the owner of the property, probably designated his son-in-law Judge Coulter to manage the mining operations. It was spread across what is now the Route 3 corridor near the present-day McDonalds and Sheetz gas station. A Civil War era map refers to the location as the Quartz mill. Stephen Ambler, mentioned in the previous article, was engaged in the pre-Civil War operation, perhaps as a representative of a New York-based investment company. By 1849 the mine was owned by Col. John P. Adams, who was interested in selling. The mine comprised ten veins and a 64 by 40 foot building that contained the ore-processing equipment.



The Vacluse mine was initially founded on the Benjamin Grymes property along the upper reaches of Rt.667 (Vacluse Road) and mining operations began in the early 1830s. Mr. Grymes was a close friend of William Jones and may have shared experiences in organizing mining operations. Dr. Peyton Grymes, Benjamin's son, sold a portion of his properties to a mining company. By 1848 the Vacluse was said to be one of the best equipped and most extensively worked mines in Virginia. It boasted a one-hundred-twenty horsepower Cornish condensing mining engine. Various descriptions of the mine describe the facility as being a self-contained city with stores, medical assistance, barracks for the hired help along with the milling buildings. The mine was sold to the Liberty Mining Company and in 1853 the mine was crushing 50 tons of ore and realizing about \$400 of gold daily.

The Orange Grove mine has a checkered history, being located on the property of the former Lt Governor Spotswood. Some reports combine it with the Vacluse mine operations. Sweet located the mine near the current boat ramp on Lake of the Woods. Local historian Pete Rainey has concluded that the mine is below lake level. The mine would be within the boundaries of John R. Spotswood's original estate. The 1850 federal census enumerates one Robert Hartshorn of New Jersey as a goldminer under Spotswood's enumeration; a classic owner/foreman relationship.

The Wilderness Mine was located southeast of the Vacluse Mine, on the west side of Wilderness Run. Sweet reported that he found two open shafts and several caved pits at the site. He also observed concrete foundations and pyrite dumps. In 1923 there was a 125 foot shaft. Recent visits to the site reflect that a fenced pump-house remains near the old shaft.

There were another 10 mine sites in the Wilderness region, all with stories of their own. Virginia was a leading producer of gold through the 1830-40s. After the Civil War, exploitation of the Wilderness mines persisted into the 1930s. By that time, the mining operations of the Western mines were much larger and much more efficient than those of the Eastern mines and the latter mines quietly faded into history.

Author: Bob Epp

Date: January 2020



2 SURGERY AND AMPUTATION DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Of the 620,000 men - 360,000 Northerners and 260,000 Southerners - who died during the Civil War, approximately 110,000 Union and 94,000 Confederate men died of wounds received in battle. Out of the approximately 175,000 wounds to the extremities received among Federal troops, about 30,000 led to amputation; roughly the same proportion occurred in the Confederacy.

Perhaps the most famous amputation was that of the left arm of Confederate General “Stonewall” Jackson, whose arm lies buried in the Lacy family plot at Ellwood Plantation. While the story of the mistaken shooting of the famous general during the Battle of Chancellorsville is intriguing, less understanding exists as to why his arm had to be removed (his wounds were probably not life threatening), and further why amputation seemed such a common practice during the Civil War. The answers to these questions may be related to two factors present then; the nature of Civil War wounds, and 1860’s knowledge and practice regarding infection.

First, Civil War weapons could inflict massive injuries. A Civil War rifle was designed to fire a single round of a rather large projectile over a limited range. Compared to the standard American rifle used today of about .22 caliber, most rifles used then ranged from .50 to .60 caliber. Jackson was shot twice in the arm and it is likely that arm suffered extensive injury with shattered bones, torn flesh and ruptured arteries. A wound to an arm or leg could render the limb a shattered appendage. Although a last resort, amputation was sometimes considered an improvement over facing life with a useless and often handicapped limb.

A second factor was the level of medical help available. A Surgeon General once remarked that, “medical science and skills during the Civil War were just leaving the dark ages.” Surgeons then were not necessarily doctors, and even doctors had only two years of training. Certification and licensing were nonexistent. Worse yet, knowledge of infection and the means to treat it were just beginning and gunshot wounds often drove contaminating matter into the body. Most doctors and surgeons believed that chemical damage from bad air was responsible for infection. Hospitals were regularly aired out while simple sanitary measures were often ignored. Surgeons performed multiple operations with bloody hands and filthy gowns believing they testified to their experience. They took pride in the “good old surgical stink” which often permeated their medical clothing. Infection was common, and if infection set in, the common treatment was amputation of the infected joint or limb.



Exhibit 2 Stonewall Jackson's Convalescence



Jackson's surgeon reported the arm was badly damaged in a statement made in 1886. He made no mention of infection, so it appears that trauma, not infection, brought about the amputation. Given the General's rank and esteem it is likely he received the best treatment available at the time, but to no avail. He died on May 10, 1863 at Guinea Station where he had been moved to continue convalescence.

It is generally agreed Jackson died of pneumonia or sepsis. Modern physicians have tended to confirm that diagnosis. Most add that the shock of amputation, questionable sanitary conditions, and the lack of antibiotics probably contributed to his decline. General Jackson became another statistic in a war that claimed the lives of 1 of 4 who participated in that carnage.

For more information, please refer to:

Jackson's Treatment: McGuire, Hunter, [The Death of General "Stonewall" Jackson](#) (Southern Historical Society Papers) Vol XIV January-February 1886

<http://www.thomaslegion.net/deathofgeneralthomasjonathanjackson.html>

Civil War Wounds and Treatment: <https://civilwarhome.com/civilwarmedicine.htm>

Medical, Surgical History: Porter, Roy, [Blood and Guts](#) (W. W. Norton and Co. 2002)

Author: Ken Burnett

Date: February 2020



3 WHEN GETTY SAVED THE ARMY

Major General George W. Getty was a professional U.S. Army officer and a combat veteran of the Mexican War, the Seminole Wars, and the Civil War. At the time of the 1864 Overland Campaign, he was commanding the 2nd Division, 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Getty saved the Army of the Potomac from being cut in two at about one o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, May 5th, 1864, at the Battle of the Wilderness.

On the evening of May 4th, Getty's Division encamped on Flat Run, a spot that today is slightly northeast of the dam of the main lake at Lake of the Woods. Early on the morning of May 5th, Getty received orders directly from General Meade to "...hasten to the junction of the Orange Court House and Germanna Plank Roads..." with his three remaining brigades. The urgency of the situation is shown by the fact that Meade, who was headquartered near the intersection of the Germanna Plank Road and the Orange Turnpike, bypassed the normal chain of command and sent orders directly to Getty.

Exhibit 3 Major-General George W. Getty

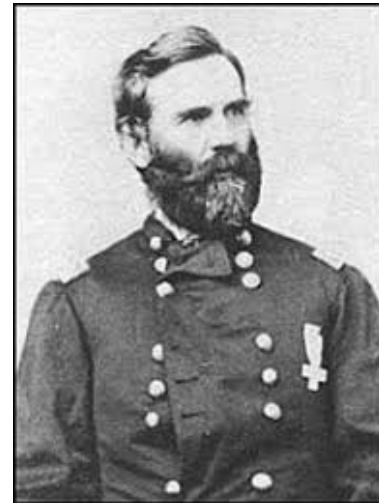
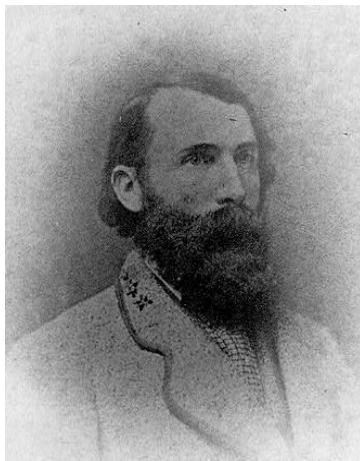


Exhibit 4 Lieutenant General A. P. Hill



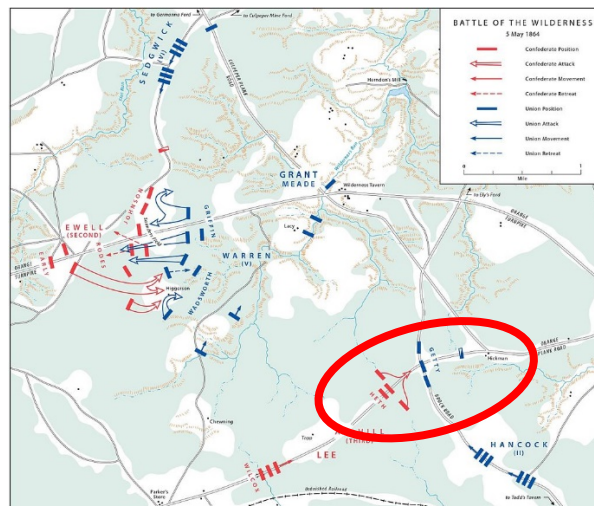
What Getty did not know was that he was about to single-handedly face the 25,000-man 3rd Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by Lieutenant General A. P. Hill. The Confederates had about a four-to-one local advantage along the Orange Plank Road during the early afternoon of May 5th, 1864. Hill's advance from Parker's store on the Orange Plank Road could split Hancock's 2nd Corps, which was marching a little east on the Catharpin Road, off from the rest of the Army of the Potomac. If the Confederates defeated Hancock in detail, it might precipitate a retreat across the Rappahannock like Hooker had done after Chancellorsville and Burnside had done after Fredericksburg.



As Getty's Division approached the crossroads of Brock road and Orange Court House plank road, he found Union cavalry hastily retiring as Confederate skirmishers appeared rapidly advancing to gain possession of this point. Getty's small retinue, consisting of his staff and orderlies, served to delay their advance for a few minutes, during which time one of his brigades was brought up, faced to the front, poured in a volley and drove back the enemy's advance.

The map below shows the position of the Union and Confederate forces on May 5th, 1864. The heavy red oval indicates the stance of Getty's single division against the full strength of A.P. Hill's 3rd Corps.

Exhibit 5 Battle of the Wilderness 5 May 1864



As stated by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel William M. Swan in his papers, “Our army had not been cut in two.”

[Much of this story is told by Getty himself. His words can be read in the United States War Department's *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington, Series I, Volume 36, Part 1, pages 676-678.]

Author: Rod Lackey

Date: March 2020

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4 THE RIFLE MUSKET IN LOCAL BATTLES

One of the technical innovations in the Civil War was the wide use of the rifle musket. The weapon greatly increased the effective range and accuracy of firearms. Placing grooves (rifling) within the barrel, and using a streamlined projectile produced a weapon capable of hitting a target hundreds of yards away. Existing guns shooting a round ball were only accurate up to 100-150 yards. Many thought the new weapons would change the way battles were fought. But a review of local battles would indicate that was not so.

Exhibit 6 The 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket, the most common Union arm.



Four major battles, (Fredericksburg, 1862, Chancellorsville, 1863, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse, both 1864) occurred in the local area. While both armies fought with a variety of arms, by 1864 most infantry units on both sides were equipped with rifle muskets. If the new weapons were as effective as promised one would think significant changes would occur in the period, yet few changes are evident. Both armies remained organized along European lines and continued to use tactics developed there. Infantry attacked in solid ranks and most combat occurred in relatively close quarters. A review of battle reports for the 1864-5 period concluded that the average range when firing commenced was 140 yards. One significant change is evident. It is the tendency of the soldiers and units to erect field fortifications. An officer noted, “From 1864 forward, wherein as soon as a soldier came under fire, he used his tin cup and plate to carve out a shallow trench protected by a small mound of earth.” This inclination became more evident at Spotsylvania and subsequently at Cold Harbor and the eventual siege at Petersburg.

The rifled musket did not reach its potential during the Civil War and certainly did not in the four local battles. Its failure to do so was probably a result of institutional conservatism, poor training, and a failure of leadership to understand and use its potential. The Union chief of Ordinance advocated the older smoothbore muskets as the standard rifle for infantry. Neither side practiced rifle training. This was not so critical for Confederate soldiers, who had often hunted, but was particularly damaging among Union forces, many of whom had never seen a

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rifle. Some on both sides did see the opportunities afforded by the new weapons. There are instances where commanders had their men pause and commence firing at greater ranges, or used the weapons to neutralize artillery, and a few adopted rifle training programs patterned after a British model.

The use, or misuse, of the many technological advances in the Civil War makes for interesting reading. The following books are available from local libraries and the first and last listed give very different interpretations on the use of technology.

For more information, please refer to:

Allen, Thomas B, and Allen Roger McBride, Mr. Lincoln's High Tech War, National Geographic Books, New York, 2009.

Bilby, Joseph G., Civil War Firearms, Combined Books, New York, 1996.

Nosworthy, Brent, The Bloody Crucible of Courage, Avalon Publishing Group, New York, 2003.

Author: Ken Burnett

Date: May 2020



5 BASEBALL ON SAUNDERS BATTLEFIELD

Yes, baseball was played on the Saunders Battlefield. But the question is, when?

The American Civil War is credited, in large part, with the spread of the sport that became known as “America’s Pastime.” Dates are inconclusive, but the game was evolving in the 1840s, mostly, but not exclusively, in the Northern States. Official clubs existed in New Orleans by 1859. A number of earlier games involving a bat and ball may have contributed to the development including an English game known as “Rounders.” Soldiers’ diaries noted that baseball games were played nearly every day, weather permitting. The sport was so popular that Union troops were known to carry a bat and ball with them in their personal gear. (Gloves did not become fashionable until after the beginning of the 20th Century. Up until then, the players were too “manly” to consider the use of gloves.)

There are several pictorial examples of baseball games taking place within Northern units as well as between Union and Confederate military units. The National Museum of American History holds a lithograph produced by the Otto Boettcher (or Boetticher) Lithographic firm and published by the firm Saxony, Major, & Knapp and dated as mid-1862. The game pictured in the print was played at Salisbury Confederate Prison in North Carolina.

Exhibit 7 Otto Boettcher Lithograph of Baseball Game during the Civil War



At Fort Pulaski (Georgia), members of the 48th NY Infantry Regiment were photographed playing in 1863. As Company H was being photographed other members of the Regiment can be seen playing in the background of the photo.



Early the following year, baseball games were reported to have been played in the Union camps in the Culpeper (Virginia) vicinity. A version of a “box score” was exhibited in an edition of the May 7 New York Clipper newspaper of an April 25th match. The competitors were the New York State Militia’s 14th and 9th Regiments. One John Grindell, “our” famous New York pedestrian “reported that though the day was windy the soldier boys had some excellent sport, victory finally perching on the banners of the gallant 14th.”

Exhibit 8 “Box score” in NY Clipper newspaper

grounds, which is a very philosophical view of the case. Below will be found the score:

FOURTEENTH N. Y. S. M.				NINTH N. Y. S. M.			
O.	R.			O.	R.		
Spowers, p.....	6	2		Connolly, p.....	2	4	
Bennett, c.....	2	3		Baines, c.....	5	3	
Long, 1st b.....	5	3		J. Tompson, 1st b.....	4	4	
McGuire, 2d b.....	2	4		Joyce, 2d b.....	3	4	
Brown, 3d b.....	3	4		Blaney, 3d b.....	4	3	
Slattery, s s.....	2	4		Tabelle, s s.....	1	5	
Welsh, r f.....	5	1		Biggs, r f.....	4	4	
Cottier, l f.....	1	4		Vredenburgh, l f.....	2	5	
Baldwin, c f.....	1	4		G. Tompson, c f.....	2	4	
Total.....	29			Total.....	36		

BUNS MADE IN EACH INNINGS.

	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.
Fourteenth Regiment.....	4	2	0	3	5	4	5	4	2-29
Ninth Regiment.....	1	6	5	0	7	4	3	6	4-36

Umpire—Lieut. A. M. Burtis, Q. M. Ninth N. Y.
 Scorer for the Fourteenth—John H. Fisher.
 “ “ Ninth—F. O. Flood.

A SECOND MATCH between the nine of the Ninth N. Y. S. M. and the Fourteenth N. Y. S. M. was played on the same day.

Confederate troops were introduced to the sport in Union prison camps. Reports of games played between the Union Prison Guards and the Confederate prisoners became common. This hastened the spread of the game across the country. Games were played among Union troops in Texas early in the war.

So, when was baseball played on the Saunders Battlefield? Certainly, it wasn’t during the famous Battle of the Wilderness in 1864! In fact, it was about 90 years later when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occupied the area. The CCC units were responsible for clearing much of the area of residual detritus of the great battle, as well as engineering the Hill-Ewell road through the battlefield.

A 1938 aerial photograph of the battlefield shows the CCC camp’s buildings and a cleared area across the Constitution highway. Although the resolution of the photography is not of sufficient quality to allow the identification of the features of a baseball field, it is clearly the only part of the battlefield where there is no restricting vegetation.

So, baseball was played on the Saunders battlefield, as it was also played in each of the CCC camps that were located on what is now the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Park.

Author: Bob Epp

Date: June 2020



6 A DIFFERENT BATTLE AT SAUNDERS FIELD

Incongruity at its utmost.

During a battle at Saunders Field, the Union and Confederate forces stopped shooting to watch two men duke it out.

The Union forces had opened fire on the Confederates, and in a panic, one of the men jumped into a gully for cover. When he got inside, though, he realized that he wasn't alone. A Union soldier was already hiding inside, and now two men on opposite sides were covering in a hole together.

Exhibit 9 Trenches in The Wilderness



The men started bickering. Each one was pretty sure that he had captured the other, but neither could agree on who had captured whom. So they decided to settle it the old-fashioned way. They would have—in their words—“a regular fist and skull fight.”

The sight of two soldiers climbing out of a gully and beating each other in the head was so baffling that both armies stopped shooting. For a moment, both sides just watched as the men beat the hell out of each other.

The Confederate soldier knocked down the Union soldier. He gave in, and the two men, agreeing on the winner, went back into hiding. As soon as they did, the war started up once more. The two men hid in the gully together until the battle was over. Then, true to his word, the Union soldier presented himself as a prisoner.

Author: Shelby Foote (Facebook)

Date: July 2020



7 AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

Major engagements of the Battle of the Wilderness conclude on the evening of May 6th 1864. After some skirmishes on May 7th, Grant withdraws from the field which is usually the action of the defeated side. The pontoon bridges have been moved downstream and the guns at Ellwood have been limbered. Yet, as Saturday continues, unlike his predecessors since 1861, it becomes clear that retreat is not the course of action Grant is about to take.

Grant plans to take the initiative from Lee. He will move towards Richmond obliging Lee to move to protect his capitol. His objective is Spotsylvania Courthouse, some twelve miles from where he is standing. He must beat Lee to Spotsylvania, fortify and prepare for an attack, as the works would stand between Lee and Richmond. The plan is for Warren's division to lead followed by Hancock's. Sedgwick will head towards Chancellorsville then south. Burnside is tasked with protecting the supply trains.

Sheridan and his cavalry, meanwhile, will be the probe in the dark. The emphasis is on silence and speed in the Union Army's attempt to outmaneuver Robert E. Lee. Soon Lee's army begins to realize Grant's intention. Now Jeb Stuart's cavalry will play an outsized roll in the race to Spotsylvania. It will be in all likelihood his finest

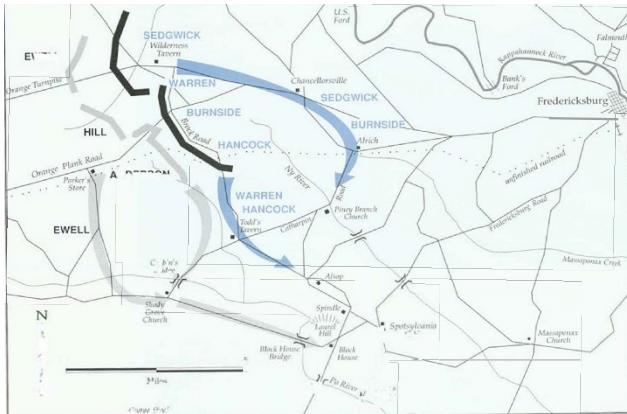
hour. His cavalry has three divisions headed by Wade Hampton, Fitz Lee and W.H.F. Lee, the commanding general's nephew and son, respectively. Their job was two-fold; protect the Confederate march and impede the federals. He splits the six brigades, three to accompany the column and three to block and bedevil. It soon becomes apparent that Fitz Lee's two brigades are opposing a four-division corps of infantry preceded by a calvary force half again his size. He has his men fell trees as well as take pot shots at the blue troops, significantly slowing the advance. Confederate Brigadier General Rosser of Hamptons Division is sent to Spotsylvania under instructions to hold until Andersons Division arrives. As the columns move, they are now a scant two miles from Spotsylvania and finally on open ground, a significant advantage to the much larger federal force. Fitz Lee has his men build barricades all the while awaiting Anderson. To this point it had been largely a calvary vs calvary affair, with the boys in gray holding their own against a much larger force, and one with superior rapid-fire weapons.

Exhibit 10 Fitz Lee and WHF Lee





Exhibit 11 From Wilderness to Spotsylvania Courthouse



The two armies are converging on Alsop, a crossroad just west of Spotsylvania Courthouse. The army that gets there first will hold the road to Richmond. Anderson's two divisions have covered nine miles in the dark. As they break for a meager breakfast a courier arrives urging them to hurry. Fitz Lee can no longer hold. They arrive 1 minute before the Federal's and knock them back, but the larger Federal force masses for a 2nd assault. Meanwhile at Spotsylvania Rossum's Brigade has been pushed out of town by blue infantry. The Union now holds

Spotsylvania. Surprisingly they ultimately withdraw thinking they have been lured into a trap. Back at Alsop, second and third assaults by the federal troops are repulsed. It is past 5:00 PM. Both armies are now significantly entrenched about 1 ½ miles north of the Spotsylvania Courthouse. No more action is ahead as day turns to night.

It has been a terribly busy Sunday May 8th indeed. In fact, a remarkably busy week. Just seven days earlier Grant had not yet crossed the river. Much has happened since. The Battle of the Wilderness is over. The Overland Campaign is now in full force. Lee has won the race to Spotsylvania. General Lee sends a telegram too Jefferson Davis in Richmond. "With the blessing of God, I trust we shall be able to prevent General Grant from reaching Richmond". The 14 days of the bloody battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse is about to begin.

Author: Jeff Kramer

Date: August 2020



8 BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS: WADSWORTH MONUMENT

Of the eight National Park Service monuments that are on the Wilderness Battlefield, one of the least visited and often overlooked is the Wadsworth Monument. Located on Orange Plank Road, west of the historic Brock Road intersection and just past Wilderness Park Drive road, it denotes a significant event during the intense fighting of the battle.

The words on the monument, with his profile facing west towards the enemy, do not tell the full story of the highest ranking officer to be mortally wounded and subsequently die at the Battle of the Wilderness.

Exhibit 12 Wadsworth Monument



James S. Wadsworth was born on October 30, 1807 to wealthy parents in Genesco in western New York State. He attended and studied law at both Harvard University and Yale University and was admitted to the bar. Wadsworth spent his prewar years managing his family's estate, became a philanthropist and entered politics, becoming a presidential elector for Abraham Lincoln. In 1861, when the war became inevitable, Wadsworth considered it his duty to volunteer.

Despite his complete lack of military experience at the outbreak of the Civil War, Wadsworth was commissioned a major general in the New York State militia in May 1861. Subsequently, he was commissioned a brigadier general of volunteers, commanded the Military District of Washington, was appointed commander of the 1st Division, I Corps in December 1862 and saw combat at the Battle of Chancellorsville and, more substantially, at the Battle of Gettysburg. When the Army of the Potomac was reorganized in March 1864, Wadsworth was named commander of the 4th Division of Major General Gouverneur K. Warren's V Corps.

Early on the morning of May 6, 1864, the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, General Grant ordered an attack towards and along the Orange Plank Road. Wadsworth's division was attacking at 5am on May 6 to flank Confederate Lieutenant General A.P. Hill's III Corps. At about 12:45pm Wadsworth was rallying his troops when he was shot in the back of his head. Wadsworth fell mortally wounded from his horse and was reported dead and left on the field. The agony of Wadsworth's last two days was just beginning.

At the end of the day, the Confederates held the field where Wadsworth lay. He was found "alive" and unconscious, but before being moved to a Confederate field hospital his pockets were rifled and his buttons and rank were taken from his uniform.



Exhibit 13 Scene of Wadsworth's Wounding Along Orange Plank Road



Wadsworth would lie in a Confederate III Corps field hospital along the Orange Plank Road near Parker's Store. On May 7, Pat McCracken, a farmer along the Orange Plank Road heard that Wadsworth was in the military hospital and wanted to leave him milk and other sustenance to help relieve the suffering. Ironically, Pat McCracken was arrested for spying for the Confederacy in Washington in 1862. This arrest was during the time Wadsworth was commander of Washington and he released McCracken on a promise to return to his home in Spotsylvania County. Now that small act had an impact on Wadsworth's final time in Virginia.

When Wadsworth died on May 8, 1864, his body was finally allowed to be taken by McCracken and be buried on his farm. When on May 14, the Union representatives were able to retrieve Wadsworth's body, McCracken was able to provide the remains for travel to Fredericksburg. Wadsworth was then buried in the family plot in the Temple Hill Cemetery, Geneseo, NY.

As early as 1888, veterans of the First Corps, Wadsworth's first command, proposed erecting a monument to the General and placing it in the Wilderness where Wadsworth received his mortal wound. The Wadsworth Monument was erected instead by the General's grandson and namesake, Congressman James Wadsworth, who placed and erected the current monument marker at his own expense late in 1936 where it is today. The monument and land were incorporated into the National Park in 1941.

Author: Peter Kolakowski

Date: October 2020



9 LESSER KNOWN MONUMENTS: FREDERICKSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY

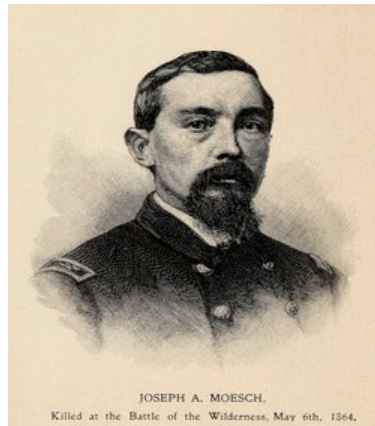
The Fredericksburg National Cemetery has monuments and graves of those killed at the Battle of the Wilderness. Of the 3,461 soldiers buried there from the battle, only 342 are known. The National Park Service maintains a roster of the those known buried.

The most prominent monument and memorial of those known buried is that of **Colonel Joseph A. Moesch**, commander of the 83rd New York Volunteer Regiment (Ninth Regiment). He is the second highest ranking officer buried in the National Cemetery,

Colonel Moesch was born August 13, 1829 in Eiken, Canton Aargau, Switzerland. He emigrated to New York City in 1854. He volunteered for three years with Company B, Ninth New York State Militia (later 83rd New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment "Swiss Rifles") as a first sergeant. He was promoted to captain in October 1861; wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg and promoted to lieutenant colonel. He then became the regimental commander and led it in the Battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and was promoted to colonel in October 1863.

Colonel Moesch led the 83rd Regiment into action in the assault along the Orange Plank Road on the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6th. George A. Hussey, the Ninth Regiment Historian, wrote: "The assault was gallantly made and the enemy driven nearly two miles; but the NINTH suffered heavily, losing, among their killed, their brave leader, Colonel Moesch. His loss was deeply felt by all in the regiment." His body was carried to the division hospital where a rude coffin was made. Colonel Moesch was buried under the direction of the regiment's Chaplain Alfred C. Roe in the Ellwood cemetery.

Exhibit 14 Col. Moesch and his Monument



In 1887, George Hussey, aided by Chaplain Roe who remembered the exact spot where the burial occurred, along with Andrew J. Birdsall, then Superintendent of the cemetery, recovered the remains and had them reinterred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. At the time of the reinterment a bullet was found in the bottom of the coffin as the remains decomposed. It was the bullet that killed the Colonel.



The Ninth Regiment veterans subsequently raised the funds for the monument to their fallen leader. The dedication ceremony and event of the monument for Moesch and the unit took place on September 24, 1890 in the National Cemetery.

The other monument in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery that mentions the Battle of the Wilderness and units that fought there is the **Fifth Corps Monument**. It sits prominently in the cemetery and was originally intended to be built and dedicated for Major General Daniel Butterfield who lead the Fifth Corps at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

However, the monument also memorializes the Fifth Corps Civil War history. Its commemorative plaques state its date of organization, battles engaged, total strength and casualties, all serving units by State, the corps commanders, date of disbanding and their motto “Brave Companions Tried And True”.

Exhibit 15 Fifth Corps Monument



The base of the monument was celebrated on May 25-26, 1900 when the Army of the Potomac held its 31st annual reunion in Fredericksburg. This was their first annual reunion held south of the Mason Dixon line. President William McKinley, the last Civil War veteran president, was a major dignitary to the event. The official dedication of the completed monument occurred on Memorial Day in 1901.

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10 ELLWOOD REVEALED

At the distance of 160 years, you'd think we've seen it all. But in fact, hardly a day passes when the staff at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP) doesn't see or learn something new—a vivid letter, an artifact, an image. It's one thing that makes our jobs so fascinating.

Once in a while, something comes to us that makes us simply stop. That certainly happened in July 2017, when photo-historian Bob Zeller alerted us to a trove of photographs held by the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. We had seen some of the images before—many were part of series taken by an expedition to local battlefields in April 1866—but sprinkled among them were a number entirely new to us. Including this one, which we instantly recognized: an image of Ellwood, taken from the fields north of the main house, looking south. It is the earliest known view of Ellwood and some of its associated features.

Exhibit 16 Picture of Ellwood - April 1866



For those of you who have worked at or visited Ellwood, this image captures much of what the documentation tells us was there. Most obviously, the ice house, visible at left, whose foundation is still visible today. Beyond is Lacy's orchard, perhaps a bit bigger than we might have guessed, the still-young trees nicely spaced for future growth. In the yard of the house

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the preservation, advocacy, and interpretation of the Wilderness and the battlefield.



stands the smokehouse. To the right are what we presume were the living quarters for enslaved people. The location is consistent with that suggested by Jones family tradition, and certainly the architecture fits the function. These buildings likely housed just a portion of the 48 people Lacy held in bondage in 1860 at Ellwood.

On the house itself are a couple of new and interesting details. The porch with its balcony on top seems to feature a Moorish-style entry way. And something we did not know: the window at lower right on the north façade. Today, that's a closed-up door. We are presently looking at restoring the window opening in that location.

The oddity: Archaeology suggests, and another photo taken that day from Wilderness Tavern likewise confirms, that the yard just beyond the smokehouse featured a number of buildings not visible in this view, including the kitchen. The yard was a much busier place than this photo indicates. It seems the photographer got the angle of the image just wrong enough to obscure some things we would very much like to have seen.

Still, the photo captures in a moment information that documentary research and archaeological investigation took decades and dollars to discover. But, clearly, still more work on the landscape at Ellwood waits to be done.

If you want to explore the images themselves, they are sprinkled amidst a much larger collection at the American Antiquarian Society.

<http://gigi.mwa.org/netpub/server.np?quickfind=509197&sorton=filename&catalog=catalog&site=public&template=results.np>

The image of Ellwood is image 0050a. The distant view of Ellwood, as photographed from Wilderness Tavern, is image 0047a. Ellwood is visible in the background.

[Editor's note: FoWB is indebted to Mr. Hennessy for contributing this article to HIOB. The picture shown in this article is also the one used as the cover page for the HIOB 2020 edition.]

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