



The Board of Directors of
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2015

Annual Membership Meeting
And
20th Anniversary Celebration

November 14, 2015 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.
2015 Annual Report

Officers and Board of Directors

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Robin Nimmo, Acting Secretary

Directors

Yvette Blake

Milbrey Bartholow

Nate Bond

Gil Churchill

Pete Kolakowski

Gary Mauss

Dwight Mottet

George Smith

Beth Stenstrom

Mark Wakeman

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. Annual Membership Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

Mark Leach, President

Declaration of Quorum

Robin Nimmo, Acting Secretary

Welcoming Remarks

Mark Leach, President

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

Remarks

Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Announcements

Member Questions

Adjourn

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FoWB 20th Anniversary Celebration

11:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Lunch
- Guest Speaker – John Hennessy
- Door Prizes

2015 Highlights

- FoWB entered into a two year agreement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) to steward the former Wal-Mart property, now officially referred to as the Wilderness Tract. Initial activities included the installation of barrier cables at the two entrances, installation of no trespassing signage and removal of trash and debris.
- A second printing of Dr. Chris Mackowski's book, Dark Close Wood, is in progress by NPS. FoWB has been named as the beneficiary of the royalties generated by the sales of the book. We truly thank the National Park Service for their generosity.

General Projects:

- The two year Brooder Barn Project is nearing completion. FoWB has funded the project, provided significant hours of volunteer labor and coordinated two Eagle Scout projects that provided volunteer labor. The new handicap accessible rest room will be opened to the public for the 2016 Ellwood season.
- FoWB volunteers have partnered with NPS to plan the expansion of the flower garden located next to the herb garden and cut back the boxwood hedges. Planning is also underway to create a wildflower meadow area and walking path east of the carriage road.

Battlefield Resources:

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: There were 131 total volunteers that collectively worked over 454 hours
- Maintained the grounds of Ellwood Manor and the Wilderness Crossing Trail with the dedicated efforts of the Ellwood Ground Force.
- The Ground Force contributed many man hours to the Brooder Barn Project. A special thank you to Gil Churchill for his expert leadership in the finer points of carpentry work!
- Two Eagle Scout Eagle projects were sponsored in 2015:
 - Completed in support of the NPS to scrape the badly peeling paint and then repaint the large CCC maintenance barn located west of Saunders Field.
 - Initiated in support of FoWB and VDHR that will design and layout a primitive BSA campsite on the Wal-Mart Wilderness Tract.

Ellwood:

- 42 trained Historic House Guides provided exceptional tours of Ellwood Manor and the surrounding grounds.
- 5 Historic House Guides received additional training from NPS and conducted regularly scheduled walking tours of the Wilderness Crossing Trail. A special thank you to John Bell for volunteering to coordinate the walking tour program!
- 4557 visitors at Ellwood and \$4316 raised in donations
- 15 Special Events (An increase of 3 over 2014)
- 6 Special Tours Tours

Membership and Heritage Program:

- 232 FoWB members.
- Wilderness Brigade memberships increased by 11 to a total of 42.
- Ellwood Legacy memberships increased by 1 to a total of 9.

Volunteers:

- 7850 total hours contributed by Historic House Guides, Ground Force, Battlefield Projects Volunteers, Board of Directors, Committee Members and Special Event Volunteers!
- The Board of Directors hosted an appreciation BBQ picnic at Ellwood for the House Guides, Ground Force and Special Events volunteers. Board members prepared and served the food and beverages. The Board also took up a collection to hire a 'real' band!
- Six Board members and a Historic House Guide completed training and became Certified Tourism Ambassadors for the Journey Through Hallowed Ground area.

Outreach and Community Involvement:

- The Communications Committee increased FoWB's participation in various community events. Tables/booths were manned by a very energetic team of volunteers at nine events: An increase of five events over 2014 activities.
- FoWB, in partnership with Wealth Preservers, Inc., hosted our fourth Orange Chamber of Commerce 'Business after Hours' reception at Ellwood.
- FoWB continued to work with other organizations to preserve and promote the Wilderness Battlefield area and to promote tourism in Orange and Spotsylvania Counties.

Treasurer's 2015 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2015

Ellwood Restoration Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2014	\$12,378.92
Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$108.59
Change	(\$12,270.33)

FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2014	\$52,745.04
Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$60,378.07
Change	\$7,633.03

Ellwood Restoration Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2014	\$10,345.68
Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$10,346.70
Change	\$1.02

FoWB Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2014	\$10,898.95
Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$10,901.05
Change	\$1.10

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2014	\$86,369.59
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2015	\$81,734.41

The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield keeps their books on a cash basis.

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefiled, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization
Tax ID 42-1689437**

Ellwood Committee 2015 Annual Report

Submitted by Robin Nimmo, Chair

*Members; Elaine Pratt, Bob Epp, Greg Mertz (NPS), Gil Churchill,
Rodney Lackey, Paul Gunther, Dale Brown*

Ellwood's season of being open to the public began on April 6 daily until April 12th. Weekends and holidays commenced on April 18th until May 31st. Daily operation began again on June 6th until August 16th. Weekends and holidays again began on August 22nd until Oct. 25th.

Visitation for the 2015 season totaled 4557. Donations totaled \$4316.00

Training for new and veteran Historic House Guides took place on February 19th and 28th and March 4th and 14th. Two were overseen by NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz and two sessions were overseen by FoWB personnel, Robin Nimmo and Elaine Pratt. NPS Superintendent Lucy Lawliss and NPS Chief Historian and NPS Security Ranger Matt Roland were guest speakers. FoWB volunteers Mike Pierce, Rod Lackey, Bev Ellis and John Bell gave presentations.

The Ellwood event calendar for 2015:

April 18 Junior Ranger Day

May 2 Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness

May 10 Mother's Day celebration

May 23 Memorial Day event-

June 26 History at Sunset

July 25 Mid Summer Living History event

Aug. 9 Chris Kolakowski presentation

Aug. 15 Living History event

Aug. 16 Commemoration of LaFayette visit to Ellwood

August 22 Volunteer Picnic

Sept. 11 Chris Mackowski presentation

Sept. 27 Taming the Wilderness

Oct. 10 Living History event-Medical, Period attire presentation

Oct. 21 Hosted "Certified Tourism Ambassador" class for Journey Through Hallowed Ground

Dec. 19 Victorian Christmas at Ellwood

Special Tours:

DAR group

Hiking group

Several military Staff rides

OC Chamber of Commerce

Several visits by middle school groups

Several Scott Walker "Hallowed Ground" tours

New in 2015:

Wilderness Trail Walking Tours

Re-enactors portraying Warren and Grant at special events

FoWB shirts provided for not only new, but returning HHG veterans

Presentations given by FoWB volunteers at special events

Battlefield Resources Committee

2015 Annual Report

Submitted by Mark Wakeman, Chair

2015 Volunteer Members:

*Gary Mauss-Ellwood Site Capt, Lee Woolf-Asst Site Capt,
Ann Bayer, John Cavanaugh, Gil Churchill, Robert Collis, Kenneth Frohnert, Thomas Hamilton, Norman
Kirsch, Rodney Lackey, Joe Lafleur, Mark Leach, Nickolas Lollis, Joe Marks, Mike Pierce, Tom Rorrer,
Bill Thornton, Detlev Wilkens, Bill Witter*

FoWB has seen further responsibility growth in 2015. The BRC continued to support the National Park Service through its weekly Ellwood maintenance support and other service projects. FoWB has additionally been asked to partner with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VDHR) in stewardship of the Wilderness Tract, previously owned by Wal-Mart and now transferred to Virginia. Mark Wakeman and Joe Lafleur have volunteered to lead this stewardship effort. This currently consists of oversight and some minor maintenance tasks.

Additional projects this year include—an Eagle project completed in support of the NPS to scrape the badly peeling paint and then repaint the large CCC maintenance barn located west of Saunders Field and a second Eagle project was initiated in support of FoWB and VDHR that will design and layout a primitive BSA campsite on the Wal-Mart Wilderness Tract. His proposal is due to FoWB on 1 November. The BRC conducted a spring Park Day clean-up event and continues to do the finishing work on the Brooder Barn restoration project that was started in November 2013 and is nearing completion this fall. As promised, a fully plumbed ADA compliant public bathroom on the northeast corner of the building and a new much larger maintenance facility with secure storage space and a separate break room have been constructed. Upon Brooder Barn project completion this fall, the small maintenance garage across the driveway will be torn down and the concrete pad will be preserved and turned into a designated handicapped parking area for Ellwood.

Ellwood Ground Force (EGF)

The EGF continued to provide the outstanding weekly upkeep to the Ellwood grounds. Mowing and grounds upkeep started on 9 April and will be slowing now that the cold weather has started. Other tasks completed by the EGF included limb pruning around Ellwood and along Brigadier Lane /Wilderness Run Trail. The EGF was instrumental in saving money during the Brooder Barn construction. For example, EGF members dug the trench for the Brooder Barn electric cable saving FoWB over \$1500. A hearty thanks to the ground force for all their hard work behind the scenes this year! This winter will be spent moving into and upgrading the new Brooder Barn as we prepare for the spring 2016 season.

Saunders Field CCC Maintenance Building— Eagle Candidate Brydon Jackson II;

BSA Troop 171

This project was funded by the NPS and donated tools were provided by Home Depot. Brydon started his project for approval in May. By early August his project was approved and after some weather delays he started the project in Sept. His project consisted of scraping the entire 80'x 30' building that had significant amounts peeling paint, then painting it. This project was completed mid-October. Total volunteer time is still being computed, but this project took **~200 hours**.

Spring Park Day-28 March 2015— Wilderness Battlefield and Wilderness Tract

Park Day, a nationally sponsored event by the Civil War Trust was once again a huge success. There were 131 total volunteers that collectively worked over 454 hours. The focus this year was on two sites, the Wilderness Battlefield and the newly assigned Wilderness Tract (formerly the Wal-Mart Tract).

Below is short summary of what was accomplished:

- All battlefield roads cleaned of trash,
- 124 individual bags of trash were collected,
- Various hubcaps, car grills, parts, and 5 tires,
- 30 stone pavers that had been dumped on the side of the road were collected
- Hill-Ewell cleaned and cleared of debris
- Longstreet Wounding site cleaned and bollards painted,
- Vermont monument site cleaned,
- Lee, Vance, New Jersey, Hayes, Texas, and Wadsworth monuments raked and cleaned,
- CCC building and the battlefield shelter were raked and cleaned of debris
- The former Wal-Mart Tract had 6 pickup loads of loose garbage hauled away. That included about 20 bags of garbage. Two posts holes were also dug and posts placed in the holes.

Brooder Barn Restoration Project

This two year restoration project is nearing completion and will be fully operation for the Spring 2016 season. Many of the attributes of this “new” maintenance structure have been mentioned above. Despite numerous unknown and unforeseen construction challenges and delays on this project that doubled the estimated time for completion, it is a tribute to all the Boy Scout and FoWB volunteers that this project was completed well under the approved budget. That fact is because the project was fully managed and most of the menial tasks and many of the skilled tasks that would have added significant costs to the project were all accomplished by FoWB volunteers.

Membership Committee

2015 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey Barthalow, Chair

Members: Robert Bartholow, Robert Epp, Dale Brown, Ann Bayer, Beth Stenstrom, Paul Gunther, Katherine Philipp

What a busy year we have had. One of the first major events was the merging of the Membership committee and the Heritage Program committee. The two areas seem to fit nicely. The first thing we did was to clean up the data base.

We worked actively with the Communications/Outreach Committee, which has made us rather busy and active, both with on-site (Ellwood) and off-site events.

On-sites events have included Battle of Wilderness Observance May 2, Mother's Day readings May 10, Mid-Summer Living History July 25. Off-site events have included Civil War Symposium in Richmond June 3 – 5, Lake of the Wood 4th of July Celebration July 4, Taste of Virginia July 9, Orange Cares August 15, Orange Street Festival September 5, Fan Fest Richmond September 23, Orange Chamber of Commerce at Ellwood October 15, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce October 22. At all of these events we set up tables, handed out literature, and talked about what FoWB does. We have gotten several new members and lots of interest through these events.

We established a supportive notification system and will continue to cultivate the support FoWB receives from the members. We are grateful for our members, especially those who renew their memberships year after year and provide us with funding and man-power for our many activities through their dues and donations. We also developed a new FoWB brochure depicting all of FoWB activities and showing ways to volunteer. The form includes a membership form.

Current membership numbers are at 232. We have added 49 new members, but sadly we have lost 48 members. We have added 11 new members to the Wilderness Brigade and now have 42 members. We have added 1 new member to the Ellwood Legacy and now have 9 members. Several recent visitors to Ellwood have expressed interest in the program. I have contacted several who left contact information.

Governance Committee

2015 Annual Report

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

Members: Craig Rains, Robin Nimmo, Nate Bond, Bob Lookabill

The Committee underwent a name change to bring its responsibilities congruent with the Board's evolution into a more mature organization. This year the focus was on a number of bylaw amendments. These addressed:

Ensuring that the new Board for each year gets to elect its officers, and in a timely manner, so that there is no gap in responsibility in moving from one year to another.

Modifying Board Member Code of Conduct and complaint policies to ensure that there is priority and flexibility to encourage collaboration and mediation of any dispute about Board member conduct.

Modifying Committee descriptions to reflect current responsibilities.

By designation of the FoWB President, the Committee conducted the process for identifying candidates for election to the Board for 2016.

Communications Committee

2015 Annual Report

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

Members: Ann Bayer, Nate Bond, Kim Harmon, Mike Pierce, Dick Rankin, George Smith

2015 Activities:

Website, Constant Contact (E-blasts), and Social Media

The FoWB Facebook page has accumulated over 530 “likes” since it was launched three years ago. We employ an “organic” approach to increasing views of the site. Rather than pay Facebook to promote our site, we rely on personal networking with visitors and groups such as the Orange and Spotsylvania tourism and Chamber of Commerce groups.

Constant Contact continues to be FoWB’s primary electronic outreach tool. Attractively formatted general interest E-blasts are sent to nearly 600 recipients who have signed up for the electronic mailing list. The application is also used for targeted mailings to local residents and FoWB members.

The FoWB website is kept up to date and provides information to prospective visitors to Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield as well as to our volunteers and members. It is also useful to educators who wish to learn more about Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield.

Sent Press Releases to numerous media contacts to promote our Living History Events at Ellwood Manor.

Publications

Wilderness Battlefield/Ellwood Rack Cards are displayed at various visitor centers, hotels, and other tourism sites in the area.

FoWB tri fold brochures are available at Ellwood Manor and are also distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues, such as the Orange Street Festival. These brochures feature information on the organization, volunteer opportunities, and membership information. Separate tri fold brochures on the Heritage Program are also available at Ellwood Manor and distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues.

Outreach and Promotion

The Communications Committee is a highly dedicated and energetic group of volunteers who spend countless hours preparing for and conducting a wide range of public outreach booths at venues outside of Ellwood Manor, as well as manning a Welcome booth at Living History events at Ellwood Manor.

In 2015, this group set up booths and visited with thousands of people at the July 4th Celebration at Lake of the Woods, a video premier at the Salem Church Library, the Civil War Trust Convention in Richmond, Virginia, the Orange Job Fair, the Orange Street Festival, the bike race in Richmond in conjunction with the Spotsylvania Tourism group, and the Fredericksburg Business Expo. We were scheduled to participate in the Gordonsville Street Festival, but they had to reschedule due to weather issues. We also manned the Welcome Table for numerous Living History events out at Ellwood Manor, such as the May Anniversary and Taming of the Wilderness.

Promotional handouts and giveaway items were distributed at all events.

2016 Plans:

Continue to improve the appeal and information on the website.

Continue to increase sign- ups for the E-Blasts.

Continue to promote activities on the Facebook site.

Increase distribution of rack cards in the Fredericksburg, Orange, and Culpeper areas.

Increase the number of public outreach opportunities for the FoWB Information Booth in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and other areas surrounding the Wilderness Battlefield.

Continue to work with other committees to assist them with membership drives, Living History events, volunteer recruitment, Park clean up, and educational opportunities.

Nominations for Board of Directors

** Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

**** Nate Bond (Three Year Term 2018)**

Governance and Communications Committees

Nate was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and holds undergraduate degrees from Purdue and Indiana Universities. He came to Virginia in 1967 to work at the then Naval Weapons Laboratory in Dahlgren, transferred to the Naval Air Systems Command in 1981 and later retired after more than thirty-seven years of service.

He first joined FoWB in 2008 and has served as an Ellwood interpreter/Historic House Guide since then until the present time. His past activities have included chairman of the Membership Committee and Ellwood interpreter scheduler and he currently serves as one of the closers for Ellwood. Nate actively participates in various FoWB activities.

Besides a great love of history, old houses, water-powered grist mills among other interests, Nate's great passion is interaction with manatees or sea cows. He has spent hundreds of hours in the water with these strange creatures, mostly at Crystal River/Kings Bay, Florida, some eighty miles north of Tampa. Winter temperatures drive the usually solitary manatees to the seventy-two degree temperature of the bay in large numbers enabling interaction with swimmers and snorkelers.

**** Robin Nimmo (Three Year Term 2018)**

Ellwood Committee Chair; Executive and Governance Committees

Robin was born in Michigan and has an interest in history which started at an early age. Robin's travels have taken her to Louisiana, South Carolina, upstate New York, and now to Virginia and she has cultivated a passion for the study of various cultures throughout the Eastern and Southern portions of the United States.

Her studies have engaged Robin in a variety of volunteer activities in each region. Robin has successfully folded this interest into a life that has included her family responsibilities as well as employment in the financial industry and management positions in retail and real estate.

In 2006, Robin moved with her husband, John, to Fredericksburg, Virginia feeling very fortunate to be living in an area so steeped in history. Robin and John have 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren living in New York and South Carolina. She was a former chair of the Membership and Heritage Program Committees. Currently Robin serves as the chair of the Ellwood Committee.

Richard (Dick) Rankin (One Year Term 2016)

Ellwood and Communications Committees, Historic House Guide

Dick was born in Rochester, New York, and graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in American History. He also holds a Master's Degree in Government and International Relations from the University of Notre Dame. Dick served in various intelligence and strategic planning positions, mostly in the Pentagon, while a member of the US Air Force. Subsequent to his retirement as a Colonel, he worked in the national security private sector for over 18 years. He managed and directed large organizations supporting sensitive government programs and independently consulted for companies engaged in counter-terrorism projects.

Dick, and his wife Carol, moved to Fawn Lake from Northern Virginia in 2007 eager to enjoy retirement and expecting to take advantage of his surroundings to soak in the history of the area, particularly as it related to the Civil War, which has always been an interest of his since his very first high school term paper on Gettysburg. Prior to his relocation Dick served as President of his Homeowners Association, was President of the Northern Virginia Swim League and General Chairman of the year-round swimming organization in Metropolitan Washington. He also was very much involved with his local church.

Since becoming a Spotsy resident, Dick has served as an Elder at The Lake of the Woods Church and has been a member of the FOWB and an interpreter at Ellwood for the past 5 years. Over the past year he has been an active member of the FOWB Communications Committee, working the Welcome Tent at various Ellwood Living History activities and representing FOWB at events in Orange, Richmond, and Gordonsville.

Dick and Carol have 3 married children and 8 grandchildren scattered around Virginia and North Carolina. Together they enjoy traveling, golfing, bridge, various other social activities and being with family. Their most memorable recent trip was to Peru in 2014 where they spent 4 days on the Amazon River and 2 days exploring Machu Picchu.

Mike Pierce (One Year Term 2016)

Communications Committee, Historic House Guide, Ground Force

Mike was born in Petersburg Virginia and spent his early years in Pittsburgh, PA, lived in various places in Texas for 33 years, and moved to Charlottesville Virginia in late 2009. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Entomology.

Mike has been involved with insect control in both the structural and agricultural areas to develop safer and sustainable insect control programs through partnerships with pesticide manufacturers, food manufacturers, food retailers and the farming community. He also owned a Pest Control Company in Houston TX.

Mike was on the Board of Directors of the Houston Civil War Round Table. He is a member of the Artist Preservation group, consisting of like-minded military artist that raise money for historical preservation

He has been both an interpreter and Ground Force member for about 18 months. He also assists with the communication committee activities. Mike and his wife, Linda, have also volunteered for various 150th events such as Cold Harbor, Wilderness and Appomattox .

He is a self-taught artist and has assisted in dioramas at the Sabine Pass Museum (Texas) and The Virginia War Memorial Museum in Richmond. He is currently assisting in creating three dioramas for the new American Revolutionary in Philadelphia. He also creates Military figures of various historical periods with the sales proceeds going to the FoWB.

Mike and Linda enjoy hiking and the outdoors. Linda is a volunteer at the Shenandoah National Park.

**** Jeff Slunt (Three Year Term 2018)**

Treasurer; Finance Committee

Jeff holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Virginia. He works from home for PRA International on a large colorectal cancer clinical trial. His wife is professor at the Chemistry department at the University of Mary Washington and they have two children, Todd and Madeline.

Jeff enjoys either coaching or watching his children play soccer most weekends. He volunteers for the Park Service at Chatham one day a month and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the American Civil War.

**** Mark Wakeman (Three Year Term 2018)**

Battlefield Resources Committee Chair

Mark was born in Topeka, Kansas. His father was career Air Force during Mark's formative years. During that time he lived in multiple locations around the world. After college and a BA in History from the University of Florida he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served over 26 years in the Marine Corps, and retired in Spotsylvania County in 2009. Virginia is now home. He is currently on the faculty at Quantico as a Marine Corps College of Continuing Education Course Director.

He is married to Darcey and has two sons Travis (21) and Calvin (18). Mark and Travis were Ellwood interpreters in 2008 & 2009. Mark was also the Ellwood volunteer interpreter scheduler. After Travis left for college in 2010 Mark and Calvin focused on battlefield maintenance and preservation. Calvin worked on numerous projects on all the FSNMP battlefields until this fall when he left for college. Mark has helped coordinate 4 Eagle preservation and enhancement projects on the Wilderness Battlefield and is currently working with another Eagle candidate on the Brooder Barn Project at Ellwood.

Continuing Board Members

Milbrey Bartholow (2017)

Membership Committee Chair, Communications Committee

Milbrey was born and raised in Wilson, NC. She graduated from High Point University (College) with a BA in Math. She taught high school Math in Florida and North Carolina, but the Federal Government offered her more money, so she began working at the Naval Weapons Laboratory (later Naval Surface Warfare Center) in Dahlgren in 1966 and continued until 1994 when the Government offered her money to retire early.

She has always loved history, especially the Civil War era. She remembers studying the Civil War in 7th grade History and acing the first three tests on the unit. Her teacher told her she studied too hard, to which she replied "You don't have to study hard if you love the subject". She also remembers going to visit cousins in a nearby town and seeing a sign stating that Sherman went through burning and pillaging everything.

She is the great granddaughter of Pvt James Benjamin Braswell, Co F 30th inf 2nd Corps CSA who fought under Jackson and Ewell throughout the 4 years. As a result, she is also a member of the Wilderness Brigade. She has 10 other ancestors who fought in the Civil War, but only one of them was at the Wilderness. Two died at Chancellorsville.

She has been married to Robert Bartholow for almost 43 years. They have a son Eric (and Amey) who has a son Reed and a Daughter Kristen (and Dave). They all live in Richmond.

She has spent most of her adult life living and working in the Fredericksburg area - King George County, Ferry Farm subdivision in Safford, and now at LOW in Orange County. She and Robert ran away from home and went to Florida for 11 years.

After retiring from NSWC, she worked for 6 years as a tavern wench at the Rising Sun Tavern. She went into retirement when she went to Florida, but has come out of retirement for the past three Taming of the Wilderness events. She has also recently begun doing some Civil War reenacting and was seen at the 150th weekend in her attire.

She is a member of the Fredericksburg United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter. She is also active at LOW Church, playing handbells and teaching Sunday School. Other interests include computers, genealogy, and sewing.

Yvette Blake (2017)

Ellwood Committee Member

Born and raised in Newport News Va. Yvette is a retired military warrant officer, and married with children. She presently works for the Department of Defense and owns a small business which provides a number of financial services, including tax preparation and mobile notary services. Yvette is a licensed real estate agent associated with CTI Real Estate as well. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's in Organizational Management, and is presently back in school working towards a degree in Graphic Design.

Yvette's family consists of a charming, humorous husband, handsome twin boys, a beautiful daughter and daughter-in-law plus two grandsons.

Her hobbies include traveling, reading, shopping, the theater, exercising (tai chi, jogging, kick boxing, and yoga), weapons training, finding innovative ways to make a dollar out of fifteen cents (investing), gatherings with friends and family, collecting and exhibiting action figures relating them to historical events and listening to music. Her newest hobby is Civil War reenacting, meeting new people of the same interest and learning from the historians she has met. Yvette is a member of the Sisters Sippin Tea Literary and Social Club, the 23rd United States Colored Troops, the Woman of the American Civil War group and a board member of the John J Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum.

Gil Churchill (2017)

Governance and Battlefield Resources Committees; Historic House Guide; Ground Force

Gil was born near Chicago, IL and grew up in Minnesota. He met his wife, Lucy, at the University of Minnesota where he earned BS and MS degrees in Forest Management.

His civilian career was with the U.S. Forest Service. Gil served on National Forests in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and West Virginia. His last assignments were in the Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he served as Director of Planning, Budget Officer, and Capital Resources Team Leader.

Gil had a military career at the same time. After serving active duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1964 and 1965, he continued to serve that Agency as a Reserve Officer, finally retiring after 28 years. This might account for his interest in military history, except for the fact that he had been an avid reader of Civil War history while still in High School.

Gil and Lucy moved to Lake of the Woods in 2008 to be near family. At Lake of the Woods, Gil has been President of a Square Dance Club, is currently Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee, and participates with Veterans, Woodworkers, and AARP organizations.

Peter Kolakowski (2017)
Governance Committee Chair

Peter graduated with a Bachelor's in history and political science from Ripon College and a Master's of Public Administration from American University. He has been a resident of the area since 1972.

He served in the U.S. Army and has been employed in appointed and executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg, State government in Richmond working for VDOT, and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren. He has been active supporter and member of many preservation organizations and history projects throughout his career.

Mark Leach (2017)
President

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin, attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

A 34 year career with Exxon Mobil placed Mark in Milwaukee, WI, St. Louis, MO and Fairfax, VA. His most recent positions were in IT project management and systems training. Mark retired in April 2012.

Mark has been a Historic House Guide and member of the Ground Force since joining FoWB in 2012. He has been a Director since 2013 and served as Vice President and Communications Committee Chair. Mark also serves on the Orange County Tourism Advisory Committee reporting to the County Board of Supervisors.

Robert (Bob) Lookabill (2016)
Vice President; Finance Committee Chair; Governance Committee Member

Bob was born in West Virginia. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Marshall University and in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College at Newport. After teaching history and coaching baseball and football at the high school level for ten years Bob took a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. After his retirement from DIA, he has worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He currently holds a position with the Boaz Allen Hamilton Company supporting the Department of Defense in Charlottesville. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

He has been an interpreter at Ellwood for three years and currently serves as a lead interpreter and closer. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable and dabbles in genealogy.

Bob and Judy reside in Spotsylvania near the Chancellorsville Battlefield. They have two grown sons and three grandsons. He is secretary of the North American Torquay Pottery Society, enjoys travel, golf, the Redskins and Nationals.

Gary Mauss (2016)

Battlefield Resources Committee Member; Ground Force Lead

Born and raised in the apple country just north of Gettysburg, PA, Gary entered the Air Force straight out of high school, as a way to broaden his horizons and see the world a bit. A first tour of duty in southern New Mexico got the Southwest in his blood, from which he's never quite recovered.

Numerous assignments around the country and the world followed, and he ended up making a career of the military, retiring in Virginia two years ago, after moving here in 2005. In the process of those moves, he started school in New Mexico, and finally graduated from the University of Nebraska, and later again from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

Also among those moves, he found his wife Lynne in Myrtle Beach, and now has two daughters and a son. A yard wide and a foot deep, he held a variety of jobs in the Air Force, among those being a program manager, contract specialist, operational tester, aircraft weapons specialist, and command post controller.

Still on an extended post-retirement 'sabbatical', he's gotten heavily involved in local volunteer opportunities, including FoWB, a local Veteran's club, volunteer Fire & Rescue, two churches, and others, and is pending return to the active work force until his kids are out of college.

George Smith (2016)

Communications Committee Member

George was born in El Paso, Texas to a career Army father resulting in living in multiple locations in Europe and Texas. Upon graduation from the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in Business Administration, George was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. He served over 30 years in a combination of active and reserve component assignments.

George has a Masters in Human Resources from Webster University and is a Senior Logistics Analyst for the Defense Logistics Agency. Multiple deployments, notwithstanding, George helped raise his two adult children, Edward and Tiffany and served in various adult leadership positions in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and District Round Table.

He has served as an Ellwood interpreter for the past two years and lead interpreter for one year along with participation in National Park Day for the past two years. George has been an avid American history buff since childhood with an emphasis in military history. Throughout his various worldwide and stateside assignments, George has always availed himself to study the local culture and history.

Being from Texas, George's favorite link into the Civil War is Hood's Texas Brigade. He is proud of the brigade's performance as part of the Army of Northern Virginia and Gen. Longstreet's First Corps. George especially enjoys sharing the critical role that the Texas Brigade played on May 6, 1864 in stopping the Union advance.

Beth Stenstrom (2017)

Communications Committee Chair, Membership Committee Member

Beth was born in Houston, Texas, and grew up in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A & M University, and received her Master's in Education (M.Ed.) in Psychological Counseling at the University of Missouri in St. Louis.

Beth taught Blind and Visually Impaired children at the Missouri School for the Blind for many years, and enjoyed taking a group of them to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, each year. She moved back to Texas to take care of her parents in their golden years, and worked as a Middle School teacher, teaching Language Arts and Texas History. She is also a trained avocational archeologist through the Texas Archeology Society, and has spent many hours as a volunteer, working side by side with professional archeologists.

Beth is an officer in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, are also charter members of the Friends of Chatham, as well as members of a papal order, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which mission is to protect and maintain Holy sites in Jerusalem.

Beth and Jim have a son and a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson.

Hobbies include outdoor activities such as hiking and camping, genealogy, photography, reading, and they both love history!

Retiring Board Members

Two former Presidents of FoWB have elected to retire from the Board of Directors after many years of dedication and service to the organization:

Dwight L. Mottet

Dwight was born, raised, and educated in Ohio. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geology, from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science with Honors in Logistics Management, from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

He was employed by the US Department of Energy becoming Director, Management and Administrative Division, Fossil Energy Program. He also worked in the private sector serving as vice president of a small management consulting firm specializing in information systems, education, socioeconomic analysis, and operations research.

A past president (2002-2006) and thirteen year member of FoWB, Dwight is also a member of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, The Blue and Gray Education Society, the Civil War Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the LOW Civil War Study Group.

He lives at the Lake of the Woods. Hobbies include: travel, Civil War tours, AARP, church activities, and being a docent. He was married for 37 years to the late Janet F. Mottet.

Daniel (Dan) Nickelson

Dan has been a member of FoWB for thirteen years. He has served as a Board Member for nine years and was President for two years.

During his time on the Board Dan chaired the Communications, Governance and Finance committees. Some of Dan's accomplishments: : improved liaison with NPS, development and awarding of contracts for Ellwood restoration, stimulation of the formulation of a reliable financial system and initiation of a budget process that is currently in use.

Dan and his wife Susan have decided to move on to a warmer climate and now reside in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Contacts and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Service and Unique Opportunities: www.fowb.org

Contact Mark Wakeman, Chair., Battlefield Resources Committee at Battlefield@FoWB.org:

- FoWB Ground Force
- Special Projects on the battlefield
- Regular Trash pickup duty
- Annual Park Day

Contact Robin Nimmo, Chair, Ellwood Committee at Ellwood@FoWB.org:

- Ellwood Historic House Guide
- Walking Tours

Contact Beth Stenstrom, Chair, Communications Committee at Communications@FoWB.org:

- Community Outreach Events
- Website Support
- Newsletter and Other Publications

Contact Milbrey Bartholow, Chair, Membership Committee at Membership@FoWB.org:

- Heritage Program including Research
- Membership Drives

You may also direct your question, compliments and concerns to Mark Leach, President, at President_FoWB@FoWB.org

**Thank You
For
Supporting FoWB !!**