

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

November 14th, 2022
Our 261th Issue



Volume 22
Number 11

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

November 14th, 2022 Meeting Features Tom Elmore Speaking on the Topic *The Burning of Columbia, SC, Feb. 17th, 1865*

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's November 14th, 2022, in person/simultaneous Zoom meeting will feature Tom Elmore speaking on the topic *The Burning of Columbia, SC, Feb. 17th, 1865*.

The meeting will be held at the NC Museum of History's Daniels Auditorium. Entrance is available from Edenton St., across from the State Capitol building. The wearing of a mask is optional.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. EST for refreshments. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. This event will also be live-streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. A video recording will be made available on <http://www.raleighcwrt.org>, our Raleigh Civil War Round Table website, following the event.

You should have already received an emailed invitation, including instructions and a link for joining online if you are unable to attend in person. Please leave a request at RaleighCWRT@Yahoo.com if you have not yet received an invitation.

Vol. XXI, Issue 2:

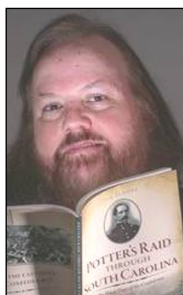
- *The Burning of Columbia, South Carolina, February 17, 1865*
- *A Still Raging Controversy—Who Burned Columbia?*
- *Driving Tour—The Burning of Columbia, Part I: A Confederate Capital, Part II: Sherman's Entry Into Columbia*



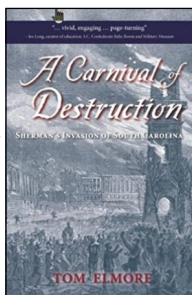
Although it's been five years since *Blue & Gray Magazine* ceased publication in 2017, they still maintain their website. You may still purchase the *Blue & Gray Magazine* issue XXI, Issue 2, containing Tom's three articles, by clicking on the following URL link: <http://bluegraymagazine.com/store/product126.html>.

Tom Elmore grew up in Columbia hearing tales and legends about life in the city during the Civil War, especially General William T. Sherman's visit to the city. He has devoted over a decade to researching Columbia's role in the Civil War and has shared his knowledge in bus tours and lectures all across the Mid-Atlantic States.

Tom holds a BA in History and Political Science from the University of South Carolina. He is the author of numerous articles in regional and national publications, was a book reviewer for *Blue & Gray Magazine*, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Greater Columbia Civil War Alliance. Tom is the current South Carolina State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Krysa, and their Chihuahua, Sassy.



November's meeting will feature an in person presentation by Tom Elmore, speaking on the topic *The Burning of Columbia, SC, Feb. 17th, 1865*, based on his book *A Carnival of Destruction: Sherman's Invasion of South Car-*



olina, published by Juggling Board Press, Charleston, SC, Jan. 1st, 2012; ISBN-10: 0984107371; ISBN-13: 978- 0984107377.

In the image above, Tom is shown holding his most recently authored book, *Potter's Raid through South Carolina: The Final Days of the Confederacy*, published by The History Press, Mar. 9th, 2015; ASIN: B00VU2XO3M.

Previously, Tom covered the burning of Columbia with three articles in *Blue & Gray Magazine*, Winter 2004,



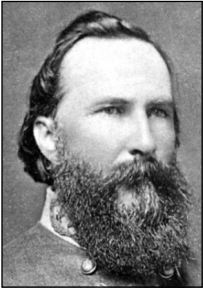
Robert "Bob" Farrell
1934—2022

We are sad to report the passing of Robert "Bob" Farrell, age 88, founder of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table, one of its early presidents, and, from 2001 to 2003, the first editor of its newsletter, *The Knapsack*. Bob attended college at SUNY in Morrisville and had retired to Venice, FL.

Lieutenant General James Longstreet: Seniority Rank 1

Part 2D of a 20-Part Series by Bob Graesser, Editor

As described in the Part 1 introduction of this series, of 19 Confederate Lieutenant Generals, sixteen were graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. The other three were either political appointees or had accumulated enough wealth to recruit, outfit, and maintain their own military unit.



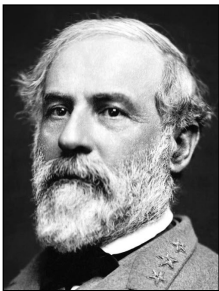
Maj. Gen. James Longstreet

This Part 2D continues to examine the career of then Maj. Gen. James Longstreet, Gen. Robert E. Lee's "*Old War Horse*". It begins at the conclusion of the Battle of Second Manassas, a major Confederate victory which saw the Union Army of Virginia under Maj. Gen. John Pope soundly defeated and retreating toward Washington

City. For his bungling, Pope would be relieved of command on Sept. 12th, 1862, with his Army of Virginia merged into McClellan's Army of the Potomac.



Maj. Gen. John Pope



Gen. Robert E. Lee

Lee's victory at Second Manassas was the tipping point propelling him to act on his contemplated plan to carry the war north across the Potomac River into Maryland. Lee had in mind three factors making his case for action: strategic, logistical, and political.

With the soldiers of Pope's and McClellan's armies weakened and demoralized from their recent defeats, Lee wanted to maintain his aggressive strategic momentum and initiative rather than transitioning into a defensive stance. He believed he could easily flank the Union forces by crossing the Potomac upriver from Washington City and marching the Army of Northern Virginia through Maryland, and, if things went well, into Pennsylvania. Such a move would threaten both Washington and Baltimore and force the Federal government to devote large numbers of troops to defend those cities.

Lee did not seriously consider attacking Washington City directly since it fairly bristled with fortifications and troops. But if he could lure the Army of the Potomac into the open, Lee was confident that he could defeat it by, as per Longstreet's touchstone, fighting on the tactical defensive on ground of his own choosing – perhaps defending gaps in the South Mountain Range or other favorable positions. A Southern victory would, hopefully, cause the northern populous to demand peace and allow the South to go its own way.

Lee felt that a protracted stay on Northern soil through much of the autumn would be the key to Confederate success. His intent was not simply to capture and hold territory but to accomplish three specific goals.

First, both the people and cropland of northern and north-central Virginia had been exhausted by two years of back-and-forth war campaigns. Taking the war north would give the soil a chance to recover, the farmers a chance to harvest their crops, such as they were, and finally, would allow the Virginia populous a respite from the stress they had been under. It would also relieve the drain brought about by the need of food and forage for Lee's army. Let the North provide food and forage for their "guests" and feel the pinch in subsequent shortages of these staples for a turn. Finally, if Lee could remain on northern soil long enough into the autumn, it would make it difficult for the Union to launch their own campaign southward in the winter months, thus keeping Richmond safe, at least until the following spring.

Second, with fall mid-term elections approaching in the North, Lee sensed an opportunity to affect the outcome. Northern newspapers were filled with articles describing the bitter debates raging between Northern Republicans and Democrats about civil liberties, the conduct of the war, and emancipation. With Lee's Army of Northern Virginia loose north of the Potomac, the election chances of Lincoln and the Republicans would be hurt, making it easier for Democrats to press for some type of negotiated settlement which would allow the South to go its own way in peace.

Third, Lee saw his army's presence on Maryland soil as a recruitment tool. Maryland was a slave-owning border state. To the Confederacy, it was only Federal bayonets that kept Maryland in the Union against the wishes of its residents. Citizens of Baltimore had rioted in April 1861. The North had trampled the civil rights of the Marylanders by arresting and incarcerating them without benefit of the writ of habeas corpus. Thirty-one secessionist members of the state legislature, together with the mayor of Baltimore, had been imprisoned for several weeks during the autumn of 1861. All this led Lee to believe that the presence of his victorious army might embolden Maryland's military-age men to step forward in active support of the Confederacy.

Despite what a number of authors state, Lee, in his northward incursion, had no expectations of persuading England and France to extend formal diplomatic recognition to the Confederacy. Although leaders in London and Paris were closer to some kind of diplomatic intervention in Sept 1862 than at any other time during the war, Lee always insisted that the Confederacy should never count on help from Europe to achieve its independence. None of his correspondence at the time of the Maryland campaign mentions the possibility of influencing foreign observers.

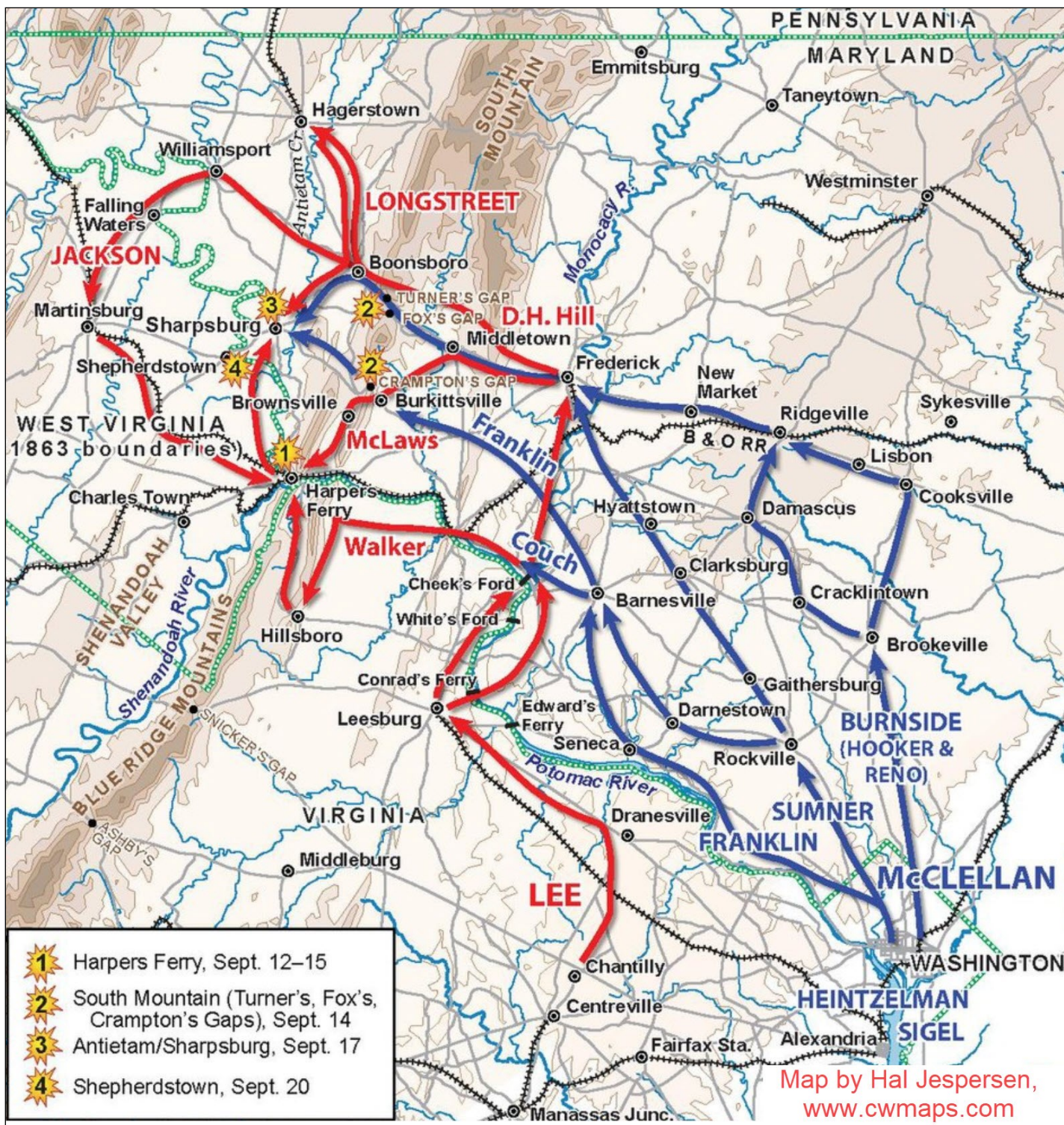
After crossing the Potomac on Sept. 3rd near Leesburg, VA, Lee and the main portion of his army arrived in Frederick, MD, by Sept. 7th. The next day he issued a proclamation to the people of Maryland in which he promised "to aid you in throwing off this foreign yoke" and to restore sovereignty to the state. Marylanders, for the most part,

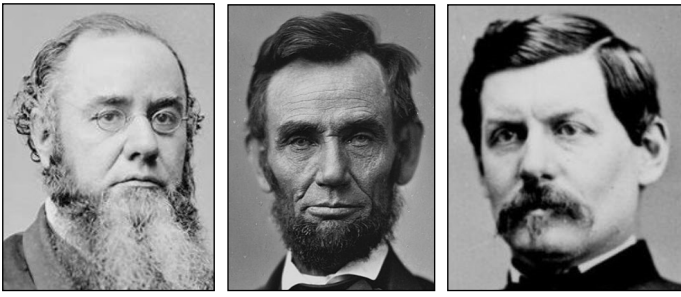
remained unimpressed and neutral.

Although the strength of the Army of Northern Virginia in July had been almost 50,000 men, combat casualties, sickness, and straggling had reduced those numbers to roughly 35,000 men. Reinforcements from Richmond arrived in time so that Lee had a bit over 50,000 men when he entered Maryland. The state of these men did not instill confidence in southern-leaning Marylanders. What they saw was a bedraggled hun-

gry ragtag army in worn-out uniforms, 25% without shoes, and upwards of 20–30% of the soldiers carrying outdated smoothbore muskets. As soon as the War Dept. learned that Lee's army had crossed into Maryland, Sec. of War Edwin Stanton, with President Abraham Lincoln's approval, wasted no time in moving to counter Lee's advance. On Sept. 5th, the Army of Virginia was officially absorbed into the Army of the Potomac, with command having been restored to 35-year-old Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan on Sept. 2nd.

Map #1: Lee's Maryland Campaign (Sept. 3rd – 20th, 1862)

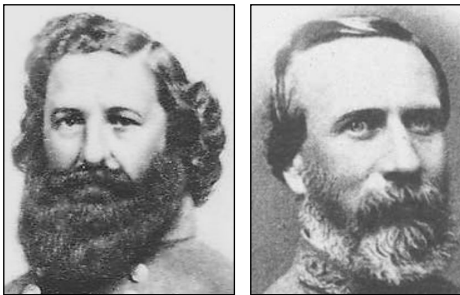




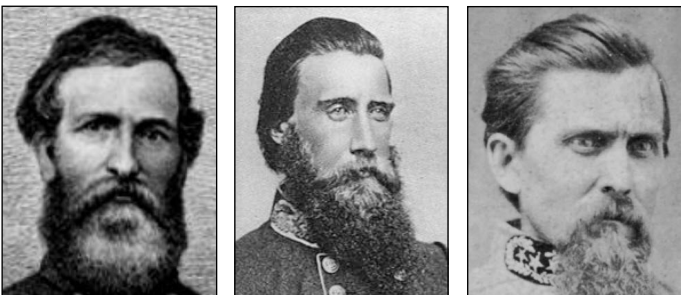
Sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton **Union President Abraham Lincoln** **Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan**

Having once already been removed from command of this army, it was a surprise to many that Lincoln would call upon McClellan again. Well aware of McClellan's administrative genius and the high esteem to which McClellan was held by his troops, Lincoln believed that McClellan alone was capable of the complex task of quickly reorganizing and consolidating the two demoralized armies. Thus, McClellan was ordered to pursue Lee's army immediately. By Sept. 7th, McClellan was leading the Army of the Potomac NW in search of Lee.

Looking now at the composition of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, Maj. Gen. Longstreet commanded the right wing, which consisted of the divisions of Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws, Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson, Brig. Gen. David R. Jones, Brig. Gen. John B. Hood, and Brig. Gen. John G. Walker.



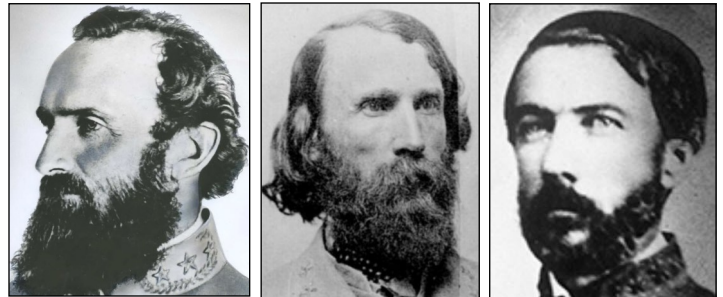
Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws **Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson**



Brig. Gen. David R. Jones **Brig. Gen. John B. Hood** **Brig. Gen. John G. Walker**

Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson's left wing included the divisions of Maj. Gen. Ambrose P. Hill, Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Hill (Jackson's brother-in-law), Brig. Gen. John R. Jones (commanding Jackson's division), and Brig. Gen. A. R. Lawton (commanding the injured Richard S. Ewell's Division).

In addition to the two infantry wings, Lee's army in-

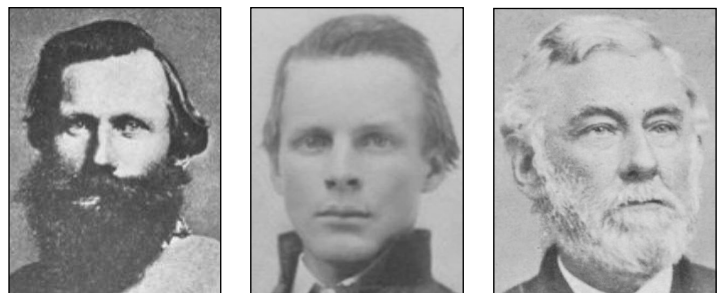


Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson **Maj. Gen. Ambrose P. Hill** **Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Hill**



Brig. Gen. John R. Jones **Brig. Gen. A. R. Lawton**

cluded a cavalry division commanded by Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. Stuart's division also included three batteries of artillery commanded by Capt. John Pelham.



Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart **Capt. John Pelham** **Brig. Gen. William Pendleton**

The artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia at the Battle of Antietam would total approximately 246 guns, at least 82 of which were rifled, organized into batteries of 4–6 guns each. A battalion of several batteries was attached to each division, and four battalions of several batteries each were attached to the army's reserve artillery, commanded by Brig. Gen. William Pendleton.

It is worth noting that at this time Lee and both of his lieutenants, Jackson and Longstreet, were incapacitated to one degree or another. Shortly after entering Maryland, Jackson was injured when his horse reared up and fell on him. Jackson was severely bruised and unable to ride his horse for several days, and traveled in an ambulance in the interim.

On Aug. 31st, Lee had been standing next to his horse, Traveler, when a gust of wind blew the map he was reading onto the horse's face. Lee attempted to grab the bridle to steady the horse but tripped and fell. In blocking his fall with his hands, one hand suffered a broken bone

while the other one was severely strained. With both hands in bandaged splints, Lee couldn't hold the reins and had to also ride in an ambulance. In the case of Longstreet, he was suffering from a badly blistered heel and could only walk by limping badly.

Learning that the Union army had taken the bait and, on Sept. 7th, had started moving northwest from Washington City to confront him, Lee recognized that he needed a battlefield where his flanks could not be turned. Consulting his map, the location of Sharpsburg on the Antietam River appeared to be the ideal place. The only problem was that as long as there were Union garrisons at Martinsburg, VA (5,000 men) and Harper's Ferry, VA (10,000 men plus 1,200 cavalry), his line of retreat was compromised. Therefore, these garrisons had to be neutralized.

After consulting Jackson, Lee decided to capture the two garrisons first. It was then on Sept. 9th that Lee issued what was to become his infamous Special Orders 191. Intended for each of the division commanders, this laid out the Harper's Ferry operation in detail, including the routes of march for the various units involved. In it, against all the principles of war, Lee split his already inferior force into four groups. One consideration that prompted this decision was Lee's knowledge that it was the overly-cautious and plodding McClellan now in command of the Army of the Potomac.

Referring to [Map #1](#) on p. 3, Jackson, with the divisions commanded by J. R. Jones, Lawton, and A. P. Hill, was to recross the Potomac River at Williamsport, MD, and capture the garrison at Martinsburg. The divisions of McLaws and Anderson were to march through Pleasant Valley, directly to Maryland Heights, on the Elk's Ridge spur overlooking Harper's Ferry, while Walker's division crossed the Potomac into Loudoun County and blocked the river road leading from Harper's Ferry to Leesburg.

Longstreet's command, with D.H. Hill's division acting as rear guard, was to move according to circumstances to Boonesboro or Hagerstown, on the west side of Turner's Gap in the South Mountain, and wait there for the return of the detached forces.

To make matters even more dicey, after issuing his Special Orders 191, Lee learned that a Union force had headed south from Harrisburg, PA. To counter this, Lee, riding with Longstreet's group, left D.H. Hill and his division as a rear guard at Boonesboro as they continued on to Hagerstown. This means that Lee had actually split his force into five groups, not four!

The Confederate army departed Frederick on Sept. 10th. Jackson's command marched to Williamsport and forded the Potomac. On Sept. 12th, as he approached Martinsburg, the Federal garrison there fled to Harper's Ferry. Jackson followed and, by the evening of Sept. 13th, the time by which Lee had hoped the operation would be finished, the commands of Jackson, Walker, Anderson, and McLaws had surrounded Harper's Ferry.

Meanwhile, only two days after the Confederate army had left Frederick, elements of the Army of the Potomac

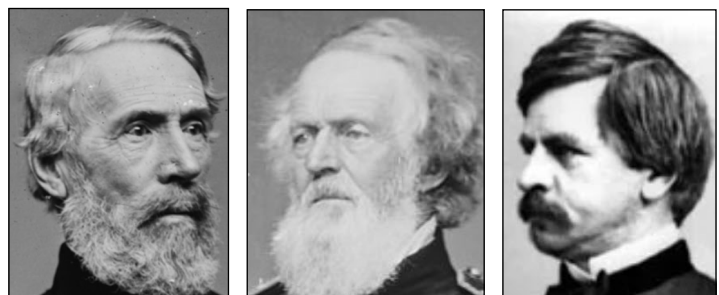
began entering that city on Sept. 12th, with McClellan, himself, arriving on Sept. 13th. The composition of the 87,000-man Army of the Potomac, which was organized into three wings, was as follows:

Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside commanded the right wing, consisting of the I Corps, led by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker; and the IX Corps, led by Maj. Gen. Jesse L. Reno.



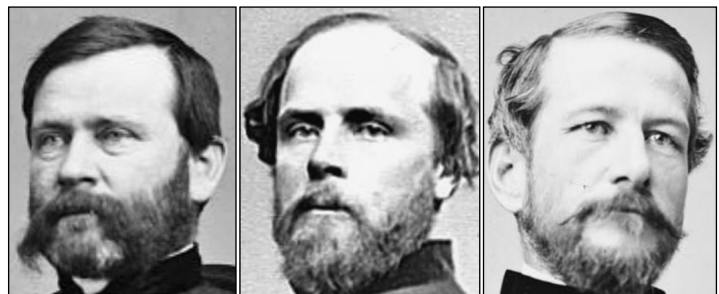
Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside *Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker* *Maj. Gen. Jesse L. Reno*

Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner commanded the center wing, which included his own II Corps and the XII Corps, under the temporary command of Maj. Gen. Joseph K. Mansfield, because its nominal commander, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, had been fired from field command and had been left behind in Washington City to command the defense of the capital.



Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner *Maj. Gen. Joseph K. Mansfield* *Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks*

Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin commanded McClellan's left wing, which included Franklin's own VI Corps and the division of Maj. Gen. Darius N. Couch.



Maj. Gen. Wm. B. Franklin *Maj. Gen. Darius N. Couch* *Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton*

Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton commanded McClellan's cavalry division, which contained five brigades of cavalry. McClellan's field artillery consisted of approximately 300 guns, typically organized into batteries of 6 guns, each with several batteries assigned to each division. Almost

60 percent of McClellan's artillery was rifled.

After McClellan arrived at Frederick at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 13th, the gods of war intervened on his behalf. About an hour later, a Union enlisted man, Corporal Barton Mitchell of Company F, 27th Indiana Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, XII Corps, while camping near town, found several cigars around which was wrapped a copy of Lee's Special Orders 191. It took several hours for the document to be sent up the chain of command. When it got to 1st Division HQ, Samuel Pittman, the division adjutant general, immediately recognized the familiar handwriting of Lee's adjutant general, Robert H. Chilton, a comrade from the prewar Army.

Shortly before noon, Pittman delivered the document into McClellan's hands. McClellan was initially skeptical that the document was genuine until Pittman vouched for knowing the writer. McClellan recognized that the text of Lee's order seemed to confirm what scouts and civilians had already reported to him: that Lee had split his army into separate columns; Jackson's crossing the Potomac at Williamsport; McLaws and Anderson moving to the Potomac in front of Harper's Ferry; while Lee's "main body" had moved through Turner's Gap and was reported marching toward Hagerstown.

The situation seemed to call for an immediate and rapid forward movement in the direction of Pleasant Valley and the Potomac bridges in front of Harper's Ferry, where McClellan could cross over, cut off Lee's line of retreat, and save the Harper's Ferry garrison. But, on second thought, McClellan became concerned that Pleasant Valley might be a trap, as Jackson and Lee might be lurking behind South Mountain, waiting to fall on his flank and rear. McClellan later wrote that he "immediately gave orders for a rapid and vigorous forward movement." However, this is plainly puffery since even though he had come into possession of Lee's lost order before noon on Sept. 13th, McClellan did not issue an order to Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin's VI Corps to move to the possible relief of Harpers Ferry until 6:20 p.m. that evening.

Why the delay? McClellan had repeatedly in the past moved very cautiously and deliberately, unwilling to risk the lives of the men he had so well trained. He also repeatedly overestimated the size of his opposing force. Matters were not helped by his military intelligence and reports from the public, which placed the size of Lee's army at 100,000 men. Nor did it help that his equally paranoid personal scout/detective, Allan Pinkerton, had placed the size of Lee's army at 200,000 men. In fact, as we have seen, Lee's army was only around 50,000 in number. It was simply unfathomable to McClellan that Lee would have the nerve to split such an inferior number into four or five groups, knowing that the Army of the Potomac was in pursuit.

We leave the reader in suspense and continue the narrative next month, where, for now, Lee's army is scattered over a 25-mile area centered on Sharpsburg, MD, with the Army of the Potomac in warm pursuit.

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News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2022 RCWRT Meetings

For the Nov. 14th meeting, we will meet in person with a simultaneous Zoom cast in Daniels Auditorium in the NC Museum of History. Entrance is available from Edenton Street on the south side of the building (across from the State Capitol building).

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
Nov. 14 th , 2022	Tom Elmore	The Burning of Columbia, SC, Feb. 17 th , 1865
Dec. 12 th , 2022	Holiday Party	The Borden House in Fletcher Park, Raleigh at 6:30 PM. Admission is free; members are invited to bring a favorite dish; guests are welcome. https://raleighnc.gov/borden-building-and-fred-fletcher-amphitheater

Barbara Frietchie


When Stonewall Jackson and his troops marched through Frederick, MD, in early Sept. 1862, during Lee's Maryland Campaign, 95-year-old resident, Barbara Frietchie, thinking the marchers were Union troops, waved her U.S. flag from her porch. After some of the troops threatened her action, a Confederate officer, wanting to avoid a scene, told her: "Go on Granny, wave your flag as much as you please."

As word of the incident spread, her deed became more heroic with each retelling. Eventually, it inspired the New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier to set the tale to verse. Published in 1863, it became a great favorite in the Union. In his fictitious version, Whittier has Frietchie hanging the U.S. flag from a staff on her attic window. When rebel troops fire at the flag, Frietchie grabs it from its broken staff and proclaims:

*"Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But spare your country's flag," she said.
A shade of sadness, a blush of shame,
Over the face of the leader came;
The nobler nature within him stirred
To life at that woman's deed and word:
"Who touches a hair on yon gray head
Dies like a dog! March on!" he said.*

Southerners quickly grasped the implications of the poem's popularity. The Richmond *Examiner* stated: "The uncultivated may pronounce the poem so much nonsense, but the wise know that it will outlive and disprove all histories."

Note the fanciful illustration to the right where Stonewall Jackson prevents a soldier from shooting Ms. Frietchie.



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Staff
Bob Graesser, Editor

Contributors
Griff Bartlett

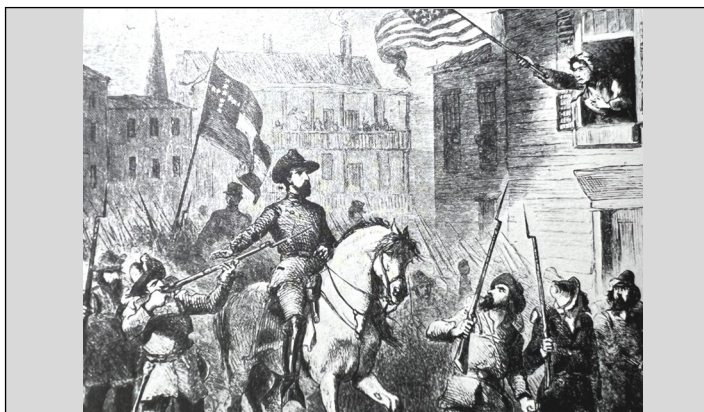
Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to **Bob Graesser, Editor**
(RaleighCWRT@yahoo.com; 919-244-9041)

RCWRT Board of Directors (2022-24)

Name	Position
Charlie Knight	President / Program Committee
Griff Bartlett	Secretary / Treasurer
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Newsletter Editor / Webmaster
Jessica Hoover	Member
Ted Kunstling	Member
Lynda Turbeville	Member
Josie Walker	Member (through end of 2022)

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 136 / 167

New Members Joining the RCWRT in Oct. 2022:
None



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12th, 2001 and is a 501(c)(3) "tax exempt organization."

We meet on the second Monday of each month. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Student membership is free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20. Dues should be submitted to Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 908 Kinsdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615-1117 by **Sept. 15th** each year.

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