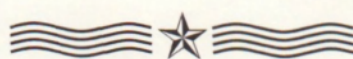




ON THE skirmish line

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust



A Year of Preservation Accomplishments

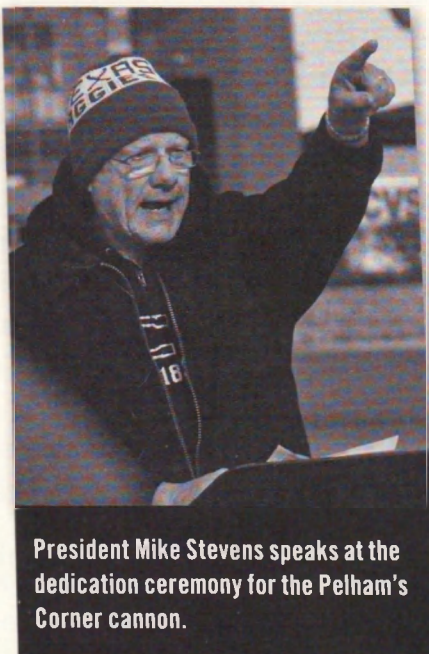
From the President—A Look Back at 2013

CVBT HAD AN EVENTFUL YEAR IN 2013.

We continue to remain true to our mission of preserving the hallowed ground of our Civil War battlefields, and it is my privilege to provide some details of what was accomplished:

A. We purchased three parcels this year:

- One was an 81 acre tract north of Rt. 3 (the historic Orange Turnpike), three non-contiguous parcels that include the site of both the historic Wilderness Tavern and the Confederate Second Corps hospital where Jackson's arm was amputated. We call this land "Wilderness Crossroads II."
- The other two were tracts on the south side of Rt. 3, both part of Jackson's flank attack and outside the boundary of the national park:
 - » One was a 13 acre parcel near the intersection with the Orange Plank Road that we call "Rodes-Doles." (You may be familiar with the property because of the "Castle," an old relic shop that long occupied the property and that we have now had demolished.



President Mike Stevens speaks at the dedication ceremony for the Pelham's Corner cannon.

» The other was a 9 acre parcel, less than a mile east of the "Castle" site and representing the first land preserved on the south side of Rt. 3 from Wilderness Church east to the NPS Visitor Center. We call this parcel the "Stonewall Brigade" tract.

With these two acquisitions, CVBT has now preserved a total of 58 acres on the south side of Rt. 3, and with all three of the acquisitions, we have now preserved approximately 1000 acres on all four of our major battlefields since coming into existence in late 1996.

B. Several years ago we had acquired a one acre parcel of land southwest of Tidewater Trail at Benchmark Road called "Pelham's Corner." This was the last remaining ground upon which the Gallant Pelham single-handedly defied the Union army for almost an hour on December 13, 1862. On that very same day in 2013 we had a ceremony dedicating the installation of an authentic replica of a Napoleon cannon—the same type used by Pelham in his famous action.

{Continued on page 2}

The cannon was made by Steen Cannon & Ordnance Works of Kentucky, with CVBT Board member and Director of Lands Management Mike Greenfield in charge of making sure that things were handled both efficiently and in ways that honored the men to whom this whole project was dedicated. Without Mike's extraordinary work ethic and commitment, the project simply would not have been possible, so three HUZZAHS for Mike G.!

Because we pledge to use as much of every dollar donated to us as possible for the purchase of "dirt and grass," we sought friends who might help us with the cannon's \$19,500 price tag. And in this we were successful.

The cost of the cannon and its installation was covered in full by three major donors. Len Riedel and members of his Blue & Gray Education Society (BGES), Jim Davis, President of BGES and longtime CVBT member, and the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock all stepped up and contributed the funds that made this dream a reality. To Len, to Jim, and to Lisa Biever, Program Director of the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. organization, thank you!

The dedication ceremony was enriched immeasurably by the participation of the NPS gun crew, the SCV Second Corps. Color Guard, Rev. Beverly Tucker Lacy Camp #2141, the SCV Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp #1722, and NPS Historians Frank O'Reilly and Eric Mink. To all, thank you so much!

C. Our Annual Meeting was held on May 3, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Bob Krick (CVBT Board member and Secretary) and Gary Gallagher (charter member of CVBT) were our co-speakers, and, as always, they were terrific. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of CVBT's prestigious Happel Award to Jack Ackerly for his notable contributions to battlefield preservation. Previous recipients had been Bob Mrazek,

Brian Pohanka, Ed Bearss, Enos Richardson, Bill Howell, and Bud Hall, and Jack is more than worthy of joining that distinguished crowd. To Jack, thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for battlefield preservation!

D. Jack is among the leaders of the Lee-Jackson Foundation, an organization that has made significant financial donations to CVBT for the past four years. Their ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

E. Volume 12 of our highly acclaimed Journal, "Fredericksburg History & Biography," was published, under the extraordinary editorship of Erik Nelson. The consistent quality of each journal is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and expertise. Thank you, Erik!

F. We were the recipients of three grants this year: Two from the Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund (one of them a \$700,000 grant that was transferred to the Civil War Trust toward the purchase of Fleetwood Hill), and one from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Thanks to all who administer these programs!

Entering 2014, CVBT remains focused and effective, strong and committed to continuing to fight the good fight for battlefield preservation until our final role is called. Our leadership team, consisting of the incomparable Executive Director Jerry Brent and of the best Board pound-for-pound in the business, remains motivated and determined.

But our biggest strength remains you, our members and friends. Your consistently strong support has made CVBT the effective organization it is, and your ongoing support will assure that it will remain so. Simply put, a thousand acres of battlefield land, land "well-watered with the blood of heroes," have been saved because of your willingness to step up and be counted as an active part of the CVBT team. So to you, the members and friends of CVBT, well done and thank you!

Together, we ARE making a difference!



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THUNDER ALONG THE RAPPAHANNOCK

PART TWO

The NPS Live Cannon Firing Demonstration at the Pelham's Corner cannon dedication.



Photograph by the Free Lance-Star



"If ever a site cried out for a cannon to interpret and commemorate battlefield initiative and bravery, Pelham's Corner is the one!"

—National Park Service
Historian Frank O'Reilly

A Grand Success

On Friday, December 13, CVBT held a dedication ceremony for the replica 12 pound Napoleon cannon that we recently purchased and installed at Pelham's Corner (at the corner of Tidewater Trail and Benchmark Road). The cannon was fabricated by Steen Cannon & Ordnance Works, a nationally known manufacturer of such pieces. The cost of the cannon, including shipping and installation, was approximately \$19,500. CVBT worked diligently to secure full funding for the cannon through a collaborative effort with several entities and a private donor. We received a \$6,000 grant from the nonprofit Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock, a donation of \$9,900 from the Blue and Gray Education Society, and a generous gift of \$3,300 from CVBT member James W. Davis.

We hosted the dedication on the 151st anniversary of the heroic action that Major John Pelham took at this site on December 13, 1862. The ceremony—which was attended by approximately 100 people—included a live cannon firing demonstration by the National Park Service, using the NPS firing reproduction cannon. NPS historian Frank O'Reilly engaged the crowd with a moving address on the actions that Major Pelham took on this ground 151 years ago. Two Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) groups also participated

(Continued on page 4)

{Continued from page 3}

in the dedication ceremony. The Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp # 1722 provided both the bugler (Lt. Commander Roy Perry) and the Honor Guard for the event. Lt. Commander Perry even learned to play *Boots & Saddles* for us! The 2nd Corps. Color Guard, the official Color Guard of the Reverend Beverly Tucker Lacy Camp #2141, also participated in the ceremony.

In conjunction with the dedication, CVBT sponsored a day-long bus tour that visited many of the sites that were associated with Major Pelham before, during and after the Battle of Fredericksburg. Those sites included Skinker's Neck, where Pelham fired upon Federal gunships coming up the Rappahannock; the grounds of Smithfield, which was held by the Federals prior to the battle; and a rare interior visit to historic Hayfield Manor, an 18th century plantation house where General Lee and Major Pelham were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor. Although the once grand home had fallen into such disrepair that it had been placed on the "endangered list" of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, it was saved and renovated by Aggregate Industries, an international mining firm, and removed from the endangered list in 2006.

During the afternoon, the tour group hiked to the well-preserved artillery emplacements on an 11.9 acre tract that was donated to CVBT in 2001. That land protects the few remaining entrenchments located on the southernmost portion of the Confederate line. The bus tour, which



The 2nd Corps. Color Guard of the Reverend Beverly Tucker Lacy Camp #2141.

was led by NPS historians Frank O'Reilly and Eric Mink, also included a stop at the cannon dedication ceremony and a sit-down lunch at the Blue and Gray Brewpub in the Bowman Center.

During the tour, Frank stated that while Major Pelham left many marks on the world, at Fredericksburg he left his most indelible mark on the world and its history. In Frank's words, Pelham's performance on December 13, 1862 was an allegory of Southern resolve and

defiance—one gun pitted against the largest army in the Western Hemisphere—and Pelham single-handedly defied it—dared it to attack—dared to attack it—and held his own for an hour in that place 151 years ago.

When Frank learned of CVBT's plans to install a cannon at the site, he stated:

"If ever a site cried out for a cannon to interpret and commemorate battlefield initiative and bravery, Pelham's Corner is the one! Not only is a cannon essential to the story, it is one of the most impelling magnets to attract the curious to engage the site and learn the story."

What an amazing and compelling chronicle Major Pelham has left for us and for all future generations!

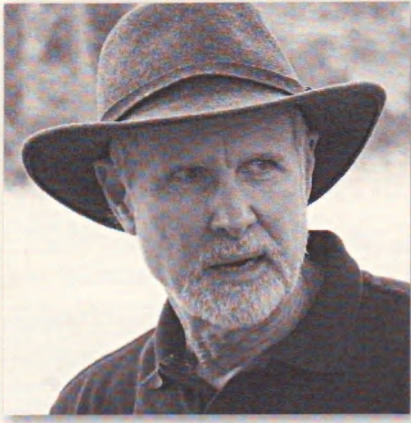
Special thanks need to go to Mike Greenfield and Jerry Brent, who spent untold hours securing the cannon and planning both the dedication ceremony and the bus tour. Mike and Jerry, the wonderful events of this day simply could not have been done without you. Thanks so much for a job well done! **SL**

Stay on the Skirmish Line!

Take a look at the mailing label on your latest *Skirmish Line* newsletter. You will see that it includes your CVBT membership expiration date. Since we are a dirt and grass outfit, members can help us save on mailing costs by checking that expiration date and sending in their renewal on their own. If the date is highlighted, your membership has expired. While we would like to share the *Skirmish Line* with everyone, we can only afford to send it to current members. So please renew your membership at the appropriate time. You might also consider upgrading your membership level, to increase our capability to save hallowed ground in central Virginia.



Remember to order all your Amazon.com items through the CVBT Amazon web link. CVBT receives a percentage of the order to help preserve hallowed ground!



Annual Meeting Update

CVBT is finalizing preparations for our 2014 annual meeting, which will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness. As indicated in our most recent newsletter, the dinner meeting will be held on Friday, May 2 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel, located at 2801 Plank Road in Fredericksburg. We are pleased to report that noted author and historian Gordon C. Rhea will join us to discuss the battle. Several of Gordon's books will be available for sale in the banquet hall, and he will be happy to inscribe them. The evening will include a delicious buffet dinner and a premium cash bar. As with our annual meeting last year, CVBT's 2014 meeting will not include battlefield tours, since the National Park Service will be providing a wide range of events during the 150th anniversary. The NPS events related to the Battle of the Wilderness will run from May 3 through May 6. Further information on the Park's tours and presentations can be found at www.nps.gov/frsp/sesquicentennial.htm.

Gordon will also be conducting a bus tour for the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) on May 2-3. Details about that tour, which is not a CVBT event, can be found at www.fowb.org when they become available. CVBT encourages everyone to attend the NPS and FoWB events. Following the dinner, our annual meeting will include a review of CVBT's accomplishments and finances during 2013, an update on our current and proposed activities, and an election of new Board members. We look forward to seeing you on May 2! For those of you who may be able to stay in the Fredericksburg area for a longer period of time, please note that the NPS is also planning a wide range of activities related to the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. Those events will be held from May 8 through May 12. Information on those programs can also be found on the Park web site listed above. **SL**

New Battlefield Grant Funding Approved

In separate votes on January 15 and 16, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Among many other provisions, the Act allocates \$8.9 million for Federal grants to protect historically significant Civil War battlefield lands, under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. The Act was signed into law by President Obama on January 17.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program (CWBPP) provides Federal matching grants to protect historically significant battlefields that are located outside the boundaries of National Park Service lands. The use

*To date, grants under the CWBPP
have been awarded to protect more than
19,000 acres of hallowed ground at
75 battlefields in 16 states.*

of matching grants results in public-private partnerships between the National Park Service, state and local governments, and various private entities, including nonprofit organizations. Grants from the CWBPP are awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which is an arm of the NPS. The ABPP utilizes monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support these grants. Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through a competitive process, and require a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match. Grants are available for the acquisition of land in fee simple, or for the acquisition of permanent, protective interests in land. Higher consideration is given to grant proposals for the acquisition of battlefields defined as Priority I or II sites, as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

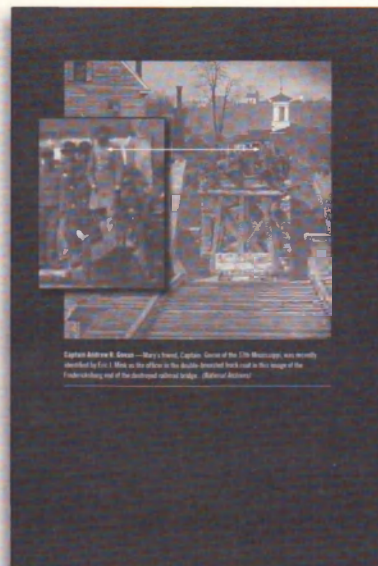
To date, grants under the CWBPP have been awarded to protect more than 19,000 acres of hallowed ground at 75 battlefields in 16 states. Given the ongoing development pressure in Central Virginia, CVBT applauds Congress' inclusion of funding for battlefield protection in the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. In the coming months, our Board will be assessing potential new acquisitions, and determining whether to apply for ABPP grant funding under the new Congressional allocation. **SL**

Fredericksburg History & Biography:

THE 2013 VOLUME IS NOW AVAILABLE

CVBT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE 12TH VOLUME OF *FREDERICKSBURG HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY*. WHILE CVBT REMAINS FOCUSED ON BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION, WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE PUBLICATION OF OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARLY JOURNAL. COPIES OF THE VOLUME HAVE BEEN MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE AT THE ACTIVE (\$135 PER YEAR) LEVEL OR ABOVE, AS A BENEFIT OF THEIR CVBT MEMBERSHIP. JOURNALS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT SEVERAL LOCAL BOOKSTORES, AT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S (NPS) FREDERICKSBURG BATTLEFIELD VISITOR CENTER, AND THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.CVBT.ORG.

Like our previous journals, Volume 12 includes a combination of new historical research and previously unpublished primary material. The opening article was written by Donald C. Pfanz, who recently retired after serving with the NPS for 32 years, the last 26 years as a historian at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park (F&SNMP). Don's submission is entitled "Reaping the Harvest of Death: The Burial of Union Soldiers at Marye's Heights in December 1862 and May 1864." The piece opens with a vivid description of the Union carnage at Marye's Heights following the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. The article focuses on the haphazard manner in which the Federals buried their fallen comrades—which outraged many Confederates. The article concludes that the 1862 burial party "deserves condemnation not only for its utter disregard of the dead but for the poor quality of its work." The piece also addresses the burial of Union soldiers following the May 1864 Battle of the Wilderness, and the actions of Union Corporal Albert M. Downs, who took it upon himself to bury many of the dead with much more care and dignity. While most of these men were subsequently reinterred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery in 1866, the article concludes that we may never know where some of the soldiers' remains ended up, since they may have been exhumed by unscrupulous Yankee contractors shortly after the war.



Captain Andrew B. Benson — Mary's friend, Captain Benson of the 11th Massachusetts, was heavily involved in the burial of Union soldiers at Marye's Heights in December 1862 and May 1864.

The second piece, "I should look forward to the future," The Diary of Mary G. Caldwell, Part 2", was transcribed and annotated by Russell P. Smith, who previously served as the Superintendent of the F&SNMP. Russ, who has been a regular contributor to this Journal, is currently the Superintendent of the newly established First State National Monument in Delaware. This well-researched and detailed article covers Mary Gray Caldwell's diary entries from June 25, 1864 to November 28, 1865. During this period, Mary was forced to come to grips with the fall of the Confederacy and the need to move forward and create a new life for herself. The diary is both eloquent and engaging. While it references many details of Mary's daily life (such as the weather, family interactions, and her normal activities), it also shows her keen interest in,

and detailed knowledge of, many issues related to the war and politics of the time. Many entries reflect her disbelief that the South might lose the war and be subjugated to Federal rule. She is finally compelled to believe that the Southern Confederacy is no more. The final entries in the diary reflect her determination to "pluck roses from the past" rather than to remember the briars, and to look forward to the future. Lists of soldiers and family

and friends identified in the diary, and notes at the end of the article, bring added clarity to Mary's entries.

The third entry, "Minutes of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, 1862-1863," was transcribed and annotated by Erik F. Nelson. Erik, a founding member

"I should look forward to the future" The Diary of Mary G. Caldwell, Part 2

TRANSCRIBED AND ANNOTATED BY RUSSELL P. SMITH

The final words of Mary G. Caldwell's diary, opened alone, strongly her determination not to dwell in the past. She had seen enough of war and the misery it brought. Her interest was now in looking back, but in looking a life for herself in the defeated and dismantled Confederacy.

The first part of the transcription of Mary's diary that appeared in Volume 11 of *Fredericksburg History & Biography* ended on June 16, 1864. This second part starts on June 25, 1864. By the time, General Thomas S. Cox had been named in the Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg and Richmond. Through Mary tried to keep her spirits up, the end of the Confederacy was in sight. Gone were the days of parties and visits by her soldier friends. Although the rejected music and read novels, her days were filled with sadness and only by the first of Union reads and repeating in secret of Confederate successes.

Mary lived with her mother, Caroline, her sister Mary, her sister Fannie, and her brother Johnnie. Her father, Richard, had found a job with the government in Richmond, while her sister Betty and Maggie were away from home, probably in Richmond. Her brother Willie was in the Confederate Army.

Mary's diary gives us an intimate look at the reaction of a Fredericksburger to the fall of the Confederacy. She was caught between her loyalty and the need to reconcile with her future enemies, in order to recognize the new reality of life in the South.

of CVBT, is the City of Fredericksburg's Senior Planner as well as the City's archivist. This article supplements a piece from last year's Journal, which contained a transcription of the Town's Common Council Minutes from the pre-war years of 1860-1861. In this piece, Erik provides a fascinating picture of the workings of the Town Council as Fredericksburg stood on the brink of war in 1862, and then as the Town became enmeshed in the conflict. The Council's responsibilities during this period necessarily went far beyond the provision of typical municipal services. The actions authorized by the Common Council included adopting necessary relief measures to support Fredericksburg's poor and suffering citizens, especially following the bombardment and sacking of the Town; providing buildings, facilities and materials as needed to support the Confederate war effort; protecting the free navigation of the Rappahannock River; employing additional police officers to maintain peace and order in the Town; prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor to troops; and tendering the use of the Town Hall as a hospital. Interestingly enough, the Minutes contain only a brief reference to the December 13 Battle of Fredericksburg, and many provisions in the Minutes focus on basic government actions such as the appointment of Government officials and the payment of salaries and invoices that came before the Board.

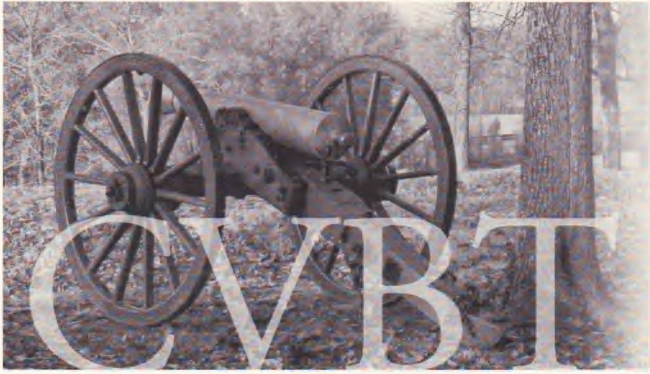
The fourth article, "Here Can Be Found the Realities of War," Diary of a Nine Months Volunteer By Corporal Casper W. Easily," was transcribed and annotated by Lawrence M. McNiesh, M.D. and Daniel Chorik. Dr. McNiesh is the Chief of Radiology at Windber Medical Center in Windber, Pennsylvania, and his co-author Daniel Chorik resides in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The diary of Casper Easily has survived because it was part of a collection donated to the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. Easily served with Company A of the 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from August 4, 1862 to May 26, 1863. His diary is well written and often records events on a day-to-day basis. Many of the entries speak of rather mundane issues, such as marching, making camp, drills and inspections, the weather, and the sickness



of comrades. However, the diary also provides a first-hand account of several key events in the war, including the change of Union commanders, the Battle of Fredericksburg, the infamous "mud march" in January 1863, and finally the Battle of Chancellorsville. The entries make clear that Easily was not hesitant to speak his mind on occasion (for example, he wrote to a newspaper stating that the mud march had been "disastrous to our army here and tended to demoralize it more than did the Battle of Fredericksburg.") The notes accompanying the article provide an excellent commentary on the piece, and help to flesh out the details of Easily's account.

The final piece, part of our ongoing Southern Exposure section and written by Erik F. Nelson, is entitled "A military photographer on the heels of a Federal assault." In this article, Erik examines two photographs taken by Captain Andrew J. Russell, a photographer from the 141st New York Regiment who was on detached duty to the United States Military Railroads during the Battle of Second Fredericksburg. When troops from the Union Sixth Corps launched an assault at Fredericksburg on May 3, 1863. Captain Russell was close behind the assault columns as they surged past Sunken Road and up onto the crest of Marye's Heights. The first photo is one of dead Mississippians behind the stone wall, following the breakthrough of Union troops at the Sunken Road. The second is a photo of Herman Haupt and William W. Wright, the men Russell worked for, taken on the reverse slope of Marye's Heights following the successful assault on the Heights. Many of Russell's other photos are well known to those who have studied the war in Virginia, and his images have served as a valuable resource for historians.

CVBT is extremely grateful for the significant amount of time, energy and expertise that our Journal authors devote to the research and writing of their scholarly articles, and for sharing their knowledge with us. We are also most appreciative of the countless hours that Erik Nelson continues to devote to the editing and publication of *Fredericksburg History & Biography*. SL



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The Trust's mission is to purchase Civil War battlefield terrain and to advocate for battlefield protection at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

For information on membership, please write to the Trust at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402; call our office at (540) 374-0900; or visit our website at www.cvbt.org. Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

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Active Member	\$ 135
Sustaining Member	\$ 250

Patron	\$ 500
Benefactor	\$ 1,000
Life Member	\$ 5,000

Life Patron	\$10,000
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