

The First Campaign



SEMINAR & REUNION

Four Days of Battlefield Tours,
Seminars, Living History
and Reunion Activities

17-20 AUGUST 2006

RICH MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION
BEVERLY, WEST VIRGINIA



The First Campaign SEMINAR & REUNION



A SPECIAL EVENT...

Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is excited to present this first-ever opportunity to bring together descendents of those who fought at Rich Mountain and associated First Campaign battles. This reunion event will enable friends, neighbors and strangers alike to explore their common ancestry, share tales and oral histories of these brave men, and broaden our understanding of momentous historic events. The Civil War was a unique time in our national, state and regional heritage. This gathering will highlight the story of the mountaineer soldiers during that time, and examine the places where they struggled with destiny.

...WITH A SPECIAL MISSION

Oral Histories

One of the primary focuses of this event is to collect the personal histories and stories of these courageous fighting men from the memoirs, diaries, photographs and family tales of their role in the Civil War. RMBF will make copies, scan images, and collect written or oral interviews or accept donations of any and research capabilities of the Civil War in this region

Family Reunion

This family reunion component of this event is to help connect descendents of these soldiers to other descendents who may hold information that references their own family member, and to help them better understand the roles, movements of troops, or engagements that were a part of their ancestor's life.

FOR ONGOING EVENT UPDATES, SEE THE WEB PAGE AT:
www.richmountain.org/1camsem6.htm

OTHER EVENT HAPPENINGS

Tours and Seminars

These tours will walk participants through the battle-grounds of this region, interpreting for them the significance that these sites played in not only the 1st Campaign but also the overall outcomes of the Civil War. Site tours include Philippi, Laurel Hill, Corricks Ford, Rich Mountain, Cheat Summit Fort, Camp Allegheny and Camp Bartow. Tour guides include historians Richard Wolfe, Hunter Lesser and Lars Byrne. Seminar talks include the history of the 25th VA Infantry by historian/author Richard Armstrong and the history of the 31st VA Infantry by author/educator Dr. Victor Thacker

Born of the Rebellion Exhibit

Born of the Rebellion : West Virginia Statehood is a new traveling exhibit developed by the West Virginia Humanities Council. The exhibit focuses on the unique circumstances surrounding the creation of the state of West Virginia and the constitutional issues involved. The statehood story is organized into four sections - Divergence, Civil War, Birth of West Virginia, and Statehood. The question of whether or not the separation of West Virginia from Virginia complied with the US Constitution requirement of consent of the original state continues to be one of interest. Viewers of the exhibit have the opportunity to vote on the issue for themselves!

Civil War Art Show

Paul R. Martin III is a professional historical artist, illustrator and art teacher in New York. His drawings and paintings have been exhibited throughout the New York Metropolitan area for the past 20 years. His original art and prints are on permanent display at the R. E. Lee Civil War Research Center and Library, The Civil War Library and Museum of Philadelphia, The Pentagon, the United States Congressional Building, West Point, and hundreds of private collections throughout the country. A member of the RMBF, Mr. Martin will be bringing several dozen of his works for a special exhibit at the Randolph County Community Arts Center during the weekend.

Your Hosts for this Event are the

RICH MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION
And The



RANDOLPH COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU

The First Campaign



WESTERN VIRGINIA 1861

The American Civil War broke into flame in many places, but the first campaign of strategic consequence began with the movement of Union soldiers to secure the B&O Railroad through what was then north-western Virginia. That rail link offered its possessor a vital passage between west and east through the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, and its importance was obvious to both sides.

After a summer of fumbling clashes, this first campaign was to end with Federal control of western Virginia generally established, and the victorious General McClellan promoted to command of all Union armies.

The first few weeks of the war, however, saw both sides feverishly gearing up for the coming contest.

The Army of the Northwest (C.S.A.) was created in June 1861 by the Confederate government to defend the northwestern borders of Virginia, including strategic turnpikes and railroads in the area.

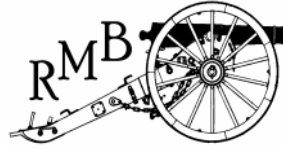
As part of that force, the 25th and 31st Virginia Infantry regiments were formed at Huttonsville, (western) Virginia on June 14, 1861. These two regiments were created by Brig. General Robert S. Garnett with companies of men from the mountain counties of what is now east-central West Virginia and western Virginia. Some of these companies fought at Philippi, and later the two regiments fought with Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley and with Lee to Appomattox.

MOTEL AND LODGING INFORMATION

RMBF has blocked rooms at the following locations in Elkins: Days Inn (304-637-4667), Super Eight (304-636-6500) and the Graceland Inn & Conference Center (304-637-1600). Please mention the RMBF blocking to get the special rates – Room blocks will be released Aug 1. Other lodging options including RV and Camping can be obtained by calling the Randolph County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-422-3304 or by visiting their website at www.randolphcountywv.com

To reserve your place at THE FIRST CAMPAIGN, detach and return this completed form with payment to the:

RICH MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION



#4 Court Street / P.O. Box 227
Beverly, WV 26253
Phone: 304-637-7424
Fax: 304-637-7424
E-mail: richmt@richmountain.org

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Number of Reservations

Total Amount Enclosed

Your Civil War Ancestor's Name and Military Unit (if any)

Full Registration

\$250

Includes: All bus tours, Welcome Social, Art Exhibit & WV State Exhibit, Friday picnic lunch, Friday evening event, Saturday seminar Sessions, BBQ lunch and reunion, Keynote banquet and Sunday lunch. RMBF Family Membership and commemorative shirt and souvenir.

Saturday only

\$125

Includes: Continental breakfast, Seminar sessions, bbq lunch and reunion, keynote banquet and membership

Keynote Banquet (Saturday; 19 August) Per Person =

\$30

Only a limited number of seats are available - Advance reservations are highly recommended.

BBQ and reunion only

Per Person = **\$20**

(14 and under \$10; under 3 free)

RMBF Membership (Per Person/Family)

\$25

Commemorative T-shirt

\$15

Souvenir

\$5

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1,



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THE SCHEDULE

August 17

- Noon - 9pm REGISTRATION and Book Sales
Oral History and Archival Collection
1pm - 7pm TOUR of Philippi and Laurel Hill
7pm - 9pm Welcome and SOCIAL
(Randolph Co. Community Arts Center)
Opening of Civil War Art Show and
"Born of the Rebellion Exhibit"

August 18

- 8am - 5pm REGISTRATION and Book Sales
Oral history and archival collection
8am - 11am TOUR of Rich Mountain Battlefield
11am Picnic Lunch—Provided by RMBF
(At Field of Fire)
Noon - 2pm TOUR of town of Beverly, West Virginia
2pm - 4pm TOUR of the Corrick's Ford Battlefield
7pm MUSICAL PRESENTATION
Rich Mountain String Band
Traditional regional music and
instruction on Civil War era dancing

August 19

- All Day COLLECTION of oral history and artifacts
9am - 10am LECTURE: History of 31st Va. (site TBA)
10:30 - 11:30a LECTURE: History of 25th Va. (site TBA)
Noon WELCOME and BBQ
(Robertson Association Park, Dailey)
Noon - 4pm LIVING HISTORY, Displays and Book
Sales, Encampment, Music etc. (Dailey)
4:30pm MEMORIAL SERVICE
(Mt. Iser Confederate Cemetery)
7pm Banquet & Keynote—Hunter Lesser
1st United Methodist Church
Family Life Center—Elkins

August 20

- 7:30am - 12pm TOUR Cheat Summit Ft. /Camp Allegheny
Noon Lunch at "Hermitage" (Cheat Mountain)
1pm — 2pm TOUR Camp Bartow
3:30pm Arrive Elkins

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THE AUTHORITIES

Hunter Lesser (*Keynote Speaker*)

... has had a twenty-year career as an archaeologist and historical interpreter. His writings on America's past span topics from ancient Native American sites to Kentucky moonshine stills. A lifelong student of the Civil War, he is the author of *Rebels at the Gate: Lee and McClellan on the Front Line of a Nation Divided* (2004), a History Book Club main selection.

Richard L. Armstrong

... is a widely recognized and much-published Civil War expert on the battles in, and troops from, western Virginia. In the Virginia Regimental Series, he published *25th Virginia Infantry and 9th Battalion Virginia Infantry* (1990) and *19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry* (1994). Most recently, he published *Surprise! The Confederate Raids on Randolph County, W. Va., 1864-1865* (2003)

Victor L. Thacker

... was born in Philippi, WV. He is a 1963 graduate of the Air Force Academy and a retired Air Force pilot with 26 years of active military service. He holds a Masters and Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters of Public Management from Carnegie Mellon. He teaches part-time at WV Wesleyan College, and he supervised the restoration of Graceland mansion on the campus of Davis & Elkins College. In 2000 he published the Civil War memoirs of Joseph French Harding, a Randolph County (WV) Confederate veteran.

Richard A. Wolfe

... is a retired Marine Corps Officer. Since retiring he has worked in the information technology field and is currently a Program Manager for Lockheed Martin. He is a long time student of the American Civil War. He has given numerous talks and tours relating to the West Virginia's part in Civil War. He was on the West Virginia Division of Tourism's Civil War Task Force to develop interruptive signage for the First Campaign. He is the President of Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation.