

A Civil War Story

by Lynne Belluscio

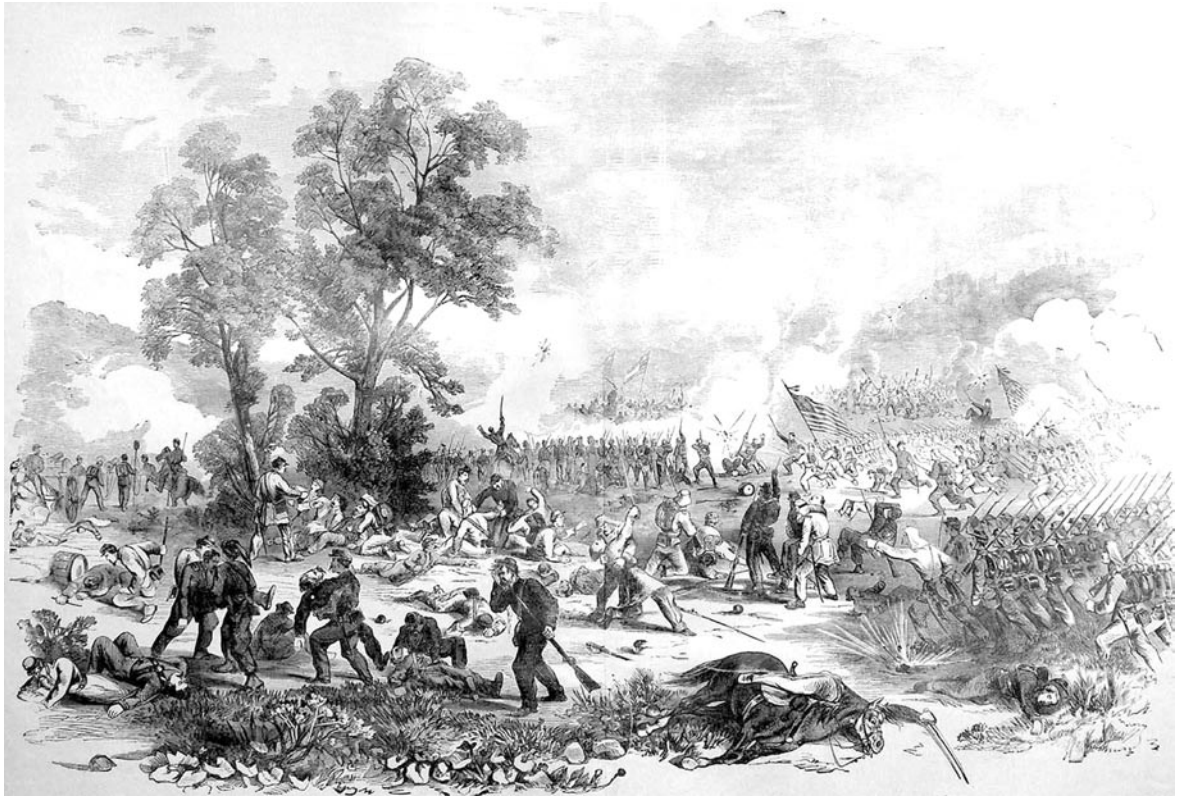
Last week I was at a museum conference at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. It was the boyhood home of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. We had a chance to "meet" the famous Confederate General who told us the tragic story of his childhood.

Born in 1824, his father died in 1826. His mother moved the small family to a mill near Weston, Virginia (now West Virginia) and she remarried in 1830. She died a year later in childbirth, leaving Thomas an orphan. His stepfather never accepted Thomas and his siblings so at the age of 7, Thomas was sent back to live with his relatives at what was to become known as Jackson's Mill.

Eventually, he was accepted at West Point. He served in the Army and taught at Virginia Military Institute until the Civil War broke out. He became one of General Lee's most trusted and capable generals, earning his nickname at the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861.

The Battle of Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia, was supposed to be a Union victory. Congressmen and their wives, rode out from Washington to see what they thought would be a rout of the Southern army. Union forces under General Irvin McDowell had delayed the attack for two days which allowed the Confederate General Beauregard to call on reinforcements from the Shenandoah Valley. They arrived late in the day, in time to overcome the Union forces.

In the retreat back to Washington, spectators and Congressmen were caught up in the melee. In fact the *LeRoy Gazette* carried an article that mentioned that Alfred Ely, Congressman from Monroe County and Calvin Hudson, the District Attorney were taken prisoners during the Battle of Bull Run.



The *Gazette* of July 31, carried a long letter from Lt. H.A. Hascall of LeRoy, describing the battle in great detail: "Dear Father, Here we are again in Fall's Church, after a disastrous defeat." (Hascall had graduated from West Point in 1856, at the age of 21. He served as acting Adj. General under General McDowell.) A Confederate battery, positioned at a farm house took direct aim at his unit. "I left my horse in charge of a private, and put toward the farm house, expecting to be shot to a dead certainty; but I found on reaching the house that the battery enemy's infantry had retired to the battery and our troops of some other Brigade were moving up on the right. I went back to report and found that the Brigade had moved out without me, but had not left my horse. ... We could rally only one regiment of our Brigade. Our batteries were charged by their cavalry, horses shot and riders sabred, and those not took fright, cut their horses loose from the guns and caissons, and rushed off. We marched all night, and finally reached this place completely exhausted. I had been in the saddle twenty-seven hours consecutively. I must end this abruptly as the only chance for sending it for many hours

is offered now. Affectionately, Herbert."

Hascall would survive the war, and died in 1890. His body was returned to LeRoy and he was buried in the Myrtle Street Cemetery. Stonewall Jackson fought in the second Battle of

Bull Run and commanded the Confederates to another victory.

In May 2, 1863, Stonewall Jackson was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville, by friendly fire. His left arm was amputated, and he died of pneumonia a week later.

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