



REDOUBT No. 2 / Fort No Name

“Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt”

WORKS AT AQUIA CREEK, VA.

Federal Defenses of Aquia Creek Landing

Stafford County, Virginia

N 38 ° 23.598' / W 077° 21.331' / 248.7' elevation



XII (Twelfth) CORPS

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, USA

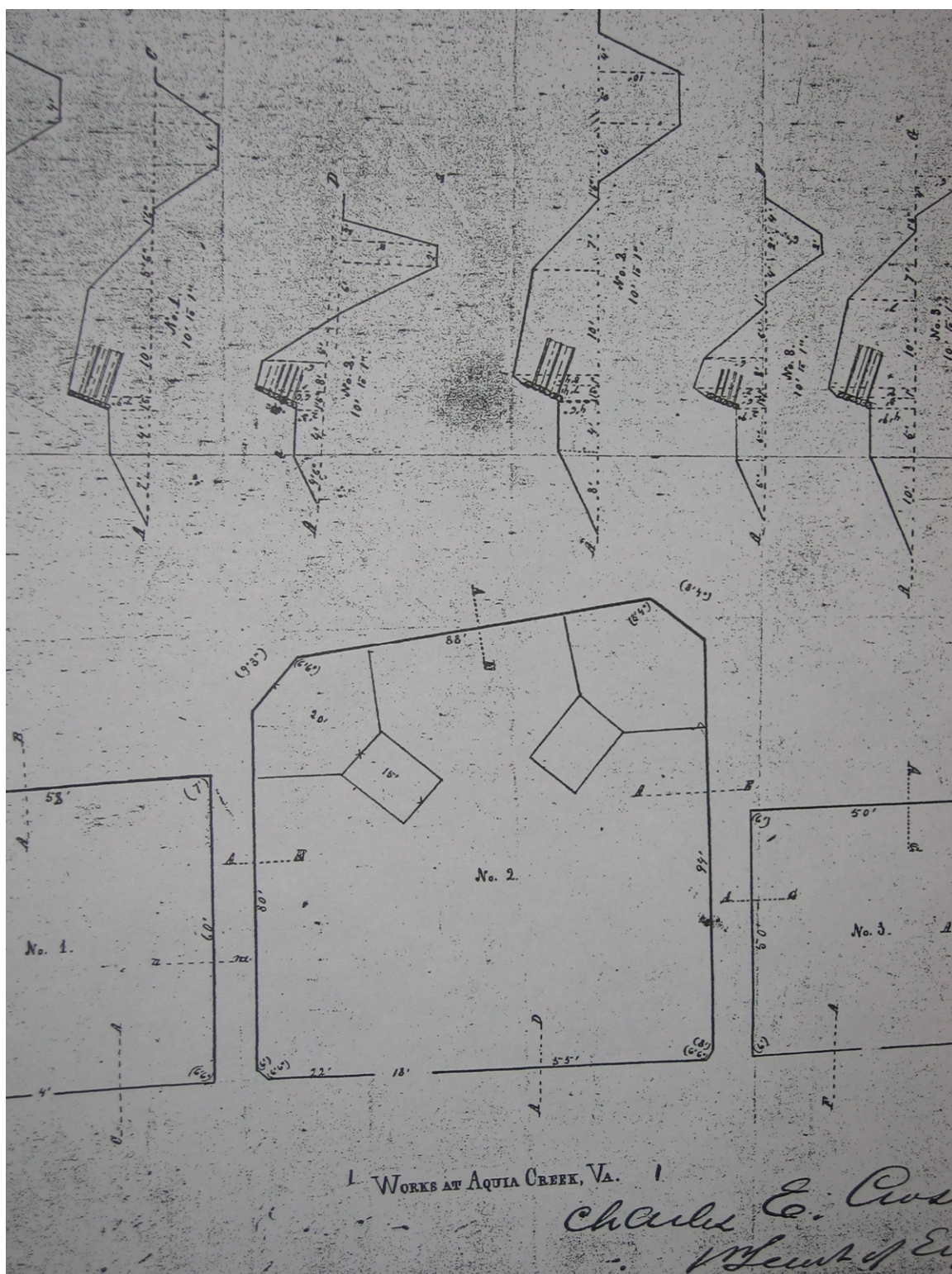
Circa: February-March 1863 to mid June 1863

VIRGINIA HISTORIC REGISTER – DHR FILE NUMBER 089-057/44ST0082

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, FEBRUARY 2006

Thomas and Elaine Mountz, (540) 720-0899

oldfort@verizon.net



Drawing of Redoubt No.2 Works at Aquia Creek, VA Charles E. Cross / April 1, 1863 / National Archives Drawer 150/Sheet 41



REDOUBT No. 2 / Fort No Name
WORKS AT AQUIA CREEK, VA
Federal Defenses of Aquia Creek Landing
Stafford County, Virginia
XII (Twelfth) CORPS
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, USA
Circa 1863

NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTRY, FEBRUARY 2006
VIRGINIA HISTORIC REGISTRY – DHR FILE NUMBER 089-5057/44ST0082

INTRODUCTION

Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name, Works at Aquia Creek, VA (WAC,Va), also modern named as Fort No Name by previous owner, Paul Brockman, was the central of the three, perhaps four, Federal defensive fortifications ordered constructed in early (February) 1863 to protect the approaches to the Union supply depot at Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford, Virginia. Major General Joseph Hooker, Commanding General, Army of the Potomac (AOP), ordered construction of defensive fortifications to guard the depot at the northern end of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad from Aquia Creek Landing to Stoneman's Switch at Falmouth in front of the Confederate positions at Fredericksburg. These fortifications, along with the three redoubts at the Potomac Creek, "bean pole-cornstalk bridge", and the two works at Brooke Station, appear to supplement and perhaps reinforce abandoned Confederate defenses from the earlier blockade of the Potomac River and Washington, D.C.

THE REDOUBT

Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) is located in Stafford County, Virginia, on the top of the highest point (250+ ft) in the eastern portion of the county. It has an overlook of the surrounding area that would be considered both strategically and tactically significant to any military operation regardless of period in history. The redoubts were designated as a defense of the Federal landings and warehouses on Aquia Creek, as well as for the protection of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad that connected the supply depot at Aquia with frontline troops at Fredericksburg. The harbor served the purpose of receiving goods and supplies from the northern states, as well as moving casualties and troops to Washington, Baltimore, and other ports of the Union. Aside from the actual defensive position to protect the wharf and rail line, the elevation of the fort ensures line-of-sight communications for the signal to and from the land forces, the naval forces, and the Federal commanders.

Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) is an earthen field fortification, designed/drawn by Lieut. C. E. Cross, XII Corps Chief Engineer, US Army, that is nearly ninety-five feet square. The fortification is surrounded by a trench/ditch that is approximately ten to sixteen feet wide. The top of the parapet is six to ten feet above the surface of the terreplein. The depth of the ditch is eight to ten feet below ground level. On the east face, there is a sally-port that was eighteen feet wide. The sally-port is

approached by an earthen incline traversing the east ditch nearly mid-point of the redoubt's wall. The interior supports two gun ramps facing approximately southwest and northwest. There is a large bombproof magazine that is approximately fifteen feet square near the northeast corner. The magazine is approximately ten feet deep and is approached via a labyrinth path. In spite of erosion, time, and field expedient construction the physical measurements of the redoubt are very close to those specified in the engineering drawings. Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) was constructed on the highest elevation in eastern Stafford County, Virginia and commands a view west to the Stafford Courthouse along Courthouse Road, the lower terrain toward the wharf at Aquia Creek Landing, and for miles up and down the Potomac River.

The initial correspondences between the Lt. Comstock, AOP chief engineer, and the commanding officer of the Army of the Potomac, made recommendations, **“for consideration”** as to general locations, size, manning, and artillery for each redoubt. The topographical drawings and references regarding potential locations are reasonably accurate; however, tactical and strategic location of each earthwork appears subject to terrain and practability. Lt. Comstock's original letter in early February 1863 recommended placement of Redoubt No.2 in a valley along the north side of Thorny Point Road near the Bruce House. This suggestion was consistent with the drawings from mid-summer of 1862 in a map drawn for Col. Biddle, Commander of the Aquia Creek Depot area that appear to locate an abandoned Confederate redoubt that may be the present day fortification named Ft. McLean, for a general in the 11th Corps, AOP. This location is significantly lower than Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name and couched between two higher hills with the guns facing the south away from the Aquia Creek approach from the Potomac River. It appears by the time of construction and ultimate completion of the works, as mentioned before, the location of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) was placed on the highest point, as well as forward, **“advanced”** of the slash line between Redoubt No.1 and Redoubt No.3 (WAC,Va). The OR's March 30, 1863, S. Williams to the Aquia Landing, CO notes, **“The defenses of this place consist of a line of slashing, running from King's house, on Aquia Creek, south to Accakeek Creek, strengthened by two redoubts and an advanced redoubt near the Watson house, occupying position from which the enemy might shell the landing. These redoubts are numbered from right to left, No.1 being near the Watson house, No. 2 on the Stafford Court-House road, and No. 3 near the railroad.”** **“Redoubt No.2 a garrison of 200 men and two 3-inch guns”**. This after action report from Williams is consistent with H.W. Behnam's report March 14, 1863 inspectors report. This redoubt is noted as very close to one of the several Watson houses (at least three) along Stafford Court House Road. The actual placement of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) was on the Stafford Court House Road with **“a garrison of 200 men and two-3 inch guns with a reserve of 800 men”** with the guns facing the Brooke Railroad Station area (southwest) and the cemetery area at the intersection of Stafford Courthouse Road and Andrew Chapel Road (almost due west). This field of fire was superior for 3 inch rifled guns using a plunge fire technique. The defense of the railhead and harbor at Aquia Creek Landing was mandatory to the security of the entire Federal army's eastern campaign and the absolute defenses of Washington, D.C.

In February 1863, Pvt. Henry Berckhoff, 8th NY Vol. Infantry, drew in his sketchbook a scene from the railroad below Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name looking

upward beyond a home (Cox-Robinson home) to a large fort with a flag pole in the center. A careful study and redrawing of the lines of convergence suggests that Pvt. Berckhoff was standing just south of the railroad (now Brooke Road) in front of the Timmons' farm with the "Cox/Robinson" farmhouse to his right and the stream approaching from the left. This contemporary drawing supports that Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name was in fact situated in February 1863. Note the snow covering in the drawing. "There is about a foot of snow and it is still snowing", James Porter Stewart, Feb. 22, 1863. (Brady) "We have had some very severe weather of late. "Heavy snow which makes Soldiering very disagreeable", Dave Nichols, Feb. 26, 1863, (Brady). Nichols and Stewart were in Knap's Battery PA Light Artillery, 12 Corps, 2nd Division. There are no other sites in the Aquia Landing or Brooke area suggesting that the drawing is something other than Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name.



Mintz, S. (2003). **Water Color Sketchbook by Private Henry Berckhoff**
8th New York "German Rifles" 27 May 1861 to 23 May 1863.
Digital History. Retrieved October 16, 2006 from (<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>)

BRIEF CIVIL WAR HISTORY OF AQUIA CREEK LANDING

The area-surrounding Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) was significant to the Civil War history of the United States of America due to the Confederate States of America blockade of Washington, D.C., Spring 1861, and the battle on the Potomac River at Aquia Creek in late May and early June 1861. From that time, until the construction of the Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), the Confederates manned, and established a pattern of destruction, reconstruction, and final destruction of the Aquia Creek Landing wharf, railroad and railroad bridges south toward Fredericksburg to prevent these vital lines of communications falling into the Federal use. By the summer of 1862 the Federal Army of the Potomac amassed huge military stores and facilitated the critical logistic water-land-railroad link to the front and facilitated the break-down of the Confederate blockade of Washington, D.C. and Confederate control of the Virginia side

of the Potomac River. In the period of time between May 1861 and the early months of 1863, the numbers of combatants, support personnel, animals, and transfer of troops and casualties kept increasing, perhaps to well over 200,000 personnel. To ensure the protection of the wharf and railroad defensive fortifications were established. The wharf was rebuilt and the railroad and railroad bridges re-constructed.

The redoubts, with Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) occupying the highest and most forward position, would remarkably improve the defenses at Aquia, and protect rail supply and access to the front near Fredericksburg as well as the complimentary redoubts to the flanks.. From the camps and supply depot at Aquia Creek the Federal army launched it's campaign on Fredericksburg in December 1862. The Army of the Potomac returned to Stafford County and regrouped and reorganized in preparation of the Chancellorsville campaign in late April and early May 1863. Again, the Army of the Potomac relied on the logistical and supply support at Aquia Creek Landing to prepare for the Army's departure and movement toward Pennsylvania in the Gettysburg campaign in June 1863. In the official report of Capt. Lemuel B. Norton, Chief Signal Officer, Army of the Potomac dated September 18, 1863 stated, "A station of observation was established upon Fort No.2 (Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name), at that place, communicating with the gunboats *Mahaska* and *Freeborn* (lying off the creek, for the purpose of covering the withdrawal of stores and troops), upon which vessels signal parties had been previously stationed. Many messages were sent between these stations, and communication successfully kept up until the night of the 16th (June 14, was the departure date of the Army of the Potomac for the operations into Pennsylvania), when, the object of the flotilla having been attained, the officers rejoined the reserve.

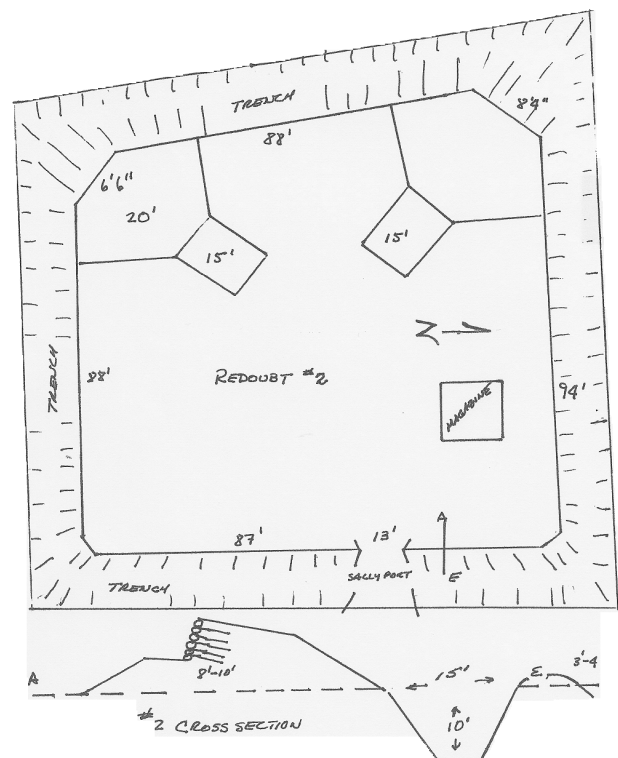
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name

The engineering drawings dated and signed by Lieut. C. B. Cross, specify the physical size of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va). The exterior parapets noted on the drawings, suggest that all of the parapets were approximately one hundred feet in length. The entire redoubt is surrounded by a trench or ditch that was nearly fifteen feet in width and as deep as ten feet. The east parapet incorporated the sally port across the trench and through the wall of the redoubt. Interior, on the northeast corner, is a bombproof magazine that is approximately 15' x 15' and well over 10' deep. (This was not shown on the Cross drawing as to represent the magazine would present a target for enemy mortar fire.) The magazine was surrounded by a raised and protected entrance maze that was most probably covered with logs and sand bags. The southwest corner has a raised gun platform that would have easily supported a 3-inch ordnance rifle, as suggested in the order. The northwest corner also has a raised area that would serve as a platform for another piece of field artillery. There is no evidence of foundations or building structures on the terreplein within the walls of the redoubt. These drawings appear to comply with the orders from the commanding general and appear to have been in accordance with the instructions found in the Dennis H. Mahan's *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortifications*, appropriate engineering field manual for constructing field fortifications. The official orders from Chief Engineer C.B. Comstock suggested that a working party of 1,500 men should be required to complete the works on the redoubts.

Over the past decade, there have been several major hurricanes and tropical storms that have passed over the redoubt, with winds and rains resulting in the felling of many

trees around the fortification. The post Civil War trees immediately around and in the actual fortification have suffered weathering and some have been removed to protect the fragile infrastructure of the walls. It is interesting that, despite heavy hurricane rains, no water has stood or collected in the fort or bombproof, and there has been minimal pooling in the trench. There is indication of French drain structures below the terreplein. While several crossing indentations that may contain drains on the floor of the redoubt have not been explored, there have been two pieces of very large terra cotta drainpipes and elbows found in the bottom of the magazine. Col. Dennis Mahan, in his *Treatise on Fortifications*, was specific in his pre-war instructions on the need for good drainage. Evidence of similar drainage systems in fortifications have been found in similar military fortifications built by Romans nearly 2,000 years ago.

The existing cross-section of each parapet of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) is very close to those specified on Lieut. Cross's 1863 drawings. Additionally, the recent locating of Redoubt No.3, by Clifton A. Huston, principal archaeologist of Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Ltd., and subsequent archaeological exploration of its trench, suggests that the construction was maintained very close to the Lieut. Cross drawings. The Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) profile of the trench and parapet shows an interior slope of about six feet from the terreplein to the top. The depth of the trench is at some places as much as ten feet, exactly as drawn. The slopes on the parapets are nearly the same angle as the drawing. The width of the trench (generally 15 feet), counterscarp, and glacis, vary, due to the impact of weather and erosion. See the University of Cincinnati studies on the effects of erosion on CW field fortifications. The entire redoubt construction has been affected by significant soil inversion. During the construction of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), topsoil of the trench area was turned first, then layer after layer, conforming to the engineer's instruction, where by the soil at the bottom of the trench became the top of the parapets and glacis. The 1863 top surface of the redoubt is now weathering and shows as pebbles and gravel.



Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va)/ Fort No Name, has been on a military map of Stafford County, Virginia, as a “fort” since Summer 1863 in a map of Stafford County by Capt. Blackford, CSA and October 31, 1864. Captain A. H. Campbell, CSA, by order of Major General J. F. Gilmer, Chief of the Engineer Bureau, CSA drew the map most probably to represent Union fortifications and existing local residents. The Federal orders to construct defensive redoubts to protect the Aquia Creek Landing was issued in early February 1863 by Major General Joseph Hooker, Commander, Army of the Potomac (AOP), US Army. Lieut. Cyrus B. Comstock, Chief Engineer, AOP, supervised the engineering, construction and manning of the three redoubts. He designated the three, Redoubt No.1, Redoubt No.2, and Redoubt No.3 (WAC,Va). The engineers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac, XII Corps, commanded by Major General Henry Slocum, affected the planning and construction of the redoubts. Lieut. C.E. Cross drew the working plans and directed the construction of the three redoubts. The *Official Orders* suggest for the generals consideration the location, manning, and disposition of each redoubt. Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name was to be forward “advanced”, most western, and between the other two. The distance between each redoubt was less than one mile.

The American Civil War is undoubtedly a significantly important point in the history of Stafford County, Virginia, and the United States. However, the military actions of our early colonial days when John Smith surveyed Aquia Creek in 1608 (Haile, 1998); the skirmishes of Brent’s War of 1661, and Bacon’s Rebellion of 1676 (Eby, 1997); troop movements along the nearby highways and waterways were common during the early years of Stafford County. During the War for Independence, General Washington and French commander Rochambeau frequently passed through the area, within three miles of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), while en route between the northern colonies and the Virginia capital in Williamsburg. The combined American and French armies traveled routes, by both land and the Potomac River, in the area of the redoubt in 1781 on their way to Yorktown and the ultimate surrender of the British. In the 1790s, President George Washington and Pierre L’Enfant drew on the limestone quarries of Aquia Creek’s Government Island to provide the stone for our Nation’s Capitol Building, White House, and Treasury Building (Conner, 2003). Soon after the birth of the Confederacy in April 1861, Virginia and other Confederate forces established a blockade of the Union capital, Washington, D.C., along the Potomac River. The Confederate blockade of the Potomac required building numerous trenches, gun emplacements, and fortifications all along the Virginia (western) bank of the Potomac River and the numerous rivers and creeks. Of great significance to the Confederate blockade were the railroad-steamboat terminal and the wharf at Aquia Creek Landing. The Confederate blockade and occupation of Stafford and the Aquia Landing was seriously reduced in the Battle of Aquia Creek in May 1861. The Aquia Creek battle was the first naval action of the Civil War (Wills, 1975). After the battle, and over the next year, the Confederate troops withdrew and significantly damaged many of the defenses. The capture of the wharf area by the Union troops allowed for the collection of logistical stores and wharf development at Aquia Creek Landing permitting virtually free transport of military supplies, equipment and men from the entire east coast and especially a water-link between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. It also maximized the military transportation and logistic significance of direct access to the Fredericksburg area and

south to Richmond utilizing the Potomac and the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad (Musselman, 1995) (Conner, 2003).

Carl Von Clausewitz, in *On War*, notes the importance of high ground and terrain when considering both strategic and tactical warfare. The site and construction of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) complies with the intent of Von Clausewitz, and the directions of Dennis H. Mahan's (1836), *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortifications*, which contained the current regulations for field fortifications for both the Union and Confederate armies. Situated on one of the highest points in eastern Stafford County, at near 250 feet above sea level and positioned on a peak surrounded by deep ravines to the south and west, the location of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) is exceptional as a strategic military position.

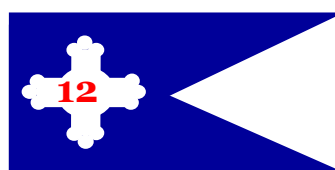
At the time of the construction of the redoubt, it would be a safe assumption there were few trees in the immediate area of the site. Discussions with long time Stafford residents support the lack of trees in the area into the 1930s. The deforestation of the county in the late 18th century, to support iron mills, charcoal production, and general agriculture was significantly compounded by the requirements for wood products by the very large Army of the Potomac, encamped in Stafford County. Considering that no trees obstructed the view from the site selected for Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name, this permitted an optimal observation point. The rolling plain to the east falls away to the northeast to the Aquia Creek. Looking east, down the east-west flowing Potomac River, one can easily see Mathias Point and perhaps the present US Route 301 Bridge, linking Virginia and Maryland. Directly west, the redoubt is in line with Madison, Virginia. The foothills and peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains are within easy view. To the north and up the Potomac River, the vast open and wide expanse of the river, may allow, on a clear day, a view of Mount Vernon, only twenty-one miles away.

XII (Twelfth) CORPS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

The area around the Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) site is where the XII Corps, the smallest corps in the Army of the Potomac, was encamped during the brutal winter of 1863. This corps maintained only about 25,000 men, plus thousands of animals, including horses, mules, and beef cattle. The XII Corps is exceptionally unique in its service. Major General Henry Slocum, US Army, commanded the XII Corps. The corps was comprised of soldiers, infantry, artillery and cavalry, as well as all forms of support soldiers, farriers, bakers, cooks, teamsters, wagoneers, and a variety of other workers. The XII Corps had soldiers from all of the Union states, with Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, appearing to have supplied the majority of troops. The XII Corps fought many of the early battles of the Civil War, including Antietam, Ball's Bluff, and Fairfax, and provided manpower to the protection of Washington in 1861 and 1862. In late November and early December 1862, they were on the way to the Battle of Fredericksburg; however, the decision was made to hold them in reserve in Stafford. The men of the XII Corps were marchers. Initially, just to come to Stafford, the XII Corps soldiers marched from all over the Northern states. They participated in the January 1863 "Mud March", south of Stafford. They fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863 and marched to and fought at Gettysburg in July 1863. They were returning to the Stafford area when they were combined with the Eleventh Corps to establish the

Twentieth Corps, and were ordered to the western theater. They boarded trains in Catlett and Bealeton, Virginia, and went through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. They fought their way through many battles in western Tennessee and in northwest Georgia. Southeastward they marched and fought around Atlanta. They secured the Atlanta area and continued toward Savannah, Georgia, for Christmas 1864. The corps saw action in Columbia, South Carolina; Bentonville and New Berne, North Carolina; and marched north, passing near Petersburg, Richmond, and their “beautifullest camps” in Stafford, Virginia, to complete their grand circle. Thousands of miles on foot, surviving all forms of weather, deprivations, and separations from families, the men of the former XII Corps moved on. They suffered significant losses in battle, to disease, and just being worn out.

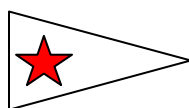
XII ARMY CORPS FLAGS



Headquarters



1st Division



1st Brigade



2nd Brigade



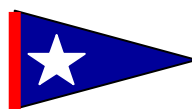
3rd Brigade



2nd Division



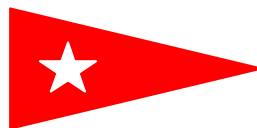
1st Brigade



2nd Brigade



3rd Brigade



Artillery Battery

XII CORPS COMMANDER - JANUARY 1863 – MAJ GEN SLOCUM

1ST DIVISION - BGEN A.S. WILLIAMS

1ST BRIGADE - COL. J.F. KNIPE

5 CONN
20 CONN
10 MAINE (33 MEN ASSIGNED TO PROVOST MARTIAL)
3 MD
28 NY
123 NY
145 NY
46 PA
124 PA
125 PA
128 PA

2ND BRIGADE – BGEN T.L. KANE

20 CONN
3 MD
1 MD EASTERN SHORE
2 MD EASTERN SHORE
1 MD POTOMAC HOME GUARD
123 NY
145 NY

3RD BRIGADE - COL. T.G. RUGER

27 IND
2 MASS
107 NY
PA ZOUAVES D'AFRIQUE
29 PA
3 WIS

4TH BRIGADE – COL GEORGE ANDREWS

127 NY
137 NY
149 NY

ARTILLERY BATTERY - 1ST DIVISION

4TH US ARTY BATTY F
1 NY ARTY BATTY K
1 NY ARTY BATTY M
10 NY INDEP BATTY
127 NY
137 NY
149 NY

2ND DIVISION – BGEN JOHN W. GEARY

1ST BRIGADE – COL. C. CANDY

5 OH
7 OH
29 OH
66 OH
28 PA
147 PA

2ND BRIGADE – BGEN N.J. JACKSON

3 MD
PURNELL MD
60 NY
140 NY
145 NY
111 PA
109 PA
124 PA
125 PA
29 PA
177 PA

3RD BRIGADE – BGEN GEORGE S. GREENE

60 NY
78 NY
102 NY
137 NY

ARTILLERY BATTERY - 2ND DIVISION

4TH US ARTY BATTY F
4TH US ARTY BATTY K
1 NY ARTY BATTY M
KNAP'S PA INDEP BATTY E – 3 inch ordinance rifles
HAMPTON'S PA INDEP BATTY F - 3 inch ordinance rifles
6 ME INDEP BATTY

Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) PRESERVATION

In the directions outlined by Dennis H. Mahan (1836), the construction orders for redoubts like Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) clearly provide for the rapid and essentially complete return of the fieldworks back into the natural environment. The expected longevity of an earthen fortification was about three to four months without constant care and upkeep.

Preservation efforts have been at a maximum level since at least 1993. Consultation with numerous tree services, National Park Service conservation employees, and lawn and property care experts have been useful and beneficial. The efforts to save existing trees, survey out trees that are of danger to the wall, and to keep deadfall from damaging the redoubt's infrastructure have been extensive. Efforts to control erosion have been somewhat successful with the planting of creeping red fescue grass seed, blue rug spreading junipers, and many pounds of crown vetch seed.

Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) has survived over 142 years. It is fortunate that, upon their June 1863 departure, the Union army minimally maintained the

area until the end of the war as a continued defense of the Aquia Landing and railroad. After the Civil War, Stafford County entered a bleak and very unproductive period lasting for eighty years. Stafford County's population census of 1860 was 10,958, in 1870 the population was 7,670; and by 1930 the population had only achieved 10,056. Stafford County had been minimally producing agriculture in 1860, raising corn, wheat, potatoes, rye, and oats. Swine was the most productive livestock with sheep and cattle being second and third in numbers (Musselman, 1995). The county's economic growth and development have certainly caught up in the past several years.

After the Civil War, as in most of the South, the land was scarred from overuse and misuse during the war. While there were no major battles in the area of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), the degradation from the encampments was significant. Houses, sheds, barns, fence, and nearly anything made of wood, were used by the troops for cooking, heating, and daily survival. There was significant destruction of public buildings and records from the Confederate evacuation as well. The Union army left very little. It is not hard to imagine that the remaining citizens quickly seized the wood remaining from thousands of huts and corduroy roads as they tried to rebuild their homes and community. The encampments, by the nature of human usage, would have left significant sanitary problems from human wastes and the remains of animals, all increasing the potential of disease for the Stafford residents. The impact of disease must have been significant. It would be safe to assume that entrenchments and redoubts, with their bombproofs and magazines, quickly became temporary homes for the residents of Stafford County. As noted with Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), many of the large trenches, large ramparts, and hut sites became a dumping ground for many local residents, creating a unique historic record of the site.

Thankfully, the years have been kind to Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name is now on the Virginia and National Historic Registry. Most of the camps, huts, trenches, and other redoubts have become victims of progress and development. There are partial remains of small redoubts near the Virginia Railway Express station at Brooke, the south end of the Potomac Creek crossing of the Amtrak Railroad, and at the Confederate Fort McLean, on the Girl Scout Camp property, in Stafford County (Musselman, 1995). There are a few gun emplacements behind the area known as Burnside's Wharf and others located on Marlboro Point Road.

Early Native American sites within view of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) are being threatened as well. It is fortunate past owners have been somewhat protective of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), the last survivor of the 1863 Federal defensive works of Aquia Creek. In April 2005, Redoubt No.3 fell, removed in a housing development project. Fortunately, with the support of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the property developer, many dedicated local historians and Clifton A. Huston, principal archaeologist of ECS, were able to locate, document, study and attempt preservation of the trench of Redoubt No.3. Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name is the sole survivor and it deserves preservation and elevation to a place honoring those that lived and died in this county, during the Civil War.

Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia wrote a detailed archaeological report on the investigations they had accomplished at the redoubt in the fall of 1981. They were impressed with finding pre-historic Archaic and woodland artifacts, US Civil War

artifacts, and the remains of discarded items from just after the war to the time of the report. The report suggests that there have been two, perhaps more, very distinct and significant historical uses of this site. The one for which there is a good deal of historical information and for which there is good, physical evidence is the Civil War-period fort. The study collected and inventoried many of the Civil War artifacts that document camp-life and camp duties. Regulation US CW period buttons, buckles, musket locks, bottles, lead US .58 cal. bullets, ironware, knives, and other fragments of camp utensils were found within the trench and redoubt itself. The other is the prehistoric activity for which the best evidence are the artifacts discovered during the Harvey/Imlay investigation of the site. Quartz flakes and debris, projectile points, and woodland pottery discovered during the investigation point to Indian occupation that began as early as 6,000 years ago and which lasted into the Woodland period, ending about 1,000 years ago. The extensive investigation clearly suggests its historical archaeological value. They also indicated the quality of the natural preservation of the site.

Stafford County is not known for the killing fields of battle. It was the home of thousands of soldiers, sailors, and support persons away from home, surviving under the most desperate of situations. They were living a meager existence, high on promises, short of fulfillment. Their daily lives, in garrison, in huts and tents, on steamers, or on warships in Aquia Creek harbor, put them at risk for disease, hunger, cold, and, in many cases, struggling to survive the mortal wounds suffered on the battlefields of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Today, the threats to historic site such as Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) do not come from bullets; it is the encroachment of human development that threatens its welfare. There were no apparent battles fought at Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va). However, every soldier serving there fought his own battle. The remnants of camp life, the personal property of the troops, and the tools of war have long vanished. The site holds the potential to yield important archaeological information. Specifically the site will likely yield information to fort construction methods and the life ways of Civil War soldiers. In light of the archaeological studies completed on Redoubt No.3, and the Harvey/Imlay study at Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va), the studies of the Potomac Village, Washington's boyhood home at Ferry farm, and the work completed on Government Island, Stafford County is a remarkable area to allow future students of archaeology and history to establish a visible and important time line in our Nation's history. Stafford County is developing individual museums and historically significant sites for inclusion into the state's educational standards of learning (SOLs). Numerous camps and earthworks are to be found in many Stafford backyards. Allowing controlled public access to a "real" fort is awe-inspiring. To be able to walk around and experience a return to the Civil War through well-planned experiences, such as School of the Soldier activities, field days, musical campfire sessions, and encampments, promotes a respect and love for history and our country's sacrifices. Children, amateur and professional students can then understand what they may find just outside their homes. The numbers of soldiers in this county during the Civil War has prompted many of their present day relatives to seek where their ancestors may have lived. Most visitors to Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) express that there is a need to connect with their past and roots. Allowing visitors to experience Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) prompts questions they have about an ancestor in the Federal army as stated

in a letter home. Many are willing to share very important personal soldier's comments about their camp life and have allowed access to volumes of sources that to date have been held dearly in the family. The sense of sharing these letters and past experiences appears to be a sense of pride for these people.

The greatest treasure on the site is Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) itself. It is a fragile monument in need of protection that invokes a real touch with the past. It allows the visitor to sense through his or her own experience the reality of life at a Civil War fort. Also, it is a monument to the strength of the lives and what it has witnessed. The site has stood the test of time. Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name (WAC,Va) was constructed to provide defensive safety and security to the troops temporarily calling Aquia Creek Landing and Stafford County home. Mr. Eric Mink of the National Park Service, stated, "It is truly a wonderful resource and a surviving piece of Stafford County's history, as well as the history of our nation". It has fulfilled its mission as a defensive structure, and today, it remains as a vital learning laboratory and testament to those who came before and a promise to the future that their hardships and lives will not be forgotten.

NOTES

1. The U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1880-1901*, known as the ORs, is a 127-volume compilation of orders, reports, and correspondences between government officials, military officers within the chain of command of both warring armies. It provided a means of legally documenting and registering the conduct of the war. The volumes were arranged in nearly chronological order. The ORs are found in many libraries and military research facilities today to assist CW scholars track and scrutinize the activities of the CW. Numerous on-line condensed versions may be found. It is fortunate that the Rappahannock Regional Library and the USMC University Library at Quantico maintain complete sets of all volumes.

2. The National Archives (Drawer150, Sheet 41) hold the actual drawings by Lieut. C.B. Cross's responses to the orders noted in the ORs by the Commanding General of the Army of the Potomac. The drawings depict Redoubts 1, 2, and 3 as well as the redoubt at Brooke Station and on both ends of the "beanpole and cornstalk" bridge across Potomac Creek. Each drawing gives the redoubt's suggested size, measurements, and cross-section through the entire profile of the elevations of the works. The drawings, by Lieut. Cross, are working documents and may have some variance in the reality of the construction. The construction of a redoubt was considered a "hasty field fortification" requiring hard work and digging by a large number of men and support persons over a very short period. The reliance by both armies, USA and CSA, in Dennis H. Mahan's *Treatise* suggests a belief that these armies were transient and temporary in their positions. In addition, the temporary nature of these field fortifications suggests ease of destruction so as to prevent falling into the hands of the enemy. Fortunately for Stafford County's many other CW sites, nature has over grown and protected the abandoned forts from the elements of nature.

3. In 1832, Dennis H. Mahan was appointed the "professor of military and civil engineering and of the science of war" at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New

York. He assisted in the organization of Virginia's military academy (VMI) at Lexington, VA. He influenced many of the senior officers and generals that were to fight in the Mexican War and then on both sides of the Civil War. He was most noted for his engineering manuals, and the *Treatise of Field Fortifications, Advanced Guard, and Out Post*. All of his instructions were published as field manuals utilized by both North and South. U.S. military forces throughout the world are currently using many of Professor Mahan's methods and concepts.

4. The Captain Blackford, CSA Stafford County map and the "Gilmer Map of Stafford County, 1864" clearly notes, "fort" at the site of Redoubts No. 1 and 2. Redoubt No. 3 is indicated by a small square above the railroad. The map postdated the construction of the Redoubt by more than one year. General Gilmer, Chief Engineer, CSA and Captains Blackford and Campbell, Engineers for the CSA drew maps of exceptional quality and mass-produced them for field use. It is believed, the CSA maps were developed through local intelligence given to the CSA engineers by local Stafford residents. The absence of Confederate forts and camps suggest the Southern troops had knowledge of their existence and locations. The Federal military points would be important for potential activity or escape and evasion by partisans. It certainly indicates that there was clandestine observation and reporting of Union activity in the Aquia Creek Landing area. It appears the map indicated many houses by name and may have served as noting "safe houses" and potential routes to safety for members of the Army of Northern Virginia, CSA.

5. In 1998, Edward Wright Haile drew an enhanced version of the 1608 map of the travels by Captain John Smith clearly indicates that "Quiyough (Aquia)" is on the south side of Aquia Creek very close to the Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name location. Captains Smith and Argyll were in the area exploring, trading, and dealing with the Native American Patowomeck Sept their Chief Powhatan and the Princess Pocahontas. The Potomac Creek village at the southeast end of Marlboro Point and Indian Point is within view of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name site and at the end of the overland trail that goes by the redoubt to the mouth of Accokeek Creek near Indian Point. Captain Smith, being a military man, would have sought the highest point serving the best observation of the Potomac River and surrounding creeks.

6. Between 1816 and 1830, Carl Von Clausewitz in *On War* emphasized the importance of terrain in defensive and offensive military actions. "Geography and ground can affect military operations in three ways: as an obstacle to the approach, as an impediment to visibility, and as cover from fire." "This influence is always there." Occupying the high ground serves as the best defense and allows maximum observation of surrounding areas.

7. In 1981, Doug Harvey and John Imlay were requested to do an archaeological study of "fort no name" for the then owner Paul Brockman. They conducted a remarkable study that included surface searches of the redoubt and surrounding area. They performed several "digs" into the terreplein, trench, and near the sally port and found evidence of very early Native American presence through the construction and occupation of the CW fort, to mid-20th century inhabitation of homes actually constructed adjacent to Redoubt

No.2 / Fort No Name. The results of the study suggest that Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name holds a very significant place in local, state, and national History. Many of the artifacts from the study were removed to the Manassas Museum. Their results prompted other archaeologists and local authorities to list the site on the county registry of historic places. Endorsements of the site were a positive outcome of the Harvey study.

8. As early as 1973, Dr. Peter Skirbunt, an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University, wrote a research project on the “Defenses of Aquia Creek”. His work brought him to the area of Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name on a personal visit when the fortification was very overgrown and generally inaccessible. His writing could be noted as the starting point for the modern study of the redoubts of Stafford County. He explored the importance of the location and situation of the defensive works on the execution of the war.

Authors Note: Throughout history, names of objects and materials, names for locations, terms and descriptors (i.e. Acquia for Aquia, Defenses at Aquia Creek Landing for Works at Aquia Creek, redoubt equals fort, the use of # for No., as well as just the use of a simple number or letter, 1, 2, or A, B, etc) are often used interchangeably and can cause confusion. In this article, efforts were made to lessen confusion. However, as in names of redoubts and forts many simply may be a number and general location and the same number replicated very near by but at a different strategic location, (i.e. Redoubt No.1 Works at Aquia Creek, VA and about 1 ½ miles south west Redoubt No.1 Works at Accakeek Creek Brook Station, VA). Often forts and redoubts, as were camps, were named after commanders of a particular regiment or brigade, as in Fort McLean less than 1000 yards from Redoubt No. 2 / Fort No Name. In this case, Fort No Name is most specifically the Redoubt No. 2, Defenses (Works) at Aquia Creek, VA as noted in the Cross drawing. The term Fort No Name was given by 20th century historians to denote the fort and specifically noted as Redoubt No. 2, Works at Aquia Creek, VA..

It is important to look at the personalities of the leaders of the AOP, especially, General Hooker when evaluating any drawings, maps, notes or official documents. He was a very secretive person frequently not even revealing his plans and ideas to fellow senior officers. He established a superior intelligence network under Marcena Patrick and George Sharpe. Frequently, there was general misinformation offered, disinformation was utilized to keep the enemy and General Lee off guard. Often, secret ink writing, cyphering, and codes were used to give Lee information that may have been made to deceive. Local Stafford residents were transmitting information supplied by the Federal intelligence corps. The Federal supply depot was deep inside of an enemy community. Nearly all residents were sympathetic to the CSA. Hooker allowed carefully selected little to be transmitted other than information that seemed accurate to the enemy and reflected a great deal of misinformation. It appears that even senior officer's diaries were suspended as in the case of Comstock. Letters to and from Federal soldiers were often monitored by an investigator under Patrick. Hooker was fully aware that he was surrounded by the homes of numerous members of the CSA. Nearly all of the homes noted on the Gilmer CSA map had potential direct connection with the 47th VA CSA and other Confederate units. In fact, within several short yards of the fort there are currently

numerous direct descendants of these CSA veterans. There is no doubt that Hooker used deception, misinformation and disinformation. He had to. He was a master of the art. His behavior has caused concern over the naming of Redoubt No.2, DWAC. There is no doubt that Hooker was a superb artilleryman, administrator, battlefield leader and exceptionally, secretive person; he trusted no one and gave frequent conflicting information to all including General Butterfield, his chief of staff; Cyrus Comstock, chief of engineering; and his corps commanders. This misinformation was intended to be shuttled across the river to General Lee. According to Edwin C. Fishel, “the grey fox swallowed the bait”. Hooker knew well, how and where to position artillery. His life long career was servicing artillery. He selected Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name to carry protection of the landing forward targeting the Brooke rail head and the intersection of Court House Road and Andrew Chapel Road. Redoubt No.2/Fort No Name as it stands being “advanced” (forward), on the highest of ground in the area, commanding a view up and down the Potomac River (James Porter Stewart, Knap’s Pennsylvania Independent Battery E, February 10, 1863) and west to the Courthouse and beyond to the mountains suggest expertise in placement of rifled guns (artillery). No other fort/redoubt offers the field of fire as found in Redoubt No. 2 / Fort No Name. Any doubt of Redoubt No.2/Fort No Name being in situ in February, 1863 should carefully note the Berckoff watercolor with the Cox – Robinson house in the foreground of the snow-covered fort less than one mile to the rear.

Doubt as to the designation of this fort as Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name suggests that there may be a lack of understanding the complex importance of the unusual personality of General Hooker’s command presence. Hooker’s insistence of keeping ALL information to himself forced, at times, confounding, confusing, and conflicting letters, orders and information even to today causes conflicting opinions. Again, it appears being in the center of CSA sympathizers promoted Hooker’s suspicious nature be applied to his general staff as well as the enemy. It appears he may have trusted no one. Other aspects of Hooker’s personality and possible well-being, as evidenced in the events of Chancellorsville, are certainly called to question. It is strongly recommended that Edwin C. Fishel’s book The Secret War For The Union (1996) be read and the insights gained. It is hoped that the personalities and behaviors are applied to the happenings leading to 1863 AOP winter encampment at Aquia Landing, Stafford, Virginia and the acceptance of this site as Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name. Come Retribution, by Tidwell gives ideas of the strong CSA intelligence community in the area of this redoubt, Redoubt No. 2 /Fort No Name.

It is important to remember that the initial archeological studies were by Paul Brockman, Doug Harvey and John Imlay. About 1984 they were to put a designation on Redoubt No.2 as they were doing the study. The three basically, due to the lack of OR documentation, called Redoubt No.2, Fort No Name. As information became available and found Redoubt No. 2 became Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name. The Redoubt also was noted as Brockman’s Fort. It is highly unusual to name a Civil War site/fort after someone that was alive at the time. Brockman’s Fort was changed in name by Stafford County to Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name in the early 1990’s. The location of the fort as noted Redoubt No.2, the most advanced was near the Watson House (one of several) on Stafford Court House Road and on Watson’s Lane, soon to be renamed by Paul Brockman to Old Fort Lane. Redoubt No. 2 / Fort No Name is not Fort McLean, which

may possibly be an earlier defense work by the CSA to protect the rail head at Aquia landing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Along The RF&P - - Aquia Creek Part II.” *Rail-o-gram*. RF&P Railroad, Richmond: Summer, 1978.

Blanton, Dennis B. et al. 1999 *The Potomac Creek Site (44ST2) Revisited*. Research Report Series No.10. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

“Bacon’s Rebellion.” www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/BacRebel.html, April, 2005.

“The Brent Family.” www.virginiaplaces.org/religion/brentfamily.html, April 2005.

“Burnside In Frustration/ The Mud March”. www.vectorsite.net/twcw37.html, April 2005.

Benham, H.W., Record Group 393: Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817-194 , Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick’ Brigade at Aquia Creek. Entry Number 1357.

Brady, James P., *Hurray For the Artillery! Knap’s Independent Battery “E”, Pennsylvania Light Artillery*. Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1992.

Conner, Jr. Albert Z. *A History of Our Own: Stafford County, Virginia*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 2003.

Cowles, Calvin D. (compiled by) *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1891-1895.

Eby, Jerrilynn. *They Called Stafford Home*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1997.

“Field fortification, Chapter V. Manner of Throwing a Work. By D.H. Mahan, (1848).” www.military-info.com/aphoto/Mahan48.htm, May, 2005.

Fishel, Edwin C. *The Secret War For The Union: The Untold Story Of The Military Intelligence In The Civil War*. Boston/ New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996.

Floyd, Dale E., comp. *Military Fortifications: A Selective Bibliography*. NY: Greenwood, 1992.

General Index of Stafford County Court Records, Stafford County Court House, VA.

Griffin, William E. Jr., *One Hundred Fifty Years Along the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad*. Richmond: Whittier and Shepperson, 1984.

Harvey, Douglas and Imlay, John. *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, VA, Fall 1982*. Unpublished manuscript.

Ibid: Personal conversation with Mr. Imlay, February 10, 2013 during a visit to Redoubt No. 2.

Johnson, Angus J. *Virginia Railroads in the Civil War*. VA Historical Society, 1961.

"Itinerary of the Army of the Potomac and co-operating forces, June 5-July 31, 1863, The Gettysburg Campaign." <http://www.swcivilwar.com/ItineraryAOPGettys.html> , April, 2005.

Musselman, Homer D. *Stafford County in the Civil War*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard Inc., 1995.

Mahan, Dennis H. *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortification: With the General Outlines of the Principles Regulating the Arrangement, the Attack, and the Defenses of Permanent Works*. NY: Wiley & Long, 1836, 1846 & 1861.

Mintz, S. (2003). Water Color Sketchbook by Private Henry Berckhoff
8th New York "German Rifles" 27 May 1861 to 23 May 1863.

Digital History. Retrieved October 16, 2006 from (<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>)
"Redoubt." www.civilwarfortifications.com/dictionary/xgr-015.html, April, 2005.

Sketch of the Defenses for the Depot at Aquia Creek. Col. G.H. Biddle, dated June 27, 1862. Virginia State Library.

Sketch of the Redoubts for protection of Aquia Creek. Lieut. C.E. Cross, Chief Engineer, AOP, US Army. Washington, DC: National Archives, Drawer 150, Sheet 41, 1863.

Skirbunt, Peter D. "Aquia Creek Landing, VA.", Unpublished manuscript, The Ohio State University, 1973.

"SOP for the Department of Engineers."
www.bonnieblue.net/Departments/engineers_sop.htm.

Stafford County Court Records, Deeds and Wills Book. Plat Book 13, Page 236, Parcel 32.

Tidwell, William A. *Come Retribution*, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, 1988

"XII Corps. www.americancivilwar.info/searchcorps.asp?searchcorps=XII%20Corps, March, 2005

U.S.G.S. *Widewater, VA -- Maryland*. 1966, photo revised 1978.

United States War Department. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. . Series I, Volume 51, Part 1, Supplement, p 985 and 979; and Series I Volume 25, Part 2, pp. 56, 167, 168, and 169. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

Viele, Egbert L. *Handbook of Field Fortifications and Artillery, Also Manual for Light and Heavy Artillery*. Richmond, VA: Randolph, 1861.

Von Clausewitz,, Carl , *On War*. Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Eds.), Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976.

Wills, Mary Alice, *The Confederate Blockade of Washington, DC 1861-1862*. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1975.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and Redoubt No.2 / Fort No Name TOURS

CONTACT Dr. Thomas and Elaine Mountz, owners (540)-720-0899
oldfort@verizon.netp