

Battle of Cedar Creek



Union commander Philip Sheridan rallies his troops after the initial Confederate attack at Cedar Creek

Roger Kaplan will discuss the Battle of Cedar Creek, the climactic end to the two-year struggle for control of the Shenandoah Valley. While detailing the battle and its impact on the war he will focus on the Army of West Virginia. Posted on the Union left, West Virginia regiments under Brigadier General George Crook received the full force of the initial Confederate assault but reformed and joined in the Union counterattack later that afternoon.

Roger retired from the US Army after more than 22 years of active duty in 1998. In addition to his assignments with field artillery units he served as an assistant professor of military history at the US Military Academy and later as the Chief of Historical Services at the



US Army Center of Military History. He has published articles on military history in the William and Mary Quarterly, Parameters, and Military Review

This is the first in an ongoing series of Historical presentations designed to promote understanding of the rich history of Jefferson County. We are planning a presentation for the fall of 2011 about the Washington and Beall families. For more information, please check our web site at:

www.BeallairEstate.info



Tricia Strader is an award-winning Civil War living historian and writer. She portrayed Mrs. Jefferson Davis in "April 1865" for the History Channel

Tricia enjoys portraying her distant relative the famous Confederate spy Belle Boyd. Stonewall Jackson praised her assistance during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. The Belle Boyd house in Martinsburg West Virginia was built at the same time as Lewis Washington's additions at Beallair and shows a remarkable similarity in style.

Beallair is connected with the history of Jefferson county and two of the nations most distinguished families, the Bealls and the Washingtons. Ninian Beall arrived in Maryland in 1655 as an indentured servant and became a leading landowner and head of the state militia. His grandson, Thomas Beall owned Beallair. Lewis Washington was both the grandson of Thomas Beall and the great grandnephew of George Washington.

We would like to thank The Wormald Companies for their support of this project and for their assistance in producing this flyer.

www.wormald.com

Directions to Beallair:

From Route 340, go north on Old Country Club Road about 1.3 miles. Turn right at the Beallair gate and continue on Beallair Manor Drive to the manor house on the left.

Since Beallair is a gated community, the Manor House is only open to the public during special events. Please call 1.800.353.0068 if you have questions on the directions or wish to arrange a special visit.

The Civil War in Jefferson County



The First Beallair
Historical Presentation
Sunday, May 15, 2011
2:00 to 4:00 PM
at the Historic
Beallair Manor House

Featuring talks by well known historians Dennis E. Frye and Roger Kaplan, a living history portrayal of Confederate spy Belle Boyd by Tricia Strader, tours of the Manor House, and other activities.

www.BeallairEstate.info

War Erupts in Jefferson County



Residents of Jefferson County watch as the Harpers Ferry Arsenal is burned to the ground on April 18, 1861.

“The Civil War was the worst thing that could happen to Jefferson County. Located literally on the border between North and South, both countries eyed the county for its strategic location, and both countries insisted on its occupation. Peaceful, pastoral Jefferson County suddenly had the dagger of Civil War thrust into its heart”



Dennis E. Frye is a prominent Civil War historian and battlefield preservationist. He has appeared on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, and A&E and was an Associate Producer for the Civil War movie *Gods and Generals*. He has written 77 articles and six books. His next book will be *Under Fire: Harpers Ferry and the Civil War*.

Program

- 2:00 War Erupts in Jefferson County
- 2:30 Battle of Cedar Creek
- 3:00 Living History, Manor House Tours, discussions with the speakers and other activities

History of Beallair

George Corbin Washington, grand nephew of George Washington, married Elizabeth Beall in 1807. Their son Lewis William Washington inherited the Beallair estate from Elizabeth’s father, Thomas Beall. In 1850 Lewis Washington initiated an expansion of the manor house. The two distinct structures—the 18th century house with separate kitchen, and the 19th century addition on the front—were unified with a stucco veneer.



On October 16, 1859, John Brown captured the federal armory at Harpers Ferry and ordered his men to take hostages. At Beallair they captured Lewis Washington who was not intimidated by his captors. He told them, “You are a very bold

looking set of fellows, but I should doubt your courage. ... I believe with a pop-gun I could take either of you in your shirt tail.”

On October 18th, federal troops, under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee, captured Brown and his men, and rescued the hostages. After the rescue, Lewis Washington told a friend that “I feel as hungry as a hound and as dry as a powder-horn.” Washington was widely praised for his calmness and courage during the raid.

In 1864 Washington went to France on a diplomatic mission for the Confederacy.



Beallair During the Civil War

- 1748 George Washington surveys the eastern panhandle region for Lord Fairfax
- 1770 John Crow buys land from Lord Fairfax and builds a wood house for his family
- 1775 Thomas Crow inherits property from his father
- 1791 Joseph Nourse buys the property from Crow
- 1790's North portion of manor house built
- 1801 Jefferson County formed from Berkeley County
- 1803 Thomas Beall buys property from Nourse
- 1807 George Corbin Washington marries Thomas Beall's daughter Elizabeth
- 1812 Lewis Washington born to Elizabeth and George Corbin Washington
- 1836 Lewis Washington marries Mary Barroll
- 1837 Winchester and Potomac Railroad (W&P) constructed just south of Beallair
- 1855 Lewis Washington completes the expansion of manor house at cost of \$6,731
- 1859 John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry
- 1860 Lewis Washington marries Ella Bassett
- 1861 Start of the Civil War
- 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry
- 1863 West Virginia secedes from Virginia
- 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek
- 1871 Lewis Washington dies at Beallair
- 1877 Court orders sale of Beallair to pay debts
- 1979 Beallair added to National Register of Historic Places, under the spelling Beall-Air
- 1980 Don and Mary Jo Kennard buy Beallair
- 2004 Wormald Homes buys Beallair
- 2007 Yvonne and John Gagnon become the first residents of the Beallair community



After the war his second wife Ella was able to obtain a pardon for her husband through her friendship with Gen. George Custer. Despite Ella’s dislike of Union soldiers, whom she called “devils,” she admired Custer’s spirit and gallantry.

Don and Mary Jo Kennard who purchased Beallair in 1980, originally thought the restoration of the derelict manor house would take six months. Unfortunately, this proved to be a bigger undertaking and eventually consumed 19 years. They enjoyed entertaining, and Congressman Charlie Wilson was a frequent guest. As a Texas state senator, Don was an advocate of environmental and historical conservation.