



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIII, Issue 8—November, 2006

NOTED HISTORIAN ASSESSES IMPACT OF 1863 UNION CAVALRY RAID ON SALEM, VA

By John McAnaw

Our guest speaker is an historian of the first order who is well known by veteran members of our Round Table. Joseph W.A. Whitehorne is a retired Infantry Officer, U.S. Army. During the period 1967 – 1969, Joe completed two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, with only 2 month's leave, stateside, separating his second tour from the first. He served in I Corps and II Corps Tactical Zones with the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized) during both tours of combat duty.

While on active duty, Joe served as a staff historian in the United States and Europe. His last assignment was on the staff of the Secretary of the Army, with duties that included primary research, battlefield interpretation, archives development and support to archaeological and casualty recovery operations. Of interest to Civil War buffs, Joe authored three of the U.S. Army's popular Civil War Staff Ride booklets: Second Manassas, New Market and Cedar Creek. One of his last project assignments was historian to the Snake Hill excavation at Fort Erie, Ontario (a War of 1812 site).

Following retirement from the Army in 1989, Joe entered academia as a professor of history at Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, VA. and as an historical consultant to the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at James Madison University.

Our speaker is a prolific writer. He is the author or co-author of numerous military history articles and 16 books, many of which deal with Civil War and War of 1812 topics. Also noteworthy is the fact that during his professional years, Joe wrote the military section of six major reports on Civil War military sites in the Shenandoah Valley. These reports have been invaluable to individuals and organizations determined to preserve our priceless Civil War heritage. Also, he authored a superb article entitled "A Beastly and Comfortless Conflict: The Battle of Chantilly" which was published in *Blue and Gray Magazine* in 1987. Round Table member Ed Wenzel assisted Joe in the preparation of the maps.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Joe holds a doctorate from George Mason University and an honorary doctorate from Shenandoah University. In addition to numerous military awards, his honors also include the Andrew Watts Prize from the University of Pennsylvania and the Moncado Prize from the American Military History Institute.

Our distinguished guest speaker is currently the President of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and Past President of the Warren County (Virginia) Historical Society.

With the insight of a professional soldier and a trained military historian, Joe will analyze all aspects of the Union Cavalry raid on the depot town of Salem, in December 1863. His presentation will include the complex series of diversion operations that were conducted to provide cover for B.G. Averell's

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, NOV. 9**

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

DR. JOSEPH WHITEHORNE

TOPIC:

**INTERSTATE WARFARE:
GENERAL AVERELL'S 1863
RAID ON SALEM, VIRGINIA**

Book Sales and Autographing at Meeting

raiding force. Further, he will provide information that this raid resulted in a significant shift in the power balance between Union and Confederate cavalry forces that lasted for the remainder of the war in Virginia.

* * *

ELECTION OF 2007 OFFICERS

By John De Pue

This is to remind our membership that the annual election of officers will take place during the December 2006 meeting. The following members have agreed to stand for election or re-election to the following offices:

President—John McAnaw

Vice President—John De Pue

Secretary/Adjutant—Dale Maschino

Treasurer— Mark Knowles

Any other member of the Round Table is invited to run for any of the foregoing offices. Should you desire to do so, please notify John De Pue at (703) 791-3389 or at the November meeting.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Executive Committee

President: John McAnaw— [703.978.3371]

Immediate Past President: Keith Young
 RKeith_Young@compuserve.com

Vice-President: Charlie Balch
 cabalch@aol.com

Treasurer: Mark Knowles [703.787.9811]

Secretary: Dale Maschino [703.734.3244] or
 smasch1@verizon.net

At Large:
 John DePue, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones

Field Trips: Kevin Anastas, KKA2@cox.net

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Newsletter Editor: Sandra Cox
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Newsletter Team:
 Nancy Anwyll, Dale Maschino, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones,
 Andy Kapfer and Janet Greentree
 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes *The Stone Wall*.

General Membership meetings are held at 7:00 P.M.
 on the second Thursday of the month at:

The Centreville Regional Library
 14200 St. Germain Drive
 Centreville, VA 20121-2299

For specific meeting dates and information,
 please visit the WEBSITE:
<http://bullruncwrt.org>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

14 DECEMBER

GUEST SPEAKER:

RICHARD GRIFFIN

TOPIC:

**HORSE ARTILLERY IN THE
 ARMY OF THE POTOMAC:
 Including the 6th NY Independent
 Battery As A Case Study**

JOIN US AT THE BORDER CAFE

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early for dinner? Join the BRCWRT board and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting at The Border Cafe at 5:15 p.m. just across Lee Highway from the library. **Space is limited so RSVP** to Dale Maschino at smasch1verizon.net or 703.734.3244 no later than Tuesday before each meeting.

Of course, it's always Dutch treat for the 'cheap and the proud'! Bring cash to get us out quicker.



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE
For Dec 2006/Jan 2007 Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, Nov. 27

To scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by Nov. 27, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.752.9500 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.



The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

Regretfully, the Round Table recently lost one of its charter members – Gerald “Mac” McMahon. Mac was a remarkable individual and a genuine friend of our organization. Please read the “In Memoriam” article re: Mac McMahon on page 5 and remember him and his family in your prayers.

At the monthly meeting on 12 October, the BRCWRT kicked off its 2007 Membership Campaign. I ask all members to pay their dues prior to 1 January 2007. Membership dues remain the same as they were on the founding date of the Round Table on 9 May 1961. Our dues are among the lowest of all the Round Tables in the Nation. Further, I believe our operational tempo and the range of our activities makes our low annual dues a very wise investment.

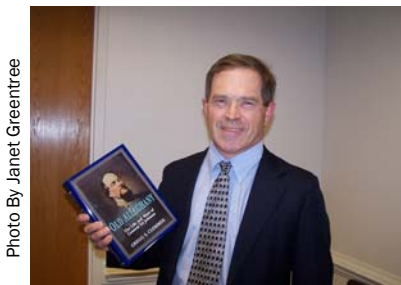


Photo By Janet Greentree

On 12 October a total of 63 members and guests enjoyed historian Gregg Clemmer's presentation on a tough but little known Confederate general – MG Edward “Old Alleghany” Johnson. Participants in our May 2007 tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield will again be reacquainted with this formidable warrior. I encourage all members to attend our next monthly meeting on 9 November. The presentation by Joseph Whitehorn will be extremely interesting. It certainly will increase your knowledge of combat operations in the Virginia-West Virginia region.

On the preservation front there is an upcoming event of extreme importance. I am referring to the public hearing before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) tentatively set for 4 December. On that date NVP Inc. will again ask that the BOS approve their request to rezone a 3.68 acre tract near St. John Episcopal Church in Centreville, a.k.a. the “Rice Property”.

Part of the last remaining Confederate regimental winter camp in Fairfax County is on this property. If this rezoning action is approved, our efforts to save what remains of Centreville's magnificent Civil War heritage by creating a County “Gateway Heritage Park” will be jeopardized. Please read last month's President's Column for more information. I ask for your continued support. Further, I request that Fairfax County members contact your County Supervisor and urge them to reject the NVP Inc. request to rezone the 3.68 acre “Rice Property” (Application Number RZ 2004-SU-029). Thank you.

CHARLIE BALCH INTERVIEW ON PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

By Dale Maschino

Our Vice President, Charlie Balch is highlighted in a recent newspaper article in the *Vienna and Oakton Connection*, due to his preservation efforts concerning the Hunter Mill Road area of Fairfax County. Charlie, and other members of the Hunter Mill Defense League, are creating a new documentary video which will chronicle the Civil War era in the Hunter Mill corridor. As is the case in so many areas of this region, unless the voices for preservation are heard, suburban sprawl will prevail.

Last year, Charlie wrote a booklet for the Defense League entitled “*The Civil War Story of Hunter Mill*”. This content, along with other material will be included in the upcoming video. “Our goal is historical awareness, recognition, and preservation,” said Charlie. All of the big names in the Civil War came through here. Union Gen. Meade had his headquarters for a time near the intersection of the W&OD Trail and Hunter Mill Road, and for about three months, Conf. Gen. Longstreet maintained a headquarters near the southern end of the road.

What the team hopes to convey in the documentary is that the corridor was a hotbed of conflict because control of the corridor was in contest throughout the war. The railroad running between Vienna and Leesburg, on which the W&OD Trail was built, made the area a desirable territory to control, and Difficult Run provided water for encampments.

The sentiments of the local citizenry were sharply divided between Union supporters and secessionists. When Virginia took a vote on whether or not to secede, it was one of the few precincts that voted not to secede. Life was not easy for the residents, regardless of where their sympathies laid. In one account of local resident, Charles Johnson, whose brother was a Union scout, wrote that “I never was threatened to my face, but my wife told me that Mr. Moore (a secessionist neighbor) came to my house and said that he had the authority to shoot or hang me on sight.” Charlie noted, “That's part of our message in the video. If you went one way or the other, you might be killed for it.”

The team hopes to have the video available before Christmas. Sales will raise money for the Hunter Mill Defense League. It is hoped the information will help to get another historic marker or two erected along the road, perhaps most deservedly at the intersection of Hunter Mill and the W&OD Trail, which is near the campsite for up to 20,000 Union soldiers in the spring of 1862.

Charlie is quoted in the paper as saying that they would like to show the documentary at elementary schools and perhaps at a Board of Supervisors meeting. This is certainly a noble cause, and I'm sure our members will find the video a beneficial purchase when it becomes available.

Our VP, our book seller, collection agent, and land use planner is now movie maker. In Charlie's immortal words, “Use the beauty just ahead as the incentive to make the climb.”

ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank You.



CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

Meet KEVIN ANASTAS

Kevin, our illustrious and very knowledgeable tour guide, was born and raised in Quincy, Illinois where he and his wife Kathie went to high school together. He and Kathie have now been married 30 years. They have a son, Captain Matthew Anastas, USAF, and a daughter Sarah. Matt is a 2002 Air Force Academy graduate and is now a C-130 pilot and just completed his second tour in Iraq. Sarah is a 2003 Longwood University graduate and employed by the National Association of Broadcasters in DC.



The Anastas Family at Matt's Graduation

Kevin graduated from West Point in the class of 1976 with a BS in General Engineering. He received his MA in Military History from Duke University in 1983, and his Master of Military Art and Science (MMAS) from the Command and General Staff College, School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) in 1992. He has served over 22 years active duty as an armor officer. In his military career he spent seven years in Germany and also had a tour as an Assistant Professor of History at West Point where he taught the History of Military Art. Kevin retired from the Army in 1999 and is now employed by Northrop Grumman as a Senior Military Analyst. He served as an aide-de-camp to then Brigadier General Carl Vuono. General Vuono went on to four star rank and served as Chief of Staff of the Army.

Besides tramping Civil War battlefields he enjoys biking, snow skiing, and sailing. He says he's been interested in all kinds of history his entire life. When he was a kid, his favorite period was WW II. At West Point he took all the electives on Napoleonic History and also taught a course on Napoleon when he became an instructor. But lucky for us, since moving to Northern Virginia in 1995, he's focused on the Civil War. He's served as the field trip coordinator for our Roundtable since September 1999.

Kevin has a Confederate ancestor, his great-grandfather, Francis Marion Bailey, who was a second sergeant, Co. F, in the 9th VA Infantry. The 9th VA was

part of Armistead's brigade, Pickett's division at Gettysburg. So I imagine walking Pickett's Charge has special meaning for Kevin. Bailey was captured at the angle at the end of Pickett's charge and sent to Point Lookout, MD. He was exchanged later only to be captured again at the battle of Five Forks. He survived the war and eventually moved to Missouri. See below Kevin's Great-Grandfather's account of Pickett's Charge written in 1904.



Although Kevin doesn't have a single favorite person in the Civil War, he says for the North, Grant's story of failure and redemption is compelling. For the South, Stonewall Jackson and Nathan Bedford Forrest are the most colorful characters.

The last book Kevin read was The Antietam Campaign edited by Gary Gallagher in preparation for our fall tour on September 23rd. Kevin reads extensively and visits Civil War battlefields often – usually to get ready for a tour. He's done all the major battlefields except Shiloh and the battles around Atlanta and Sherman's March to the Sea but there are still plenty of smaller fields to explore.

We are so fortunate to have Kevin do our tours. He just makes them come alive.

The following letter was written by Kevin's Great Grandfather to Senator John Daniel in 1904 describing what he saw during the Battle of Gettysburg. The original is in the University of Virginia archives.

**C.S.A. Gettysburg
F.M. Bailey 111 S. 1st Street Richmond
Sergt. Co. F 9th Va. Infantry
Dec, 22 1904**

Hon. John W. Daniel
U.S. Senator
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 17th was received and I take pleasure in complying with your request in regard to Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, so far as my memory will serve me. I was second sergeant Co. F. 9th Va. Reg. Armisteads brigade. My regiment was on the left of

See BAILEY LETTER, Page 5

BAILEY LETTER

[Continued from Page 4]

the brigade & my Co. was on the left of the regiment. Consequently I was the left general guide of the regiment in the charge and my position as such was six paces in advance of the line which gave me a fine view of the other two brigades, Garnetts & Kempers, in front of us. Our brigade was about one hundred or more paces in the rear of the other two covering the space between & lapsing the other right of one & the left of the other. After passing through the narrow slip of woods and coming into the open field I saw Genl. Armistead, thirty or forty paces in advance of his brigade with his hat off, which he carried on the point of his sword raised high above his head. After passing our artillery and perhaps a third of the distance from where we started to in the charge to the enemies lines, I saw Genl. Picket mounted in advance a little to the left of our brigade riding forward and looking as if his intention was to pass through to the front of the brig left brigade in front of us, but I lost sight of him and do not know whether he passed to the front or not. We pressed forward to the enemies works drove back their first line of battle & captured their guns at the stone fence when our brave Genl. Armistead fell. By this time there was scarcely more than a skirmish line left of us. We held the position we had gained however for quite a while not withstanding both our right & left flanks were exposed. On looking to the left after we had been fighting behind the stone fence for quite a while I saw that the federals had flanked us and were firing right up our line. Our troops to the left seemed to have melted away. The few that were left of us, seeing that we were flanked by the enemy with a heavy line in front with no hope of reinforcements thought it useless to hold out any longer. We therefore laid down our arms and surrendered. I do not remember how many men our company carried into the fight nor do I know how many were killed and wounded. I did not get back to the army until March 64. I therefore did not see an official account of the losses of our Co. or Regiment. I regret that I am unable to give you more definite information in regard to this matter. If I can be of service to you in any way in the future please command me.

Very respectfully your obt. Servant,

F.M. Bailey
111 South 1st St.
Richmond Va.

OBITUARY – GERALD “MAC” McMAHON OF MANASSAS, VA

Mac was a charter member and a former Vice President of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. He passed away at age 83 on 26 September 2006 after a brief illness.

A native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, he received his BA degree from the University of Iowa. Mac was also a Fels Fellow at the Wharton School of Business. During World War II he served with the 71st Infantry Division. Following the war he worked with the military government in Bavaria.

This unusual individual was also the City Manager of Martinez, CA and Fairbanks, AK. Following his retirement from the FAA, he embarked on a career as a military historian, author, and tour guide. Mac was an easy going individual who got along with virtually everyone, regardless of political party. He leaves behind a daughter, son-in-law and 2 grandsons.

Mac and his wife will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 17 November with full military honors. More details will be provided when they become available. Members are encouraged to attend this ceremony.

Memorial contributions in Mac's name should be made to the U.S. Army National Museum Campaign Fund.

Requiescat in Pace

“Mac” McMahon



PASSING OF MARGIE RIDDLE BEARSS

Margie Riddle Bearss, 80, wife of former NPS chief historian Ed Bearss, passed away on October 7th at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, following a lengthy illness.

The daughter of Ralph Caswell Riddle and Mattie Reid Riddle, she was born on October 22, 1925 and grew up in Brandon, Mississippi. She was a fourth-generation member of Bethel Baptist Church. After graduating from Hinds Junior College and Blue Mountain College, she taught English in Goodman and Lexington. In 1958, she married Edwin Bearss, historian at Vicksburg National Military Park. In 1966, they moved to Arlington, Virginia.

She had a lifelong love of books, poetry and Civil War history. She helped recover, preserve and catalog artifacts from the Union ironclad *Cairo*. She designed and constructed the exhibits at Grand Gulf Military Park. Her books include *Sherman's Forgotten Campaign* (1987) and, with her dear friend, Rebecca Drake, two collections of Champion Hill documents, *My Dear Wife* (2005) and *Darwina's Diary* (2006). While living in Arlington, she was elected to membership in the National Military Collectors and Historians and named a fellow for her work pertaining to the USS *Cairo* and Grand Gulf Park.

Survivors include husband, Edwin Bearss of Arlington, Virginia; daughter, Sara Bearss of Richmond, Virginia; sons, Edwin Bearss, Jr. and his wife, Annika Bearss, son, Michael Bearss, all of Columbus, Georgia; daughter, Jenny Bearss and sons Todd and Andy Olmsted, all of Brandon, Mississippi. Burial services were private. Memorials may be sent to The Civil War Preservation Trust.

See the Champion Hill Battlefield site, <http://www.battleofchampionhill.org/> for a wonderful pictorial tribute to Mrs. Bearss which includes the photo above.

SLAVE SHIP “WANDERER”

Erik Calonius has contacted the Round Table about his new book: "The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy that Set its Sails," published by St. Martin's Press. This true story takes place in 1859, and brings up many points about the pre-war political buildup that have been underestimated in recent years. The recent Washington Times review: <http://www.washtimes.com/books/20060923-084010-6735r.htm>. The website www.uswanderer.com

**Do you value your BRCWRT
membership?
Please renew for
2007 now!**



BRCWRT TAKES FORTS WASHINGTON & FOOTE BY STORM

Submitted By: Mark Knowles

Well, more like a few rain drops...On Saturday, September 29, 2006, the sky was ominous. One might say a Confederate gray, threatening to rain on our Potomac River flotilla.

We were greeted dock side by Capt. Lyle Loveall with a cheerful "Welcome Aboard" the Potomac Belle. Capt. George Stevens was on the bridge hunched over the sophisticated computer reviewing the online weather radar to see if the clouds were going to hold off with the rain. Captain Stevens' optimistic assessment proclaimed that our tour should be relatively dry.

The gangplank was drawn and the mooring lines professionally handled by the able crew of the Potomac Belle. By noon our group was underway, destination: a viewing of Forts Washington and Foote on the shores of Maryland from the Potomac River.

Everyone had gathered on the top viewing deck with their warmest foul weather gear. Captain Loveall gave a brief safety overview as Captain Stevens nimbly guided the Belle out of her berth. We passed by multi-million dollar town homes that make up the new Alexandria waterfront; cruised under the remnants of the old Wilson bridge and the new Wilson bridge that spans the Potomac River.

Visiting Round Table members Steve & Debbie Campbell, hailing from the great State of North Carolina, applied their charm and persuaded both captains to extend the tour to the Potomac frontage of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Upon reflection, I don't believe it took much effort to convince the captains, as both were more than willing to accommodate the request much to everyone's delight.

As the Belle cruised down the Potomac at a comfortable 6 knots, a few drops of rain descended upon us. Many folks decided it was time to seek cover and eat lunch in the Belle's fashionably decorated salon below deck. Those that ordered the lunch from Rockland's Barbeque were treated to a mound of succulent brisket, Cole slaw, and homemade desserts.

The Belle arrived on station in front of Washington's Mount Vernon Estate approximately 1 1/2 hours later. The sprinkles of rain had passed, allowing everyone to return to the viewing deck. The Belle made a slow leisurely turn and headed back toward Fort Washington.

As we approached Fort Washington 16 miles below Washington, DC, our tour guide Kevin Anastas provided us with a brief history. The first fort was completed in 1809 and guarded the Nation's Capital until it was destroyed by its own garrison in 1814. Twelve days later Major Pierre L'Enfant was sent to construct new

defenses but worked on the fort for only a brief period before Lieutenant Colonel Walker K. Armistead replaced him. The fort was completed on October 2, 1824. Extensive remodeling was performed in the 1840s and the first guns were mounted in 1846. The masonry fort was occupied by soldiers from the First, Third and Fourth U.S. Artillery during its early history. Except for a few guns at the Washington Arsenal, Fort Washington was the only defense for the Nation's Capital until the Civil War when a circle of temporary forts was built around the city. Battery Rogers and Fort Foote were the only seacoast forts in the system and armed with large Rodman and Parrott cannons. Fort Washington was garrisoned as the outer defense for the city.

In 1939 the post was abandoned and turned over to the Director of Public Buildings for use as a terminal point for a bridge across the Potomac and a parkway to be built along the shore. Before the transfer was complete the United States entered World War II. Fort Washington was returned to the army and became the home of the Adjutant General's School. After the war the Veterans Administration managed the post hospital and other government agencies occupied some of the buildings. In 1946 Fort Washington returned to the Department of the Interior.



The Potomac Belle continued her journey toward Fort Foote. Kevin continued his briefing relating that Fort Foote was situated six miles below Washington, on a commanding bluff of the Maryland shore and elevated 100 feet above the river. The fort was essentially completed in the fall of 1863, and was designed as a water battery of eight 200-pounder Parrott rifles and two 15-inch guns. Fort Foote was named in honor of Rear Admiral Andrew H. Foote who distinguished himself in the actions against the Confederate forts on the Mississippi River. The first 15-inch gun arrived in the fall of 1863 and by April 1865 the fort boasted of two 15-inch Rodman Cannons, four 200 pounder Parrott Rifles and six 30 pounder Parrott Rifles.

Just off the coast of Fort Foote, at channel marker 88, was an abandoned brick structure. The structure was an engineer's building that housed equipment used during the civil war to hoist the fort's supplies up the hill from a 90 foot wharf that no longer exists.

POTOMAC CRUISE, See Page 7

POTOMAC CRUISE [Continued from Page 6]

As Kevin concluded his talk, several of our members noticed that both boat captains were above deck listening to Kevin. This gave us pause for a moment as to who was piloting the boat, as she appeared to be making small circles in front of Fort Foote. Alas, one of the four crew members was unaccounted for, Kevin Piatt was manning the helm.

The Potomac Belle continued her journey home, cruising up the Potomac River, returning to Alexandria, VA. Captain Stevens reversed engines & backed into the Belle's berth while the crew secured the boat. Our 3 hour & a few minutes Civil War tour concluded. (Not to be confused with the "other" 3 hour tour.)

BRCWRT expresses its sincere thanks to Captains Stevens & Loveall and crew members Kevin Piatt & Cindi Loveall for a wonderful experience. We also extend our grateful acknowledgement to Kevin Anastas for his tireless research & willingness to be our tour guide on the cruise.

Fort History Source: U.S. National Park Service



Captain Lyle Loveall and Owner/Captain George Stevens

Both photos by Janet Greentree

Members & guests in attendance: Kevin & Kathie Anastas, Nancy Anwyll, Charlie Balch, Steve & Debbie Campbell, Harriett & David Condon, Sandra & Doug Cox, Bill Etue and Rebecca Marti, Amanda & Bill Freels (and soon to be Baby Boy Freels), Janet Greentree, Carol & Don Hakenson, Diana Heffer, Ken & Toni Jones, Mark & Yvonne Knowles, Cindi & Lyle Loveall, Dale & Suzan Maschino, Randy & Rose Nelson, John Pearson, Jean Turrentine, Ed Wenzel and Janet Buck.

Thanks Janet Greentree for the entertaining PowerPoint presentation of cruise photos shown at our October meeting.

NEW BOOK BY CHUCK MAURO

In his latest book, *The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers*, BRCWRT member, Charles Mauro, has given voice to the heretofore silent majority of participants in the Civil War: the civilians. This overdue study examines the full spectrum of men, women, slaves and freedmen who lived in Fairfax County, Virginia during this chaotic, violent period. Drawn from the files of the Southern Claims Commission, Mauro recounts the stories that the civilians told the Commission after the war to document their losses, lives, and living conditions.

The citizens of Fairfax County found themselves occupying front row seats at the most horrific show that this country has ever seen. Because of its position just across the Potomac River on the doorstep of Washington, Fairfax County was heavily targeted by the Confederate Army and defended with equal determination by the Union Army. Fairfax was the first county in the South that the Union Army invaded, and the last to be occupied as soldiers were mustered out of service after the Grand Review.

The Civil War in Fairfax County contains stories of the devastation that both armies brought upon the civilians and their property, as well as the daily strife caused by a war that pitted neighbor against neighbor and family members against themselves. It gives an important, fascinating, and unprecedented look into the everyday lives of the civilians who lived through the most tumultuous four years in American history, in a county that was occupied by both the Confederate and Union Armies throughout the entire Civil War.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS REQUIRED NEAR HISTORIC DISTRICTS

By Charles Balch

On October 23, 2006 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Zoning Ordinance Amendment which will require that a Phase I Archaeological Survey for certain rezoning, development plan, special permit, special exception, and variance applications located in or contiguous to an Historic Overlay District. This amendment is effective immediately.

This amendment will assist in identifying historical and archaeological resources early in the development process. The resulting survey will be a valuable step in preserving historical resources in the county.

President John McAnaw testified before the BOS for the amendment. John and "the entire Bull Run Civil War Round Table" received thanks from the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section of the Fairfax County Park Authority for supporting the amendment.



LETTER TO THE STONE WALL

Thanks to the Roundtable for last month's article by Mark Knowles on Merrybrook, the former home of Laura Ratcliffe. My husband and I have been lucky enough to live in this wonderful historic dwelling for the past 35 years, and are now working hard to insure its preservation.

Miss Laura lived in the house for almost 40 years after the war and left her indelible mark not only on the structure, but on the grounds, the trees and the gardens. Some visitors have even remarked that they can feel her influence in the very atmosphere of the house.

“We are forming a group of “Friends of the Laura Ratcliffe House”

Now, the future of Merrybrook hangs in the balance. Development has encroached closer and closer with the prospect of even more building soon to become a reality on the property next door. Many who have toured our home have offered sympathy and support. At this point, my husband and I feel we must turn to people who understand the value and importance of preserving our links with the past. We are forming a group of "Friends of the Laura Ratcliffe House" to help preserve and protect it for the future. The association would be informal---no dues or regular meeting schedule---more of an informational and idea network. We plan to hold one "get acquainted" meeting at the house tentatively on November 28th (a Tuesday). If any Roundtable members are interested, please contact me at Lratcliffe-house@AOL.com or please send inquiries to Win Meiselman, 2346 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171.



YOUNG TO CONDUCT 3rd CIVIL WAR SERIES

The Fairfax City Senior Center, Green Acres, will host the third in a series of Civil War presentations by BRCWRT member, Keith Young, starting Tuesday, November 7th, 2006.

The third portion of this series will be topics providing information on a little known campaign and several battles in the Civil War. The series will also examine several aspects of the war as seen from behind the front lines. The sessions will be held on four Tuesday mornings beginning November 7th, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Admission is free and open to all at 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax; phone 703.359.2487.

November 7 and 14. **The Civil War in the Far West: The War in Arizona and New Mexico.** This will be a survey of a fascinating and little known campaign which was conducted by a few troops under very difficult conditions in the far west. The campaign is rife with bounders and cads, heroes and goats! There are tactical innovations, doomed charges, Spy Companies, and the Angel of Santa Fe! Incredible bravery and despicable knavery! It plays out on a vast stage as the two small armies contend for enormous stakes. **Part I**, Nov. 7, covers the origins of the cam-

paign and follows the Confederate invasion of the Union Territory of New Mexico through the battle of Valverde on Feb. 21, 1862.

Part II, Nov. 14, completes the story of the campaign as the invasion is repulsed by Union troops, mostly from Colorado, in the engagements at Apache Canyon and Glorieta Pass (March 26 and 28, 1862). The Confederate troops had to make their way back to Texas under very difficult conditions.

November 21. **Recruiting** - This presentation is a look at the types and content of recruiting posters used by the Union in the Northeast. The posters reflect the ups and downs of the war by changing the recruiting methods and inducements.

November 28. **Patriotism and Propaganda: Pictorial Envelopes in the Civil War** - This presentation is a look at the pictorial envelopes used during the war. These envelopes provide reflections of the war as seen from the home front. These envelopes tended to fall into one of two categories --pure patriotism or profane propaganda!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted, please e-mail Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net.

6-13-20-27 Nov – Richmond, Gallery talk, staff experts explore topics in the galleries at the Museum of the Confederacy. 11:45 am Free with admission. Call 804-649-1861, or www.moc.org.

8 Nov – Lecture, “The Civil War in Fairfax” by Ed Bearss at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, in Fairfax. 7 pm. Free. Call 703-352-1255 or, www.historicfairfax.org.

11 Nov – Fort Ward walking tours, “Soldier-led tours of Ft. Ward”. 10 am and 2 pm. Free. Call 703-838-48 48 or, www.fortward.org.

12 Nov – Montpelier, walking tour of Civil War encampment and freedom farm site. Near Orange. 2 pm. Free with admission. Reservations suggested. Call 540-672-2728 or, www.montpelier.org.

18 Nov – Winchester, walking tour of the First Kernstown Battlefield at Rose Hill. 1-4 pm \$6 Adults. Call 888-556-5759 or, www.shenandoahmuseum.org.

18-19 Nov – Richmond, Civil War Show – hundreds of tables of books, artifacts and other items. Richmond Raceway Complex 600 E. Laburnum. 9 am-5 pm. \$6. Link to www.Cvcwca.com.

18-19 Nov – Surratt House, Open, free guided tours of the historic Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Noon – 4 pm. Call 301-868-1121 or www.surratt.org.

"FINAL" INTERPRETIVE TEXT FOR OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK UNDER REVIEW AGAIN; DEADLOCK POSSIBLE

By Ed Wenzel

The Fairfax County Park Authority's "final" interpretive text for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park has run into problems. The Interpretive Team met at Colvin Run Mill Park on October 6th to do a "walk through" and approve a final version of the kiosk panel and Wayside Marker texts. Team members attending were team leader, Mike Henry, Liz Crowell, Matt Devor, Paula Elsey and the writer. The Team's approval of the texts is necessary before sending them to Park Authority "reviewers".

The "walk through" simulated a visitor reading Ox Hill's kiosk panels and then walking the trail to each wayside marker. At each stop, the writer was asked to read the text for that marker. After walking the grounds of Colvin Run Mill in the rain and reading all the texts, the team returned to the office. The "walk through" took 33 minutes, which was said to be "good".

The team then read each text once more, discussed it as a group, and made a few minor corrections. We were then asked to approve the texts. To summarize: All team members except one voted to approve the texts as written and corrected. I voted no. I said that Kiosk panel #3 (the overview) was totally inadequate and way too short. Plus, I needed time to examine the wayside text changes. There were groans. Team members said that the text had to move forward; that the team had to approve it and send it on to the review staff. There was pressure to finish this up. We couldn't keep going back and forth with revisions. The process *had* to go forward.

I responded that a brief perusal of rewritten texts that we had just seen only a few minutes before, was no basis on which to approve them. I had composed the original texts, and Charlie Balch had helped to review and refine them. But now, even though the words looked familiar, they were different and I couldn't tell what was changed. I was assured that even though this was the team's final text, the reviewers would make their own changes. And ultimately, outside historians and others would make changes too. This would not be "the" final version! I said OK, send it. But I need to review these texts.

On October 11th, before the final version had been sent to Park Authority "reviewers", I mailed each team member a critique of the kiosk texts, giving every reason I could think of to avoid the overly brief, vague generalities in the "overview". I included a list of basic, fundamental information that was completely missing from the text - not even mentioned. To omit so much necessary background material from Ox Hill's visitor contact station (where the visitor learns briefly what happened and why) is a disservice and it's greatly disappointing.

Of course, part of the problem is that Project Team Leader Michael Rierson wants a smaller kiosk with a minimum number of panels. Therefore, they need to limit the "overview" and try to cover the preliminary action, the battle and the aftermath on a single panel. And the only way to do that is to make it very short - i.e. vague, general, and non-specific, so it will fit. Thus, with limited space, the "Thunderstorm" panel for instance, has been dropped, there's no room for it in the kiosk.

On October 18th, I informed the team that I had examined the eight Wayside Marker texts and found many problems, not only with text changes and deletions, but with additions and paragraphing. These are the texts that we were told on 14 July would be left largely as we had written them. I said many changes had been made that were not readily apparent on October 6th, and that while some of the changes were OK, and

some we could live with, others seem to have been made for the sake of change and some had introduced incorrect information.

On October 25th I mailed a line-by-line "review" of the Wayside Marker texts to all team members. This review included comments and reasons supporting necessary corrections. Copies have been sent to the Kearny-Stevens Trustees and to the Round Table. Where this goes from here, I don't know but I remain hopeful that the other team members will eventually see the importance of doing this right; and that they will tell Mr. Rierson that his kiosk limitations are restricting the Ox Hill story that our citizens and visitors deserve. It's time for action. Stay tuned.

LAST THANKSGIVING

By John McAnaw

The extract printed below is from a lengthy letter written by Pvt. Zebina Y. Bickford, Co D, 6th Vermont Infantry, to Miss Emily Bickford of Barton Landing, VT. Pvt Bickford wrote the letter on 28 November 1861 while stationed at Camp Griffin in Fairfax County. The Headquarters for Camp Griffin was **Salona in McLean**. More of Pvt. Bickford's letter can be found in the Nov. - Dec. 2006 issue of the Camp Chase Gazette, Vol. XXXIII - No. 2, pp. 46-47.

It is Thanksgiving Day and I have not much to do but write, and thinking perhaps you did not hear from Virginia any oftener than you wished to I thought perhaps a few lines from some of us cousins would be very acceptable. If not, do not answer this, if so answer if you will. It is just about the time that Vermonters are taking their Thanksgiving supper and I have no doubt you are enjoying it first rate. Well so are we soldier boys. You may think that we are home sick today but it is not so, not with me at any rate for we received a box of clothing and a few nicknacks consisting of eatables, from Glover last night and that makes a very good thanksgiving for us. The clothing is the best part of it however. It came just the right time we were all wishing it would come the night before thanksgiving. Our company are gone out on picket guard that is all the well ones and if I had been able I should have gone with them, but I have been sick with the measles and was not able to go. The people in Vermont all seemed to think that we came here in the most healthy season of the year but that the third came in the most unhealthy season, but I would rather have come when the third reg't came than to have come when we did. The third reg't has lost only seven men by disease although they came here in the hottest season of the year, that in the month of July. While the sixth that came out here only six weeks ago has lost six men and has about three hundred more on the sick list. In our company there are eighty two privates and there are forty five of them on the sick list. Only one dangerously sick. I think that if those who have died here had had proper care they might have lived and returned to their friends at home or at least sold their lives on the battle field. One poor fellow that died while I was in the hospital while he was dying said to a friend who was standing by tell my father and mother that if I had had good care I should have lived to have seen them again. Our boys had good care, but it was our tent boys that took care of us, often I have heard those in the hospital say that if they had the care that company D boys had they would not be so sick. There has not been a single death in our company yet for all there are so many sick. Supper is ready so I can't write any more now.

" Pvt. Bickford died on 30 April 1862"

Requiescat in Pace.

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