



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 9—Dec. 2007/Jan. 2008

## **FAIRFAX HISTORIAN ADDRESSES IMPORTANCE OF LOGISTICS TO MILITARY SUCCESS**

We are honored to have Ron Beavers as our December guest speaker. A sixth generation Virginian, Ron has had a life-long interest in history and railroads. He is especially interested in Civil War logistics and railroads. While researching the railroads, he discovered he is a descendent of several Civil War veterans, and that four of his great grandparents are buried in cemeteries adjacent to the original Orange and Alexandria rail line. His first summer job prior to college was as a courier for the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac (RF&P) Railroad in the then Potomac Yards area in Alexandria. One of his Civil War veteran ancestors actually worked for the same RF&P railroad and retired from it over half a century earlier.

Ron has a Bachelor's Degree from George Washington University. After a two-year Army enlistment, he spent the next thirty-four years working in classified programs for the Federal Government. As an outgrowth of his love and research on the early railroads, he has become a re-enactor, living historian, and speaker at numerous Civil War Living History events, Civil War Round Tables, civic associations and historical societies. He gives credit to his wife who started him on this journey several years prior to his retirement. She has been very enthusiastic, offering support and encouragement for his efforts. She too has become a re-enactor, and they enjoy Civil War Ballroom dancing.

He has visited local elementary, middle and high schools to talk on Civil War transportation, logistics and civilian themes, and he has taken school classes to local battlefields. He has also conducted tours of Civil War sites in and around Alexandria and Fairfax County as well as railroad sites in Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties. In 2002, he worked with the Manassas Museum on a summer Civil War camp and their first Civil War summer railroad camp. In 2005, he ran a one-week specialty summer camp on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century transportation for a local private school. During 2006-2007, he conducted a Civil War course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University. Recently, he has been invited to speak at the Ladies & Gentlemen of the 1860's Conference in Harrisburg, PA in March 2008. He has been a docent at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum since 1996 and a Museum Board Director since 1998. He is a member of the

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**13 DECEMBER 2008**

**7:00 P.M. Centreville Library**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Ron Beavers**

**SUBJECT:**

**Civil War Logistics:  
The Key To Victory**

**6:30 PM Christmas/Holiday  
Refreshments**

Civil War Preservation Trust, the Friends of Fort Ward, the Friends of Gettysburg National Military Park, the Friends of Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Company D of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment, and the Victorian Society of Falls Church. He and his family have been filmed as re-enactors in several movies and documentaries.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY HANUKKAH  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Executive Committee**

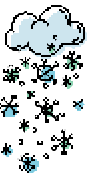
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 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.  
**General Membership meetings** are held at 7:00  
 p.m. on the second Thursday of the  
 month at:

**The Centreville Regional Library**  
 14200 St. Germain Drive  
 Centreville, VA 20121-2299  
 703.830.2223

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



**INCLEMENT WEATHER SOP**  
 If adverse weather conditions exist or are  
 imminent, and you wish to determine if the  
 meeting will be held, call the Centreville  
 Regional Library (703.830.2223) or Presi-  
 dent John McAnaw (703.978.3371).

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**DON'T FORGET**  
**TO NOTIFY OUR**  
**TREASURER MARK KNOWLES IF**  
**YOU HAVE AN EMAIL OR**  
**ADDRESS CHANGE!**  
 See newsletter mailer.



**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.



**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 quickly.



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
**For FEBRUARY 2008 Issue**

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, Feb. 4

To [scox@capitalav.com](mailto:scox@capitalav.com)

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by deadline, please call Saundra 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

This past year has been a very successful one for the BRCWRT. Therefore, I want to thank every member of our Round Table who, in one way or another, contributed to the success we enjoyed this year.

Members of the Executive Committee deserve special recognition for their productive efforts to insure the efficient functioning of our organization. I believe that the tempo and quality of our activities exceeds that of other Round Tables in the region. We function twelve months a year, without a summer break. Also, permit me to cite our superb newsletter (with award winning photographs); the professionalism and frequency of our field trips; this talented slate of monthly speakers; and our dedicated involvement in the preservation of Civil War sites not only in Virginia but also in West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and Louisiana. As in past years, we expended uncounted man-hours plus considerable money on efforts to publicize and preserve historically important sites here in Northeastern Virginia. Our efforts were recognized by Fairfax and Prince William County government leaders plus other agencies.

Membership for this year totaled 218 – a new high! Thanks to funds generated by dues, plus several sidebar donations by generous members, we will end 2007 in the black, permitting the Round Table to again make donations to some deserving non-profit Civil War preservationist organizations. Due to the financial health of our Round Table, there will be no dues increase for 2008. I write this even though Ed Bearss believes that we have the second lowest dues of any Round Table in the U.S.A. In fact our dues have not changed since the foundation of the BRCWRT on 9 May 1991.



Thanks Greg for a great presentation on the Battle of the Wilderness. Photo by Janet Greentree.

For the record, a total of 72 members and guests attended our monthly meeting on 8 November. Historian Greg Mertz's presentation on the Battle of the Wilderness and the leadership on both sides was impressive and stimulating. Per current plans we will tour The Wilderness Battlefield on 10 May 2008.

All members are invited to attend our annual Christmas party at the Centreville Regional Library on 13

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**10 JANUARY 2008**

**SPEAKER:**

**E.B. Vandiver III**

**SUBJECT:**

**Defending the James**



**14 FEBRUARY 2008**

**SPEAKER:**

**Dan Paterson**

**Great-Grandson of**

**Gen. James Longstreet**

**SUBJECT:**

**A Longstreet Pictorial History**

December prior to the Ron Beavers presentation on the importance of Logistics to victory during the Civil War. I have known Ron for years and can attest to his expertise in Civil War logistics, including the importance of his favorite railroad—the Orange and Alexandria.

In closing, I thank you again for your support this past year. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a healthy and productive 2008.

### ED BEARSS' BOOK TO BE DISCUSSED AT UPCOMING MEETING AT CENTREVILLE REGIONAL LIBRARY

By John P. McAnaw

The next meeting of the recently formed Centreville Historical Book Club (CHBC) will be at 7:30 P.M., 6 December (Thursday) at the Library. This month's discussion topic will be Ed Bearss' great book on the Civil War, *Fields of Honor*. Margaret Kositch of the library staff is the facilitator for the CHBC. Round Table members are encouraged to attend. As you know, Ed Bearss speaks each year, without fail, to the BRCWRT membership at our May meeting. Copies of *Fields of Honor* are available at the library for check out.

## CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

### MEET KEITH YOUNG



Keith is our resident Navy man in the Round Table. He was born in Colorado, raised in Arizona, and has traveled extensively while in the Navy and after retiring.

Keith graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1960 and retired as a Captain. He was the commanding officer of a nuclear submarine and of a submarine tender. Following his retirement from the Navy, he was in the field of maintenance training and consulting for many years. He holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Old Dominion University and has taught graduate level business courses as an adjunct professor at Averett University's Northern Virginia campus.

Membership in the American Legion, the Naval Submarine League, and Veterans of Foreign Wars are some of the organizations in which Keith is a member.

Keith met his wife Marcia while both were serving in the U.S. Navy. They met at the Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California where she was the Administrative and Personnel Officer for the Naval Schools Command, Mare Island. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

He has always had a very active interest in history, particularly American history. His interest in the Civil War comes from the fact that his great-grandfathers on both sides were in the Civil War. He has always been interested in the Civil War but states that it really became intense after he left the Navy and settled in Virginia, and he traveled around the country on business.

His ancestors fought on both sides – Union and Confederate. His Great-grandfather, Abraham Deeter, was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry and the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry in the West. He survived the war but two of his brothers in other Iowa regiments did not. His Great-grandfather, Jasper Newton Briskey, was a Private in the 14<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry with the Army of Northern Virginia in the East. He survived the war but three of four brothers serving in the regiment did not. Keith's interest in the ancestors led him to write two books for his family covering the Civil War service of these two Great-grandfathers. He also has Great-grand-uncles and Great-great-grand-uncles who fought in the Civil War. There were four from Iowa and Illinois, three of whom did not survive. There were eight Confederates from Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, three of whom did not survive the war.

Keith says he has no one favorite person in the Civil War, and it's just too hard to pick one. The last Civil War book he read was: *Fighting for the Confeder-*

acy by E.P. Alexander. He is also a member of the CompuServe Civil War Forum and has been their Unit Histories Section Advisor. He's a contributor to the Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference that was published in 2002. He's been active in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and is a past commander of the local Washington, D.C. Lincoln-Cushing Camp #2. He also has served as the Commander of the Department of Maryland (four states and DC). He was the co-chairman of a Camp research team that recently compiled a listing of some Civil War soldier burials at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The project was the subject of a short article in the Summer 2006 issue of the CWPT's *Hallowed Ground* magazine. He's also been a frequent lecturer at many of our Round Table meetings, SUVCW, and SCV camps. He's presented a series of Civil War presentations at George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Fairfax. The Civil War series has been repeated at the Fairfax City Senior Center, Green Acres. He is currently presenting a multi-session course, U.S. Submarines in World War II, at Green Acres.

How many battlefields has Keith visited? He says some one hundred significant battlefields, sites, and museums in his travels. The areas he has yet to visit include Bryce's Crossroads, the Red River battlefields, some of the Atlanta Campaign battlefields, some of the small West Virginia battlefields, Andersonville, Mobile, and Savannah.

Keith joined our Round Table around 1993. He was an at-large member of the Executive Board for several years before being elected Vice President for the year 2002, and then President in 2003. He has been the immediate past President and also a member of the Executive Board from 2004-2007.

Keith's interesting thing to share with us is that when he has a question regarding how something was done or finds a topic that he finds interesting but completely unfamiliar, he often investigates it further. Then he takes what he learns and puts it into a presentation to share with others. He says all of us are welcome to share what he has learned by attending one of his presentations. Keith has done many interesting programs for the Round Table. My personal favorite was Point Lookout. Keith is another very knowledgeable addition to the BRCWRT family.

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008



See Treasurer Mark Knowles at the meeting or use the mailer on Page 10.

# 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](mailto:smasch1@verizon.net).*

**8 Dec** – Special displays at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 2-7 pm. Free. Call 301-695-1864 or link to [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

**8 Dec** – Walking tour, "Constellation's Restoration," at the *USS Constellation* in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Noon. Free with admission. Call 410-539-1797, or link to [www.constellation.org](http://www.constellation.org).

**8 Dec** – Richmond, Special Program at the Museum of the Confederacy. Includes a lecture on Christmas traditions and a special tour of the White House of the Confederacy. 1 pm. \$15. Call 804-649-1861 or, link to [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).

**8 Dec** – Living history, "Christmas on the Plantation, 1858" at Grant's Headquarters at City Point (Hopewell). Free. Call 804-732-3531 or link to [www.nps.gov/pete](http://www.nps.gov/pete).

**8 Dec** – Living history, "Christmas in Camp," Civil War traditions with Santa Claus, music and more, at Fort Ward in Alexandria. Noon-4 pm. \$2 adults. Call 703-838-4848 or link to [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org).

**8 Dec** – Christmas Party at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station (Battlefield Visitor Center) near Culpeper featuring period music. For additional information call 540-727-7718 or [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

**15 Dec** – Living history, "Christmas at Chatham," Civil War Santa Claus at this historic site across the river from downtown Fredericksburg. 1-4 pm. Free. Call 540-373-6122, or link to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**15-16 Dec** – Civil War Santa at Leesylvania State Park, south of Washington off I-95. Includes period Santa Claus, refreshments and crafts. Saturday 11 am-4 pm; Sunday 11 am-3 pm. \$2 per person or \$6 per family. Call 703-583-6904 or [www.state.va.us/dcr/parks/leesylva.htm](http://www.state.va.us/dcr/parks/leesylva.htm).

**16 Dec** – Special program, "Holiday Happenings at Historic Tredegar," Entertainment at the American Civil War Center- Tredegar in Richmond. 1-5 pm. \$4 adults, \$2 kids. Link to [www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org).

**16 Dec** – Lecture, "Capture of the Fairfax Cavalry, Co E, 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, in Alexandria, Virginia, on May 24, 1861," by Wynne Saffer at the American Legion, 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. 7 pm. \$5. Call 703-250-8705.

**31 Dec** – Deck party, annual New Year's Eve event at the *USS Constellation* in Baltimore's Inner Harbor with food, drink, cannon firings and special tours. 10 pm-1 am. Fee. Reservations required. Call 410-539-1797, or link to [www.constellation.org](http://www.constellation.org).

## CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF '62

The author was a member of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Christmas of 1862 and bivouacked near Fredericksburg after the battle.

*The wintry blast goes wailing by,  
The snow is falling overhead;  
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,  
And distant watch-fires light the sky.*

*Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;  
The soldiers cluster round the blaze  
To talk of other Christmas days,  
And softly speak of home and home.*

*My sabre swinging overhead  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding snow,  
And memory leads me to the dead.*

*My thoughts go wandering to and fro,  
Vibrating between the Now and Then;  
I see the low-browed home again,  
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.*

*And sweetly from the far-off years  
Comes borne the laughter faint and low,  
The voices of the Long Ago!  
My eyes are wet with tender tears.*

*I feel again the mother-kiss,  
I see again the glad surprise  
That lightened up the tranquil eyes  
And brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss,*

*As, rushing from the old hall-door,  
She fondly clasped her wayward boy--  
Her face all radiant with the joy  
She felt to see him home once more.*

*My sabre swinging on the bough  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding snow  
Aslant upon my saddened brow.*

*Those cherished faces all are gone!  
Asleep within the quiet graves  
Where lies the snow in drifting waves--  
And I am sitting here alone.*

*There's not a comrade here to-night  
But knows that loved ones far away  
On bended knee this night will pray:  
"God bring our darling from the fight."*

*But there are none to wish me back,  
For me no yearning prayers arise.  
The lips are mute and closed the eyes--  
My home is in the bivouac.*

William Gordon McCabe [1841-1920]

## PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PREPARES FOR THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

By Rob Orrison, Prince William County Historic Preservation Division, & BRCWRT Member



With the Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of the Civil War fast approaching, efforts are in full swing across Virginia to prepare for the commemoration. Each locality is being encouraged by the Virginia General Assembly to create local committees to prepare and coordinate efforts to support this great tourism opportunity. With this in mind, the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division began an ambitious plan to place Virginia Civil War Trails markers at all significant Civil War sites in the County. With the help of dedicated volunteers such as Mark Trbovich and Jim Burgess of MNBP, this long range plan is almost complete. In the past two years over 10 signs have been installed by the County with another five planned. Funding for these markers is through a Preserve America Grant the county received in 2006.

All of these signs will be part of a Prince William County Civil War Trail. With over 20 markers in the County, plus the 17 in the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, the Civil War visitor will have almost 40 Civil War sites to visit in the County. Not only will these sites be marked, they each will have an in depth interpretative marker to tell the story of each location. Many of these sites have never been interpreted before. Other sites include local museums, battlefield and historic sites.

Once all planned Civil War Trails markers are placed, a County wide brochure will be produced. This brochure will include a County map showing the placement of all the Civil War Trails markers in the County plus all Civil War related museums, battlefields and historic sites. Information on the location, directions and a GPS location will be provided for each Trail stop. This brochure will be free and will be available in local museums, historic sites and visitor centers.

Prince William County has one of the richest Civil War stories to tell in the nation. Battles, campaigns, encampments and stories of the harshness on the home front can all be told here. As visitors come to the area to learn our Civil War heritage, we must be ready to welcome them and guide them to Prince William County's diverse Civil War history. Most of these visitors will know about the Battle of First Manassas, but how many will know the story of Wilmer McLean of Appomattox fame, a native of Prince William County? If you are interested in assisting in this great opportunity, please feel free to contact Rob Orrison of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division at 571-641-0223.

## E.B. VANDIVER EXPLORES JAMES RIVER DEFENSES AT JANUARY MEETING

By John McAnaw

Thursday, 10 January 2008 will mark the third presentation by historian E.B. Vandiver III to BRCWRT members. Previously, he spoke on sites associated with the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron (Part I) and the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron (Part II) during the period 1861-1865. Both presentations were very well received. I assure you that Mr. Vandiver's upcoming talk on *Defending The James* will also be greatly enjoyed by attendees. This topic, like his previous two, has not been addressed in the 16 plus year history of our Round Table.

At the present time, Mr. Vandiver heads the U.S. Army Center for Army Analysis (CAA). The mission of this influential Field Operating Agency of the Chief of Staff, Army, is to conduct analyses of Army forces in the context of joint and combined operations. He has been the Director of CAA, located at Fort Belvoir, VA, since 1984.

Mr. Vandiver was born in Kennett, MO. In 1956 he graduated from Culver Military Academy, Culver, IN. He then attended the University of Missouri at Columbia where he received a B.S. Degree in Physics in June 1960. On the date of his graduation he was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, having successfully completed the Senior ROTC program. Mr. Vandiver then continued his education at "Ole Miz-zou" where he was awarded a M.S. Degree in Physics in 1962. Since then, Mr. Vandiver has pursued university studies in military history, Russian history, and computer science. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Education Program run by the Federal Executive Institute and also the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

Of note, Mr. Vandiver served on active duty from 1962-1964, as a lieutenant, U.S. Army Chemical Corps, at Fort McClellan, AL, with the CBR Combat Developments Agency. After leaving active duty, he became an Operations Research Analyst for the Combat Operations Research Group at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Since then (except for a three-year period) Mr. Vandiver has been on active federal service. Unfortunately, space limitations prevent me from listing the challenging senior positions that he has held plus the many prestigious awards that he has received. Let it suffice to state that Mr. Vandiver is, indeed, an individual of rare merit and many accomplishments.

It is about one hundred miles from Hampton Roads to the Richmond docks via the large, tidal, navigable James River. During the course of the Civil War the U. S. Navy grew to become the largest and most powerful navy on earth including substantial numbers of shallow draft,, armored, turreted, big gun warships. These "Monitors" were ideally suited for operations on

See VANDIVER, Page 9

## 145<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park will observe the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg with a weekend of living history, special tours, and commemorative events December 8-9, 2007.

Throughout the weekend, living history Confederate soldiers will be available to talk to visitors and, at appointed times, be part of programs that will include firing demonstrations with muskets and cannon. Park historians will also present three special programs.

On Saturday at 1:00 p.m., historians Frank O'Reilly and Kris White will take visitors in the footsteps of the Union attack and Confederate counterattack across the Slaughter Pen Farm. At 6:00, 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. the staff will conduct lantern lit tours along the Sunken Road sharing accounts from the night after the battle and how soldiers and civilians alike coped with the death and destruction in the aftermath of battle. On Sunday at noon, historian Frank O'Reilly will lead visitors through town and up to the Sunken Road, following the footsteps of the Union Irish Brigade.

Sunday at 2:00 p.m. the annual anniversary program at the Kirkland Memorial honors the troops of both sides. The keynote speaker will be park historian Mac Wyckoff. This will be Mac's last anniversary of the battle before he retires, and he will be reflecting upon his more than two decades of service at Fredericksburg.

Visitors are also encouraged to note the many other activities taking place in Fredericksburg that weekend including the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation candlelight tour of historic structures contact (540) 371-4504 and the reenactments of the battle.

All park events are free and open to the public. See below for a schedule of National Park Service events. For additional information call 540-373-6122 or go to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Saturday, December 8, 2007

**9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m.:** "Minie Balls and Bayonets": Infantry Program and Firing Demonstration in the Sunken Road (30 minutes). Meet the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Infantry and hear the story of their defense of the Sunken Road and stone wall during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

**10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.:** "Thunder on the Heights": Artillery Program and Firing Demonstration on Marye's Heights (30 minutes) Meet the men of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans and hear their story of the defense of Marye's Heights

**11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Witness to Battle": Historic Innis House open to the Public. Hear the tale of a house caught between the Union and Confederate battle lines and see the bullet holes that still remain in the walls.

**1:00 p.m.** "In the Vortex: A Walk Through the Slaughter Pen" (2 hours) Join Park Historians Frank O'Reilly and Kris White as they recount the stories of Union and Confederate soldiers who clashed on the southern portion of the battlefield. Tour provides a unique opportunity to walk across the preserved battlefield called "the heart and soul" of the Fredericksburg Battlefield. Follow VA 2/ US Bus. 17 south of Fredericksburg and look for Slaughter Pen Farm sign about ¾ mile south of Rt. 638/ Lansdowne Road.

**6:00, 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.:** "The Devastation of Battle: A Lantern Tour of the Sunken Road" (2 hours) Hear of how the soldiers and civilians dealt and coped with the dead, wounded and destruction in the aftermath of the Battle of Fredericksburg. Historic Innis House will be open to the public as part of this tour.

#### Sunday, December 9, 2008

**10:00 a.m.:** "Minie Balls and Bayonets": Infantry Program and Firing Demonstration in the Sunken Road (30 minutes), Meet the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Infantry and hear the story of their defense the Sunken Road and Stonewall during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

**11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.:** "Thunder on the Heights": Artillery Program and Firing Demonstration on Marye's Heights (30 minutes), Meet the men of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans and hear their story of the defense of Marye's Heights

**11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.:** "Witness to Battle": Historic Innis House open to the Public. Hear the tale of a house caught between the Union and Confederate battle lines and see the bullet holes that still remain in the walls.

**12:00 p.m.:** "The Attack of the Irish Brigade" (2 hours), Join Park Historian Frank O'Reilly as he retraces the steps of the soldiers of the Irish Brigade as they fought through the streets of Fredericksburg and attacked Marye's Heights. Meet at City Dock off of Sophia Street in Downtown Fredericksburg. Program ends at the site of the 2:00 p.m. ceremony.

**2:00 p.m.:** 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the Battle of Fredericksburg at the Kirkland Memorial on the Sunken Road (30 minutes), The battle is commemorated with Park Historian Mac Wyckoff as the keynote speaker, the presentation of wreaths and the playing of Taps

Source: Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park website.



### ELECTION OF OFFICERS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER MEETING

The election of Round Table officers for 2008 will be held at the regular meeting, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Nominations closed last month. The election slate is as follows: for President, John McAnaw; Vice President, John De Pue; Treasurer, Mark Knowles; and Secretary/Adjutant, Dale Maschino.

## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

By Janet Greentree

As my non-Civil War friends tend to say, I always find something Civil War to include on any trip I take, and this year's Thanksgiving trip was no different. This year Ms. Rebelle got back into her tradition of going to see her son Mark and family who live a little northeast of St. Louis in Collinsville, Illinois. Mark is a good son and always takes his Mom somewhere she might enjoy, and of course, he knows I am a CW Nut. He calls me a CW Geek but that's OK. So this year, we all pile in the car – Mark, his wife Wendy, my granddaughter, Sarah, her boyfriend Cory, and her almost four-year-old little sister, Katerina. We take off for Springfield, Illinois which was a little over an hour from their house. Yes, **Springfield, Illinois**. I know you all know what that town is about.

Our last visit there was in 1979, which was the year the whole family took a thirty-day cross-country trip and stopped there to see the sights. Mark's and my memories of Springfield have definitely become clouded with the passing of time. Both of us remember walking down stairs to see Lincoln's tomb. It's been on ground level since 1930. Oh well.



Our first stop is Lincoln's House at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets. We remember parking on the street in front of his house, but now the whole area is blocked off, and no cars can drive on the street. There is a Visitors Center in front of the house where you go to check in and exit into the compound. In fact, the whole street has been restored to look as it did during the time when Lincoln lived there. This was the first house he ever owned, and he lived there for seventeen years before leaving for Washington. The house is owned by the NPS, and there is no fee to enter the house. We had a little talk by a very knowledgeable Ranger across the street, and then were lead in a small group into the house. I absolutely love walking in history. It was just as exciting to go in there this time as it was in 1979. You are allowed to walk into the rooms versus just looking through the doorways. A narrow pathway of carpet leads your way through the rooms. You are also allowed to take photos – yes! The antiques are beautiful. There are a lot of things in the house that were owned by the Lincolns. Mary's music box is one thing, and Lincoln's shaving mirror hanging very high on the wall is another. A lot of the furniture is theirs as well. My son always thought his Mom had pretty wild taste in the 70s, but Mary Todd Lincoln was way, way beyond me. Her taste

was high style in those days. The wallpaper was very, very busy as was the carpeting. We wondered what happened if you got sick in that house and everything started spinning. The look on Sarah's face was definitely worth the picture I took of her looking at the wallpaper. We toured the upstairs where there were several bedrooms – a guest room, Lincoln's bedroom adjoining Mary's, the boys' room, and a servant's room. Lincoln's bed was six feet nine inches long according to our tour guide. It definitely didn't look that long, but he says he's measured it before. In addition to the busy wallpaper and the busy rug, the bedspread was another busy pattern. Mary had her own "porta-potty" in her room. Out back there was a three-hole privy with small barrels for seats. Somehow I just can't imagine my whole family going out there together to use the potty at the same time. We saw Mary's small kitchen where for the first time in her life, she learned to cook, and cooked for her family. Since they had servants, I imagine she got some help.

Our next stop was Oak Ridge Cemetery where the Lincolns are buried, except for Robert Todd Lincoln, who is in Arlington Cemetery. My son's family is not into cemeteries at all, so to get them to go to one is really an accomplishment. The cemetery itself isn't big, but Lincoln's monument is quite large, and on a large piece of land. The base of the monument has four sculptures on it, which were cast from 65 CW cannons donated for that purpose. There is a large statue of Lincoln in the center, and what I call the Washington Monument type of monument, behind him. There is a bust of him in front with a very shiny nose like the Patrick O'Rourke bust in Gettysburg on Little Roundtop. O'Rourke's nose gets rubbed all the time for good luck. It looks like visitors here like to do the same thing as Lincoln's nose was very shiny. Very nicely I asked if I could find just one CW General for my collection even though there are about three there. Mark said OK, and we were off to find General John Alexander McClernand. Ms. Rebelle put out her Union flag this time since he's definitely Union. Unfortunately, his marker is almost unreadable from the elements. Then on the way out, I spotted the famous Oak Ridge mausoleum where Lincoln's body was first interred – another awesome photo op.



After that we went to the historic section of town where we found the train station from which Lincoln left for Washington, and where the train brought him back after the long funeral train ride. We saw the old Illinois

**See MS. REBELLE, Page 9**



## OX HILL MARKERS PASS INITIAL TEST, MORE MARKERS COMPLETED; PHOSPHOROUS IN RAINWATER IS NEW PARK PROBLEM!

By Ed Wenzel

Innovative Projects Inc. VP, Bob McDonough, met with the Ox Hill Interpretive Planning Team in early November and presented half-scale, glossy, color proofs of the first five wayside markers for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Several alternatives were also presented. The Team's reaction was very favorable and team members quickly decided on which of the alternative layouts they liked best.

Action items included finding better images and engravings for certain officers and photographic views, and agreement on new text for Marker #7, "Kearny's Stump". Also, text changes were approved to fix some discrepancies in troop and casualty numbers and Confederate brigade names. All agreed with Matt Devor's recommendation that Gen. Reno's correspondence in the O.R. regarding the wounded left at the Millan House should be used as a graphic on kiosk panel #4.

During the past month, additional color proofs for Markers #6, 7 and 8 were completed and Marker #9, "Aftermath: Invasion of Maryland", is nearing completion. Marker #9 is especially nice, showing the Union troops' withdrawal toward Washington and the Confederate movements toward Leesburg and the Potomac. Nancy Anwyll provided information on the exact location of White's Ford and also a sketch-map of the ford by a Union engineer. Thank you, Nancy! As soon as this marker is completed, all nine will be sent to the Interpretive Team for final approval before going to the Park Authority's Project Team and other park officials.

Regarding the site plan delays reported last month, Ox Hill Project Team Leader Michael Rierson affirms that staff from the Department of Public Works & Environmental Services (DPW&ES) and the Park Authority have been meeting to iron out problems. This was prompted by Fairfax Board Chairman Gerald Conolly's memo in October to the Director of DPW&ES concerning the delays.

According to Mr. Rierson, "some" progress has been made, but slowly, and two waiver fees deleted. The sidewalk problem along Monument Drive was resolved, but that waiver fee remains and the Park Authority must pay it. Also, another storm water issue has come up. Originally, water *quantity* had been the problem; now it's water *quality*. In the latest turn, county site plan reviewers want a 50% reduction in the naturally occurring *phosphorous* contained in the rainwater running off the park (I'm not making this up). This will likely require construction of a "rain garden" to the right of the park's entrance road to filter the phosphorous.

Mr. Rierson now estimates that another \$249,000 is needed to complete the Ox Hill park. He has approached Springfield Park Board representative, Kenneth Feng, and believes Mr. Feng can locate enough proffer money and other funds to make up the difference. If so, the only cutbacks still planned are the off-site markers, but no reason for that was given. Returning my phone call, Mr. Feng said he was told nothing about a water quality problem, thought it was ridiculous, and pledged to find out why obstacles to this park are continually being raised. The Ox Hill chronicle continues. Stay tuned.

\* \* \*

### MS. REBELLE

[Continued from Page 8]

State Capitol. It is right across the street from the Lincoln and Herndon Law Offices. Then it was on to the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum located at 212 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This was so well done. It follows Lincoln's life from a small boy all the way through his funeral. It has a map showing the route of the funeral train going from Washington by way of just about every major city in the east and mid-west. There is even a replica of his coffin surrounded by flowers with the drape above it, which everyone has seen in photos. The tour started off with a very interesting theatre experience. There were lots of magic things happening. None of us were sure how they did it at all and would like to see it again. The museum has lots of artifacts, visuals for children as well as adults, and a tremendous time-line map, which shows every single battle and the list of casualties, which grows and grows and grows. It was called the Civil War in Ten Minutes.

I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the trip. My son's family enjoyed it too. Even Katerina had fun playing in Abraham Lincoln's leaves in his backyard. The city is not big so it's easy to get around. Everything is well marked with signs showing where to go. The traffic was good too for Springfield being the capitol of Illinois. Most things were free too except the Lincoln Museum but it was reasonable.

\* \* \*

### VANDIVER

[Continued from Page 6]

inland waters and for penetrating the Confederacy by its many navigable waterways. It is a remarkable fact that despite these overwhelming advantages, no U. S. Navy warship tied up to the Richmond docks until mid-April 1865 after the Confederacy had abandoned the city. Why? Come to the BRCWRT for the first meeting of the new year 2008 on Thursday, the 10th of January 2008 to learn the answer.

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