



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 8 - November 2007

## GREG MERTZ SPEAKS ON THE BEGINNING OF THE OVERLAND CAMPAIGN: THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

By John McAnaw

The guest speaker for our General Membership Meeting this November is well known to Round Table members. Greg Mertz has spoken to our group in the past and has also conducted tours for many of our members visiting the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Military Parks as well as Brandy Station. He last spoke to our Round Table on 10 August 2006 when his topic was "I'll Be Damned If I Will Cooperate" – M.G. Gouverneur K. Warren At Spotsylvania Court House. The subject of Greg's presentation on 8 November will be preparing for the 1864 Overland Campaign and the two-day Battle of the Wilderness on 5 and 6 May. Greg is a talented and perceptive historian with an enviable level of knowledge on the Overland Campaign. His two articles on cited battle, published in 1995 in *Blue and Gray Magazine*, are still used by tour guides.

Greg Mertz was born and raised near St. Louis, MO. His interest in the Civil War developed as the result of the annual hiking and camping trips his Boy Scout Troop made to Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. Greg earned the rank of Eagle Scout while in his Troop. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Missouri (Columbia) in 1978. Six years later, while working for the National Park Service, he received a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Greg began his National Park Service career in 1980 as a Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Four years later he was reassigned to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (F&SNMP). He initially served as the site historian at the "Stonewall" Jackson Shrine at Guinea Station. His next assignment was as site historian and museum curator at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. At present he is the Supervisory Historian at the F&SNMP in charge of visitor services operations.

While assigned to the F&SNMP, Greg has authored a number of superb Civil War articles including:

Confederate Veteran Magazine (July-August 1987) Command Decisions made by Generals Lee and Jackson during the Chancellorsville Campaign.

Blue and Gray Magazine (Summer 2004) General G.K. Warren and the Fighting at Laurel Hill During the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Blue and Gray Magazine (April and June 1995) Two articles on the Battle of the Wilderness.

Civil War Regiments (1996) Article on Jackson's Artillery during the Battle of Fredericksburg titled *Blood on the Rappahannock: The Battle of Fredericksburg*.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
8 NOVEMBER 2007

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Greg Mertz

SUBJECT:

The 1864 Overland Campaign Begins:

The Battle of the Wilderness

Blue and Gray Magazine (Summer 2001) Upton's Attack at Spotsylvania Court House.

Blue and Gray Magazine (Summer 2004) General G.K. Warren and the Fighting at Laurel Hill During the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Additionally, Greg Mertz wrote the texts for Virginia Civil Trail markers at four locations: The Town of Orange, Brandy Station Battlefield, the Town of Culpeper Court House, and Cedar Mountain Battlefield.

Greg was instrumental in the formation of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, serving as the first president of that organization. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Brandy Station Foundation. Don't miss the opportunity to listen to another stirring talk by a very talented historian and friend of the BRCWRT at 7:00 P.M., 8 November 2007.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008

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



## 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:** John De Pue—jfdepue@comcast.net  
**Treasurer:** Mark Knowles [703.787.9811]  
**Secretary:** Dale Maschino [703.734.3244] or  
 smasch1@verizon.net

**At Large:**

Ed Wenzel, Charlie Balch and Maureen Quinn

**Field Trips:** Kevin Anastas, KKA2@cox.net

**Webmaster:** Ken Jones KJones111@cox.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandra Cox  
 scox@capitalav.com [703.675.0702]

**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  
 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 President John McAnaw (703.978.3371).



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MATTHEW WALTON  
 DAVE JOHNSON  
 PATRICK QUINN  
 JEFFREY WHITMORE

## 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 Dec 2007/Jan 2008 Issue

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

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

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

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## The President's Column By John P. McAnaw

A total of 68 BRCWRT members and guests attended our monthly meeting on 11 October. And what an enjoyable meeting it was! Guest speaker Stacy Humphreys' presentation on the renowned Washington Artillery of New Orleans was superb. She convincingly demonstrated her knowledge of the four batteries of the Washington Artillery that served with the Army of Northern Virginia. Her research on members of these batteries was commendable.



Stacy Humphreys and the red kepi of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans.  
Photo by Janet Greentree

Kudos to all members who participated in the events marking the Grand Opening of the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park during the period 12-14 October 2007. Please read the articles elsewhere in this newsletter that address this event. Members of the BRCWRT have been involved for many years in efforts to save this battlefield. Well do many of us remember the raucous public hearings before the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOS). In one instance I was unable to give my three-minute pitch to the BOS until after 3:00 A.M. Thanks to the efforts of Centex Homes and many individuals, a good bit of the Bristoe Station Battlefield west of Route 619 (Linton Hall Road) has been preserved. We made ourselves count.

The membership drive for CY 2008 will commence upon your receipt of the November newsletter. This year was a banner year for the BRCWRT, with membership totaling 216. Thank you for your support.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**13 DECEMBER 2007**

**Ron Beavers**

**Subject:**

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



**10 JANUARY 2008**

**E.B. Vandiver, III**

**Subject:**

**Defending the James**

## KETTLE RUN CIVIL WAR TRAIL SIGN COMPLETED

BRCWRT member Mark Trbovich is happy to report that the Kettle Run Civil War Trails sign has been completed and will be placed sometime in 2008. Mark says, "That is a dream come true for me....the completion of all the signs for the August 27th 1862 activities—the Battle of Bull Run Railroad Bridge (Two signs--Connor House and Liberia House) Kettle Run and the Manassas City sign (in place) at the Train Station describing Jackson's troops and their antics when they saw that beautiful site....train cars loaded with various foods and supplies. I believe they probably went a little crazy...half starved from the march."



Mark is a volunteer with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and in May received PWC's 'Volunteer of the Quarter Award'.

In the past five years, Mark has researched, written, and installed ten signs in Prince William County and is working to create a county-wide Civil War Trails tour. The tour will be a precursor to the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011) and will involve installing more VA Civil War Trails markers throughout the county with a self-guided brochure to allow residents and visitors to tour the county's sites.



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

## CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

### MEET BOB ELDRIDGE



This must be New Jersey month as former New Jersey resident Bob Eldridge is the subject of this month's article. Bob was born and raised in Moorestown, New Jersey. He graduated from Roanoke College with a BA Degree in History in 1962. Immediately after college he joined the Army and served for three years with the 13<sup>th</sup> Psychological Warfare Battalion at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Shortly after leaving the Army, Bob joined the Central Intelligence Agency as an analyst. Bob spent a total of 32 years with the Agency, and retired at the end of 1997.

For the past ten years Bob has been a volunteer with the National Park Service at Great Falls Park. His research work for the Park is currently on display in the Visitors Center. It is a comprehensive look at the Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad, which ran as a trolley from 1906 through 1934, bringing visitors by the thousands to the Park. Old Dominion Drive is the old trolley roadbed. This was a collaborative project with Karen Washburn, a local historian and former Chairman of the Fairfax County History Commission.

Bob's spare time is spent doing a lot of gardening, both veggies and flowers. He says the raspberries were great this year. The biggest challenge he faces is to keep the deer from eating everything!

Bob has been an active long distance runner since college and still competes in local road races. Modestly, he says, he is just a bit slower these days but still competitive in his age group. He's also an avid biker and usually rides at least once a week with some of his former work colleagues. He had a fun event in early September, the Civil War Century. His group rides from Thurmont up and through Gettysburg which is awesome.

Bob has been married for 38 years and he and his wife have a daughter, who is a graphic designer. She did the DVD Jacket and posters for "Danger Between the Lines." Speaking of "Danger Between the Lines," wasn't that an awesome production "our" guys did on that? It's been very successful too without much publicity, only word of mouth.

Bob first got interested in the Civil War during college because his cross country coach, who was also one of his history professors, would take the team to Civil War sites like Appomattox, when they traveled to meets. His interest really took off the last couple of years when he and Jim Lewis hooked up with two other guys and began taking trips to battlefields.

There are two ancestors of Bob's that he is aware of who fought in the Civil War. His maternal great-

grandfather, Robert Reed Fauver, was a Private with Co. E, Fourth New Jersey Infantry Regiment. He was the company cook. He reenlisted during the Winter Encampment at Brandy Station. Bud Hall showed him the spot where the 4<sup>th</sup> New Jersey camped. His paternal great-grandfather, John W. Eldridge, was a Private with Co. G., 11<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Infantry Regiment. The Muster Rolls show him as a nurse with the Regiment Hospital. Both of them survived the War although they were disabled.

General Grant is Bob's favorite person in the Civil War. The last Civil War book he read was *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails, The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln used the telegraph to win the Civil War*, by Tom Wheeler. Bob enjoys reading books and articles and traveling to many Civil War related sites. Bob has visited many of the large battlefields of the Eastern Campaign and many of the smaller sites like Droop Mountain in West Virginia and Balls Bluff in Leesburg. He and his buddies next goal is to start the Western Campaign next year. He and Jim Lewis have had great success working with the Park Rangers at the various National Military Battlefields they have visited. Scott Hartwig at Gettysburg and Chris Caulkins at Petersburg were particularly generous with their time and knowledge.

Bob hasn't held any positions in the Round Table yet as he's only been a member for two years now. Must be time to recruit him for a position!

Bob's interesting thing to share with us is that he ran the Boston Marathon four times. That's quite an accomplishment. Personally, I think his work on the DVD "Between the Lines" is the most interesting thing he has to share with us. Kudos to all four of "our" guys who did such a great job with that. Glad you've joined our round table, Bob.

\* \* \*

## THE PEWS OF ST. JAMES

By Michael Block

It survived the Battle of Brandy Station. It survived the movements of Jackson and Pope in 1862. It survived the movements and fighting of Lee and Meade in October and November of 1863. But it could not survive men who wanted to live in a little more comfort. And for the men of the Army of the Potomac, it wasn't a decision to make.

The St. James Church came down, literally brick-by-brick. When the orders came to build winter quarters, the church was an easy target – it was convenient and empty.

The most likely suspects for the removal of the bricks and structure was the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment. They were camping in the field immediately adjacent to

**See ST. JAMES, Page 9**

## 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).*

**4 Nov** – Lecture, “Hunter’s Raid and the Battle of Lynchburg,” with Greg Starbuck at the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 2 pm. Free with admission. Call 804-342-9665, or link to [www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org).

**7 Nov** – Gallery Walk, “Lee and Grant” with curator William Rasmussen at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. Call 804-342-9665, or link to [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org).

**10 Nov** – Lecture, “And a Few Marines – The US Marine Corps in the Civil War,” 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).

**10-11 Nov** – Fall open house at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Free admission noon to 4 pm. Call 301-868-1121 or link to [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org).

**13 Nov** – Film, “Still Standing: The Stonewall Jackson Story,” at the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, Room 1113, at Liberty University, Lynchburg. Panel discussion follows. \$5 adults. Call 434-582-2087.

**17 Nov** – Lecture and book signing, “In The Footsteps of Grant and Lee: The Wilderness Through Cold Harbor” with Gordon Rhea at the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 2 pm. Free with admission. Call 804-780-1865 or link to [www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org).

**17 Nov** – Living history, “Camp Life of Confederate Soldiers” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am – 3 pm. Free with admission. Call 301-695-1864 or link to [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

**17-18 Nov** – Civil War Show and sale. Annual event with hundreds of tables of sale items and exhibits at the Raceway Complex in Richmond. 9 am – 5 pm Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm Sunday. \$6 admission. For details, call 804-737-5827.

**30 Nov** – Holliday open house at the Manassas Museum. Free reception, refreshments. 5 – 8:30 pm. Call 703-368-1873, or link to [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

## THE WARTIME EFFECTS OF MAJ. GEN. J. E. B. STUART NOW ON DISPLAY



The Museum of the Confederacy located in Richmond, VA has announced that the most complete collection of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s wartime effects will be exhibited to the public together for the first time in over a century.

The Virginia Historical Society’s collection of Stuart items will be on special loan to the Museum of the Confederacy until 2010. The collection will join the Museum’s already extensive collection of Stuart artifacts currently on display in The Confederate Years, the Museum’s permanent exhibit. The collections department planned to install the loan items on Friday, October 26, 2007.

New items on special loan from the Virginia Historical Society include Stuart’s Whitney pistol, uniform jacket, vest, trousers, and the blood-stained sash worn at the time of his mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern in May of 1864.

These items join the Museum’s regular Stuart display that includes his French-made hat with ostrich plume, LeMat pistol and holster, saddle, boots, gauntlets, French cavalry saber, sword belt, Calisher & Terry carbine, and field desk.

“This exhibit is one of the most complete exhibits of personal effects of an important Civil War general ever on display,” stated Robert Hancock, the Museum of the Confederacy’s director of collections and senior curator. “It combines the two separate, venerable collections of Stuart artifacts and has an impressive presence in the Museum.”

## “24 HOURS AT MANASSAS JUNCTION”

Don’t miss BRCWRT member Mark Trbovich’s presentation on Wednesday, November 14 at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Mark will cover General Jackson’s flank attack on the Union logistical supply base at Manassas, just prior to the Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas. He will also describe the Union Army coming through Fairfax Station on their way to Union Mills, the Battles at the Bull Run Bridge (east of Manassas) and at the Kettle Run Bridge (southwest of Manassas). 7:30 P.M.

## TELLING THE STORY OF BRISTOE STATION

By John De Pue

As many know, the BRCWRT was asked to assist in the dedication of the Bristoe Station Heritage Park by providing guides and docents who could explain the October 14, 1863 battle and its historical context to visitors. Thanks to several of our members, that effort was a great success. The Round Table received some good publicity, and attendees received a comprehensive understanding of the battle.



BRCWRT Members with CWPT Pres. James Lighthizer & Jim Burgess, PWC Historical Commission. Photo by Mark Knowles.

The Sunday prior to the dedication ceremony, John Pearson, Jim Meagher, and the writer conducted a preliminary reconnaissance of the park property for the purpose of identifying potential vantage points and timing the proposed tour. Anticipating lots of attendees with limited time and a superficial knowledge of the battle, John Pearson reduced the Park's proposed 17 stop tour to six key stops along a circular route beginning and ending at the hilltop. He also simplified the detailed signage commentary for these stops to make them compatible with a one hour tour. In addition, John prepared a large sketch map of the relevant portions of Fauquier and Prince William Counties, a detailed diagram (down to regimental level) depicting the Confederate assault on the railroad bed, and a 24 by 36 inch reproduction of the Alfred Waud sketch depicting the Union Second Corps establishing a defensive line at the railroad bed. Keith Young furnished the writer a computer disk containing both the CWPT and OR maps of the battle, which were enlarged and mounted on a Styrofoam board for use during the presentations. These materials would prove highly useful in explaining the events of October 14, 1863.

Our first presentation was scheduled for Friday afternoon. The attendees, however, were so worn down from their hike with "Red" Barber to the Confederate cemetery sites that they were in no mood to abandon their folding chairs for an additional hike along the route

we had planned. Therefore, after the writer provided a brief overview of events leading to the battle, John Pearson detailed the fight from the vantage point of the hilltop.

The BRCWRT agreed to conduct three lecture/tours on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, between 1 and 3 pm. Again, however, matters did not go quite according to plan. The first tour, which I – assisted by Keith Young – was to lead, began a half hour late as most of the attendees had also participated in Mike Miller's tour of the Kettle Run Battlefield and were unable to return to the hilltop in time. As a consequence, it wound up being consolidated with John Pearson's 2 pm tour, with John joining me in recounting events as the battle wore down. Ron Mayer led a 3 p.m. tour, which did kick off at its scheduled time. He had prepared copies of the CWPT map to assist in following the battle.



Photo of John De Pue by Janet Greentree

The following day, John Pearson led a 2 p.m. walking tour. It was well attended, included a visit to the railroad cut itself, and had the advantage of added realism when a number of "wounded" soldiers crossed our path en route to the Union field hospital at the base of the hill.



Photo of Re-enactors by Janet Greentree

To commemorate the October 14, 1863 battle of Auburn (where the Union Second Corps engaged Jeb Stuart and Dick Ewell on that morning), residents of that

**See BRISTOE, Page 7**

## BRISTOE [Continued from Page 6]

community held a heritage day of their own. John Pearson, THE expert on the conflict, hurried from his Bristoe duties to present a talk concerning the military action at that location. It was attended by over 50 interested residents. As a consequence, John was able to further sensitize local homeowners concerning the history of the area and their responsibility for its preservation. He also developed some good potential contacts for another tour of the area.



Photo of John Pearson by Janet Greentree

I express my thanks to all those BRCWRT members who participated in this effort. Not only did they make the battle come alive for visitors, but the effort garnered for us yet additional public recognition and potential allies in our preservation efforts. We also learned some valuable practical lessons about the uncertainties inherent in conducting walking tours. Last, but not least, the effort has resulted in the makings of a knowledgeable corps of guides and interpreters for future events. Dave Born, who presides over the Heritage Park on behalf of Prince William County has expressed his thanks to our Round Table for its efforts in making the Park dedication a success. He assures us that we will be called upon in the future for repeat performances.



John Pearson, John McAnaw and John De Pue review map with CWPT President James Lighthizer.

Photo submitted by Mark Knowles

## DONATE A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION

The Civil War Preservation Trust is calling on members and non-members to "Take action".

This past summer, a bipartisan group of preservation leaders in the U.S. House and Senate introduced the "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007." This landmark legislation reauthorizes the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, the primary tool that CWPT and other battlefield preservation groups use to acquire historically significant battlefield land.

The program provides federal matching grants that have helped protect more than 14,000 acres of hallowed ground throughout the nation – historic shrines such as Antietam, Champion Hill, Chancellorsville, Franklin, Manassas, Perryville and Prairie Grove. Without this program, many lands associated with these famous battlefields would have fallen to the backhoe and bulldozer in the past decade.

As is the case with many federal programs, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program needs to be reauthorized every few years. Passage of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act (H.R. 2933 in the House and S. 1921 in the Senate) will guarantee that this extremely valuable preservation tool will continue to be available to protect endangered battlefield land through 2013.

Get involved in the effort to pass the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act. Take a few moments to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives and ask them to cosponsor the bill. You can call, write or email them – whichever you prefer (although calls and letters are always the most effective).

To make your involvement as quick and easy as possible, CWPT has set up a special website about the program at [www.battlefieldactivist.com](http://www.battlefieldactivist.com). This website has everything you need – sample phone scripts, sample letters, and information on contacting your elected officials in Washington. It also contains a list of 22 Senators and 61 Representatives who have already embraced this important legislation.

If it turns out your Senators or Representative have already agreed to cosponsor the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act, please send them a quick thank you (we provide sample text for that as well). All too often, our elected officials only hear from the public when they do something wrong – please thank them for doing something so right.

In many cases, legislators won't cosponsor bills unless they hear from their constituents – so make sure your voice is heard!

Source: CWPT membership email dated Oct. 25, 2007

# THE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE BRISTOE STATION HERITAGE PARK

12 October 2007

By John McAnaw

The ceremony began about 2:20 P.M. under a tent not far from the park headquarters (formerly Milton Rollins' residence). About 55 individuals were present including 11 from the BRCWRT. Prince William County Executive Craig S. Gerhaut acted as master of ceremonies. He introduced the following members of the County Board of Supervisors: Brentsville Supervisor W.S. Covington III, and Chairman Corey A Stewart. Both spoke in very favorable terms about the successful partnership between CENTEX Corporation and the Civil War Preservation Trust that resulted in the establishment of the 133 acre Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park (BSBHP).

nary hallowed ground". Further, he stated that CENTEX was a "first class corporation" with a good corporate conscience. He also expressed his disappointment regarding other large developers who have no interest in preserving our Civil War heritage. Summing up, it was a powerful speech.

After the meeting BRCWRT members had the opportunity to speak at length with President Lighthizer and get some group photographs with him front and center. The following BRCWRT members were present for the Grand Opening of the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park on Friday 12 October: Nancy Anwyll, Mike Block, John DePue, Mark Knowles, Dale Maschino, Ron Mayer, John McAnaw, Rob Orrison, John Pearson, Bev Regeimbal, and Mark Trbovich.

Also present and deserving of recognition were: Red Barbour, Fincastle Rifles, Sons of Confederate Veterans Roanoke, VA; David Born, Historic Site Manager (BSBHP); Jim Burgess, Historian, Manassas National Battlefield Park; Brendon Hanafin, Director, Historic Preservation Division, PW County; and J. Michael Miller, Historian.

Two formerly elected PW County officials who made significant contributions toward the creation of the BSBHP who were not present for the ceremony were: Sean Connaughton, former Chairman, PW County BOS and Bobby McManus, former Supervisor, Gainesville District, PW BOS.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (Left to Right) Craig S. Gerhart (PW County Executive), Corey Stewart (Chairman, Board of Supervisors, PWC, W. S. Covington, III (Supervisor, Brentsville District), Dave Rettew (CENTEX Corporation) and James Lighthizer (President, CWPT) Photo by Mark Knowles

They were followed by David Rettew, the Director of Community Development, CENTEX Corporation who, during his short speech, recognized the efforts of the BRCWRT. The last speaker was President James Lighthizer of the Civil War Preservation Trust. His comments were memorable. He spoke of the extraordinary partnership that was forged between his organization of 65,000 members and CENTEX, plus the support he received from Prince William County. He singled out the contributions of former County Chairman Sean Connaughton and Steve Fritz of CENTEX. President Lighthizer remembered the all night public hearing at the McCourt Building on the future of the battlefield. So did I and other Round Table members in attendance.

President Lighthizer pointedly stated that not all counties are like Prince William and reiterated his thanks to those county officials who helped save "this extraordi-



Barn Site Photo by Janet Greentree



Looking towards the Battlefield from the Barn Site Photo By Janet Greentree



## OX HILL SITE PLAN DELAYS QUESTIONED BY CHAIRMAN CONNOLLY; Progress Continues on Marker Designs

By Ed Wenzel

A chance conversation with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Chairman Gerald Connolly last month at the Oakton Library has resulted in his inquiry to the Department of Public Works & Environmental Services (DPW&ES) about continuing delays and waiver fees that affect the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. As confirmed by Ox Hill Project Team Leader Michael Rierson, the DPW&ES is still holding up approvals for the site plans on a number of issues, the latest being a demand for a \$13,000 bathymetric study of the storm water retention pond just south of the park. Waiver fees on several sticking points have depleted the park's budget and are threatening further cutbacks in addition to the off-site markers. Chairman Connolly told the writer that he wished to see Ox Hill completed without delay, including the off-site markers. His memo to DPW&ES requests that they "take all appropriate steps to streamline and expedite the approval process" for Ox Hill. Connolly's staff is also making inquiries about possible additional funds for the park.

On interpretive matters, design work for the park's wayside markers is continuing smoothly. Bob McDonough of Innovative Projects Inc. has completed color proofs for Markers #1 through #5 and work on other markers is in progress. In the past few weeks Bob produced several revisions for each marker, making changes and adjustments to the maps as the writer refined the troop positions to best agree with the time line and battle accounts. Bob also spent time experimenting with different techniques to depict the action portrayed. The various alternatives, concepts and proofs will be presented to the Ox Hill Interpretive Team in early November.

In other news, the Kearny-Stevens Trustees met recently in Middleburg, Virginia as a part of our organizing effort for the transfer of the Kearny-Stevens monument lot to the non-profit Kearny and Stevens Monuments Association Inc. Legal work on that matter is proceeding. Stay tuned.

\* \* \*

### THE PEWS OF ST. JAMES [Continued from Page 4]

and northeast of St. James. This field five months previously saw the 6<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry, known as Rushes Lancers make their charge on the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup>, into the mouth of the might of the Stuart Horse Artillery, with predictable results. Lt. Henry Carpenter of

the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry described setting up his winter camp "upon the battle field of Beverly Ford or Brandy Station as the rebels call it... An old Church stands close by...The ground near the Church is covered with the graves of rebel soldiers... (Carpenter, L.H. 1863 Letter in Louis Henry Carpenter Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

Trees in the churchyard and cemetery disappeared to provide wood for huts and fuel. As chimneys were also required for warmth during the winter, the little brick church was at risk.

"They...have pulled down the Church near Pleasonton's Head Quarters, for the bricks alone," wrote Provost Marshal General Marsena Patrick in his diary on December 8, 1863. He deplored this "terrible conduct" by Union cavalymen that resulted in the destruction of St. James Church. (Marsena Patrick Diary, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.)

But what happened to the pews?

That answer comes from the diary of Elisha Hunt Rhodes the adjutant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Infantry Regiment.

He described the dedication of the regiment's chapel in mid-January 1863: "Tonight we dedicated our new chapel and in remembrance of R.I. and in recognition of God's goodness to us we have named it "Hope" Chapel. The building is made of logs hewn smooth on one side and built up cob fashion. Most of the hewing was done by Chaplain Beugless and Lieut. John M. Turner. The roof is covered by a large canvas, presented by the Christian Commission. Inside we have a fireplace and tin reflectors for candles on the walls. A chandelier made from old tin cans, or the tin taken from cans is in the centre. The pulpit or desk is covered with red flannel, and the ground or floor is carpeted with pine boughs. **We sent a detail of men in command of Capt. John G. Beveridge to a deserted church near by and took out the seats and placed them in our Chapel.** Our boys had a fight with the guerillas but brought back the seats." (All For the Union: The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes, edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes) Rhodes was also the superintendent of the Church's Sunday School.

The seats remained with the Sixth Corps Unit until April, when the packing of the camp and preparations for war began anew. The canvas roof was returned to the Christian Commission. As for the pews, no one knows. They were most likely taken from the roofless church and used for firewood. By April, most of the hardstand trees had been used, and the benches were convenient and close.

While we will never know for sure of the fate of the pews of St. James Church, we can be glad that at least they were used for their designed purpose for a few more months.

**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**The Stone Wall**

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

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