



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XVII, Issue 8, DEC. 2010—JAN. 2011

## DAVID BORN SPEAKS ON ROBERT E. LEE AND SANTA CLAUS

By Mark Trbovich



Our December speaker, Civil War historian Dave Born, graced the BRCWRT in April 2006 with an excellent and informative lecture on "Black Day for the Army of Northern Virginia: The Battle of Sailor's Creek" part of Lee's Retreat from Petersburg, April 1865. The following August he led us on a tour of that battlefield.

Dave has been working in Virginia in the Civil War park and preservation field for the past 23 years. He graduated with honors from Abilene Christian University in 1988 with a bachelor of science degree. From 1987 to the present, he has developed an impressive resume of assignments and activities here in Virginia that are directly related to the preservation of our priceless American heritage.

From 1992 to June 2005, our guest speaker was the Interpretive Program Manager for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks. While assigned to this position, Dave developed and implemented a wide range of cultural, historical and environmental programs at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Twin Lakes, and Sky Meadows State Park. During this period he successfully applied for and received grant money from the American Battlefield Protection Program. He also worked closely with the Archaeology Department of Longwood College (now a University). As the result of his keen interest in the Battle of Sailor's Creek and the Appomattox Campaign, Dave has become a highly regarded authority on those events.

Also, during the 1987-1991 timeframe, Dave worked in various capacities at the Petersburg National Battlefield (PNB). Among other responsibilities, he was in charge of developing and implementing public programs. He also supervised up to 24 employees during the summer tourist season. Additionally, he was a weapons demonstrator and a postillion team driver. Further, he was in charge of the construction of field fortifications, bomb proofs, and gabions. From 1996-2002, Dave also served at PNB as a volunteer and assisted with the training of postillion horse teams that were used for artillery demonstrations.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9**

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

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**David M. Born**

### TOPIC:

**"Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus Old and New: A Story of Honor and Restoration of Faith in the Post Civil War South"**

**6:30 P.M. holiday refreshments**

Dave came to Prince William County in June 2005 and is the Historic Programs Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division of Prince William County with responsibility for such historic sites as Bristoe Station, Brentsville, Ben Lomond and Rippon Lodge.

He has developed a commendable reputation as an authority on Virginia history, personnel manager, tour guide and educator.

Please come out on December 9 to hear this holiday lecture and bring in the season with your BRCWRT Friends. See you there.

Photo of Dave Born taken by Janet Greentree during the August 2006 Sailor's Creek Battlefield tour.



**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 each month at the **Centreville Regional Library**  
 14200 St. Germain Drive  
 Centreville, VA 20121-2255  
 703.830.2223

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

## 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.



**SPECIAL NOTE:** Our supply of Civil War books is at an all-time low. If you would like to play Santa's helper, check your Civil War library for unwanted books to make room on your shelves for the new ones Santa may bring.



### UPCOMING MEETING

**JANUARY 13**

### SPEAKER

**MG (Ret.) George Kundahl**

### TOPIC

**Life of Confederate Gen.  
 Stephen D. Ramseur**



### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **FEBRUARY** issue, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 27, to Sandra Cox at scox@capitalav.com. If acknowledgement of your article is not received by deadline, call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.374.2011 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.

In This Issue	
BRCWRT Elections	Page 3
Ox Hill Plans for 150th	Page 4
Events	Page 5 & 7
150 Years Ago	Page 6
Mosby Documentary	Page 7
The Book Corner	Page 8
Gettysburg Remembrance Day	Page 9
Hunter Mill DL Honored	Page 9

## JOIN US AT THE COPPER CANYON GRILL

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, other members, and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting around 5:15 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill located just across Lee Highway from the library.



## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Happy Holidays, everyone, as we head into the Christmas season. What a present we received at our November general membership meeting from BRCWRT member Chris Godart. His "Confederate Gen. Richard S. Ewell at Gettysburg" lecture was outstanding, and he was in authentic Confederate General Ewell clothing to boot. He was accompanied by some of his Lee's Lieutenants friends in uniform who included Generals Jeb Stuart and Extra Billy Smith, Col. John Mosby and Lt. Col. Charles Venable. You had to be there to see the antics of these men as Chris spoke on Gen. Ewell's rise to Corps Command in the Army of Northern Virginia and his hour-by-hour struggle on Day 1 at Gettysburg.



L-R - David Meisky (Gen. Extra Billy Smith), Jimmy Fleming (Col. John Singleton Mosby), Chris Godart (Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell), Bill Frueh of Golden, CO (Gen. Jeb Stuart), Mark Whitenton (Lt. Col. Charles Venable - Lee's staff), and Linda Cleveland, docent at Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. Photo by Janet Greentree

Chris laid out a great argument stating that Ewell didn't hesitate on taking Culp's Hill but possibly staved off annihilation of his exhausted and wounded forces by not attacking Cemetery Ridge and Culp's Hill that late afternoon/evening. Gen. Ewell never wrote a memoir and passed away before the "Lost Cause" folks started placing blame for the Gettysburg defeat. My opinion is there was *Plenty of Blame To Go Around*...another excellent book on Gettysburg. Following the lecture, Lee's Lieutenants were off to Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. I'm sure they were a hit. See parade photos on page 9.

Our December meeting promises to be memorable as we will first enjoy some holiday goodies, and then the general membership will participate in our 2011 BRCWRT elections. We will be holding officer elections for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Please come out and participate on December 9 as we bring in the holiday with friendship and fellowship reign-

ing supreme. You will also be treated to a holiday lecture from Civil War historian David Born on "Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus Old and New: A Story of Honor and Restoration of Faith in the Post Civil War South." This promises to be uplifting and educational for all ages. Don't miss this meeting, and bring a friend to enjoy it with you.

As the year comes to an end, I wanted to first thank my entire BRCWRT Executive Committee for making 2010 such a successful year of launching new initiatives and looking to such a bright future for what we believe this round table can accomplish. I would also like to thank you, the membership and supporters, who are the backbone of this great round table, 225 strong and growing! Our Web site and newsletter are second to none and our tours are fantastic. I can't wait to get started in January 2011, with this great membership as the 150th Sesquicentennial of the Civil War begins. This is your time to shine, embrace the Sesquicentennial, volunteer or attend the numerous events and do all you can to make it memorable for you and your family. We won't pass this way again; enjoy the moment. The BRCWRT will be participating in supporting every local event throughout the next four years. We have already accomplished much, but there is much to still do. Come on out to the monthly meetings, bring a friend, and be a part of far and away the most knowledgeable membership, newsletter extraordinaire, innovative Web site, and visionary Civil War round table in the country. If you know of another one better, I'd like to hear about it. What a pleasure it has been to serve you this year, and God willing, I will next year as well. Together and united, we are the Bull Run Civil War Round Table who will lead the way into the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Lest we Forget Them and what they did for us! Never Forget!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone. God's Blessing to All.

**Elections for 2011  
BRCWRT Officers will  
take place at the  
December 9 meeting.**



The following are candidates:

President - Mark Trbovich

Vice-President - John Pearson

Treasurer - Mark Knowles

Secretary - Dale Maschino





## OX HILL EVENT PLANNING BEGINS FOR 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Ed Wenzel

Fairfax County's "Signature Event" for the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly), will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2012. That date marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last battle of the Second Manassas Campaign and the only major battle of the war fought in Fairfax County.

The Ox Hill battle resulted when Gen. Robert E. Lee's left wing under Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson outflanked Gen. John Pope's Union army at Centreville and moved down the Little River Turnpike in an attempt to cut the Federal line of retreat near Jermantown. Jackson's movement forced Pope to abandon his fortified position and conduct a hasty retreat toward Fairfax Court House. Elements of Pope's army encountered Jackson at Ox Hill (in the Fairfax Towne Center and Fair Oaks Mall areas). The surprise clash precipitated a bloody, 2 ½ hour battle (in a thunderstorm) across 500 acres of fields and woods on either side of today's West Ox Road. Over 23,000 troops were on the field and about 1,500 became casualties. Two Union generals were killed—Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearny. Pope retreated during the night and the Confederates held the field. On September 3, Lee's army marched toward Leesburg and the Potomac River fords, opening the Maryland Campaign. Today, twin monuments erected in 1915 to Stevens and Kearny are the centerpieces of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park.

With the above in mind, the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Steering Committee voted unanimously at its March, 2009 meeting to make the Battle of Ox Hill the "Signature Event" of the Sesquicentennial for the county. At a meeting of the History Subcommittee on March 27, 2010, a number of event possibilities for Ox Hill were presented. An outline of that meeting, and possible Ox Hill events, were reported in the May 2010 issue of the *Stonewall*.

Now the hard work has begun. Just a few days ago on November 19, Paula Eley, citizen volunteer coordinator for Ox Hill event planning, held a "brainstorming" meeting at the Oakton Library, the first such meeting devoted specifically to the Ox Hill commemoration. In attendance were John Dargle, Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); Liz Crowell, Cultural Resources Manager, FCPA; Mike Henry, Matt Devor, Barbara Ziman and Tawny Hammond, all of the FCPA; Christian Deschauer, representing Supervisor Pat Herrity; Virginia Eller of Supervisor Mike Frey's office; Barry Biggar and Patrick Lennon of Visit Fairfax; David Meisky, living historian and impersonator of Gen. "Extra

Billy" Smith who led the 49<sup>th</sup> VA regiment at Ox Hill; and the writer, a member of the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. Liz Crowell and Patrick Lennon are also the co-chairs of the Steering Committee.

After an *incredible* "light lunch," Paula brought us to the matter at hand and began eliciting ideas, subjects and comments from the attendees. The following is a list of items suggested at the meeting:

### On-site possibilities at Ox Hill Battlefield Park:

- Civil War living history reenactors, infantry, artillery (at least one cannon), cavalry
- March-in by reenactors through urban development on the original battlefield
- Formal ceremony, Virginia, New Jersey, Fairfax County and Kearny, NJ officials
- Color guards, US Army, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, Fort Myer; Civil War reenactment units
- Trustees, Kearny and Stevens Monuments
- Descendents of Generals Stevens and Kearny (if any can be located)
- Official Program
- Wreath laying by officials and organizations
- Civil War band, period music
- Parade or troops passing in review at close of ceremony
- Hospital/Surgical demonstrations
- Artifact exhibits
- Civil War ball or dance on the night of the ceremony with period band, uniformed soldiers, civilians, the community
- Complete the "Soldier" panel for Ox Hill kiosk (two more Confederate images and biographical data needed)
- Find corporate or private funds for Union and Confederate soldier monuments at the park

### Off-site commemorative possibilities:

- Ceremony and wreath laying at Kearny's statue and grave at Arlington National Cemetery
- Red Cross blood drive at St. Mary's Church; Clara Barton, wounded soldiers
- Battle reenactment at Sully Historic Site
- Cavalry horse show, horse artillery, Frying Pan Farm Park
- Complete six off-site interpretive markers and install beside trail along Monument Drive
- Centreville Historic District tie-in to Ox Hill?

As the volunteer coordinator, Paula will be working with FCPA staff, the Steering Committee, living history groups and others to sift through the ideas and determine what is doable for this event. Anyone having ideas to offer or those wishing to assist with the planning should please contact Paula Eley at [smithpoin-troad@hotmail.com](mailto:smithpoin-troad@hotmail.com). The next meeting of the Ox Hill Event Planning Group is undetermined but will likely take place early next year. Stay tuned.

Photo of Ed Wenzel at Ox Hill Battlefield Park taken in 2006 by Janet Greentree.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*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)*

**4-5 Dec** – “Approach of Peace 1864,” preparing for Christmas at Harpers Ferry. Noon –8 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Free with Park admission. Call 304-535-6029, or link to [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe).

**5 Dec** – “Washingtonians in the Civil War,” at Fort Greble, 298 Elmira St. SE, in DC. Learn about local citizen’s reactions to the construction of Washington-area Forts. 1 p.m. Free. Call 202-426-7723 or link to [www.nps.gov/cwdw](http://www.nps.gov/cwdw).

**5 Dec** – “Christmas in Camp,” civilian and military camps and demonstrations at historic Blenheim in Fairfax City, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Noon-4 p.m. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

**10 Dec** – Lecture, “On Hallowed Ground: The Story of Arlington National Cemetery,” at the William McGowan Theater in the National Archives, DC. Noon. Free. For information link to [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

**11-12 Dec** – Music and more during the Holiday Homecoming of 1865, at the Carroll County Farm Museum at 500 S. Center St. in Westminster, MD. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, noon - 5 p.m. on Sunday. \$2.50 Fee. Call 888-299-2983, or [www.carrollcountymuseum.org](http://www.carrollcountymuseum.org).

**11 Dec** – Civil War Christmas in Camp at Ft. Ward in Alexandria. Includes Civil War Santa Claus, hands-on activities, fort tours and more. Noon – 5 p.m. \$2/adult. Call 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**11-12 Dec** – Civil War Santa Comes to Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free. \$5 for photo with CW Santa. Info: 703.792.5618. Link to [www.pwcgov.org/historicsites](http://www.pwcgov.org/historicsites).

**12 Dec** – Follow in the footsteps of Civil War soldiers at Fort DeRussy, 5200 Glover Rd. NW, in DC. Learn about the roads connecting the Washington forts during the war. 1 p.m. Free. Call 202-426-7723 or go to [www.nps.gov/cwdw](http://www.nps.gov/cwdw).

**12 Dec** - Annual commemoration of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg at the National Park. Free. For details link to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**17 Dec** – Open House, “Christmas With the Jacksons,” at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington. Living history, candlelight tours, music and refreshments. For information, call 540-463-2552.

**18 Dec** – Candlelight wagon tours of Historic Sully Plantation in Chantilly, with Civil War living history. 5–7 p.m. \$10/adult. Registration suggested. Call 703-437-

1794.

**18 Dec** – Living history and Santa Claus with “Tales From the Ages,” at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD. 1 p.m. Free. For information call 301-868-1121 or [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org).

**18-19 Dec** – Christmas at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. Civil War Santa, decorations and more. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Parking fee. Call 703-583-6904.

**19 Dec** – “The Secession Winter of 1860,” at Ft. Davis on Pennsylvania Ave. and Ft. Davis Drive SE in DC. The winter leading up to the war and South Carolina’s secession. 1 p.m. Free. Call 202-426-7723 or [www.nps.gov/cwdw](http://www.nps.gov/cwdw).

**15 Jan** – “Lee-Jackson Day” in Lexington. Wreath laying at Stonewall Jackson’s grave at 10:30 a.m. followed by a parade through downtown to VMI. Noon-time service and speaker at Lee Chapel. Free. Call 540-461-0389.

**16 Jan** – Lecture, “Mosby in Manassas and Prince William” at the Manassas Museum. 2 p.m. Free. Call 703-368-1873 or [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

**22 Jan** – Manassas Blue and Gray Ball at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10900 University Blvd., Manassas. Civil War food, music and dancing. \$150 per person. Call 703-361-6599 ext. 102.

**27 Jan** – Lecture, “There Stands Jackson: The Life and Times of General Thomas Jonathon Jackson,” at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave. in Manassas. 7 p.m. Free. Call 703-367-7872.

**29 Jan** – Civil War Ball at Gadsby’s Tavern in Alexandria. Dance instructions, refreshments and music at this annual event. 8 – 11 p.m. \$45 per person in advance. For reservations and details, call 703-746-4242 or, link to [www.gadsbytaavern.org](http://www.gadsbytaavern.org).



**IT’S TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR BULL RUN CIVIL  
WAR ROUND TABLE  
MEMBERSHIP.**

PLEASE BRING A CHECK OR CASH TO THE  
DECEMBER 9 MEETING OR USE THE MAILER ON  
PAGE 10.

It’s the best bargain around!

Great speakers, excellent topics, exciting  
Civil War tours, preservation, informative  
newsletters and great fellowship.



## DECEMBER 1860 and JANUARY 1861

By Nancy Anwyll

On December 4, 1860, President Buchanan sent the State of the Union message to the Second Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress. Overall, Buchanan found the state of the union in not great shape; although he offered suggestions, no one was satisfied with them. In effort to try to do something, the House of Representatives named a special committee to study the condition of the country.

On December 2, a cavalry company was formed in Alexandria, Virginia. In addition to cavalry being organized, Alexandria boys between the ages of 16 and 20 began to organize an infantry company, which was later named the Old Dominion Rifles. One of the boys to join was Edgar Warfield, an 18 year old who worked as a drug store clerk in Alexandria. Warfield served throughout the war; and after the war, he owned the Warfield Drug Store in Alexandria, was active in the R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, and was very active in raising funds for the Confederate statue, Appomattox, located at Washington and Prince Streets in Alexandria.

Georgian Howell Cobb, who served as Buchanan's Secretary of the Treasury, on December 8, became the first Cabinet member to resign. On December 12, Secretary of State Lewis Cass from Michigan became the second Cabinet member to resign.

On December 17, the South Carolina legislature met in Columbia and approved the ordinance of secession. Governor, John Letcher of Virginia criticized South Carolina for seceding, but he also opposed allowing Federal troops to cross Virginia to coerce any southern state.

On December 30, South Carolina troops completed the occupation of all federal property in Charleston except for Fort Sumter which remained in the hands of Federal troops commanded by Major Robert Anderson. As January passed, other southern states followed South Carolina's example and seized Federal forts and arsenals that were located in their individual states.

As the year of 1861 began, Virginia Governor John Letcher authorized the election of delegates to a convention to determine the issue of secession for the state of Virginia. Those running for Fairfax County delegate were William H. Dulaney, who backed a Unionist platform, and Alfred Moss, who supported secession.

On January 7, 1861, the Old Dominion Rifles finished its organization in Alexandria and voted Mont-

gomery D. Corse to be its captain. Corse would go on to serve throughout the war, rising to command the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment, then later a brigade, and eventually attaining the rank of general.

The ship *Star of the West* failed on January 9 in its mission to supply the Federals at Fort Sumter in Charleston. The ship turned around after a masked battery on Morris Island fired upon it. Major Anderson ordered that no artillery response from Fort Sumter be fired. Anderson sent a message of protest to South Carolina Governor Pickens, but Pickens justified his battery's response as the state's right to defend itself. In the meantime, Fort Sumter remained in Union hands and the situation remained volatile.

On the same day as the *Star of the West* was fired upon, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union. The next day Florida seceded, and on January 11, Alabama did likewise. Georgia seceded on January 19, and Louisiana did the same on January 26.

On January 21, 1861 Jefferson Davis, Senator from Mississippi, along with four other Southern U.S. Senators, gave farewell speeches to the Senate that was meeting in Washington, D.C. All of the speeches were filled with emotion and drama, and all said that they were forced to resign because of their loyalties to their states.

January 30, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln took time away from composing an inaugural speech and selecting cabinet appointments to ride to Coles County, Illinois, to visit his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln. Unknown to both mother and son, it would be the last time they would see each other.

Sources: *Day by Day* by E. B. Long; *Manassas to Appomattox* by Edgar Warfield; *Civil War in Fairfax County* by Charles Mauro; *Sarah B. Lincoln* by the National Park Service.

STATE	SECESSION DATE
South Carolina	Dec. 20, 1860
Mississippi	Jan. 9, 1861
Florida	Jan, 10, 1861
Alabama	Jan. 11, 1861
Georgia	Jan. 19, 1861
Louisiana	Jan. 26, 1861
Texas	Feb. 1, 1861
Virginia	Apr. 17, 1861
Arkansas	May 6, 1861
Tennessee	May 6, 1861
North Carolina	May 20, 1861



**2011 HISTORY LECTURES  
Old Manassas Courthouse  
9248 Lee Avenue Manassas**

***"There Stands Jackson"  
The Rise of Thomas J. Jackson  
from Professor of Artillery to  
Southern Immortality***

Thursday, January 27, 7:00pm.

On Sunday, July 21, 1861, General Thomas J. Jackson's life would forever be changed. The little known professor of artillery at Virginia Military Institute would receive an immortal nickname and brand his memory onto the pages of southern history as "Stonewall" Jackson. Join historian Scott H. Harris, Director of the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park as we explore the life of General Jackson up to and including the events of that fateful summer day in 1861.

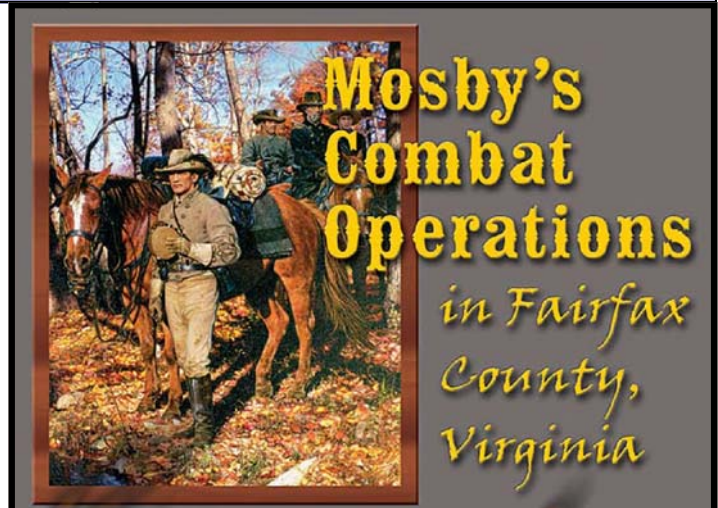
***Plantation Culture From Those  
That Built It: A View of Slavery  
Through Architecture and Art***

Thursday, February 24, 7:00pm

Join nationally renowned historian Dr. John Michael Vlach as he explains the culture and life of slaves through their places of work and rest. There are very few depictions of slaves in 19th century plantation images, and there are even fewer remaining examples of the buildings in which they spent their everyday lives. Through stories and images, Dr. Vlach will bring a different view of life on a plantation from the perspective of the people that gave plantations their power — the slaves. Dr. Vlach is a Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at the George Washington University and director of the university's Folk life Program. He has also authored two books on plantation and slave life *Back of the Big House* and *The Planter's Prospect*.

Prince William County Department of Public Works  
Historic Preservation Division  
No Reservations Necessary.

Lectures are free, but donations are appreciated!  
For additional information contact,  
David M. Born, Historic Programs Coordinator  
571-641-0042



**MOSBY DOCUMENTARY BEING  
FILMED IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

**Milestone Reached, Part X**

By Chuck Mauro

We have reached a milestone in the making of our "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County, Virginia" documentary. We were able to sit down and watch the film from beginning to end for the first time. Until now we have been focusing on each of the 42 individual operations.

After the review, we decided to have Steve Merserve re-record a couple of his lines to clarify his "Pony" Ormsby Execution story. We also decided to rework some of the illustrations, adding some and changing others by cropping them or reversing others. Also so we don't have three of Tom Evans' operations in a row and three of Don Hakenson's in a row, we moved one of Tom's into Don's sequence.

We also made a decision on the use of CSA or USA on the subtitles for the names of all the soldiers and officers. All Union soldiers or officers will have USA after their names. All Confederates will have CSA after their name. If they are a Mosby Ranger, they will have "Ranger" in front of their name instead of the CSA after it. We didn't think we needed both. This way everyone is properly identified.

Once Bert Morgan gets all these changes made, we'll add the sound effects and credits and then it will go to David Rubenstein for the soundtrack. Hopefully, we'll have it ready for David in a couple of weeks.

The documentary should be ready for sale and a premiere early in the New Year. We obviously wanted to get it done for the holiday season, but we'll settle for the sesquicentennial. Not a bad tradeoff.



## THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph G. Swanson

This book grew on me. Originally, I did not plan to review it here in the Corner, but it grew on me. I picked it up at a used book sale mainly because its author, William C. Davis, is one of our finest Civil War historians, an engaging writer who always does meticulous research. *An Honorable Defeat, The Last Days of the Confederate Government* (Harcourt, Inc, 2001) is a significant book about an important episode in our history--the final dissolution of the Confederate States government in April and May 1865. Long after finishing the book I kept returning to these events in my mind. Finally, I realized that has to be one hallmark of a great book—it keeps nagging at you.

While the collapse of the Confederate government and the flight of President Davis from Richmond are usually recounted in any general war history, author Davis has taken the subject onto new ground with his detail and his analyses of events and personalities. Author Davis knows his subject and is the man for this task, having already written a full length biography (*Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour*).

President Davis, never a hardened secessionist, considered weak on states rights, and generally regarded as an inept administrator turns out to be truly The Last Confederate, steadfast to the point of delusion long after his firebrand contemporaries have fled the cause. His hopeless strategy on the night of April 2, 1865, is to head south from Richmond and join Joe Johnston's Army of Tennessee somewhere in the Carolinas, then move west, perhaps across the Mississippi River. There he would join General E. Kirby Smith, reconstitute a Confederate States government and continue the war for independence to certain victory. Davis would have Confederate armies fight to annihilation then continue guerilla warfare from the hills. He was constitutionally unable to accept defeat.



Gen. John C. Breckinridge, CSA

But accompanying Davis on that flight train was John C. Breckinridge, former Vice President of the United States, Major General in the Confederate Army and, since January 1865, Confederate Secretary of War. Breckinridge was enormously popular throughout the south and in the Confederate government. He was a successful battlefield commander who did not involve himself in politics while in uniform and did not scheme against his fellow officers for presidential favor. And he would have

none of Davis' delusions. Breckenridge knew he had to engineer the honorable surrender of Confederate armies in order to ease President Davis toward acceptance of Confederate defeat. His quiet maneuverings to block Davis and secure the rapid surrender of Johnston's army are the centerpiece of these historical events.

The flight south was adventurous, with the party staying just ahead of Union cavalry, a price of \$100,000 now on President Davis' head. Author Davis is more than able to keep this an exciting side story. The excellent map in the book's frontispiece is essential to our understanding and enjoyment of this unfolding drama.

Nevertheless, *Honorable Defeat* is Breckenridge's story because of the undeniable admiration he earns. With Johnston's army surrendered to Sherman, Breckenridge left the presidential party and escaped to Florida. From there he made his way to Cuba, then Canada (via England) and finally returned to his Kentucky home after President Andrew Johnson's universal amnesty in 1868. From there he was, like Robert E. Lee, a quiet voice for national reconciliation.

Mrs. Davis and the children rejoined the President on May 6 at Dublin Georgia. Shortly thereafter the party was taken by Union cavalry, without bloodshed, at Irvinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865. Davis was briefly imprisoned, then released on bail in 1867. In 1868 the Supreme Court dismissed treason charges against him. He retired to a plantation in Biloxi, Mississippi, and quiet civilian life where he penned his own political biography (*Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*) published in 1881.

Do you really care what President Davis' was wearing at the time of his capture? Have you wondered about the fate of the Confederate treasury or the myths of hidden Confederate gold? What about the rest of the cabinet? Author Davis has included it all here.

The flight and capture of Davis was a critical time that shaped our subsequent American history in important ways. Getting the southern armies safely paroled to their homes and out from under President Davis' command was likely key to bringing the Confederate government, and the war, to a final close without the utter disintegration of southern society. While Reconstruction was a painful chapter in our history, the events transpiring between April 2 and May 10, 1865, may have helped to ease our path through that later wrenching time.

Until next time, keep reading.





## GETTYSBURG REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 2010 COMMEMORATING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VISIT TO DEDICATE THE NATIONAL CEMETERY



After "Lee's Lieutenants" left our November meeting, they headed up to Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. From top to bottom: There's "Extra Billy Smith" tipping his hat [BRCWRT member Dave Meisky]; Gen. Richard Ewell also tipping his hat [BRCWRT member and November speaker Chris Godart]; Gen. Jeb Stuart [Bill Frueh from Colorado]; Col. John Singleton Mosby [Jimmy Fleming] and look who arrived early to get good seats and the above photos. Ms. Rebelle [Janet Green-tree], Gwen Wyttenbach, and Yankee Nan [Nancy An-wyll].

## HUNTER MILL DEFENSE LEAGUE HONORED

By Steve Hull and Jim Lewis

At the 6th Annual Fairfax History Conference on Nov. 6, the HMDL History Committee was presented the *Ross Netherton Historians Award* for the DVD "Danger Between the Lines". This award is the highest one offered by the Fairfax County History Commission and comes with a \$2,500 check to encourage and reward original historical research in the county.

The award criteria include either a major interpretive book-length manuscript (at least 250 pages and with supporting documentation) on a broad topic related to Fairfax County history or a one-hour professional quality video with written narration and supporting documentation on a broad topic related to Fairfax County history.

This award is not given often, and we are honored to receive it. The history committee will meet in the coming month and talk about what to do with the money. We have several more marker possibilities to consider.

**Fairfax County, Virginia**



The Sixth Annual  
Fairfax County History Conference  
"Preserving Our Paths in History"  
November 6, 2010

Proudly presents the  
**Ross Netherton Historians Award**  
to  
**The Hunter Mill Defense League,  
History Committee**

*In 2007 the History Committee of the Hunter Mill Defense League, an organization of citizens created to protect the character of the Hunter Mill corridor, undertook a project to create a video chronicle of the history of that road during the Civil War. After four years of work, a 78 minute documentary entitled, "Danger Between the Lines" was produced. Entertaining, descriptive & well-constructed, this video is a fine document reflecting the little-known history of this significant piece of Fairfax County's Civil War past. The project team, lead by Steve Hull with assistance from Charlie Balch, Bob Eldridge, Jim Lewis, Tom Evans, Holly Towne, Niels Jonker, Katie Eldridge and Dave Yoho, together with many others, wrote, designed and developed this well researched, historically accurate, high quality DVD. The tireless efforts of these dedicated citizens reflects excellence of the highest caliber and is most deserving of the first to be awarded, Ross Netherton Prize. It is with supreme gratitude and delight that the Fairfax County History Commission bestows this most prestigious prize to the Hunter Mill Defense League, History Committee.*

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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

*The Stone Wall*

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

**2011 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!**

**Annual dues are:**

**Individual—\$20.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.**

**Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the Treasurer at the General Membership meeting, or mail it to:**

**Mark Knowles, BRCWRT Treasurer, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, VA 20164**

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