



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XVII, Issue 2—MARCH 2010

SECRETS REVEALED AT FORD'S THEATER LINCOLN MUSEUM

By Mark Trbovich



Gloria Swift during our June 2004
Monocacy Battlefield tour.

Photo by Sandra Cox

On March 11th, our featured speaker will be Gloria Swift. Born in Washington, D.C. she graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in American History. Specializing in military history, Gloria has been an interpretive ranger with the National Park Service, and has worked at such sites as Gettysburg National Military Park, Harper's Ferry National Historical Park and Monocacy National Battlefield.

Gloria has been extremely fortunate in her career with the National Park Service to have been able to experience so many enjoyable opportunities in her love of history. She received grants to conduct primary research as it relates to the Civil War, has written and published Civil War articles, has served as a guest historian aboard the *Mississippi Queen*, and has conducted interpretive programs for many Civil War Round Tables and Civil War educational symposiums.

She enjoys working at Ford's Theatre and telling the story of Abraham Lincoln through the use of the park collections, of which there are many fabulous treasures. She is always creating new exhibits in order to share some of the objects from storage and serves as the contact point for the donations to the museum collection. As the curator, she worked on the modernization of the Ford's Theater Museum during the time when it was temporarily closed and oversaw the successful re-opening of the museum last summer.

Gloria led the BRCWRT on a tour of Monocacy in June 2004. At that time, she had just published her research on Lee's Lost Order No. 191 that had been found on the Best Farm during the Antietam Campaign. How she did her research proved extremely interesting, and many of us wanted her to speak at one of our general membership meetings. Gloria lives in Frederick, Mary-


MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010
7:00 P.M. Centreville Library
GUEST SPEAKER:
GLORIA SWIFT
TOPIC:
**SECRETS REVEALED AT THE
LINCOLN MUSEUM**

land, with her husband Mark.

In July, 2009, Gloria was featured in the opening of the Lincoln Museum in an article in *The Washington Post*, "Secrets Revealed at the Ford Theatre's Lincoln Museum."

You won't want to miss this most interesting lecture on how the pieces in this collection "made their way" to the Ford Theatre Historic Site Museum. See you then.

**DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR
BRCWRT
MEMBERSHIP!**



**See Treasurer Mark Knowles at the
meeting or use the mailer on
Page 8.**

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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>.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **APRIL** issue, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 25, 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.

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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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL 8

SPEAKER: David Goetz

TOPIC:

Some Exciting & Fascinating Stories of John Singleton Mosby & the 43rd Battalion, VA Cavalry

MAY 13

SPEAKER: Ed Bearss

TOPIC:

Chancellorsville

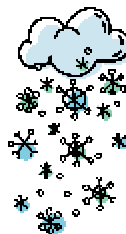
JUNE 10

SPEAKER: Matt Atkinson

TOPIC:

The Vicksburg Campaign: Blitzkrieg Through Mississippi

INCLEMENT WEATHER Standard Operating Procedure



If adverse weather conditions exist or are imminent, you may determine if the meeting will be held by calling the Centreville Regional Library at 703.830.2223.



The President's Column

By Mark Trbovich



We have survived the snow and the postponed meeting with an excellent presentation on Feb 18th. For a "not our regular second Thursday night meeting", we surprisingly had 46 folks come out to hear an outstanding presentation by Dr. Ronnie Nichols on the "Changing Roles of African American Troops throughout the Civil War." I must say that the presentation was first rate and that the question period after was well thought out and extremely enthusiastic. Thank you so much Dr. Nichols for your very informative lecture even after we had to postpone it a week.



Thanks to our February speaker, Dr. Ronnie Nichols.
Photo by Janet Greentree

Hopefully, the weather won't let us down for the March 11th meeting. Gloria Swift, curator of the Ford's Theatre Historic Site Museum, will be our featured speaker. She will be presenting "Secrets Revealed at the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Museum". You won't want to miss this lecture which promises to reveal many secrets of how the collection pieces happened to "make their way" to the present day museum.

I would like to also thank our Executive Committee for previously approving our draft budget for the 2010 BRCWRT expenditures. Treasurer Mark Knowles did an outstanding job explaining the budget, and it was approved unanimously by the voting members who attended. One item that was revealed as a proposed item is a \$200 cost to begin our process to become a 501 (c) (3) Non Profit organization.

There are many advantages to becoming one, such as our ability to receive monetary donations and the donor's ability to receive a charitable deduction on their taxes. The BRCWRT will also have the ability to carry over into the next fiscal year, a balance on the books as opposed to "zeroing out" the budget every year. Your Executive Committee will continue to research and hopefully vote very soon to determine whether we go forward with this proposal. You, as the

membership body, will also have a chance to vote if approved by the Executive Committee.

Again, I would like everyone to be aware that the BRCWRT is one of several historical groups supporting the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Steering Committee as well as the Prince William Committee. This is a chance for us to share ideas for the 150th and to volunteer on the various subcommittees. If you have ideas or can help, please contact Ed Wenzel regarding Fairfax County and myself regarding Prince William County. Signature events for 2011 are "Lincoln at the Crossroads" in Fairfax, and the Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run in Prince William. The signature event for 2012 in Fairfax County is the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly).

Thanks again to all who attended our February meeting under tough weather circumstances and different night. We hope to stay on our regularly scheduled meeting dates...weather permitting.

Take care and see you on March 11th.



If it's time to renew your tags, you might want to consider the Virginia Sesquicentennial license plate. You'll bring awareness to the 150th commemoration and hopefully promote interest in the Civil War.



**JOIN US AT THE
COPPER CANYON GRILL**
(formerly Red Rock Canyon)

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. just across Lee Highway from the library.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Rudy Segaar

GREAT PRESERVATION NEWS ON CIVIL WAR SITES IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

By John McAnaw

In early February 2010, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), received fee simple title to historic Mount Zion Church (but not the adjacent cemetery). The church is located on U.S. 50 (John Mosby Highway), about 0.85 miles east of U.S. 15 (James Madison Highway). This crossroads is known as "Gilbert's Corner."

On 9 December 2010, the NVRPA announced the addition of 155 acres of historic property on the north side of U.S. 50 extending from across Mount Zion Church westward toward Gilbert's Corner. The acreage, north of U.S. 50 is divided into two parcels, 88 acres across U.S. 50 from Mount Zion Church and 67 acres situated to the west of the parcel described above. This property is owned by the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and is now leased to the NVRPA.

Mount Zion Church and the 155 acres north of U.S. 50 were the scenes of several notable Civil War engagements, e.g., 17 June 1863 and 6 July 1864. Also the new parkland contains a section of the historic Carolina Road that ran from Frederick, MD to the VA/NC border.

Per recent conversations with NVRPA Director of Park Operations, Paul McCray, work is progressing on the establishment of another regional park in Loudoun County. The great majority of the 300 acres that will comprise cited park along the Potomac, was once the farm of the famous Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Col. Elijah V. White, the hero of Ball's Bluff and other battles. The NVRPA now has a contract to acquire this historic green space which will be known as White's Ford Regional Park. More in the next issue.

BRISTOE STATION NEEDS YOU!

The Prince William County Division of Historic Preservation is looking for enthusiastic tour guides for Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. Bristoe Battlefield is a 133-acre historic site located in Bristow, Virginia.

Guided tours will be offered two weekends each month from May - October for a minimum of a once-per-month, four-hour commitment. Training will be provided.

For more information please contact Becky Super at 703-792-5546 or via email at rsuper@pwcgov.org. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow VA 20135. www.pwcgov.org/historicsites

MOSBY DOCUMENTARY BEING FILMED IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Part III

By Chuck Mauro

The next phase of making the documentary "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County" consists of two activities; making 8" x 10" prints of over 100 historical photographs and recording the narration to use in the documentary.

Making the prints started by photographing existing pictures of Mosby's men and historical photos of the sites, where available, that are covered in the documentary. The preferred size of the prints is 8" x 10" which allows Bert Morgan, the editor, to use his video camera to "animate the stills" by allowing him to zoom in and out of the pictures as well as pan side to side. As many of the original pictures are as small as 1" x 1", I photographed them with my digital camera to get high resolution files. The files were uploaded on-line to have the prints made. These were initially done using the on-line photo printing site from Kodak.

Once the prints were received, two problems were apparent. One was that printing some of the pictures this large left them pixilated or blurred. These had to be scaled back to 4" x 6" size to be acceptable. Bert can film these at this size but can't "move around" in the picture space as with the 8" x 10" prints. The second problem is that 8" x 10" prints crop the original size of the files. The 8" x 12" is actually a better size to print an entire image. Kodak doesn't offer 8" x 12" prints so 15 prints were returned to Kodak and reprinted locally at Penn Camera. The result is a combination of 4" x 6", 8" x 10" and 8" x 12" prints that will be video filmed.

The narration in the documentary follows the introductions recorded on-site for each combat operation. Controlling the sound on site was difficult due to extraneous sounds from traffic and the streams right next to where we were standing. Recording the bulk of the stories in the studio gives us the best sound possible. While the narration is being played back, the documentary will show the historical photographs and the film that Bert took at each location. We're smart enough to know folks don't want to stare at our mugs very long!

On February 15th, Don Hakenson, Tom Evans, Eric Buckland and I skidded through the unplowed streets of Chantilly to arrive at the scheduled time of 9:00 a.m. at Bert Morgan's studio to record our narration. The good news was that we made it. The bad news was that Bert's power went out three minutes before we arrived and wasn't scheduled to come back on until 1:00 p.m.

See MOSBY, Page 7



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

13 Mar – Recruiting Day at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Find out about this fun hobby. Recruiting Day gives you the chance to explore Civil War reenacting, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Learn what kind of clothing and equipment a novice reenactor requires. Free. For more information, call 703-746-4848, or link to www.fortward.org.

13 Mar – Basement-to-Attic Tours of Liberia Mansion, the historic home that served as headquarters during the battles of Manassas. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Registration required. \$15/adults. Call 703-368-1873, or www.manassasmuseum.org.

13 Mar – “Great Guns,” special Civil War weaponry tour of the *USS Constellation* in Baltimore Harbor. Noon. Free with admission. www.historicships.org.

14 Mar – Book talk and signing, “Robert E. Lee In Leadership” by Noah Andre Trudeau, at the Manassas Museum in downtown Manassas. 2 p.m. Free with admission. www.manassasmuseum.org or call 703-368-1873.

19-21 Mar – Conference, “Lincoln’s Assassination: More Revealed,” sponsored by the Surratt Society, in Clinton, MD. Includes tours of Washington, DC and Fredericksburg, VA (also sold separately). For more information link to www.surratt.org.

20 Mar – Book talk, “Mr. Lincoln’s Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington,” by Walton Owen at Historic Blenheim & the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Lee Hwy., Fairfax. 2 p.m. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

21 Mar – Living History, “Spring Drill Day,” at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Camps and demonstrations. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free with park admission. Call 703-361-1339, or link to www.nps.gov/mana.

21 Mar – Book talk, “A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe,” at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax. 6 p.m. \$5. Call 703-250-8705.

27-28 Mar – Tours and living history commemorating the First Battle of Kernstown at Rose Hill and the Kernstown Battlefield Association site, both south of Winchester. Lectures and tour at the KBA site begin at 9 a.m. Lectures at Rose Hill begin at 10 a.m. and tour begins at 1 p.m. \$5 per tour. E-mail educates@shenandoahmuseum.org.

27 Mar – Lecture, “Lesser-Known Actions in Northern Virginia,” at Morven Park in Leesburg. Tours of the mansion also offered. 1 p.m. Free. Call 703-431-2869.

27 Mar – Boy Scout Day at Mayfield Earthworks Fort in Manassas. Kids learn how Civil War soldiers lived. \$18/Scout. Registration required. Call 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

27 Mar – Seminar Series, “Antietam & Gettysburg” an examination of units heavily involved in both battles, in Gettysburg. Link to www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call 717-338-1243.

29 Mar – 1 Apr – Spring Break Civil War Boot Camp (grades 3 – 6), includes sessions at the Manassas Museum and the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Registration required. Link to www.manassasmuseum.org or call 703-368-1873.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY’S HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION PRESENTS THE REMAINING 2010 HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

At the Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas VA 20110

Free but Donations are appreciated!

**If They Build It, Supplies Will Come: The
Centreville Railroad and Its Importance
During the American Civil War
March 25th, 7:00 P.M.**

Local historian Art Candemquist takes us back to the early days of the American Civil War when Prince William County found itself in the front lines of the conflict. He will discuss the creation and usage of the Confederate Centreville Railroad, the first military railroad in US history. This railroad was used to send supplies from Manassas Junction to the troops in the Centreville area and was crucial to them in the winter of 1861-1862.

**Faces of the American Civil War
April 29th, 7:00 P.M.**

Historian, author and lecturer Ron Coddington will discuss photography and its role in capturing images of common soldiers who fought for the Union or the Confederacy. Mr. Coddington has written *Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Union Soldiers and Their Stories* and *Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Southern Soldiers and Their Stories*. He will have copies of his recently published scholarly works available for sale.

Prince William County
Department of Public Works
Historic Preservation Division
17674 Main St., Dumfries, VA 22026
703-792-4754

CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

More Travels in New York State

Part 2 of 3 [For Part 1, see February issue]

By Janet Greentree

We are still in Auburn, New York, at Fort Hill Cemetery.



Our next find was Major Gen. Emory Upton. Upton was a brilliant military strategist. His unit attacked the entrenched positions of Dole's Salient at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. The VI Corps

Chief of Staff, Martin McMahon, told Upton that he was not expected to return from his attack, and if he did, he should expect a promotion to brigadier general. The plan used was Upton's, and he commanded four regiments of the twelve that were engaged. Rather than have his men fire uselessly at the entrenchments and be mowed down while reloading, he had them hold fire until atop the trenches, fire into the defenders at that point and spread out to reload while a second wave did the same. His tactics would have broken the Rebel line if Mott had supported him. Grant recognized the innovative tactic and supported his promotion.

Upton was the author of a book published posthumously in 1904, *The Military Policy of the United States*. This book was used by the military. Upton included his tactic used at Spotsylvania where columns of infantry would assault a small portion of the enemy line without pausing to fire, thereby overwhelming the enemy and achieving a breakthrough.

Upton was born in Batavia, NY. He was the brother-in-law of General Andrew J. Alexander, who is buried in the same semi-circle as Upton along with Francis P. Blair, Jr. More connections.

He went to Oberlin College in Ohio, then graduated from West Point in 1856, and was eighth in his class. He started his career with General Irvin McDowell, was an aide-de-camp to General Daniel Tyler and was wounded in the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861. He also saw action at Blackburn's Ford which the BRCWRT has visited many times. More action was seen at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Bristoe, Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, Petersburg, Valley Campaigns, Wilson's Raid, and the Battle of Selma. He also arrested the Vice President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens.

President Jefferson Davis was placed in his custody after his capture. Upton escorted Davis by steamer to Savannah, GA. During the Third Battle of Winchester, Upton was wounded in the thigh. Refusing to leave the field, he was carried on a stretcher while still directing his troops during the battle. Upton had the distinction of commanding in all three branches of the Army: the infantry, cavalry, and the artillery. The 25-year-old Upton continued in the U.S. Army after the Civil War in various capacities. He was also commandant of West Point for five years from 1870-1875. In 1881, while in San Francisco, he committed suicide. Upton suffered from severe headaches possibly caused by a brain tumor. He was also devastated by the loss of his young wife eleven years earlier in 1870.



Harriet Tubman is also buried in Fort Hill. She has connections to William H. Seward, a prominent abolitionist, who was profiled in last month's article. Mrs. Tubman was known as the most famous guide of the Underground Railroad. She was nicknamed the Moses of her people. She was never caught nor did she ever lose a slave to the Southern Militia. She was only five feet tall, her original name was Araminta Ross, and she was born a slave on a plantation in Dorchester County near Cambridge, Maryland, in 1820.

Her father taught her knowledge of the woods, which later helped with her rescue missions. Grandparents on both sides came from Africa to America in chains. In 1849 when she heard rumors that she and other slaves were to be sold South, she escaped by herself and reached Philadelphia. She found work in the North, saved her money and eventually freed more than 300 slaves and relatives through the Underground Railroad. By 1857 she had freed her entire family including her aging parents.

Abolitionists such as John Brown, William Seward, Susan B. Anthony, and Waldo Emerson supported her work and helped her out financially. At one time there was a \$40,000 reward for her capture. During the Civil War, she served as a scout and spy for the Union Army in South Carolina. She later moved to Auburn, New York, settling there permanently.

See MS. REBELLE page 7

MS.REBELLE, [Continued from Page 6]

She remarried after the Civil War to Nelson Davis, a former slave, who had served in the Union Army. Her first husband, John Tubman, did not follow her to freedom. Mrs. Tubman died of pneumonia at age 93 on March 10, 1913. Auburn held a military funeral for her. During World War II, a liberty ship was named the *Harriet Tubman* in her honor. In 1978, the U.S. Post Office issued a commemorative stamp honoring her as well.

Leaving Auburn and driving west, my son Mark and I drove to Waterloo, New York to find General Edward Payson Chapin. Waterloo, like Auburn, was full of beautiful Victorian houses. General Chapin is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Since I had a hand-drawn map and a photo of his gravestone, I knew exactly where to go in this small cemetery.



Brigadier General Chapin was with the 116th New York Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, on May 27, 1863. He was promoted posthumously to brigadier general.

He was born in Waterloo, New York, studied law in Buffalo, and became an attorney in 1852 practicing in Buffalo. He was also on a baseball team, the Niagaras, Buffalo's first semi-pro baseball team. Chapin fought in the Peninsula Campaign. He was first wounded on May 27, 1862, in the Battle of Hanover Court House. After going home to New York to recover, he led his unit to Baltimore where they sailed to Ship Island, Mississippi. The unit reached New Orleans in December, 1862. He served under General Nathaniel P. Banks defending against the Confederates on the Mississippi River. On May 27, 1863, he was sent to be part of General Christopher Auger's brigade in Port Hudson, Louisiana. There on that day, Chapin received a mortal wound to the head and died.

The final chapter of Ms. Rebelle's New York visit will appear in next month's issue.

MOSBY, [Continued from Page 4]

We all went into the studio anyway to discuss how we planned to proceed. At 10:00 a.m., Amber Healy, a local reporter, arrived to do an interview for *The Connection* newspapers. With her arrival, the power came back on and we were able to proceed with recording the narration for each of our stories to follow the intros that had been filmed on site.

As we started recording, however, we realized there were three different women's parts included in our documentary: Laura Ratcliffe of Frying Pan, Kitty Kitchen of Herndon, and Jane Coyle of Gooding's Tavern on Little River Turnpike, which was located across the street from today's Northern Virginia Community College. So we turned to Amber and asked her if she would like to join our effort and be the voice for all of our heroines. Lucky for us she said yes. She studied her parts and getting over her nerves, as all of us had to do, did an excellent job of lending her voice to ours in telling the stories of Mosby in Fairfax County.

So now the bulk of the effort shifts over to Bert to marry the narration, his video film and the historical pictures associated with each site with the correct onsite introductions. He also needs to delete all of our mistakes so we sound like we actually know what we are doing! Stevan Meserve was not feeling well on the 15th, so he will record his narration when he is feeling better.

We also reviewed the introduction to the documentary written by Don. We decided we may use only a small portion of it as the actual introduction and then sprinkle the rest throughout the documentary to help tie the different parts together. Bert will do this narration to give us a different voice to lead the viewers through the film.

While Bert is assembling all of the footage, narration and photos, we'll start working on a map of Fairfax County that will identify all of the locations covered in the documentary so folks can visit and see exactly where Mosby's combat operations in Fairfax County took place.

Lots of details, but we hope to make an excellent film. Talk to you again soon.



L to R Don Hakenson, Tom Evans, Bert Morgan, Eric Buckland, Chuck Mauro. Photo by Amber Healy

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2010 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

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

PHONE_____EMAIL_____