



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XVII, Issue 7, OCTOBER 2010

DON ERNSBERGER RETURNS TO SPEAK TO THE BRCWRT

Our October speaker, Don Ernsberger, has blessed our round table with excellent lectures in the past, and we are glad to welcome him back. He hails from Fremont, Ohio and is descended from ancestors who served in Ohio and New York infantry units during the Civil War. Fremont is the home of Rutherford B Hayes, Civil War general and president of the United States.

Don received his Bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1969. Following graduation, he commenced a teaching career that lasted 30 years. During this period he earned a MA degree and a PhD from Temple University. For 12 years he taught U.S. history in the Bucks County (PA) Public School System. He then taught for 18 years at Penn State where the focus of his labors was on "Political Philosophy, 1900 to the Present." Following his retirement from teaching, Don embarked on a new career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. as the deputy chief of staff for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California. Don is now officially retired.

Don has written several books on the Civil War, including a regimental history entitled *Paddy Owen's Regulars: The 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers*. The 69th was a distinguished Union unit composed largely of men who were either Irish by birth or by descent. Until Don's two-volume history on the 69th PA was published in 2004, the only other history on this unit was a brief account authored by two 69th veterans, Anthony W. McDermott and John I. Reilly, published in 1889. In contrast Don Ernsberger's grand opus consists of 1091 pages, 350,000 words and 58 photographs. It is truly an impressive regimental history. According to reviewer and fellow historian, Michael Kane, Don's history "is the best treatment of the Irish soldier in the American Civil War ever written. This is a work so well researched that we will never see its depth."

His latest work, *Also For Glory: The Pettigrew-Trimble Charge at Gettysburg*, will be the topic of the our October 2010 presentation. Don is an avid reenactor with the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry and also leads battlefield tours.

Please come out to our October 14th general membership meeting to hear Don speak on this legendary bloody charge on July 3, 1863 at Gettysburg.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, OCT. 14, 2010

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Don Ernsberger

TOPIC:

**The Pettigrew-Trimble Charge
at Gettysburg**

SESQUICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE MARRED BY BLACK CONFEDERATE ISSUE, STEREOTYPING, AND POLITICS

By Ed Wenzel

"Race, Slavery and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory" was the title of the 2010 Signature Conference of the Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, held September 24 at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA. The venue was the Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center. The following report is taken from notes made by the writer at the Conference:

"The Great American Contradiction" After welcoming remarks by University officials, the mayor of Norfolk and Virginia governor Bob McDonnell, the Conference got off to a good start with Dr. James O. Horton's opening remarks on America's great contradiction, the institution of slavery. Dr. Horton, of George Washington University, covered ground familiar to most BRCWRT members including the importance of cotton in the American economy (the South he said, supplied 7/8 of the world's cotton), and that the value of slaves as property was greater than all the railroads, banking, industry and agricultural products of the South combined. Another

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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>.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **NOVEMBER** issue, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 4 to Saundra Cox at scox@capitalav.com. If acknowledgement of your article is not received by deadline, call Saundra 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**NOVEMBER 18**

We will be meeting one week later as the library is closed Veterans Day.

SPEAKER:

Chris Godart

TOPIC:

Gen. Richard S. Ewell at Gettysburg

DECEMBER 9**SPEAKER:**

David Born

TOPIC:

Christmas at Ben Lomond Historic Site

**WELCOME NEW MEMEBERS**

**Anne Currin
Dennis Hogge
Scott Kenep
Tim Kelly
Tom Ross
Ronald Shelby
Joseph Widikowski
Ashley Windmuller
Erich Windmuller**



The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Our September 9th General membership meeting was very well attended, and we enjoyed another excellent presentation from BRCWRT member and author, Chuck Mauro. His new book *"A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe"* was featured in the lecture. I have read it and have discovered many parts of Laura's life that I didn't know and want to find out more. The lecture brought out the stories of signatures in an album Laura kept, each one having its own story. The questions at the end enlightened us all on where Mosby's Rock is located, and Laura's early life in Fairfax City. Thank you, Chuck, for blessing us with another visit. Good luck in your endeavors with the Mosby documentary and throughout the Sesquicentennial.

Prior to our September lecture, we participated in a vote for a one thousand dollar donation to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). The vote was unanimous for giving the 10 to 1 grant donation. We gave one thousand, and they receive ten thousand dollars to help purchase the 10 sacred acres of 2nd Manassas battlefield near Deep Cut. I want to thank everyone for voting and for being united in the struggle to save what we have left of this hallowed ground! We are truly blessed to be able to support our local Manassas/Bull Run Battlefield (namesake), Ox Hill/Chantilly Battlefield and Bristoe Station Battlefield, along with many others. Lest we ever forget what sacrifices were given there.....never forget their ultimate sacrifices for what has shaped our country and freedom today. The cost of our liberty is so very high with the death of those brave soldiers on those bloody battlefields. Visit them often and always support and preserve them for future generations to learn the price of liberty.

The paperwork for our 501c3 non-profit organization has been submitted to the IRS for approval. I want to thank you all again for participating in this process. We, as a round table, can now accept charitable donations that are tax deductible, enhancing our financial support of many worthy preservation and Sesquicentennial efforts.

The Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee met again on September 25th. The various committees are hard at work to make the next five years the best we can accomplish together. You can bet the BRCWRT will play a huge part as we are 220 members strong and united for Civil War historical education and preservation.

In closing, I want to encourage everyone to come out on October 14th to hear Don Ernsberger's speak on the Pettigrew-Trimble Charge at Gettysburg, one of the bloodiest charges of the war and the topic of his new book. You won't want to miss this one, and you'll see who joined Pickett that day on the most noted

charge in the Civil War. Please remember that October 14th is also the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station...another Confederate charge that ended in disastrous result for those brave young men.

Take care and I'll see you on the 14th.

PRINCE WILLIAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION SITE MANAGER CHANGES

In part to prepare for the upcoming commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, a few staff changes have taken place within the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. Dave Born, previously Site Manager of Ben Lomond Historic Site, will move to the main office to oversee Educational Programs and serves as staff liaison to the First Manassas Reenactment in 2011. Rob Orrison (BRCWRT member) will move from Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre and will be Site Manager of Bristoe Battlefield Park and Ben Lomond Historic Site. Finally, Mike Riley will take over at Brentsville.

Please stay tuned for some exciting developments this fall and winter as the Division prepares for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. These include an expanded lecture series, new living history programs, bus tours, and a total remake of the Ben Lomond Historic Site, with a grand "reopening" in June of a re-creation of an 1861 Confederate Field Hospital.



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. The Copper Canyon is just across Lee Highway from the library.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR AUGUST SPEAKER, JAKE STRUHELKA (L) AND SEPTEMBER SPEAKER, CHUCK MAURO (R). Photos by Janet Greentree



OCTOBER 1860

Submitted by Nancy Anwyll

In October of 1860, the presidential election was winding down, and the country was making ready in anticipation of the November election. All political party supporters staged marches and speeches in small towns and big cities in the effort to convince the electorate to vote for one of four candidates: Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John C. Breckinridge, or John Bell.

In New York City, Republicans who called themselves Wide-Awakers, organized a large procession that drew 30,000 people. Several other cities also had large turnouts for Wide-Awake marches.

In Richmond, Virginia, John Minor Botts, a Culpeper County resident and owner of a large area of land near Brandy Station, and also a lawyer, former state Delegate and former Congressman, addressed an audience of over 4000 people at the Bell headquarters. His lengthy speech, which was printed in the October 2nd issue of the *New York Times*, denounced the "disunionists" and urged Virginians to vote for John Bell.

In contrast to John Botts, several Virginia officials, including Senator R.M.T. Hunter, Ex-Governor Wise, and Extra-Billy Smith, traveled throughout Virginia speaking in favor of electing John C. Breckinridge and insisting that the election of Breckinridge would not cause disunion.

There weren't many Virginians speaking in favor of Lincoln or Douglas. Most of the state's residents felt their ballot box decision would be a choice between Bell and Breckinridge. The election campaign came to a halt by the end of the month. For many Virginians, the end of the campaign would come too soon.

(Source: *New York Times Archives*, October, 1860.)



**HEADS UP!
BRCWRT
MEMBERS AND
INVITED GUESTS**

**MARCHING ORDERS FOR THE
BULL RUN RAILROAD BRIDGE
BATTLEGROUND
(FAIRFAX COUNTY SIDE)**

TOUR DATE: Saturday, 16 October 2010

ASSEMBLY TIME: 8:45 A.M.

ASSEMBLY POINT: Colonnade at Union Mill Shopping Center north of Braddock Rd. and west of Union Mill Rd. We will meet in front of the McDonald's Restaurant.

TOUR DEPARTURE TIME: 9:00 A.M.

TOUR LENGTH: 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
(Four Hours)

TOUR MAPS/DIRECTIONS: Map of the entire tour route (both by vehicle and by foot) will be handed out at the assembly area.

HEALTH ADVISORY: Individuals with cardiac, leg or respiratory problems should not participate.

DEGREE OF EXERTION: Moderate.

PERSONNEL ITEMS: Good hiking shoes, energy food, water, insect repellent (if no frost by tour date..

IN EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: Participants will be notified by e-mail or by telephone by 7:00 A.M. on date of tour.

MORE INFORMATION: If information is needed, call John McAnaw at 703-978-3371.

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

9 Oct – Tour, “Jed Hotchkiss Mapmaker Sites”, includes current exhibit in Dayton and sites in Augusta County and Staunton. 9:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. \$65 includes lunch. For reservations, call 540-879-2681.

9 Oct – Civil War walking tour of Old Town Winchester begins at 10:00 a.m. at 2 N, Cameron St. \$5. Reservations required. Call 540-542-1326.

9-10 Oct – Reenactment, “The Battle of Droop Mountain,” at the Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park near Hillsboro, WV. Call 304-653-4254 or link to www.droopmountainbattlefield.com.

11 Oct – Lecture, “Remembering Robert E. Lee: The Man in the Middle,” by William C. Davis at the Lee Chapel auditorium in Lexington. 12:15 p.m. Free. Call 540-458-8768.

15 Oct – Tour, “The Tragic Deaths of Stephen Ramseur and Charles Lowell: Examples of a Generation Lost.” A car-caravan tour on part of the Cedar Creek Battlefield. Meet at the Belle Grove parking lot south of Middletown. 5 p.m. Free. Call 540-869-3051 or www.nps.gov/cebe.

16 Oct – Living history, “At All Times Ready: The U.S. Marines,” John Brown’s Raid and its aftermath at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with Park admission. Call 304-535-6029 or link to www.nps.gov/hafe.

16 Oct – Living history and music, “The Election that Divided the Nation,” at Arlington House in the Arlington National Cemetery. Free evening “open house” program by reservation only. Call 703-235-1530. Entry times are every half-hour 7-9 p.m. www.nps.gov/arho.

16 Oct – Civil War walking tour of Middletown, begins at the Farmer’s Market, 2325 First St. at 11 a.m. \$5. For reservations, call 202-213-5126.

16 Oct – Self-guided tour of the First Battle of Kernstown at Rose Hill, a critical part of the battlefield near Winchester. The site at 1850 Jones Rd. is open 1-4 p.m. \$5. Call 540-662-1473 ext. 235 or link to www.shenandoahmuseum.org.

16-17 Oct – Reenactment, “The Battle of Cedar Creek” near Middletown. Big annual event includes camps, demonstrations, lectures, music, and battles each day. For details, link to www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org.

16-17 Oct – Living history, “Belle Grove Remembers,” special civilian and military programs, at Belle Grove near Middletown. Held in conjunction with annual Cedar Creek reenactment. Separate ticketing: \$10/adult for Belle Grove event. Call 540-869-2028.

23 Oct – Civil War walking tour of Stephens City (south of Winchester) begins at the Newtown History Center, 5408 Main St. 10:30 a.m. \$5. For reservations; call 540-869-1700.

23 Oct – Battlefield hikes on the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick, MD. Ranger guided two-hour walks at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. Reservations required. Call 301-662-3515 or link to www.nps.gov/mono.

23-24 Oct – Living history, infantry camp and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. Call 301-342-5124 or link to www.nps.gov/anti.

30 Oct – “Ship’s Company,” life in the Civil War Navy at the USS Constellation in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with admission. Call 410-539-1797 or see www.historicships.org.

31 Oct – Lecture, “The Battle of Rappahannock Station,” at the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. 2 p.m. Free. Call 540-727-7718 or www.brandystationfoundation.com.

5 Nov – Symposium, “An Evening with Ed Bearss,” a preservation fundraising event (for Monterey Pass) featuring Bearss speaking about the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg. Meeting conducted at the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Department, 13063 Monterey Lane. 6-10 p.m. \$35/advance, \$45/at door. Link to www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass.

5 Nov – Living history, “Our Perilous Condition: Winchester/Frederick County’s Road to Secession,” at the Old Court House Civil War Museum in Winchester. Pro- and anti-secession groups will parade to the Old Court House (204 Loudon Street) and deliver speeches followed by balloting. Parades begin at 6:30 p.m. Free. Call 540-542-1145 or www.civilwarmuseum.org.



**BRCWRT ELECTIONS WILL
TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN
FOR OFFICE, PLEASE
CONTACT AN EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBER.**

MOSBY DOCUMENTARY BEING FILMED IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

The Magic of the Movies

Part VIII

By Chuck Mauro

As we come down to the end of our movie making process, we have spent a lot of time picking out the historical pictures and photographs to use in the documentary to illustrate the stories during the narration.

These selections were found in a plethora of publications from Don Hakenson's library which occupies his entire basement. I photographed them so that we could digitize them. The magic comes in when we need to show something that we don't have. For example, the narration of Mosby's wounding near Centreville, gives the following information:

"On September 14, 1864, Mosby and two of his rangers, Guy Broadwater and Tom Love, were riding about two miles east of Centerville when they encountered five men from the 13th New York Cavalry, who recognized them as Confederates. The New Yorkers attacked Mosby's party and in the ensuing fight, Private Henry Smith of Company H from New York, had his horse shot, which fell and trapped him. Lying under his mount, Smith used his revolver to defend himself. One bullet struck the butt of Mosby's pistol and glanced into his groin, causing an extremely painful wound."

We have plenty of action drawings of soldiers being shot while on their horses which we can use for Mosby being injured, but we needed a picture of someone shooting his pistol while lying under a horse. What we found is a picture of one of Mosby's men, Tom



Turner, thrusting a sword at a soldier who is lying under a horse, while the soldier is firing his pistol back up at Turner. With a little advice from our graphics expert, Steve Wolfsberger, I was able to use Photoshop to delete Turner and his horse and change the picture into something that looks like it was drawn specifically for our purpose. Just like magic!

One thing that bothers Don greatly is that many of the historical drawings show Mosby's men with sabers which they rarely if ever used. So, another Photoshop trick was to copy a drawing of a pistol from one picture

and then resize, reorient and paste it over the sabers in multiple other images. More magic!

Now that we have all the pieces, it's up to Bert Morgan to perform his magic by pulling everything together in post-production, adding the credits to everyone who supported or donated to the movie, and then sending the results off to David Rubenstein for a soundtrack.

Next up, start working on some marketing and sales magic!



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE AWOL in New York

By Janet Greentree

According to our trusty Bull Run Civil War Round Table Field Trip Leader, Kevin Anastas, Ms. Rebelle was AWOL for the Chancellorsville tour in June so she was unable to take the photos for the PowerPoint show. Ms. Rebelle went north again into Yankee territory to visit her son in Ithaca, New York. In the process she now has a flag girl who likes to help her grandmom, my little six-year old granddaughter Katerina.

The first stop on my way north was at Binghamton, New York, to find Union General John Cleveland Robinson who is buried in Spring Forest Cemetery there. It took two times around to find him along with the caretaker who came to help after the fact. Robinson was born in Binghamton in 1817 and died there in 1897. He attended West Point but was dismissed for disciplinary reasons in 1838; however, he went on to become a major general in 1865. He fought in battles in the Peninsula Campaign, 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. He was awarded a Medal of Honor at Spotsylvania. After the war he ran the Freedman's Bureau in North Carolina and later became a lieutenant governor of New York.



My son Mark and my granddaughter Katerina travelled with me to Penn Yan, NY, to Lake View Cemetery to find the grave of Union General John Morrison Oliver. I must say I was interested in the strange name of the little village of Penn Yan. It was named for Pennsylvania Yankees who settled the town. The village is on Keuka Lake. We were armed with a map, but it was a little off as to where the General was buried. I said to Katerina,

"Give us a sign, General Oliver." Right then a

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MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 6]

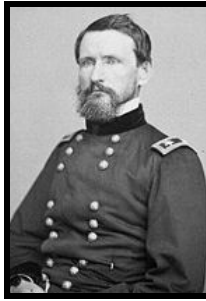
groundhog came out of the ground and was walking across the cemetery. We went to look at the groundhog, and there was the General's grave! Katerina placed a flag on the grave for me. Oliver was born in Penn Yan in 1828 and died in Washington, D.C. in 1872. He started out as a private but rose to a brevet major general of Volunteers. His early career was that of a pharmacist. Most of the battles he fought in were with the Army of the Tennessee – Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Bentonville. He led the attack on Fort McAllister. Early in his career he was at Bull Run but was detached at Fairfax Courthouse during the advance to Manassas. In addition to his first career as a druggist, he later became a lawyer, was a post office superintendent in Little Rock, and then retired to Washington, D.C.

Next was a visit to Syracuse and Oakwood Cemetery where three Union generals are buried – Henry Alanson Barnum, John James Peck, and Edwin Vose Sumner. Sumner was my biggest find on this trip. I must say that Oakwood ranks second for having the worst roads I've encountered in a cemetery. Of course, the roads were made for carts, not cars, and it's a wonder my car didn't get stuck. The worst cemetery for roads is Oak Hill right here in Georgetown.

Barnum was born in 1833 in Jamesville, New York, and died in 1892 in New York City. He was a brevet major general during the Civil War. He also received the Medal of Honor. Barnum had a varied career and was even left as dead at Malvern Hill in 1862. The surgeon said the wound was mortal, his body was abandoned, and came into the hands of the Confederates. He did get back to Union lines, went on medical leave, and was treated in New York and recovered. He served with McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign, was at Fairfax Station, Edwards Ferry, Ely's Ford, later with the Army of the Tennessee at Wauhatchie and Lookout Mountain. Barnum received his Medal of Honor in 1889 for duty in Chattanooga on November 23, 1863. The citation reads: *"Although suffering severely from wounds, he led his regiment, inciting the men to great action by word and example until again severely wounded."* General George Thomas ordered him to convey the flags captured by the 149th New York and other regiments to the War Department in Washington. He was later in Savannah, being the first to lead his brigade into the captured city. He was wounded several times during his service. In his post-war career, he was a New York state prison inspector.

John James Peck was born in 1821 in Manlius, New York, and died in 1878 in Syracuse. His father, John W. Peck, served in the War of 1812. Peck graduated from West Point in 1843 with classmate Ulysses S. Grant. Peck was 8th in his class out of 39 Cadets. Peck,

like a lot of the general officers in the Civil War, fought in the Mexican War under Zachary Taylor. Later he was assigned to Winfield Scott. When the Civil War began,



he left his profession as cashier and one of the founders of the Burnett Bank of Syracuse and was appointed a brigadier general in the Union Army. He started his career right here commanding a brigade defending the Chain Bridge and the northern defenses of D.C. at Tenleytown, then known as Tennallytown. He served under McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign, the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks,

Seven Days battles, and Malvern Hill. He was also in command of all the Union troops in Virginia south of the James River. During Longstreet's 1863 Tidewater Campaign, both generals focused on the town of Suffolk. During the siege of Suffolk, Peck's 13,000 men repulsed Longstreet's 30,000 men. He received serious injuries in this campaign and was forced on sick leave. He later was with the Department of North Carolina in New Bern. After the Civil War, he was president of the New York Life Insurance Company.

Now came the trek to find General Edwin Vose Sumner. It was a good thing the ground was dry; otherwise my car would have been stuck in the mud forever. The ruts in the dirt road were very deep. Sumner's grave is up on top of a hill overlooking Syracuse University.

Sumner was born in Boston, MA, in 1797 and died in Syracuse in 1863. He was 64 years old when the Civil War started. He was the oldest battlefield general in the Civil War on either side. Sumner's nickname was "Bull" or "Bull Head" due to his loud, booming voice and the story that a musket ball once bounced off his head. He entered the army in 1819. He served in the Black Hawk War and various Indian campaigns. In 1838 he was a cavalry instructor at the Carlisle Barracks. He was brevetted for bravery at the battle of Cerro Gordo. Later he became involved in Bleeding Kansas. In 1861 he was assigned by General Winfield Scott to accompany President-elect Lincoln to Washington.

Katerina Greentree, flag girl for Ms. Rebelle and granddaughter of Janet Greentree posed at Sumner's grave.



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MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 7]

In November, 1861 Sumner was promoted to major general. Based on his seniority, he was selected as one of four corps commanders by President Lincoln. Sumner participated in the Peninsula Campaign, Seven Days Battles, Williamsburg, Glen Dale, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. After Hooker's appointment to command the Army, Sumner was relieved at his own request. He was appointed commander of the Department of the Missouri. While traveling to his daughter's home in Syracuse, Sumner suffered a fatal heart attack on March 21, 1863.

This trip brings my total to 313 generals' graves located -- 151 Union and 162 Confederates. On a recent trip to Monticello in Charlottesville, I added Confederate General George Wythe Randolph, a grandson of Thomas Jefferson. Randolph is buried right next to Jefferson.

BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE PARK Battle of Bristoe Station Anniversary Tours October 16, 2010 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . .

On October 14, 1863, Federal and Confederate forces clashed in the fields around Bristoe Station. The battle was the final offensive campaign of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. The battle resulted in a devastating Confederate defeat with thousands of casualties on both sides. Join local historians to mark the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Local historians will lead tours of the battlefield with in-depth discussions about the events of that day. Tours begin on the hour at 11a.m., starting at the kiosk located in the parking lot. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. The cost is \$5 per person and children under 6 are free.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is located at the intersection 10th Alabama Way and Iron Brigade Unit Ave. in Bristow, VA.

For more information, please call (703) 366-3049 or email rorrison@pwcgov.org.



BRCWRT members Gwen Wyttenbach, Nancy Anwyll, Chris Godart, Bob Eldridge and Jim Lewis not only honor those who fought in the Civil War but are volunteers to meet honor flights at Dulles Airport to welcome World War II veterans as they arrive in Washington, D.C. to visit their memorials.

"We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."

Will Rogers

In Memoriam

Joseph Lee Harsh
1941-2010

Professor of History
George Mason University

Author of

*Confederate Tide Rising,
Robert E. Lee and the
Making of Southern Strategy, 1861-1862*

*Taken at the Flood,
Robert E. Lee & Confederate Strategy
in the Maryland Campaign of 1862*

*Sounding the Shallows, A Confederate Companion
for the Maryland Campaign of 1862*



VOLUNTEERS CLEANUP RATCLIFFE CEMETERY

By Mark Knowles

A cool, sunny autumn morning greeted seven individuals who volunteered to clean up the area around the Laura Ratcliffe/Coleman/Hanna headstone, located in front of the Washington Dulles Marriott Suites in Herndon, VA. As you know, the BRCWRT has a close relationship with the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe who are trying to preserve Laura's home "Merrybrook" located in Herndon, VA.

BRCWRT member, Chris Godart, mentioned to me after our August meeting the terrible condition around the headstone area. Weeds had taken over the headstone inside the iron fence; tree branches bent over from last winter's snow were leaning on the fence obscuring the view and various clothing and beverage bottles were scattered on the ground.



AFTER

We received several kudos from employees and guests as they passed by and noticed our effort. Many thanks go to the following volunteers for making the historic site a much more pleasant place to visit.



BEFORE

After contacting local historians Tom Evans and Charles Mauro to determine the history of the offending trees, neither could recall any historical significance. I then met with the Marriott Suites General Manager, Kristen Murphy, and obtained permission for a group of volunteers to arrive Saturday morning, September 18, to clean up the area. We removed the tree branches and dead stumps, picked up trash and raked the area within two hours. Efforts resulted in approximately 15 bags of trash and a mound of tree branches that the Marriott staff kindly removed for us.



Pamela Curtin, President, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Laura Ratcliffe Chapter #2639; Rebecca Marti, Friends of Laura Ratcliffe; Chris Godart, Bull Run CWRT; Mark Knowles, Bull Run CWRT; Emily Knowles, Girl Scout Troop 3028; Valerie Knowles, Girl Scout Troop 1053. Photo by Yvonne Knowles who also helped.



CONFERENCE [Continued from Page 1]

subject was the constitutional compromise on representation which declared that slaves could only count as 3/5 of a person. The purpose was to reduce Slave State representation in the House of Representatives by not allowing slaves to count as full persons; however, this actually favored the Slave States since slaves couldn't vote and shouldn't have been counted for congressional representation.

"The Role of the Underground Railroad" and "Waterways to Freedom...Hampton Roads" Spencer Crew, former director of the Smithsonian's American History Museum, and Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander of Norfolk State University both spoke on the Underground Railroad (UR) as a leading factor in the start of the war. The number of fugitive slaves escaping the South via the UR increased throughout the 1850s. At the time, Virginia had an overabundance of slaves and was exporting large numbers to the Deep South. This breakup of families caused many slaves to flee. The vast majority of fugitives escaped by ships from port cities such as Norfolk where, aided by UR "conductors," black crewmen, and sympathetic ship captains such as Alfred Fountain, the escapees could make good their flight to northern ports and even to ports around the world. Among the conductors, fugitives and other personages highlighted were Levi and Catherine Coffin of Indiana, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, William Still, George Lattimer, John Brown, William and Ellen Graft, William Lloyd Garrison and the famous Henry "Box" Brown. Brown, as many know, was mailed from Richmond in 1849 in a small wooden crate and arrived in Philadelphia 27 days later. During much of the trip the box was upside down. The point made was that contented slaves don't run away, and it was to stem the runaways and the loss of valuable property that most secession leaders favored a separation of the states.

"The Quest for Black Rights in the Midst of War"

Dr. Edna Medford of Howard University examined cases of blacks who worked to overturn segregation and anti-black laws in northern states during the four years of war. Among those discussed was Dr. John Rock, a Boston physician who fought segregation; John Jones, a Chicago tailor who fought discriminatory laws; Octavius Catto, a streetcar conductor who was murdered for supporting the Republican Party; George Downing, an Anti-Slavery Society activist in Newport, R.I., and Frederick Douglass, an organizer and president of the Syracuse National Negro Convention.

"African-American Soldiers and the Struggle for Equality"

Dr. Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, addressed this subject which is familiar to most in the BRCWRT. One point he noted was that each of the 180,000 black Union soldiers had an average of five family members at home, meaning that over 900,000 relatives were favorably affected and influenced by the soldier's Union service. As we all know, black soldiers were segregated in units led by white officers, and to rise in the ranks was difficult. They were also denied

equal pay, the whites drawing \$13 a month plus clothing, while the blacks were paid \$10 a month and had to pay for their clothing. Military service however, played an important role in black leadership after the war, though colored soldiers often became targets in the post-war North.

"The Myth of Black Confederates" The last speaker of the morning session was Dr. Bruce Levine of the University of Illinois. The title of his talk, "The Myth of Black Confederates," immediately raised eyebrows because "black Confederates" are *not* a myth. He began by saying that many people, especially Confederate heritage groups (UDC, SCV, etc.) claim that at least a full brigade of black troops *and possibly as many as 100,000* served in the Confederate armies. Now that number is absurd and "soldiers" they were not. Audible groans of disbelief were heard in the audience. He then related how some Web sites have posted doctored photos of black Union troops and identified them as Confederates (more groans). Dr. Levine then proceeded to destroy this myth, much to his and everyone's satisfaction.

However, except for a single mention of "body servants" with no further explanation, the professor did not acknowledge the 3,000 blacks in the ranks of Lee's army, or distinguish between "black Confederates" and "black Confederate soldiers." He only put out the notion that "black Confederates" were a myth. Now Dr. Levine knows full well that a medical doctor, Lewis Steiner, of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, stood on a street corner in Frederick, MD, and counted the number of blacks with the Confederate army on September 10, 1862. One would think that this very credible eyewitness account would certainly be discussed in any talk debunking "black Confederates," but Steiner's report was not mentioned. For any who have not read this report of Confederate troops moving through Frederick toward South Mountain, I include it here as pertinent information:

"A dirtier, filthier, more unsavory set of human beings never strolled through a town—marching it could not be called without doing violence to the word. The distinctions of rank were recognized on the coat collars of officers, but all alike were filthy and repulsive. Their arms were rusty and in an unsoldierly condition. Their uniforms, or rather multiforms, corresponded only in slight predominance of gray over butternut, and in the presence of filth. Faces looked as if they had not been acquainted with water for weeks; hair, shaggy and unkempt, seemed entirely a stranger to the operations of a brush or comb. A motlier group was never herded together...They are badly clad. Many of them without shoes....The odor of clothes worn for months...is intense and all pervading. They look stout and sturdy, able to endure fatigue and anxious to fight...They all believe in themselves as well as in their generals, and are terribly in earnest..."

"The movement continued until eight o'clock p.m., occupying sixteen hours. The most liberal calculations could

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not give them more than 64,000 men. Over 3,000 negroes must be included in this number. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie knives, dirks etc. They were supplied in many instances with knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, etc., and were manifestly an integral part of the Southern Confederacy Army. They were seen riding on horses and mules, driving wagons, riding on caissons, in ambulances, with the staff of Generals, and promiscuously mixed up with all the rebel horde."

Comments: Most of the above "negroes" observed in Lee's army were not "soldiers" mustered into Confederate service but armed body servants and trusted slaves. These are the often cited "Black Confederates." But however loyal or trusted they were, their service in the Confederate army did not prevent some (many?) from escaping when opportunity presented. It is revealing to note that Dr. Ervin L. Jordan of the University of Virginia, author of the meticulously documented "Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees" which deals with Virginia's slaves, contrabands, "Afro-Virginians" and "Afro-Confederates," was not a panelist at this conference, nor was Dr. Edward C. Smith of American University, a noted speaker and lecturer on the Civil War and African-American history. The omission of these two scholars from a panel discussing slavery and black Confederates was most unfortunate. Also, Dr. Jordan's book was not found among those for sale at the conference.

Miscellaneous questions. In the question period before the lunch break, a number of written questions were read and answered by the panelists. Topics dealt with the following: There were nearly 500,000 free blacks in 1860 and the majority of these lived in the South. In the North, the rights of free blacks were proscribed. They were discriminated against, could not vote, and could not testify in court. In the South, free blacks were viewed with suspicion, the whites fearing that they would stand with the slaves and lead insurrections. Many wealthy free blacks owned slaves, sometimes to protect family members and sometimes to identify with the slave holding class. But free blacks could not own a grain mill for fear that they might shortchange the whites and give the residue to slaves. The Fugitive Slave Act gave the accused fugitive no defense. Most slaves escaped from the upper-South and from ports. Secession leaders were very concerned about escaped slaves, the return of fugitives and lost property. Among the myths perpetrated by Confederate heritage groups is the notion that slavery was not the cause of the war, and that slavery wasn't so bad because so many blacks fought to preserve it.

Following the lunch break, John Hennessy, Chief Historian and Chief of Interpretation at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP, was presented with an award for his

work on the Virginia Sesquicentennial mobile exhibition. John was praised by several panelists who were involved with the project.

"The Unfinished Civil War" Dr. Horton opened the afternoon session by recounting an address he gave at Harper's Ferry on the subject of slavery. Among the attendees were 100 Confederate re-enactors in full uniform and two or three Union re-enactors. Dr. Horton said the re-enactors did not believe that slavery was a cause of the war (audible groans again in the auditorium); they held that Lincoln fought to preserve the Union and not to free any slaves. (Though Dr. Horton did not say so, the writer thinks that deliberately wearing Confederate uniforms to a slavery lecture by a black speaker was a hostile act intended to send a message.) Dr. Horton then cited the words of Confederate officials and generals who admitted very openly that slavery was *indeed* the reason for the war. And he quoted John Singleton Mosby as saying "South Carolina seceded because of slavery. And don't you think South Carolina knows it." Yes, they do. [Note: The writer has known many re-enactors over the years, Union and Confederate, and has never heard a single one say that slavery wasn't a cause of the Civil War. Dr. Horton offered no other insights or information on Confederate re-enactors. It seemed to this writer that a stereotype of re-enactor slavery denial was being offered to the attendees.]

"Slavery, Freedom and the Union Navy" Continuing with fugitives and contrabands, Dr. James McPherson of Princeton University told about Robert Smalls, a mulatto slave and the pilot of a Confederate steamer in Charleston harbor. In 1862, Smalls commandeered the ship one night and picked up his family and a dozen other slaves and steamed out to the Union blockading squadron where he surrendered the vessel to the U. S. Navy. The navy accounted for 5% of the Union's military manpower and many blacks were enlisted as firemen, coal heavers, gunners and rammers. Black pilots were especially sought as they knew the waterways better than anyone. Early in the war at Fortress Monroe, Gen. Benjamin Butler refused to return slaves that came to the Union lines. Butler called them "contrabands of war" and put them to work for wages. Thereafter, contrabands flocked to Fort Monroe for protection and safety.

"John Washington: How, When, Where and Why Emancipation Happened" Dr. David Blight, professor of American History at Yale, told of his research on John Washington who was born an "urban slave" in Fredericksburg, but grew up on a farm west of there. When his mother was hired out to Staunton, VA, John's owner rented him out to a tobacco factory. In the spring of 1862, while working at the Shakespeare Hotel in Fredericksburg, the Yankees came to Falmouth. With the panicked whites fleeing, John closed up the hotel, toasted the Yankees, and crossed the Rappahannock to freedom. He spent the summer with the Union army before going to Washington in September, 1862. During his research on Washington, Dr. Blight was able to track down his

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granddaughter Ruth Washington, of Tampa, FL, who had no idea of her grandfather's story. She recently came to Fredericksburg and was presented with the Key to the City.

"The Image of the Emancipation Proclamation in Art and Memory" Harold Holzer of the Metropolitan Museum of Art is the author, co-author, or editor of 35 books on Lincoln. His presentation included Emancipation documents, photos, engravings, prints, and post cards. Emancipation and Lincoln Memorial prints were shown as well as five or six political cartoons depicting President Obama in "fist-bumping" and other poses with Lincoln's statue at the Lincoln Memorial. Also, a *New Yorker* magazine cover was displayed showing a big "O" for Obama above the Lincoln Memorial.

"Harriett Jacobs in the Refugee Camp" Dr. Jean Yellin of Pace University explored the life of Harriet Jacobs, a seamstress from Edenton, NC, and Harriet's book *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* published in 1861. The book tells the terrible story of horrors and sexual abuse that Harriet endured at the whims of her master, a physician, to whom she was willed. To escape, she hid in an attic for seven years and then made her way to Philadelphia and New York where she met an abolitionist editor and wrote her book. She then came to Alexandria, VA, and was a laundress and worked in refugee camps aiding contrabands. Her book is said to be the most widely read female slave narrative of the antebellum period.

"Addressing the Causes of the Civil War in Public History" The last speaker on the program was Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley of New Mexico State University. He is also a former chief of cultural resources, NPS, 1989-1995 and chief historian, NPS, from 1995 to 2005. Dr. Pitcaithley began by going after the "Lost Cause" and "States Rights" beliefs of the UDC and the SCV. He also took aim at Mildred Lewis Rutherford, president of the Georgia Division of the UDC from 1899 to 1902. Rutherford was also the historian general of the UDC from 1911 to 1916. The writer was not aware of this lady before, but she was evidently a strong advocate of "Lost Cause" history and Dr. Pitcaithley was outspoken in condemning her misguided (racist?), sentimental version of the war. The writer checked a Web site on Miss Rutherford and finds that her date of birth was 1851.

Moving on to the Q&A, Dr. Pitcaithley weighed in on the 1998 NPS decision to include a lesson on slavery at every national battlefield park. He said people do not believe that slavery was the cause of the Civil War so it has to be interpreted at each battlefield. The professor praised Jesse Jackson for getting behind the issue and insisting that it be done. He also took issue with round tables and other groups that sent 1,100 letters to the NPS trying to minimize slavery interpretation or keep it out of the battlefields altogether. He then reached back to the 1920s and criticized an NPS agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia that once gave the state historian the right to veto NPS interpretation at Civil War

battlefields.

Following this, Dr. Horton said that the public does not believe that slavery was the cause of the war and cited a dispute with Houston, TX school teachers over its inclusion in textbooks. He also stated that Lincoln created "big government," offered more praise for Jesse Jackson, and cited the need for a "National Emancipation Monument or Memorial." Harold Holzer then criticized the omission of the Emancipation Proclamation from the walls of the Lincoln Memorial and bemoaned the taxpayers having to pay for re-etching the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address for the Bicentennial. That money he said would have been better spent adding the Emancipation Proclamation. At that point Dr. McPherson jumped in and defended the Second Inaugural as Lincoln's greatest speech and the most profound and moral speech on slavery and the war ever given.

Thus concluded the Conference. As stated above, this report is written from notes which the writer believes are substantially correct. For the exact words and statements of the panelists, please see the Webcast at www.virginiacivilwar.org or view the forthcoming DVD.



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Please purchase a raffle ticket for the Mort Kunstler print, "THE FIGHTING 69TH"
General Meagher and the Irish Brigade,
Fredericksburg Virginia, December 2, 1862

Donation \$10 per ticket. Make check payable to BRCWRT and mail to BRCWRT, c/o Mark Knowles, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, VA 20164. Proceeds to benefit the battlefield land purchase. The drawing will be held at the Copper Canyon Grill during dinner before the Thursday, Dec. 9th meeting.

Please clip a ticket from page 13 and mail with your check.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010

Preserving Our Paths in History!

—A View of Historic Preservation in Virginia & Fairfax County—



*Historic Blenheim,
Courtesy: City of Fairfax Historic Collections*

Kick-off Program

Sharon Bulova, Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Keynote Presenter,

Elizabeth Kostelny,

Executive Director, Preservation Virginia

*"Growing Virginia's Movement:**Historic Preservation in the
21st Century"*

Admission: \$20 per person
(Advance registration required)
James Lee Community Center

Morning Sessions

Michael C. Rierson

Retired Resource Stewardship Branch Manager,
Fairfax County Park Authority

*It Dozent Matter—The Beginnings of a
Museum & Historic Preservation Program*

Andrea Loewenwarter

Historic Resources Specialist,
City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources

Preserving Historic Blenheim

Lunch Session

James Lee On-site Archaeology*Professionals Tell their Story*

Archaeology Lab with

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell,*CK Gailley & Cultural Resources Staff*

Afternoon Sessions

Ron Beavers

Well-known local scholar on late 19th c. railroads

*Fairfax County Railroads—**Pre-Civil War & What is Left Today***Gordon Ponsford**

Internationally known historical conservator;

*From Cemeteries to Heirlooms:**Restoring the Past for the Future—**Preserving Your Family's Historic Gems*

*Historic Sully Plantation,
Courtesy: Fairfax County Park Authority*

Local Authors & Historians

Interested in space for a
History Exhibit?

First 15 respondents will be accepted.

Please RSVP by October 15, 2010

Exhibitor Name, Organization & Title

One 6'x 3' table will be provided.
Fee: \$10 per exhibit; submit fee with registration.

Are you an author of a
history publication interested in
book signing and/or sales?
First 15 authors will be accepted.

Name & Title of Book(s):

One (1) 6'x 3' table will be provided.
Fee: \$10 per author; submit fee with registration.

Questions? Please contact:

Lynne Garvey-Hodge
Conference Chairperson
703-322-1811 or
lghassoc@erols.com

Pre-registration required for exhibitors and
authors (see form on back.)
No on-site, same day registration.

Conference Includes: Exhibits, Lectures, Book Signings, History Achievement Awards, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Free Parking

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable (BRCWRT)

Fundraiser to Support

Civil War Land Preservation Trust

Framed Triple Mat Print - 21.5" x 34"

"The Fighting 69th"

By Mort Kunsler

Gen. Meager and the Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg, VA
December 2, 1862

Donation \$10 per ticket**Drawing : BRCWRT Meeting December 9, 2010**

Checks payable to
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Do not have to be present to win.

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