



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XVIII, Issue 6 AUGUST/SEPT 2011

## BERNSTEIN & OWEN TO SPEAK TO THE BRCWRT

By Mark Trbovich

We will be taking a month off from our 1861 Sesquicentennial speaker journey to have the privilege to meet an author and his new book at the August 11 meeting of our award-winning round table.

**Steven Bernstein** works as an educator and has been a research associate for historian Thomas Fleming since 1999. He has done research on four of Mr. Fleming's books: *The New Dealer's War: FDR and the War within World War II* (2001); *The Illusion of Victory: America in World War I* (2003); *The Perils of Peace* (2007), and, more recently, *The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers* (2009). Steven has written for *America's Civil War*, the *Washington Times*, *Western Pennsylvania History*, and for numerous other journals and newspapers.

In addition to his topic and book, *The Confederacy's Last Northern Offensive: Jubal Early, the Army of the Valley and the Raid on Washington 1864*, he has written a dozen articles on the Civil War. He has B.A. and M.A. degrees, and lives in Maryland.

Confederate Gen. Jubal Early was such a controversial figure, especially during the raid on Washington, that getting new insight is a must. We are honored to have a distinguished historian and author come to our round table and bring us this important part of Civil War history. Copies of the book will be available to purchase.

**Wally Owen, II**, will join us for the Sept. 8 meeting. It is truly my pleasure to have known Wally for the past twelve years. He was my first Virginia Civil War Trails marker editor, and I truly thank him for that. He has come a long way since 1999. Having spoken to the BRCWRT in 2004, Wally is not a stranger. It will be a Sesquicentennial month because his book and topic is "*Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*." Those defenses started going up right after the Federal defeat at 1st Manassas.

Wally was born and raised in the City of Alexandria. In fact, his first visit to Fort Ward was at eight years of age when his father took him to watch the work on Fort Ward's reconstruction in the early 1960s. Wally also has the distinction of being a member of the T.C. Williams High School Football Team that won the 1971 Virginia State Football Championship. That team was memorialized in a very popular feature film called "*Remember the Titans*" Wally attended Emory & Henry

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

**AUGUST 11 GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Steven Bernstein**

**TOPIC: The Confederacy's Last  
Northern Offensive**



**SEPTEMBER 8 GUEST SPEAKER**

**Wally Owen, II**

**TOPIC: Lincoln's Forts: A Guide  
to the Civil War Defenses of  
Washington**

College near Abingdon, VA, where he received a B.A. degree in American history in 1978. He returned to Alexandria to work at the Fort Ward Museum for five years as a museum education specialist and associate curator. While working at Fort Ward, he teamed up with Frank Cooling to co-author the book about Mr. Lincoln's forts. In 1985, Wally was selected for a position at the National Archives to work on the staff processing President Nixon's White House Office Tapes. In 2002, Wally returned to Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site as the assistant director/curator. In May 2009, Wally received the Joseph L. Harsh Award conferred by the Northern Virginia Association for History. The award is named for the former professor at George Mason University and is presented in recognition of significant contributions to history and historic preservation. This lecture on the local Washington fortifications promises to be an entertaining and very informative evening, so don't miss it!

Please join us on August 11 and September 8 at the Centreville Library at 7:00 p.m. or come earlier and join us for dinner at 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill across the Route 29.

**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://bullruncwrt.org>.

**NEWLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

For the **October** issue, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 29, 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).

For **October issue advertisers**, e-mail ads by noon, Wednesday, Sept 19, to Charlie Balch at [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com). Click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.



**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**OCTOBER 13, 2011**

**SPEAKER**  
**Jim Morgan**

**TOPIC**  
**Battle of Balls Bluff**  
**Leesburg, Virginia**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

**SPEAKER**  
**Craig Swain**

**TOPIC**  
**Western Civil War Theater**  
**Battle of Belmont, Missouri**

**DECEMBER 8, 2011**

**SPEAKER**  
**Mark Trbovich**

**Topic**  
**The Battle of Dranesville**

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**BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS**

Please remember to bring your unwanted Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book event. Besides raising money for the BRCWRT, these books increase our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank you.





## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

The 1st Manassas Sesquicentennial events last month were everything I could have hoped for and so much more. I started off the events Friday night, July 15 with a lecture by Ed Bearss at Clifton then on to my lecture at Blenheim the next day. Monday morning it was the Blackburn Ford wreath laying, with the Bull Run Regional Park lecture and program that evening. Thursday morning it was on to the 1st Manassas Battlefield 150th Anniversary ceremony. In the afternoon there was the 100th anniversary of the Manassas Peace Jubilee, then Saturday the Manassas re-enactment at Pageland...HOTTT! Finally rest on the Sabbath (Sunday) after visiting Rob Orrison and gang at Ben Lomond Civil War Hospital. What an experience! I hope all of you got out and spent some quality time with your friends and families at these wonderful events. I met new folks and made new friends that week. Blackburn's Ford battlefield became more personal to me with the laying of the wreath for the fallen. To hear Taps played again at Blackburn's Ford after the marker dedication ten years ago really honored those poor men and brought honor to that hallowed ground. I want to thank everyone who came out and especially our wonderful organization, all the BRCWRT folks, keynote speaker and former president John McAnaw, speaker Grace Karish (relative of brothers Howard and Robert Walthall, 1st Virginia, Co. D), 17th Virginia Honor Guard and Bugler David Shuma for supporting this great event. Memories for a lifetime!

Let's continue together to build on those events and memories because we have just begun the Sesquicentennial. We have so much more to do for the next four years. You can bet the BRCWRT will be right in the middle of it all because we are the base camp for Civil War history preservation and education in this region.

June and July general membership meetings were Sesquicentennial month presentations, and what outstanding lectures were presented. Historian Rick Britton brought us the Battle of Big Bethel, VA which opened all our eyes to quite a fight on the Virginia peninsula in June 1861. I guarantee we learned a lot more about activity in that region prior to 1st Manassas, and I believe many of us will try to visit that battlefield in the future.

July brought a very well-known historian, Kim Holien, to lecture on the 1st Manassas Campaign. He hit a home run with a memorable lecture on "what if's" and lesser known facts about key figures and battle strategy during the battle. I personally can't get enough of "what if's" in a Civil War lecture...makes you think and really want to find out more about the particular subject. Thank you, gentlemen, for such outstanding lectures.

Kim had the honor again to give battlefield play - by-play of the 1st Manassas battle re-enactment at Pageland Farms. He did a whale of a job as he did twenty-five years ago at the Westfield's 1st Manassas re-enactment.

We anticipated a large turnout for both of these lectures, and you did not disappoint. I anticipate large turnouts throughout the Sesquicentennial because no where will you find a friendlier, more knowledgeable and hospitable bunch of Civil War folks. Bring a friend, keep coming out, and stay active with all events and lectures coming up this year.

Welcome to all our new members. I am so happy to report that we are doing well for membership again this year, and we will set another record. The 2011 Civil War Trust's Civil War Round Table of the Year is to your honor and as a member you are a part of something special in this area. As this newsletter is a double issue for August and September, I want to encourage everyone to come out to our August 11 meeting with Steven Bernstein, and the September 8 meeting with Wally Owen. You won't want to miss these excellent presentations and continue our journey through the Sesquicentennial together.

God Bless and see you at the meetings,



**Thanks, Rick Britton and Kim Holien,  
for those wonderful June and July  
Sesquicentennial presentations.**

Photos by Janet Greentree.



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Audrey Kucia**

**Sean Redmiles**

**John Schifalacqua**

## VIENNA'S CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

By Brian McEnany

Just a few photos and comments about the June 17-18 activities. Ed Wenzel and I manned the BRCWRT table during the morning and Nancy Anwyll and Joel Scalzo ran it in the afternoon. Bob Eldridge and Jim Lewis set up the table next to the Hunter Mill Defense table, and there was a natural and easy interaction between the two groups since most of them are BRCWRT members. The canvas tent helped protect us from the sun in the late morning hours. Nice display, and we had plenty of handouts. People stopped by, listened to us talk about what the round table does, and some carried on conversations about the Civil War. From my perspective, the goal of the organization to educate and help preserve was met. By the way, kudos to the new Panera Bread in Vienna who stopped by with box lunches around noon time—excellent cookies and big sandwiches.



Friday evening, Jim Lewis's lecture on Vienna at the Town Green was interrupted twice by Mother Nature. Electronics do not like to get wet, and everything went under plastic until the downpours stopped. People listened to the excellent Civil War music also scheduled for that evening – although some caustic comments were heard from "Josiah Bowman" (Jon Vrana) about the Lincoln political songs. Early in the evening, Jim pointed out that the official reports said the locomotive engineer was partially blinded by the sun, and before the downpours, the sun on Friday evening was low in the sky and right over the western portion of the railroad track. Jim was dressed for the occasion. He was well prepared and Bob Eldridge ran the projector for him. The crowd thinned out drastically after the second downpour, but Jim valiantly labored on, took control, and gave us an abbreviated version of his lecture. About twenty rain-soaked die-hards (Ed Wenzel and me included) stayed to listen and learn.

Saturday was a different story. Jim was at his best in front of a large crowd of politicians (Mark Keim - Delegate, Jane Seymour - Mayor), other dignitaries, and townspeople as he explained the Battle of Vienna. The reenactors played their parts well, (2<sup>nd</sup> RI Volunteers; Stribling's Battery; 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry ANV) who played the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio, Kemper's battery, and Gregg's men respectively. The addition of the locomotive from Strasburg helped set the stage for one of the earliest engagements of the war. The crew from the Shenandoah Valley left Strasburg at 0330 and drove at 25 MPH for two hours to reach Vienna where they rebuilt the locomotive and placed it on show for the day.

The cannons were helped by the high humidity and low clouds -- each round was loud, crews were well trained, and smoke rings blew across the grassy field

not too far from where the actual engagement took place on June 17, 1861. Jim's narration included remarks that placed the actual events on grounds known to the audience. The guns on the hill beside the train station fired straight down the track with 6 pounders, as the Union infantry pushed forward on flat cars through the cut just beyond the community center. Though both sides repeatedly fired volleys and individual shots back and forth, historically, the Confederate infantry never fired a shot. The reenactors gave the crowd a good show and received well deserved applause.

The committee that coordinated the show is to be commended. Jim's narration fit perfectly with the events played out before us. If all the Civil War events over the next few years perform as well as those in Vienna, then the 150<sup>th</sup> Sesquicentennial will have met its goal.



Photos by Ed Wenzel

## 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 [fsainc@netzero.net](mailto:fsainc@netzero.net)*

**6-7 Aug** – Battle of The Wilderness “Focus Weekend” car-caravan tours exploring the May 1864 battlefield. For information link to: [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**13-14 Aug** – “Civil War Weekend” at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Camps, demonstrations, fashion show, house tours and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. \$8/adult. Call 703-708-0861.

**13-14 Aug** – Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, car caravan tours exploring the May 1864 Battlefield. Sponsored by the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Link to: [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

**13-14 Aug** – Walking tours, “Bristow Station Battlefields,” at the battlefield park, 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5/adult. Call 703-792-5546.

**20 Aug** – Car-caravan tour, “Battle of Brandy Station (Fleetwood Hill)”, begins at the Graffiti House Visitor Center, 19484 Brandy Rd., Brandy Station. 10 a.m. Link to [www.brandystation.com](http://www.brandystation.com). \$10.

**20-21 Aug** – Living history, infantry camps and demonstrations plus medical program at Washington Monument State Park near Boonsboro, MD. Parking Fee. Call 301-432-8065.

**26 Aug** – Walking tour, “Battle of Fox’s Gap,” on the South Mountain State Battlefield near Boonsboro. Begins at Fox’s Gap parking lot. 1 p.m. Free. 301-432-8065.

**27 Aug** – Living history and tours, “Battle of Thoroughfare Gap (1862) Commemoration at Chapman/ Beverley Mill” near Haymarket. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Call 540-253-5888, or link to [www.chapmansmill.org](http://www.chapmansmill.org).

**27-28 Aug** – Living history and special tours commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas (1862) at the National Battlefield Park. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with admission. Call 703-361-1339 or [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**3 Sep** – Car-caravan tour, “Battle of Brandy Station (Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge)”, begins Graffiti House Visitor Center, Brandy Station. 10 a.m. \$10. Link to [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

**3-4 Sep** – Reenactment, “Battle of Buckland Races (1863),” at Buckland Farm, 6342 Pleasant Colony Lane, near Warrenton. \$10/Adult. For more information, call 703-754-4000.

**8 Sep** – Lecture, “Stuck in the Mud, Stung by Defeat: The Union Army at Stafford”, at the England Run Branch Library, 806 Lyons Blvd. Stafford (north of Fredericksburg). 7 p.m. Free. Call 540-899-1703.

**10 Sep** – Tour, “The Deadliest Enemy,” at the Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. Soldiers continued to die from disease long after the battle. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$7. Call 703-367-7872.

**10 Sep** – Adult’s Night Out: Civil War Living History, music, wine and more at the Chapman/Beverly Mill near Haymarket. 7-10 p.m. For reservations call 540-253-5888, or link to [www.chapmansmill.org](http://www.chapmansmill.org).

**11 Sep** – Walking tour, guided Civil War Trails tour of Old Town Manassas. 2 p.m. \$15. For reservations call 703-368-1873 or go to [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

**17 Sep** – Van tour, “Beyond the Battlefield: Civil War Sites in Prince William County” includes Brentsville, Liberia Plantation, Chapman’s Mill and more. Leaves from the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Rd, Bristow, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$80. For information call 703-365-7895.

**25 Sep** – Lecture, “Orange and Alexandria Railroad, A Virtual Ride,” at the Graffiti House Visitor Center, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. 2-p.m. Free (donations welcome). [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

**2 Oct** – Conference, “Cavalry of the North and South,” sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area, headquartered in Middleburg. Conference includes speakers and tour. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

## PODCASTS



By Ken Jones,  
BRCWRT Web Master

Don’t forget! The BRCWRT is offering on our Web site audio podcasts of selected BRCWRT speaker presentations.

Using this new feature, you are able to listen to the audio portion of a lecture while sitting at your computer. Alternatively, you can download a file to your mp3 player (e.g. iPod) and listen on the go.

There are currently four presentations available: Chuck Mauro, September 2010; Chris Godart, November 2010, Brian McEnany, February 2011; and Ed Bearss, May 2011.

On the menu page, the presenters are listed in chronological order, most recent first. Click on the “Audio Pod-casts” button on the home page at <http://bullrunncwrt.org>.

I expect this new enhancement will be a welcome one to members who live out of the local area and/or who have to miss an occasional meeting. We recognize, however, the deficiency in audio-only recordings of lectures that include a rich visual component like many of our meeting presentations. It is also true that questions from the audience are mostly inaudible.

## In Memoriam

### Joseph Braxton Loughran 1929—2011

By Ed Wenzel



Photo by Janet Greentree

I am saddened to report that one of our members, Joe Loughran, passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 81 years of age. For those who might not have known him by name, Joe was the elderly man in the wheel chair who joined us several years ago. He usually sat on the left side of the room by the doors and was a frequent patron of the used book table in the back. As the one who brought him to and from our meetings and dinner, I had many opportunities to talk with Joe about his background and military service, incidents of which are described below. Also, his son, Joseph, Jr., shared information about his father's time at UVA and his character and working career.

Joe was born in East Orange, New Jersey, in 1929 and his mother died 2 ½ months later. Unable to care for his infant son and older daughter, Joe's father sent the two children to live with his wife's family in Richmond, Virginia. There, Joe and his sister were raised by their grandparents. Joe's grandfather was a prominent surgeon and a founder of one of Richmond's hospitals. His grandmother was from an Old Virginia family that claimed a signer of the Declaration of Independence. They had a nice home and many servants. The servants were like family and were called "Aunt" and "Uncle." It was a part of life in the South at that time. Joe's maternal great-great grandfather was a Confederate surgeon whom he believes graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia where Jackson's surgeon, Hunter Holmes McGuire, studied. It was his Richmond upbringing and his Confederate ancestor that fed Joe's interest in the Civil War. He well remembered as a young boy attending speeches by Douglas Southall Freeman.

Shielded from the Great Depression by the circumstances of his mother's family, Joe's upbringing was not without its drawbacks as he grew up without his real parents and greatly missed his father. Joe fondly remembered the visits his father made to Richmond during his childhood and the automobile excursions they made in the summer to the Blue Ridge Mountains and to New England. It wasn't until high school that Joe's father remarried and called for his children to join him in New Hampshire where he was the pastor of a Congregational Church. Joe graduated from high school there but returned to Virginia to enroll at "the University." At that time UVA was deluged with returning WWII veterans. While there, Joe fell in with a congenial group who were instrumental in founding a fraternity. Besides his fraternity endeavors, Joe was also a member of the Glee Club and the "Rotunda Players" who produced in-the-round drama productions in Mr. Jefferson's Rotunda. For multi-

ple reasons, Joe's grades fell apart in his senior year, so he left UVA and went to Santa Barbara, California, where his father was then residing. At the time, the Korean War had evolved into a stalemate as armistice negotiations dragged on, so Joe awaited his draft notice which arrived in November 1952.

Following 16 weeks of training at Fort Ord, Joe was ordered to Korea as a "heavy weapons infantryman" and boarded a troop ship at San Francisco with other replacements. After stops in Hawaii and Japan, they disembarked at Pusan, South Korea, in June 1953. From Pusan, Joe entrained to the front and arrived at his assigned unit in the back of a truck loaded with potatoes. His unit was the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Eighth Army. There was much talk of a Chinese breakthrough and Joe's regiment was moved forward to reinforce the line. After a day-long march, they arrived at a crest of some hills and were ordered to hold that position. Joe served on the crew of a 75mm recoilless rifle. There followed about a week and a half of desultory artillery firing when the armistice was finally signed at Panmunjom. Then the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was withdrawn from the line and placed in reserve. Joe returned to the "Zone of the Interior" in early 1954 after visiting Tokyo and the Mt. Fuji area. He completed his tour of duty at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Determined to obtain his degree from the University of Virginia, Joe returned to UVA by way of Santa Barbara where he met his future wife. Following marriage and the birth of their son, Joe graduated in 1956 with a major in geography and minors in history and political science. From there, Joe's career took many twists and turns through Civil Service and private industry. He enrolled in the School of Education to obtain a teacher's certificate; took courses in foreign affairs and then a job as a geographer at the U.S. Department of Interior. Seeing no future at Interior, he obtained a position at the Civil Aeronautics Administration (now the FAA) in Leesburg as a trainee air traffic controller. In time, Joe was promoted to flight data processor where he used Univac computers in processing aircraft altitudes, flight times, and weather information. Desiring to learn programming, Joe next took a job at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. From there, his work as a computer programmer, analyst and systems engineer took him to a variety of Federal agencies and private companies including IBM, US Army Medical Service, IRS, Post Office Department, National Institute of Mental Health and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare among other employers. Joe and his family, which now included daughter Kathleen, lived in the Town of Vienna.

Joe loved the outdoors, and his favorite past times were hiking on the Appalachian Trail, biking, swimming and sailing. At one point, Joe even applied for a position as a ranger at Shenandoah National Park but did not take the job. In the outdoors and nature Joe

See LOUGHRAN, Page 7

## LOUGHRAN [Continued from Page 6]

found solace and peace. He also sang in church choirs. His son related that Joe had a great singing voice before Parkinson's robbed him of that and also his ability to hike the trail. Another of his joys was reading the works of Winston Churchill, particularly "The Second World War." It was the words and descriptions of Churchill that piqued Joe's interest, especially how different social perspectives created conflicts, how change is confronted, and what efforts can bring about better understanding. Joe was always sensitive to difficulties faced by children, perhaps because of his own disrupted childhood. There are many stories and much depth in the life of Joe Loughran. It was our great privilege that Joe came to us seeking an opportunity to learn more about the Civil War. He knew a great deal about the war himself and contributed to and enjoyed the BRCWRT. He often said that he wished he could go on our field trips, but of course it was not possible. Joe was interred at Quantico National Cemetery. In attendance at the burial ceremony were BRCWRT members Nancy Anwyll, Sandra Cox, Jill Hilliard, Gwen Wyttenbach and the writer. May you rest in peace, Joe, and may God bless you always.

## BRCWRT FIRST MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD TOUR JUNE 11



**"There stands Jackson like a stone wall..."**

Thanks, Kevin Anastas, for another wonderful tour! It was a beautiful day and 39 attendees enjoyed the commentary and weather. Many followed up with lunch at Uno's. See if you can locate Kevin Anastas, Sam Ankerbrandt, Virginia Anteval, Nancy Anwyll, Michael Bratton, John Briar, Mike and Nancy Buckley, Dom and Effie Bumbacca, Bill Carritte, Val Christiansen, Sandra Cox, Alan Day, John DePue, Dennis Feldt, Janet Greentree, Jill Hilliard, Dave Johnson and 3 guests from Falcon's Landing, Ken Jones, Mike Jones, Tom Lennon, Jim Lewis, Dan Lundeen, Dale Maschino, Ronald Mayer, Jim Meagher, Randy Moller, Blake Myers, Rose Nelson, Rob Orrison, John Pearson, Bob Pospichel, Joel Scalzo, Arch Scurlock, and Jim Sinclair. [Photo by Janet Greentree]



Photo by Angie Trbovich

## A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE FALLEN

### Blackburn Ford's Wreath Laying

By Angie Trbovich

July 18<sup>th</sup>: The sun beat down on the men in their woolen Confederate uniforms, their rifles slippery from the humidity and sweat. The flag bearer blinked the salt from his eyes and waited. Blackburn's Ford, just below them...the cool running stream of Bull Run beckoned to them, tempting them.

Suddenly, a dozen shirtless young men...boys really...slipped jubilantly past the soldiers and down to the Ford.

There would be no blood today, no cannons opening fire, no volley after volley of bullets humming like a beehive. This was July 18, 2011. The soldiers were reenactors, the boys on summer vacation, taking advantage of the Bull Run Occoquan Trail and a nearby swimming hole.

At the actual battle 150 years ago, there had been blood...enough to lay 34 men, Confederates and Federals, in their graves.

The Battle of Blackburn's Ford had been a baptism of fire for the green young soldiers of both sides alike. Over 700 cannonballs and canister and countless lead bullets had been shot across that unassuming creek, causing 151 casualties.

General Irvin McDowell, who had not wanted to bring on an engagement that day, would learn that Manassas Junction would not be easily captured from the rebellious southerners and their leader, General P.G.T. Beauregard. It would require three days to find another unprotected ford at Sudley Springs some seven miles to the north.

**See SILENCE, Page 11**



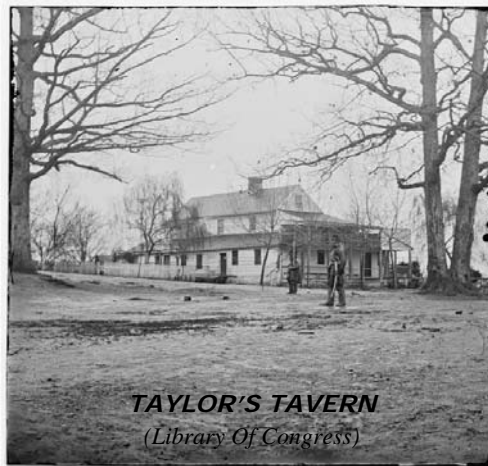
## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 1861

By Nancy Anwyll

**Aug. 2.** Realizing it needed to finance military operations, the United States Congress passed the first national income tax measure calling for three per cent on incomes of over \$800. It was never enforced and was revised in 1862. The Army of the Potomac was created on August 17<sup>th</sup> from various departments and became the name of the main Northern army in Virginia. Three days later, MG George B. McClellan assumed command of the newly organized Army of the Potomac.

**On the local scene,** Confederate troops near Manassas advanced further into Fairfax County. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Stonewall Brigade marched from Mitchell's Ford on Bull Run to an encampment about a mile east of Centreville beside Lee Highway. In addition, Longstreet's and J.E.B. Stuart's commands advanced, posted pickets, scouts and kept pressure on the Federals.

**Aug. 15.** A skirmish occurred near Taylor's Tavern (today's Seven Corners) involving men from Co. H, 17<sup>th</sup> Va. and an unknown Federal force. Daniel O'Connell Munson, 28 year old member of the family that owned



Munson's Hill, was caught off guard by the skirmish. When he left for Alexandria early in the day, the road in front of his house on the Leesburg Turnpike was in Union hands. When he returned, he was slow to recognize that the pickets near his house were now Confederates. Bullets whizzed about him while he waved a white handkerchief. The firing, however, continued. His horse fell dead. After extricating himself from his downed horse, Daniel ran back toward Alexandria. He counted two bullet holes in his hat and several more in his coat. When the Federals regained the picket post on Munson's Hill and Daniel returned home, he learned from his neighbor that his horse had taken 14 bullets.

**Aug. 16.** Federal troops began the construction of defensive works around the city of Washington. In addition to several forts in the Alexandria area, gun emplacements were built on Munson's Hill and Taylor's Hill.

**Aug. 27.** Col. J.E.B. Stuart attacked and occupied the outpost on Munson's Hill, placing a large field piece on the top. Stuart also occupied nearby Mason's Hill. These hills provided the Confederate troops with a view of Washington, D.C., and likewise residents of Washington were provided views of Munson Hill. A detachment of Confederate troops occupied Springfield Station.

**Aug. 28.** Col. J.E.B. Stuart ordered the Washington Artillery to fire from atop Munson's Hill at Union skirmishers near Bailey's Crossroads.

**Aug. 31.** Fighting occurred near Munson's and Mason's Hill. Professor Lowe ascended in his balloon to observe the Confederate activity. The Confederates on Munson Hill raised a large Confederate flag which was clearly visible from Washington, enraging many of its Union residents. The Munson Hill flag proved such a propaganda success that the Confederates soon raised another on Mason's Hill. President Lincoln occasionally lent his spy glass to White House visitors so they could see the flags more clearly.

### Events outside of northern Virginia centered in the Midwest and western Virginia.

**Sept. 1.** BG Grant assumed command in southeastern Missouri at Cape Girardeau, and on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Grant prepared an expedition to leave for Paducah, Kentucky. The following day, Grant's Federal troops successfully occupied Paducah, forestalling a planned Confederate move from Columbus, Kentucky to Paducah.

**Sept. 10.** Rosecrans' federal command struck Confederates at Carnifax Ferry in western Virginia, but his army failed to break the Southern lines.

**Sept. 11,** Gen. R. E. Lee's Confederate army was defeated at Cheat Mountain in western Virginia.

### Meanwhile, on the local scene, incidents between armies increased.

**Sept. 5.** Maj. M. C. Butler led a cavalry squadron of Hampton's Legion north from the Occoquan to Pohick Church (located at Telegraph and Route 1) and then, upon return, reported that the Confederate cavalry guarded a line from the Potomac up to Fairfax Courthouse and beyond.

**Sept. 7.** President Lincoln crossed Chain Bridge and drove to Camp Advance (near today's Route #123) to ensure that a Pvt. Scott, found guilty of falling asleep on picket duty and sentenced to death, was pardoned. The next morning, Pvt. Scott was told that he had a Presidential pardon, and the camp was filled with soldiers' cheers for President Lincoln.

**See 150 YEARS AGO, Page 9**



## 150 YEARS AGO [From Page 8]

**Sept. 11.** A reconnaissance and skirmish occurred at Lewinsville (today's McLean) led by Col. Isaac Stevens. The Union troops occupied the area for five hours while the engineers made a topographical map.

**Sept. 24.** Professor Lowe ascended in his balloon from Arlington Heights and directed artillery fire from Fort Ethan Allen upon Confederates in and near Falls Church, causing the villagers to flee south down Washington Street (today's Route 29) where they found shelter at Oak Mount, the home of the Dulany family.

**Sept. 25.** Two Federal ships on the Potomac River south of the Occoquan dueled with a Confederate battery at Freestone Point (today's Leesylvania Park).

**Sept. 28.** Confederate forces evacuated Munson's Hill near Alexandria. This movement was the beginning of the withdrawal of the Confederate army slowly back to Fairfax Courthouse and Centreville. When Federal troops reoccupied Munson's Hill, they found "Quaker guns" which were large tree trunks made to look like cannons.



**MUNSON'S HILL**

(*Harper's Weekly* October 5, 1861)

**Sept. 29.** The 71<sup>st</sup> Pa. Reg't was fired into by the 5<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reg't on Little Falls Road in Arlington about 1 a.m. The 69<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reg't fired into the 71<sup>st</sup> Pa. Reg't. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Reg't was fired into by several Dragoons. The loss was nine killed and 25 wounded, all from friendly fire.

**Sept. 30,** Pres. Jefferson Davis arrived in Fairfax Court-  
house to meet with his principal officers.

Sources: *Day by Day*, C. B. Long; *The Munson Record*, Myron A. Munson; *Virginia Village Goes to War*, Bradley E. Garnand; *Timeline of CW Events in Fairfax County*, Unpublished Manuscript, Ed Wenzel.



Photo by Jim Lewis

## GOODING TAVERN HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATED

Submitted by John McAnaw

On Sunday, July 10 at 1:00 p.m. about sixty people including dignitaries gathered as a Fairfax County historical marker was unveiled off the Little River Turnpike near the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

The Gooding Tavern served Little River Turnpike travelers and stagecoach passengers from 1807 to 1879 and was famous for its "best fried chicken, peaches and honey." For the community the tavern served as a social and commercial gathering place. The Goodings also operated a blacksmith shop and stable.

Several Civil War skirmishes occurred around the tavern. On 24 August 1863, Confederate Partisan Ranger Major John S. Mosby was severely wounded by the Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry. Two of his officers were killed and three wounded. Union losses included two killed, three wounded and nine prisoners taken. The tavern burned down in 1879.

A \$450 donation from the BRCWRT plus funds from the Fairfax County History Commission and Chris and Mary Lipsey, purchased the marker. On hand for the dedication were Mary Lipsey, Fairfax County History Commissioner; Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor; and John Cook, Braddock District Supervisor. Benjamin Martell, a Gooding family descendant, unveiled the marker. The BRCWRT was well represented by Nancy Anwyll, Janet Greentree, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Don Hakenson, Mark Knowles, Jim Lewis, Jenee Lindner, John McAnaw, Jack Nance, and Gwen Wyttenbach.



## FIRST BATTLE OF MANASSAS SESQUICENTENNIAL AAR

By Rob Orrison

Thanks all the BRCWRT members who attended the many programs on the weekend of July 21-24. Despite the heat, all the events and programs were successful. There were over 20,000 attendees to the reenactment with 9,000 reenactors. Even better, there were NO major health emergencies with everyone attended to being treated and released. The Manassas National Battlefield Park had a successful ceremony on July 21<sup>st</sup> and a highly attended weekend for all their programs and tours. Though some days were lower than expected due to the excessive heat, the Park provided fantastic tours and programs throughout the four-day commemoration. Local historic sites, such as Ben Lomond, experienced great attendance Ben Lomond received nearly 1,000 visitors on tour! Liberia in the City of Manassas was also popular and the Manassas Museum had record numbers. So, it goes to show long-range planning, team work, and marketing can provide a great event. So many staff, volunteers and others was involved in making this First Manassas Sesquicentennial weekend a huge success. Again, thank you to all the BRCWRT members who came out to support the programs.

Though First Manassas is behind us, Prince William County-Manassas is not done commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Programs and events will be on going for the next four years. With the anniversary of the Confederate Potomac Blockade coming up this fall, the Second Battle of Manassas in 2012 and the Battle of Bristoe Station in 2013, there are many anniversaries left to commemorate and stories to tell. Here are some exciting upcoming programs:

### **“Occupied Land”, Civil War Sites in Prince William County Bus Tour**

Tour is focused on non-battlefield sites in Prince William County. Saturday, August 13, 8:00 a.m. – 5 :00 p.m. The tour will visit locations such as the Town of Dumfries, Brentsville, Greenwich Church, Liberia, Buckland and Chapman’s Mill. Stories of how the war impacted towns, industry, families, and farms will be highlighted at stops along the tour. Cost \$85.00, reservations required 703-367-7872, rorrison@pwcgov.org.

### **Women in the Civil War**

Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Tours begin at 7:00 p.m. The tour will highlight people, events, and activities that represent the harshness that women faced during the war. Prince William County was the scene of three major battles and many skirmishes, but the more devastating impact of the war was on its civilians. Women were given new roles to play in wartime society which helped sustain the war effort on both sides. Admission is \$7.00. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 703-367-7872, Email: [bbackus@pwcgov.org](mailto:bbackus@pwcgov.org), Web site: [www.pwcgov.org/benlomond](http://www.pwcgov.org/benlomond).

### **Battle of Kettle Run and Thoroughfare Gap 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tours**

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, Tours at 10 :00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. In commemoration of the 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Run and the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and The Turn the Mill Around Campaign are co-sponsoring tours of two historic Civil War battlefields in Prince William and Fauquier Counties. Several tours will be offered throughout the day of each battlefield. Fought days before the Battle of Second Manassas, the outcomes of these two battles contributed to the Confederate victory there. Learn about the tragic story of the men who fought these battles and the current efforts to preserve these two local battlefields. Tours are free. Donations accepted. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, 703-366-3049, Web site: [www.pwcgov.org/bristoe](http://www.pwcgov.org/bristoe), rorrison@pwcgov.org

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Confederate Blockade of the Potomac**

Saturday and Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join living historians as they camp at Free-stone Point, the preserved site of the Confederate Gun Battery during the Blockade of the Potomac. Discover the story of the Battery and see artillery demonstration, camp life, and talk to historians as they discuss the lives of the soldiers and the women and children left behind. Living History events are planned for the Town of Dumfries as well. Drills and demonstration will be held. We will have a bus shuttle going between these three sites: Leesylvania State Park, Weems Botts Museum, and Williams Ordinary. Park Entrance Fee of \$3.00. Leesylvania State Park, (703) 583-6904, Website: [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/lee.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lee.shtml). Email: [lee-sylvania@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:lee-sylvania@dcr.virginia.gov)



**We wish to thank the families of  
Bev Regeimbal and Joe Loughran for  
donating to the BRCWRT the Civil War  
libraries of our two members who  
were recently “promoted to glory.”**

## SILENCE [From Page 7]

As for the Confederates, they had bloodied the nose of the Federal army, and it boosted their morale. It also gave them three crucial days to reinforce their troops to 32,000, matching the Federal's 35,000, enabling them to repulse the Union Army at the Battle of First Manassas.

The sesquicentennial of the Battle of Blackburn's Ford was remembered that Monday morning by a mixed group of tourists, Manassas natives, historians, and reenactors.

The color bearers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Honor Guard bore the heat and humidity in their woolen period uniforms with dignity. The BRCWRT, led by President Mark Trbovich, lay a wreath in honor of the fallen soldiers. Past President John McAnaw gave a brief history of the site. Grace Karish, a descendent of Howard and Robert Walthall, who fought at Blackburn's Ford with 1st VA, Co. D, read the names of the dead as well as remembrances of the battle written by one of her ancestors. The ceremony concluded with a heart wrenching rendition of Taps played by bugler David Shuma.

Ten years previously, in 2001, Trbovich, McAnaw and Dan Paterson had been instrumental in creating two Civil War Trails Markers to commemorate this battle and remember the dead. Since that time, many hundreds have visited the site and learned of the little known Battle of Blackburn's Ford.

Says Trbovich, "Blackburn's Ford is personal to me because I have met so many descendents of the soldiers who fought here. They had long wished for some type of marker letting the world know about this little-known battle and the sacrifices given by their ancestors."

If you would like to see it for yourself, Blackburn's Ford is located on Bull Run at the boundary of Prince William County and Fairfax County along Route 28/Centreville Road.

The ceremony was also attended by BRCWRT members Nancy Anwyll, Dennis Hogge, Rob Orrison, Ed Wenzel and Gwen Wyttenbach.



## BLACKBURN'S FORD REVISITED

By Nicholas E. Hollis

James Longstreet had been in the Confederate army only days when he reported to Manassas and was placed in command of a brigade (First, Eleventh and 17th regiments of Virginia volunteers). "Old Pete" had traveled from Albuquerque, New Mexico Territory, arriving in Richmond and reporting to the War Department on June 29. He received his commission as brigadier general on July 1, 1861. His personal leadership on July 18 kept his green troops from breaking and prevented

Union forces from gaining a critical victory in the early rounds of the First Manassas battle.

Civil War Sesquicentennial events last month kicked off in earnest with the re-enactment of the 150th anniversary at Manassas, Virginia of the First Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861). Thousands of reenactors, history buffs and curious onlookers participated. A century and a half ago when Southern and Union armies clashed in the rolling hills outside Washington, it was expected to be a short affair. Many carriage-driven elites came out from the Capitol to picnic and watch the maneuvers as if observing a light spectator sport or parade. But as the battle raged and the long lines of blue and gray began clashing, the horror of the carnage and the recognition that the technology of weaponry guaranteed a protracted bloodbath swept over the throng. As Union lines broke under Confederate counterattack following CSA General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's stand near the battle's apex on Henry House Hill, panicked onlookers stampeded back down the Centerville Pike toward Washington and clogged the path of retreating Federal troops. It was a long afternoon and a resounding Rebel victory.

Jackson's heroics carried the day and overshadowed an important skirmish on July 18 at Blackburn's Ford a few miles further south along Bull Run, where a thrust by Union Commander BG Daniel Tyler's three brigades was repulsed by Confederates under BG James Longstreet. This action was greatly praised in field reports by overall CSA commander P.G.T. Beauregard and later his superior, General J.E. Johnston, who consequently elevated Longstreet to the *de facto* second in command of the CSA Army of Northern Virginia. (Note: When Johnston was wounded at Seven Pines in May 1862, CSA President Jefferson Davis appointed R.E. Lee as overall commander even as Johnston and most of senior officers assumed Longstreet would be tapped.)

Politics undoubtedly played a role as Davis and Johnston did not like each other and Longstreet was loyal to Johnston. Later, after the Battle of Sharpsburg (September 17, 1862) Lee elevated Longstreet to be his senior lieutenant general. "Old Pete" remained at Lee's side all the way to the surrender at Appomattox.

As Americans contemplate the lessons of our bloodiest conflict (over 600,000 deaths) and revisit the battlefields, there will be much focus on Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Stonewall Jackson, William T. Sherman and rightly so. In the tradition of American warriors, these generals' campaigns will long be studied. But the shadows from this most cataclysmic period in our history still linger and unhealed scars remain. In our search for reconciliation and national growth, it would be a mistake to overlook James Longstreet. "Old Pete" was perhaps the greatest corps commander the Civil War produced on either side. But his exemplary life, especially in the forty years he devoted to rebuilding his nation after the war, displayed qualities of character that are rare even among American giants and lift him to the pantheon of heroes not to be forgotten.

Mr. Hollis is with the General Longstreet Recognition Project.

## NEW DISCOVERY IDENTIFIES CONFEDERATE BATTERY POSITION AT VIENNA

By Ed Wenzel

The exact location where a Union troop train was attacked by Col. Maxcy Gregg's 1<sup>st</sup> SC on June 17, 1861 at Vienna has never been in doubt. The record is clear from both the Official Records and other sources. A train of seven cars pushed by a locomotive was ambushed as it slowly emerged from the railroad cut on a curve just east of today's Park Street, not far from the Vienna Community Center. A Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority marker now stands beside the W&OD Trail to mark the site.

But where exactly were the Confederates? Where was the two gun battery of Captain Delaware Kemper's Alexandria Light Artillery that "raked" the cars and Union troops with shot, shell and even canister? The only depiction of this first ever military attack on a railroad train is the famous engraving that appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* two weeks afterward on June 29. The engraving shows the train halted in the RR cut with Union troops in the foreground rallying around their flag and firing across the cut at an unseen enemy. The only indication of Kemper's battery is clouds of cannon smoke ahead of the train at far the end of the cut. This depiction by an artist/engraver who was not present has remained fixed in the minds of all who have seen it and has reinforced a view that Gregg's Confederates were close at hand on the far side of the cut, perhaps only a short distance up the tracks.

Union BG Schenck reports that they were fired on by a "masked battery" concealed by the curve of the railroad, at a distance of 150 yards. He further says that they were raked by round shot and then by canister and shells, indicating a close range encounter. The use of canister or "grape," which Schenck also refers to, is close range ammunition generally used at 50 to 300 yards. On the other hand, Col. Gregg's report says that his two guns were "on a hill...at a distance of perhaps 400 yards." So the Confederates attacked the train from a hill at a distance of 150 to 400 yards. But where was the hill? There are no suitable hills within that range that are forward of the train; so perhaps the "hill" is actually the top of the cut itself, and the distance is closer to the 150 yards (or less) reported by Schenck. If so, then the attack was virtually point blank. In any case, the exact location of the Confederate artillery has always been a question and a nebulous thing to pin down—*but not anymore!*

In a lecture to Historic Vienna at their June 14 meeting, Civil War historian Ted Ballard presented new information that virtually nails the position of Kemper's battery and also the location of Gregg's infantry and cavalry. The key information that Ted found is reported in an 1886 South Carolina newspaper feature entitled "Reminiscences of the Macbeth Light Artillery." As it

turns out, many of the men who eventually served in Macbeth's artillery had enlisted, in the opening days of the war, in Maxcy Gregg's 1<sup>st</sup> SC Infantry, and they were at Vienna during the historic railroad ambush. The author of the account has been identified as Lt. Hazel Scaife of Company E who says, "...but ere we had marched *three hundred yards* we heard the train of the enemy and scarcely had time to double quick back to our position *on top of a hill overlooking the station...*" So there we have it: the Confederates awaited the approach of the train from the hill adjacent to the Vienna station. That's the hill immediately behind the old Vienna Trust Company bank at the corner of Church Street and Dominion Road near the Freeman Store.

With this information and the OR reports, we now know that Gregg's troops were formed on the hill beside the train station. Kemper's battery was on the far left, on nose of the hill nearest the tracks (behind the bank building), supported by Co. B of the 1<sup>st</sup> SC. The rest of Gregg's infantry formed to the right of the battery and the cavalry was still further to the right. The line of troops extended southwest to Lawyers Road and possibly beyond it. Captain Terry's cavalry was to the right of the infantry. Before the train came through the cut, however, one of Gregg's staff ordered Lt. Blackford to hurry his detachment of cavalry down the road and take position at the foot of the hill (under the battery) and occupy the road (Church Street) near the railroad crossing.

Kemper's battery (two 6 pounder smoothbores) had an unobstructed sightline 900 yards across open ground to the curve where the railroad exits the cut. When the AL&H train carrying the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio regiment emerged from the cut, Blackford's squad of cavalry was the only part of Gregg's force visible, probably because of the blazing June sun directly behind the Confederates. Then, before the Federals could react, Kemper's unseen guns fired in quick succession twelve rounds of shot and shell straight down the tracks and into the train of cars, precipitating the flight of Union troops into the woods on either side of the cut. Supposing that the Federals might form and advance, Gregg then ordered forward companies A and E to deploy as skirmishers (including the men who later served with Macbeth's artillery). By that time however, the engineer had uncoupled six of the cars and was running back to Alexandria, leaving the Union troops to escape through the woods carrying their wounded. The Confederate infantry never fired a shot. The entire "battle" consisted of Kemper's artillery firing twelve rounds. The total elapsed time, according to Lt. Scaife, was five minutes. Also, the Union reports of "canister" or "grape" being fired are unfounded because of the 900 yard distance. Any shot of this type found would have been from spherical case.

Along with this new information, Mr. Ballard also presented slides showing sketches of the topography in the area surrounding the hamlet of Vienna and pointed

**NEW DISCOVERIES, See Page 13**

# BRCWRT ADVERTISING PLAN

By Charlie Balch

The *Stone Wall* will accept paid advertisements on a limited basis. These ads will be only for services and products that are consistent with the purposes of the BRCWRT as stated in the Bylaws. They also are intended to be a service to our members. As long as the policies and procedures for accepting and placing the advertisements in the *Stone Wall* are followed, the paid ads will not jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the round table. Those policies, procedures and rates are detailed on the BRCWRT Web site at <http://bullruncwrt.org> under "Instructions for advertisers."

A special thanks to our first two advertisers and to their patience.

**The Bull Run Civil War Round Table neither endorses nor assumes responsibility for any product or service advertised on this page.**

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## NEW DISCOVERIES [Continued from Page 12]

out the openness of the ground and the nearly unobstructed views. Indeed, Vienna consisted of only a few buildings at the time: the train station, Lydecker's (Freeman's) store and a few scattered houses. Today, all of this area lies in downtown Vienna with its many streets, multi-story buildings and trees—lots and lots of trees that did not exist then. It's an interesting mind game to go up on the hill today where Kemper's guns were in battery and try to imagine Vienna as it appeared in 1861— wide open, uncluttered fields with few trees to speak of, and that straight shot down the tracks to the railroad cut. Thanks to Ted Ballard's research, we now know the exact positions of Maxcy Gregg's Confederates during their historic attack on the Union troop train. Ted also believes that there are more personal accounts out there and plans to visit the Ohio and South Carolina state archives when he gets a chance. But for now, this revelation gives us an entirely new perspective on "The Great Battle of Vienna."



### 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 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill located just across Lee Highway from the library. We have a great time!



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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

*The Stone Wall*

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

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