



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XVIII, Issue 1, FEBRUARY 2011

## BRIAN McENANY SPEAKS ON WEST POINT AT THE OUTSET OF WAR



Antebellum West Point was held in high regard by the country. Its graduates had performed well during the Mexican-American War; its professors were world-class; it was the premier engineering institution in the country. That was soon to change as the political unrest that gripped the country 150 years ago reached West Point during the summer of 1860.

Our February speaker, Brian McEnany, will lecture on one of the cadet classes, the Class of 1862, to illustrate what happened to the Academy and the cadets at the outset of the Civil War. The cadets were forced to make momentous decisions as eleven states seceded, officers resigned or returned to their regiments, and multiple resignations or dismissals became everyday occurrences. They sought advice and often received conflicting guidance from families, friends and politicians. Should they stay and graduate or resign? Should they defend their families and states or bear allegiance to the Union they had sworn to uphold? The decisions they reached caused half the Class of 1862 to resign before the first shot was fired, and one of those that left fired the first round at Fort Sumter! West Point as an institution was admonished by the President and members of his Cabinet, and Congress tried to abolish it. It lost the respect of the country and its citizens.

Brian McEnany, a 1962 graduate of West Point, is writing a narrative history of the Class of 1862 to be completed this year. After a career researching and

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**FEBRUARY 10, 2011**

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

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**Brian McEnany**

### TOPIC:

**West Point At The Outset  
Of War**

writing about military operations in the U. S. Army and the defense industry, Brian has made this class and the Civil War his full-time avocation.

Brian is a member of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable and has given presentations about this class to numerous Civil War groups in Northern Virginia, the History Department at West Point, the Brandy Station Foundation, the Army-Navy Club in D.C., a few West Point class luncheons and the U. S. Army's Center for Army Analysis. His article, *John Brown's Raid and West Point*, was published in the Association of Graduate's *Assembly* magazine in October 2009, and *War Comes to West Point* was recently published in *North & South* magazine (Vol. 12, Nr. 5) in December 2010.

Please come out on February 10th to hear this outstanding lecture, and stop by before the meeting at 5:00 p.m., at the Copper Canyon Grill (across Route 29), for a pre-meeting group dinner with speaker, Brian McEnany.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

### Executive Committee

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 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.  
**General Membership meetings** are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the  
**Centreville Regional Library**  
 14200 St. Germain Drive  
 Centreville, VA 20121-2255  
 703.830.2223  
 For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the Web site: <http://www.bullruncwrt.org>.

## ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank you.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MARCH 10, 2011**

**SPEAKER**

**James Hessler**

**TOPIC**

**Gen. Sickles at Gettysburg**

**APRIL 14, 2011**

**SPEAKER**

**E. B. Vandiver, III**

**TOPIC**

**Fort Sumter, April 1861, The War Begins  
150th Anniversary**

**MAY 12, 2011**

**SPEAKER**

**Ed Bearss**

**TOPIC**

**First Battle of Bull Run July 21, 1861  
150th Anniversary**

**JUNE 9, 2011**

**SPEAKER**

**Rick Britton**

**TOPIC**

**The Battle of Big Bethel  
150th Anniversary**

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **MARCH** issue, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 24, 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).

### In This Issue

Major Gen George Kundahl	Page 4
Events	Page 5, 7
U.S. Christian Commission	Page 6
Mosby Documentary	Page 7
150 Years Ago	Page 8
Fairfax 150th Planning	Page 8
Ms. Rebelle	Page 10
Book Corner	Page 11



### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Standard Operating Procedure

If adverse weather conditions exist or are imminent, the BRCWRT will meet only if Fairfax County government public buildings are open. Also check the BRCWRT Web site.



## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Winter, cold, snow and long commutes are upon us, but the 2011 Bull Run Civil War Round Table is rolling forward in many different venues. One in which I hope all will participate is our new on-line survey. This is your chance to let the Executive Committee know your ideas and Civil War interests. As active members, this is your round table. We want to serve you better and understand the issues that will make the BRCWRT really shine. Please take the time to complete it and express what would make you want to attend every month. My personal goal is to cover all twelve months with presentations and tours most desired by you. You are the Bull Run Civil War Round Table!

Our January general membership meeting was very well attended for such a cold night. We were all really blessed with an outstanding lecture, from Major General (Retired) George Kundahl, on his new book *Bravest of the Brave: The Correspondence of Stephen Dodson Ramseur*. We heard about Ramseur's early life growing up in North Carolina, through his college years at Davidson College, and the war years which he served with great honor and valor. His death at the Battle of Cedar Creek, as a major general at only twenty-seven years old, made his story even more special for all of us who attended. Thank you, George, for gracing the BRCWRT with his story.

As pointed out at the January meeting, 150 years ago many Southern States started to secede from the Union. We are all beginning our path to First Manassas/Bull Run. Hopefully, everyone will get a better understanding of events that led to the first major battle and our namesake. In 2011, I will try to match these major events to our lectures and am happy to report that we have a Fort Sumter lecture in April and Battle of Big Bethel in June. Regarding the Executive Committee, we will be working on many new initiatives, and we expect that the survey previously mentioned will provide a few more. Again, let your voice be heard.

You will not want to miss our February 10th general membership meeting with a lecture from one of our distinguished members, Brian McEnany. He will be speaking on "West Point on the Outset of the War" which is based on a Civil War article he recently wrote. West Point was in quite a different mode than a united "Corp of Cadets" as the war approached for the Class of 1862. As Brian points out, "The cadets were forced to make momentous decisions as eleven states seceded, officers resigned or returned to their regiments and multiple resignations or dismissals became everyday occurrences". Please come out and get a better understanding of what they endured at the Hudson River landmark 150 years ago.

See you then. God Bless.



Chris Godart, winner of the Mort Kunstler print, "The Fighting 69th." Proceeds will help purchase 10 sacred acres near Deep Cut at Second Manassas Battlefield.

THANKS TO OUR  
DECEMBER  
SPEAKER,  
DAVE BORN



Thanks also to  
Sandy Isasiello  
and Deanna  
Bailey for those  
wonderful  
Christmas  
refreshments.

Photos by Janet Greentree

### "LETTUCE SNOW"

From time to time we've polled our members to find out what they think about the round table, likes, dislikes, future speakers, topics, etc.

We have created a small survey seeking your input and thoughts. The survey was sent to you via email on January 16. For those who don't have email, we will have some hardcopies at the meeting.

Inside the email was a link that you will click. The link will take you directly to the survey. Follow the instructions on the screen, enter as much data as you like, and "let us know" what's on your mind.

The survey is anonymous and the results are automatically captured by the survey tool. The board of directors will review the submissions and publish the results in a future newsletter.

Thank you for your time & effort in completing the survey! Charlie Balch & Mark Knowles

## JANUARY SPEAKER MAJ GEN (Retired) GEORGE KUNDAHL

By John De Pue

The *Stone Wall's* early double issue prevented us from including the information on MG Kundahl and his topic. Although it was forwarded by e-mail prior to the meeting, we know that some might have missed it. We wish to include it again as it certainly was an interesting presentation. Thank you, General Kundahl.

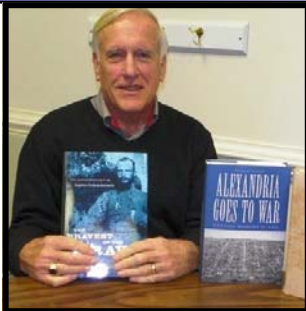
An impressive memorial on the Cedar Creek Battlefield commemorates the death of Stephen Dodson Ramseur. Twenty seven years old at the time he was killed in action on that field. Ramseur was the youngest West Point graduate in the Confederate Army to attain the rank of major general and one of its most promising division commanders.

A casual visitor reading the inscription on the monument is unlikely to appreciate the significance of General Ramseur's contributions to the Army of Northern Virginia, his key role in the campaign that resulted in his death, or the impact of his untimely demise upon the Confederacy. Not much was known about General Ramseur until 1985 when the first biography of the general was published by the well-known Civil War historian, Gary Gallagher.

Now 25 years later, MG Kundahl has produced a compilation of General Ramseur's letters commencing with his days as a cadet at West Point and terminating with Jubal Early's military operations in the Shenandoah Valley. The letters present Ramseur's recollections of the rigors of cadet life during the mid-nineteenth century, valuable insights concerning the actions in which he participated, his anger toward the Southern press, and the War's devastating impact upon Southern society and his own family life.

The detail and richness of Ramseur's correspondence with members of his family, coupled with the care in which MG Kundahl has edited, organized and contextualized them, has prompted one prominent Civil War historian to classify *The Bravest of the Brave* as "an instant classic" that deserves a place in any Civil War library.

This marks the third occasion in which MG Kundahl has spoken to the BRCWRT. Many of our veteran members will recall his address in June 2001, in which he discussed his first Civil War writing effort, *Confederate Engineer: Training and Campaigning With John Morris Wampler*. This work was based upon the diaries and journals of Captain John Morris Wampler, General Kundahl's great grandfather. At his second appearance in January 2005, he discussed the Civil War in Alexandria, Virginia, its importance to the Union cause, and significant Civil War personalities who were natives of the city.



The discussion was based upon research for his second publication, appropriately titled *Alexandria During the Civil War*.

MG Kundahl matriculated at Davidson College where he participated in its ROTC program and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers upon graduation. He subsequently earned a master of arts degree and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Alabama.

Upon entering active duty, MG Kundahl transferred to the Military Police Corps and served in a number of different command and staff assignments in the United States and Europe. After leaving active duty, he served as executive director of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush appointed him principal deputy assistant secretary of defense, a position that he held until 1993. Upon leaving the Defense Department, MG Kundahl served as the chief of staff of the Military Order of the World Wars, based in Alexandria, Virginia.

During his distinguished career in the United States Army Reserve, MG Kundahl occupied a series of progressively higher leadership positions. As a colonel, he served as the chief of staff of the 97th U.S. Army Reserve Command (ARCOM). As a brigadier general, he commanded the 220th Military Police Brigade. Finally, as a major general, he served as Commanding general of the 97th ARCOM. He retired from the Army Reserve in 1996.

MG Kundahl and his wife, Joy, divide their time between their home in Alexandria Virginia and a residence on the southern coast of France. MG Kundahl's current writing project involves a study of events in Southern France during World War II, to include allied military operations, the Vichy Government, activities of the French Underground, and the daily life of French civilians.

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



**PLEASE BRING A CHECK OR CASH TO THE FEB. 10  
MEETING OR USE THE MAILER ON PAGE 12.**

**It's the best bargain around!**

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted, please e-mail Dale Maschino at [smasch1@verizon.net](mailto:smasch1@verizon.net)*

**9 Feb** – Lecture, “Daily Life of the Freed and Enslaved in and around Chapman’s Mill,” at the Afro-American Historical Association Museum, 4243 Loudon Ave, The Plains. 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. \$5. Call 540-253-7488.

**10 Feb** – Lecture, “West Point at the Outset of the War,” at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. 7 p.m. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

**10 Feb** – Lecture, “The Crossing: Slaves, Stafford, and the Great 1862 Exodus to Freedom,” at the England Run Branch Library, 806 Lyons Blvd., Stafford, VA. 7 p.m. Free. Call 540-899-1703.

**11 Feb** – Symposium, “Peace Convention at 150: A Call to Compromise,” at the Willard Hotel in Washington. Historians look at the ill-fated 1861 attempt to avoid war. 9:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. \$40. Call 703-820-1904, or link to [www.latcra.org](http://www.latcra.org).

**11 Feb** – “Lincoln’s Journey Begins” at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. A reading of Lincoln’s farewell address, Noon. For information link to [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono).

**12 Feb** – Lecture, “Iron Horses and Shadows of War: The US Presidential Election of 1860 in Maryland,” at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Noon. Free with admission. For information go to [www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org).

**12 Feb** – Living history, “Fireside Mosby,” first-person stories about John S. Mosby at the Rector House, 4161 Atoka Road, Marshall (4 miles west of Middleburg on Route 50), 7:30 p.m. \$5. For information link to [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

**12 Feb** – “The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom,” special program at Leesylvania State Park, 2001 Daniel K Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$5/Car. Call 703-730-8205.

**12 Feb** – “A Slave’s Life at Liberia Plantation,” brief tour and presentation at Liberia Mansion, 8601 Portner Ave., Manassas. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$15. Call 703-368-1873 or link to [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

**13 Feb** – Lecture, “The Other Adams County Goes to War: Natchez, Mississippi and the Civil War,” at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. 1:30 p.m. Free. For information, call 717-334-1124 ext. 8023, or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

**19-20 Feb** – “Slave Life” tours at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$7. Call 703-367-7872.

**20 Feb** – Walking tour, “All Roads Lead to DC,” at Fort Marcy. Learn about the fort protecting the western ap-

proaches to DC. Parking off the northbound lanes of the Geo. Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington. 1 p.m. Free. Call 202-426-7723 or link to [www.nps.gov/cwdw](http://www.nps.gov/cwdw).

**20 Feb** – Musket and Artillery firing at the Manassas National Battlefield Park (Henry Hill). 1 p.m. Free with park admission. Call 703-261-1339 or link to [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**22 Feb** – Lecture, “Black Troops in the Civil War,” at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 2 p.m. Free. Call 703-689-2700.

**24 Feb** – Lecture, “Plantation Culture from Those Who Built It: Slavery Through Architecture and Art,” at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas. 7 p.m. Free. Call 703-367-7872.

**26 Feb** – Lecture, “Whirlwind Coming: Blacks in the District and Alexandria During the Civil War,” at the Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria. 1 p.m. \$10. [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**26 Feb** – Book signing and discussions, “Civil War Authors Book Mart,” at Historic Blenheim in Fairfax. Noon – 4 p.m. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

**27 Feb** – Walking tour, “Freedman’s Farm and Confederate Winter Camp Site” at Montpelier, home of President James Madison, south of orange. 2 p.m. Free with admission. Call 540-672-2728, or [www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org).

## UPCOMING CIVIL WAR SEMINARS

The 12th Annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University’s free Civil War seminar “*The War Begins: 1861*,” will be held Saturday, February 26, at Jarman Auditorium, Longwood University, Farmville, VA. For more information, contact Dr. David Coles at 434.395.2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434.352.8987, ext. 32. Reservations are not necessary. For directions go to [www.longwood.edu](http://www.longwood.edu).

The 15th Annual Liberty University Civil War Seminar, “*1861 First Blood*,” will be held March 25-27. All events will be held on the campus in Lynchburg, VA. For information e-mail [klburdeaux@liberty.edu](mailto:klburdeaux@liberty.edu) or call 434.592.4366 .

Virginia Tech and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission are offering a signature conference May 21, 2011, at Cassell Coliseum. The General Assembly of Virginia created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in 2006 to prepare for and commemorate the sesquicentennial of Virginia’s participation in the American Civil War.

Visit the Web site for more information: <http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/2011conference.php>

## THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AND ITS GETTYSBURG CHAPEL

By Tim Duskin

For years, there have been organizations which have been dedicated to telling of the role of Christianity in the Civil War. The Re-enactors Missions for Jesus Christ in Concord, Virginia, has been telling the story of Christian involvement on both sides, as does the National Civil War Chaplains Museum in Lynchburg. Sprinkle Publications in Harrisonburg holds the Annual Conference on the Great Revival in the Southern Armies each year. Another organization, now tells the story of Christian involvement on the Northern side as well.

During the Civil War, the Young Men's Christian Association formed an organization called the United States Christian Commission (USCC) which not only provided humanitarian assistance such as caring for the wounded but also distributed Bibles and tracts to soldiers. It was headquartered in Philadelphia and was only in existence for the duration of the war. Now, John A. Wega, a living historian who portrays a chaplain, has reactivated the organization, which is headquartered in Gettysburg, to tell the story of what it did during the war.

One thing which the reactivated organization did was to reconstruct a Civil War field chapel, the only one in existence anywhere in the country. It was built in 2006 on Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg, and Civil War period worship services were held there. Although it was originally built with all of the proper permits, the Borough of Gettysburg gave the USCC an "order to vacate" the chapel in May 2010 because they claimed it did not meet mandated state and federal codes. The chapel originally cost \$10,000 to build, and the modifications demanded would cost another \$100,000. Hiram Sasser, Director of Litigation for the Liberty Institute in Plano, Texas, which is representing the USCC's case, has said, "There are a lot of special protections of the Constitution, regarding churches and zoning issues, and compliance. The law gives special protection to churches that are not available to other types of buildings." Reginald Brown, an attorney with Wilmer Hale, has said that the chapel, as a "historic structure," is exempt from Uniform Construction Act requirements, which the Borough of Gettysburg has recently demanded it meet as a new structure because it has been "readily classified as a his-



Reconstructed U. S. Christian Commission Civil War Field Chapel on Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg before it was burned to the ground by arson..

toric building...under standards that have been applied by the borough in the past."

In July 2010, in the midst of this conflict, the Adams County Chamber of Commerce gave the chapel a Beautification Award. Just before Dedication Day and Remembrance Day in November, the Borough of Gettysburg ordered that the chapel be closed. Services continued through Dedication and Remembrance Days, after which it was closed for the season, as it always has been. **Then, in the early morning hours of December 3, the chapel was burned to the ground.** The Borough of Gettysburg confirmed that it was a case of arson, but no suspects have yet been identified.

As a church burning is a federal crime under the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, the case is being investigated by the FBI and the ATF. Kelly Shackelford, President and CEO of the Liberty Institute, said, "We hope the campaign of harassment and condemnation against the Gettysburg Chapel will also finally come to an end. Regrettably, the past hostile attitude toward the Chapel exhibited by some public officials helped create an atmosphere of hateful license that contributed to the Chapel's destruction. That is unacceptable."

The USCC now hopes to rebuild the chapel. Those wishing to sign a petition of support and/or to donate to help rebuild the chapel may do so by visiting the following Web site: [www.SaveTheCivilWarChapel.com](http://www.SaveTheCivilWarChapel.com)

The reactivated USCC hosts group tours in Gettysburg telling the story of the original USCC's work there during and after the Battle of Gettysburg. They also have a USCC Museum in Gettysburg. This museum is temporarily closed because it is undergoing renovation. More information about the USCC can be found at its Web site: [www.usccgettysburg.org](http://www.usccgettysburg.org). Photos are courtesy of U.S. Christian Commission Gettysburg.



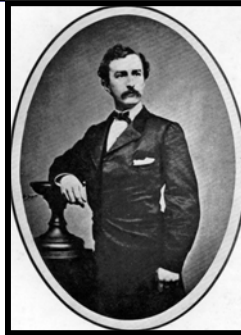
### JOIN US AT THE COPPER CANYON GRILL

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?

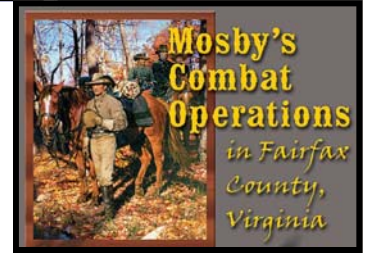
Join the BRCWRT board, other members, and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting around 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill located just across Lee Highway from the library.

**COME JOIN THE  
BOSTON CIVIL WAR  
ROUND TABLE'S  
JOHN WILKES  
BOOTH ESCAPE  
TOUR  
May 18-22, 2011**



**MOSBY  
DOCUMENTARY  
BEING FILMED  
IN FAIRFAX  
COUNTY**



**Planning and Composing a Soundtrack  
Part XI**

By Janet Greentree

The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston would like to invite members of the BRCWRT to join them in their annual "Five Days in May" tour. The tour this year will be the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route led by Dale Floyd.

Day One – Travel day to Comfort Inn Capitol Beltway in Beltsville, MD. BRCWRT members could join here.

Day Two – Surratt Tavern, Samuel Mudd farmhouse, St. Mary's Cemetery for grave of Dr. Samuel Mudd, and Old St. Peter's Cemetery for grave of Edmund Spangler. Visit Rich Hill, pine thicket, spot on the Potomac River where Booth & Herold crossed over into Maryland, Cleydael Farm, Will Lucas cabin, Quesenberry house, Brockenbrough-Peyton house, and Garrett Farm.

Day Three – Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre, Peterson House, Baptist Alley behind Ford's Theatre, Mary Surratt Boarding House, National Museum of Health and Science, Mt. Olivet Cemetery for Mary Surratt's grave, Old Capitol Prison, and Fort Leslie McNair.

Day Four – Baltimore, MD – Greenmount Cemetery (Booth, Arnold, & McLaughlin gravesites), New Cathedral Cemetery (John Surratt grave), Fort McHenry for flag-lowering ceremony, and talk by Scott Sheads from NPS on the imprisonment of John Surratt.

Day Five – Bus trip to Tudor Hall in Bel Air, MD to see the Booth home. End of tour and trip back home for the Boston group.

Guest speakers: James Getty (Lincoln reenactor) speaking on the Emancipation Proclamation, Michael Kauffman, author of *American Brutus*, speaking about the 1996 Appeals Court trial for the exhumation of the remains of John Wilkes Booth.

BRCWRT prices depend on how many days, meals, etc. in which you wish to participate. The full tour includes all admissions, tour guides, hotel, bus, Continental breakfast, two dinners, one lunch, tips, and gratuities.

Contact Dave Smith at [cwrtmass@comcast.com](mailto:cwrtmass@comcast.com) or (781) 647-3332.

By Chuck Mauro

I've become fond of saying, "Every second of a documentary has to be planned and executed, everything seen and heard. This applies to the on-site scripts, the narrations, the background scenes, as well as the photographs and drawings used." I found out this definitely applies to the soundtrack.

The film begins with the opening credits and is followed by a narrated introduction. It closes with a final narration and the final credits. In discussing the soundtrack with composer David Rubenstein, we agreed he compose a symphonic march for the opening credits and then use a heightened score to add drama to the opening narration. We then agreed to use the heightened score during the closing narration and then use the symphonic march during the final credits-the reverse sequence of the opening of the film.

The next discussion was how to score each segment. We agreed not to have any music during the on-site segment introductions, a suggestion made by fellow producer Steve Sherman. We also listened to the recorded Civil War Songs we had. As these tended to be slower pieces, we decided to use this music during the narration for the non-battle operations. David would then use variations of his score, using different instruments, to heighten the tension of the narration during the battle operations.

The result is a rise and fall of the score with the rise and fall of the rhythm of the documentary. Another great aspect of using a soundtrack is that every piece of music can start on cue, and end on cue, coinciding with the beginning and ending of each narration.

The fact that we are working on the soundtrack means we have finished the documentary itself. The last effort was made on the credits. This included all the "thank yous" for access to the different locations and materials shown. We also give credit to the reference documents we used for photos and drawings. Most importantly, we list all of those who have made generous contributions to help finance this film. With all that done, we had 58 seconds left.

Remember what I said about planning every second? We added 48 seconds of "out takes" which I fondly call "Will we ever finish Bone Mill?" We use the last ten seconds for our copyright notice. Right on the mark for exactly 90 minutes.

Next up, DVD Production.

## FEBRUARY 1861



By Nancy Anwyll

Despite February being the shortest month of the year, many events occurred which propelled the country closer to civil war. In early February, President Buchanan announced to the South Carolina commissioner that under no circumstances would Fort Sumter be surrendered. Two conventions were in session in February: one in Washington, D.C. called the Peace Convention and in Montgomery, Alabama, another which was comprised of the Southern states that had seceded from the Union.

In addition to these conventions, Virginia organized an election for delegates to a Richmond convention to commence on February 13th to discuss what its course of action would be. The result of the February 4<sup>th</sup> election in Fairfax County sent a moderate Unionist, William H. Dulany, to represent Fairfax County in Richmond. Dulany, a lawyer, a member of a prominent Falls Church family, and the 1859 organizer of the Fairfax Rifles, received 57% of the total vote or 836 votes of the roughly 1500 votes cast.

Since the majority of delegates to the convention were Unionists as well, Delany was not alone in Richmond. Loudoun County residents also elected Unionists to represent them in Richmond. John Janney was a prominent Leesburg lawyer, and John Armistead Carter was a large land and slave owner near Upperville. Prince William County residents elected two secessionists: Eppa Hunton, a lawyer from Brentsville and W. G. Brawner, a former county sheriff. Soon after the Richmond Convention convened, John Janney was chosen to preside over its proceedings. A few months later in April, most of the Unionists at the convention would change their vote to support secession.

Further west, the Lincolns held a farewell reception February 6<sup>th</sup> at their home in Springfield, Illinois, and then a few days later on February 11th, they left by train for Lincoln's inauguration in Washington, D.C. The train route was long and tiring for Lincoln, taking him through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland cities, stopping several times and giving opportunities for Lincoln to speak to gathered crowds.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, while pruning roses at his plantation near Vicksburg, Mississippi, Davis was informed of the Montgomery Convention's request that he serve as Provisional President of the Confederacy. He sent a message of acceptance that evening, and on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the same day that Lincoln left Springfield for his inauguration in Washington, D. C., Davis left his home for his inauguration in Montgomery, Alabama. Davis was sworn into office on February 18<sup>th</sup>, nearly two weeks before Lincoln was inaugurated.

Sensing war, local citizens in Fairfax and Alexandria continued to organize their military units. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Mount Vernon Guards, the Old Dominion Rifles, the Alexandria Riflemen, and the Alexandria Artillery

became the Alexandria Battalion with Captain Montgomery Corse as the battalion's major. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> in Alexandria the Battalion marched in a parade which also included the Loudoun Guards from Leesburg, the Warren Rifles from Front Royal, and other military groups from nearby areas.

In the meantime, President-elect Abraham Lincoln was on a train in New York State headed for Washington, D.C. via Baltimore. A few days later, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lincoln arrived unannounced in the early morning at Washington, D.C. His bodyguards and advisors had detected a possible threat to him in Baltimore and placed him on separate trains in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Mary Lincoln and others of Lincoln's entourage remained on the first train. In Washington, Lincoln settled into a room at the Willard Hotel where he prepared for his March 4<sup>th</sup> inauguration and other administrative tasks. On this same day, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Texas became the next state to secede from the Union.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> after enduring considerable bickering among its delegates, the Peace Convention in Washington D. C. finished deliberations by issuing suggestions for amendments to the United States Constitution, all of which in effect preserved slavery. The following day, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, unlike its southern neighbors, North Carolina voters turned down a state convention on secession. Upcoming events of March 1861 would bring far more problems for everyone in the country.

(Sources: *Day by Day* by E. B. Long, *Fairfax County in the Civil War* by Charles Mauro, *Manassas to Appomattox* by Edgar Warfield, *Loudoun County and the Civil War* by Eugene Scheel, *Fairfax County, A History* by Nan Netherton, et al, *A Village Goes to War* by B. E. Gernand, and the National Park Service Web site.)



## 150TH MEETINGS AND PLANNING CONTINUE

By Ed Wenzel



Since the last *Stone Wall* was published in early December, Fairfax County Sesquicentennial planners have met twice to discuss problems and provide updates on progress toward 150th projects and events. First, a "countywide" meeting was held on December 4th at Oakton Library. About two dozen people attended and represented the four sub-committees: History, Marketing, Education and Public Outreach, and Finance. Co-chairs Patrick Lennon of Visit Fairfax and Liz Crowell of the Fairfax County Park Authority presided over the meeting.

The History subgroup had the largest number of people as usual and was chaired by our own John McAnaw. Most of the discussions centered on the status of

**See 150th PLANNING, Page 9**



## 150th PLANNING [Continued from Page 8]

the 16 Civil War markers to be written and erected during the commemoration and on suggestions for four additional markers. Also, John talked about the possibility of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority erecting nine markers at Civil War fords along Bull Run. Ric Terman passed along information that the City of Falls Church would like to reenact the launching of Professor Thaddeus Lowe's gas-filled observation balloon "Enterprise" at Taylor's Tavern (7 Corners). A replica balloon and its aeronaut are available as well as a telegrapher to send a message to the White House, as did Lowe to Lincoln. Whether funds can be found for this reenactment is uncertain. Naomi Zevin of the History Commission suggested that one or two individuals might present Civil War lectures to Oakton High School students and that Channel 16 might be induced to televise the lectures as a public service for the 150th. Patrick Lennon is looking into the matter.

For Education/Public Outreach, Jon Vrana explained his subcommittee's vision for highlighting "Daily Life in Fairfax County" through living history, the Sesquicentennial website, and a photo contest. Living historians from Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, are well practiced in portraying both soldiers and civilians. They will reenact the secession vote in Vienna at Lydecker's Store (Freeman Store) on Saturday, May 21, and also the "Battle of Vienna," Maxcy Gregg's ambush of the Union troop train near today's Vienna Community Center. The battle reenactment is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, using a replica locomotive brought from Strasburg. How they plan to do it, however, is uncertain because the original site, the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire RR (now the W&OD trail) reportedly will not be used.


For the Web site, various periods of the war might be examined through the themes of Religion; Women; Mills and Industry; Transportation (roads, turnpikes, railroads and canals); Slaves, Freedmen and the Underground Railroad; the U.S. Sanitary Commission; Civil War quilts; Medicine; and Common life in Fairfax County. Further, photo contests are in the planning stages—a separate contest for each year of the war, 2011 to 2015. Contest rules are being decided but the subject matter will probably include Fairfax County Civil War historic sites, structures, monuments, military, people, and then and now. Cash prizes are contemplated and the judging will be by amateur and professional photographers and historians. Further contest information will be reported when received.

Patrick Lennon anticipates that the county's Sesquicentennial Web site will be up soon and he solicited historical articles from individuals to post on the site. All articles will be reviewed first by History and Education/Public Outreach subcommittees before posting. The 2nd edition of the Sesquicentennial brochure will be out be-

fore June 30, 2011. Also, representatives of the Library of Virginia in Richmond will be at the Fairfax City Regional Library on June 24 and 25 to scan privately owned Civil War documents, letters, diaries and photos. In allowing this copying by the Library of Virginia, owners will ensure that the content of their original documents will be preserved for posterity and made available for future historians and researchers

On January 20, a meeting of the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Steering Committee met at the James Lee Center in Falls Church. Patrick reported that the Web site was up ([www.fairfaxcivilwar.com](http://www.fairfaxcivilwar.com)) and that stories and articles on Fairfax's Civil War history were needed. Patrick is linking the Web site to social media such as Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fairfaxcivilwar](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcivilwar)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/fairfaxcivilwar](http://www.twitter.com/fairfaxcivilwar)), YouTube ([www.youtube.com/fairfaxcivilwar150](http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcivilwar150)), blogs and various other links. Through the Capital Region USA's website and e-Newsletters, Fairfax County's Sesquicentennial information is now available in Europe and overseas. Brandon Bies, our NPS member, stated that Arlington County is rapidly selling Sesquicentennial T-shirts at \$10 apiece to raise money. The T-shirts depict the Arlington House columns and cannon. It is anticipated that the Fairfax Committee could sell hundreds of similar shirts at the "Celebrate Fairfax" fair in June. A shirt design is needed.

Don Hakenson reported that Fairfax City, working in conjunction with Fairfax County, will hold a commemorative living history event for the Skirmish at Fairfax Court House on Wednesday night, June 1. A reenactment of the skirmish will be held the following Saturday. Streets in downtown Fairfax will be blocked off so that the raid with horses and troops can be reenacted and bleacher seats may be erected. An official program is planned. Capt. John Quincy Marr was killed in this skirmish, the first Confederate officer to die in combat. Also, a new marker is anticipated near the Confederate monument in the Fairfax City Cemetery (the old Confederate Cemetery). Don also announced that the "Franconia Civil War Show" will be held at the Robert E. Lee Recreation Center on May 14 and 15. In addition, Don reports an outpouring of interest in Mosby tours of Fairfax County, much of it coming from beyond Fairfax. The Mosby documentary film, produced by Don, Chuck Mauro and Steve Sherman, will premier next month at a theater in Fairfax. Stay tuned.



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THE WILDERNESS  
BATTLEFIELD!**

## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Brevet Brigadier General William Jackson Palmer, USA

By Janet Greentree

Ms. Rebelle and her sister rode the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge train from Durango to Silverton, Colorado, on our trip to Colorado last September and October. A nice young man came through the train selling a small book, *America's Railroad, the Official Guidebook*, by Robert T. Royem, outlining the history of the train. Imagine my surprise when there was a Civil War connection in Colorado. General William Jackson Palmer was with the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry, and was the founder of the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

William Jackson Palmer was born a Quaker on September 17, 1836 in Leipsic, Kent County, Delaware. His family later moved to Philadelphia where he grew up. He became interested in railroads and went to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad finally becoming the private secretary to the President, John Edgar Thomson. Palmer was sent to England and France to study the railroads there. He recommended that the Pennsylvania Railroad change from burning wood to coal as the railroads did in England and France. The Pennsylvania Railroad became the first railroad in the country to burn coal.



In 1861 when the Civil War began, Palmer was commissioned in the Union Army. His Quaker upbringing made him abhor violence, but he believed in ending slavery in America. In August, 1862 Palmer began recruiting a battalion of cavalry. He recruited nearly a thousand men from all over the state and began training at Carlisle, PA. Palmer was assigned as a body guard to General Robert Anderson, and the company's name became Anderson's Troop. Palmer had quite an illustrious career during the Civil War. He remained in the war from 1862 to 1865. His unit was ordered to stay in the Cumberland Valley during the Maryland Campaign. General Longstreet reported to General Lee that "had he not found swarms of Yankee cavalry in his front, he would have advanced further into the State." On September 18, 1862, following the battle of Antietam, Palmer was inside enemy lines in civilian clothes scouting for General McClellan. He was taken prisoner on September 19, 1862 and sent to Castle Thunder prison in Richmond. He was released on January 15, 1863, and rejoined his unit.

Palmer's unit saw much action during the war mostly in the Western Theatre. His unit also chased General Hood after the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He was brevetted Brigadier General on November 6,

1864. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on January 14, 1865 for his bravery at Red Hill, Alabama. His citation reads: "With less than 200 men, attacked and defeated a superior force of the enemy, capturing their fieldpiece and about 100 prisoners without losing a man." In late April, 1865, Palmer was now commanding General Gillem's Division [side note: it was on General Gillem's grave that I placed a Confederate flag on instead of a Union flag on a trip to Nashville] and was ordered south for the capture of Jefferson Davis. His 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania captured seven wagons containing \$185,000.00 in coin, \$1,585,000.00 in bank notes, bonds and securities, and \$4,000,000.00 in Confederate money on May 8, 1865. The wagons also contained private baggage, maps, and official papers of Generals Beauregard and Pillow. All captured items were sent undisturbed directly to the U.S. Government for further action. The 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania mustered out on June 21, 1865.

After the Civil War, Palmer went back to railroading. He went west as the construction manager of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Under his direction, the railroad first reached Denver, CO, in August, 1870. Palmer then went on to found the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. While riding on the train west, he met his future wife, Mary Lincoln (Queen) Mellen.



They were married in Flushing, NY and honeymooned in the British Isles where Palmer first saw a narrow gauge railroad. His dream for his railroad was for it to go to Mexico. Of course, Colorado is full of mountains, so the narrow gauge railroad would be able to navigate sharp curves and grades. Only two sections of the narrow gauge remains-the 45-mile stretch between Durango and Silverton and the 63-mile route between Cumbres, Colorado and Toltec, New Mexico, a portion of which is shown above.

Palmer also founded the city of Colorado Springs. A large equestrian statue of him is located there at the intersection of Platte and Nevada in the downtown area. General Palmer's Quaker upbringing made Colorado Springs alcohol free until the end of Prohibition in the 1930s. Limit Street was the end of the clean living section and the beginning of the wild living section filled with bars and brothels.

General Palmer was thrown from a horse in 1906, became an invalid, and died March 13, 1909. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs. Ms. Rebelle did not get to Colorado Springs, but if I do get back there, I would like to find his grave. The city of Colorado Springs staged a 100th year anniversary reenactment of his funeral in March, 2009.

**See Ms. Rebelle, Page 11**



## THE BOOK CORNER

by

Ralph G. Swanson



Have you ever been to West Point? I don't mean as a tourist. I mean, have you ever attended the United States Military Academy as a cadet and pursued the formal study of the art of war? No? Then you must read *Why the South Lost the Civil War* by Richard Beringer, Herman Hattaway, Archer Jones and William N. Still, Jr.

In this most thorough analysis of war fighting preparation, battle strategy, and national commitment to rebellion, you will feed many of your most nagging curiosities about the American Civil War, military and otherwise. Not only will you finally learn what military historians mean by "turning the opponent," a "change of base" or (my favorite) "breaking his communications" (did they cut his telegraph wires?), but you will gain an entirely new appreciation of the execution of battle plans as practiced in the 1860's and the relevance of it all to the outcome of our great national trauma.

Civil War generals were not all blundering idiots as some of them appear to us in hindsight. Most actually had West Point educations; many had battle experience in Mexico and a definite plan, based on sound principles of warfare, as they engaged in battle. West Point graduates by 1860 were steeped in the military precepts of Antoine Henri-Jomini and Carl von Clausewitz (both 19<sup>th</sup> century military strategists) particularly as interpreted by West Point professor Dennis Hart Mahan who taught war to virtually every Civil War general. The penetrating scrutiny of our authors on this matter will make you think Jomini and von Clausewitz were consultants on this book. You will gain a much deeper appreciation of all the major engagements, east and west, when you understand the principles of war that underpinned the strategies.

Beyond a purely military treatise on the inappropriateness of Napoleonic tactics in the age of the rifled musket, this thick book ranges onward into the social, economic, even the religious causes as to why the South surrendered. Prepare to have all your long-cherished prejudices in this regard demolished by these worthy authors. They subscribe to virtually none of the reasoning that populates your current library of Civil War history books: The naval blockade? Battlefield defeats? Overwhelming northern resources? States' rights? Only in part did any of these contribute to the final outcome. Each in turn is taken up, dissected and left a quivering mass of rejectamenta. In one of the more startling discussions, the authors articulate a theory that, upon reflection, seems obvious: The sheer size of opposing forces and the primitive killing technologies of the time made it virtually impossible to destroy a Civil War army. Even at Appomattox the south still had large and well-equipped armies in the field. The south was not defeated militarily and, moreover, could not have

been defeated by military action alone, in the view of these authors.

In a unique chapter titled "The Battle is the Lord's" the authors discuss (and dismiss) the extent to which a withdrawal of Divine favor, perhaps due to the guilt over American Negro slavery, was a significant cause of defeat.

Regardless, by 1865 the Confederacy could not continue. Why? Essentially by the process of elimination, our authors arrive at a consensus on the true cause underlying southern capitulation, one which, by the way, will infuriate you and make you want to argue with someone at the next round table meeting. No, I'm not going there in this brief review. You must read this terrific book in order to frame your own arguments against.

In their final, and most provocative, discussion the authors ask whether the south really did lose the Civil War. Of all southern war aims—independence, slavery (in the manner of white supremacy), and southern honor—the south actually gave up only independence. All these other objectives were, in a very real sense, achieved. After 1877, white supremacy was ensured by Jim Crow laws that effectively controlled black labor and the black vote; sectional honor was retained by reunion without hard measures. Now here is a discussion that should set you back in your chair!!

This is a book that must be read thoroughly and considered thoughtfully. *Why the South Lost* is another "thinker," folks, so prepare for some lively mental exercise. Oh...and when you are finished, you will receive three credits at West Point.

Until next time, keep reading.



### MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 10]

Palmer's legacy includes the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, Colorado College, International Typographical Union's Printers Home, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, a tuberculosis sanitarium that became the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and several churches. His wife, Queen, opened the first public school in Colorado Springs in 1871. Today in Colorado Springs, the Queen Palmer Elementary School is named after her. There is also a General William J. Palmer High School. Palmer Hall at the Hampton University in Virginia is also named for him for his many contributions to the school.

In 1907 Palmer hosted a reunion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania held at his home Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs. More than 200 veterans of the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania attended the reunion. What an interesting man.

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