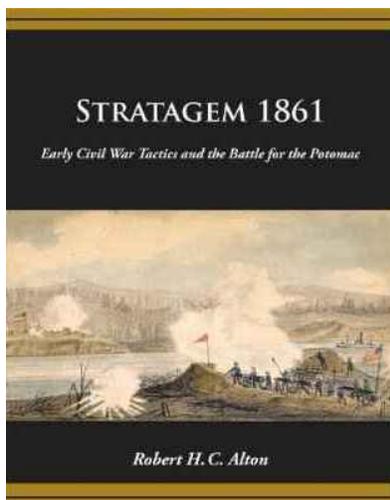




## ALTON TO SPEAK ON THE CONFEDERATE BLOCKADE OF THE POTOMAC RIVER

By Mark Trbovich

Please join me and welcome Robert Alton at our March meeting as he speaks on this 2012 Sesquicentennial event from his new book "STRATAGEM 1861 Early Civil War Tactics and the Battle for the Potomac."



The 1861-1862 Confederate Potomac River blockade caused tremendous hardship to the citizens of Washington, D.C, the 100,000 Federal troops in town, and the surrounding vicinity. Approximately 40 cannon spread out at specific forts along the Virginia side of the river made federal merchant ships travelling to Washington run a gauntlet of tremendous destructive peril.

A native of Northern Virginia, Robert H. C. Alton has maintained an avid interest in Civil War History. He holds an M.B.A. from Saint Martin's University in Olympia, Washington. Recently he has published several articles in *North South Trader's Civil War Magazine* and routinely provides lectures in eastern Prince William, Fairfax and Stafford Counties, covering the region's rich Civil War history.

Robert will have his book at the meeting for purchase, and I encourage folks to meet him prior to the 7:00 p.m. meeting at the 5:00 p.m. group dinner at the Copper Canyon Grill across Route 29 from the Centreville library. Hope to see you there.

**DON'T MISS THE BRCWRT TOUR OF FORT EVANS AND BALL'S BLUFF BATTLEFIELD ON JUNE 16. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW NEXT MONTH.**

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**March 8, 2012**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Robert H. C. Alton**

**TOPIC:**

**The Confederate Blockade of the Potomac River, Fall 1861-March 1862**

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



Please bring a check or cash to the Mar. 8 meeting or use the mailer on page 10. Membership is the best bargain around! Great speakers, excellent topics, exciting Civil War tours, preservation, informative newsletters and great fellowship.

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## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

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Andy Kapfer, Janet Greentree and Jill Hilliard

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>.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **APRIL 2012 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00  
a.m., Thursday, March 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).

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For **APRIL 2012 issue advertisers**, click on  
"Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org>  
and e-mail ads by noon, Monday, March 19, to Charlie  
Balch at [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com).

## BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS



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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**APRIL 12**

**SPEAKER:**

**John V. Quarstein**

**TOPIC:**

**The Battle of the USS Monitor and  
the CSS Virginia (formerly USS  
Merrimack)**

**MAY 10**

**SPEAKER:**

**Ed Bearss**

**TOPIC:**

**The Battle of Shiloh, April 1862**

**JUNE 14**

**SPEAKER:**

**Edward Sanders**

**TOPIC:**

**The Seven Days Battles  
June 1862**

The above monthly meetings are  
Civil War Sesquicentennial Events.



## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Well, we're heading into spring, and things are beginning to heat up at the BRCWRT. Our first tour will be March 17 to the Stafford Civil War Park project and the White Oak Civil War Museum which to date has over 25 members signed up on line to attend. Please sign up at our Web site for all our tours at <http://bullruncwrt.org> or on the sign-up sheets at our general membership meetings. This should be a big year for tours as you asked for them on our very successful 2011 membership questionnaire.

Please remember that March is again a BRCWRT membership drive month, and we encourage everyone to renew your membership for 2012 at the meeting or on line at the BRCWRT Web site. Please remember that you need to be a 2012 BRCWRT member to continue to receive our outstanding newsletter throughout the year. As I stated last month, please reach out to potential BRCWRT members this year, to our young adult family and friends to get them interested in our Northern Virginia Civil War history and preservation efforts. They are the future of this outstanding organization.

Our February lecture was tremendously informative and analytic on various leadership styles using Civil War leaders as examples. Paul Gilbert spoke on his new book *Lead Like a General* which looked at battlefield leadership styles during the Civil War and also how it pertains to leadership styles in today's multifaceted business world. Paul quoted Sun Tzu many times throughout his lecture who, around 500 B.C., authored *The Art of War*. I found it intriguing that many of our BRCWRT former military members had studied this book during their careers. It was an educational evening for all and very well presented. The BRCWRT is also honored to have Paul as a new member. Welcome Paul, and thank you so much for an excellent evening of thought provoking leadership styles from your excellent book.



Our 2012 BRCWRT speakers schedule is complete. We look forward to another great Civil War Sesquicentennial line-up of battles, both local and out West, plus two Naval actions. We will begin to get "salty" this month and next. The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) will be the signature event for the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial this September, among other events throughout the year. The BRCWRT will be there and at many more events volunteering because that is what we do and enjoy.

In closing, I want to thank Rob Orrison, BRCWRT Executive Committee member and historic site manager of the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, for honoring our round table with two park benches and a plaque on each stating that the benches were donated by the BRCWRT in 2012. We are privileged to donate funds to many Civil War preservation efforts, museums and battlefields. We will continue to gladly give because they promote Civil War education, preservation and honor the hallowed ground where many a brave soul gave the ultimate sacrifice. Let us never forget them for what they gave and what they did for all of us.

God Bless all of you.

## PRESERVATION CORNER

By John P. McAnaw

### Status of Funded Civil War Trails Signage in Fairfax County

The information in this article is current as of 23 February 2012. The plan is to install a Civil War Trails sign in each of the nine County Supervisory Districts no later than 30 June 2012. The sign titles are as follows:

- Freedom Hill
- Flint Hill Cemetery/Church of the Brethren
- Mason District Park
- Rose Hill Raid
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Battle of Lewinsville
- Devereux Station/Clifton
- Ravensworth
- Pohick Church

The County History Commission will conduct its final review of the information for the nine proposed markers on 7 March 2012. If all is in order, cited information will then be forwarded to the Civil War Trails (CWT) office in Richmond, VA. After a thorough check by the CWT experts, an electronic proof for each of the nine markers will be sent back to the County Sesquicentennial Committee in early April 2012 for review and final approval. Installation of the markers will commence following final approval by all concerned parties. The goal is to have all nine markers installed prior to 30 June 2012.

### Trail Improvement in Centreville Historic District

Approximately 68% of the Covered Way Trail running from Pickwick Road to the Apex Fort now has a substantial layer of stone dust on it. Also the brush bordering the trail has been cut back in the improved section. Of note, during the late spring and summer of 2011, several BRCWRT members spent considerable time in keeping the 'covered way' accessible to visitors.



## MARCH 1862

By Nancy Anwyll

### Events Further From the Local Scene

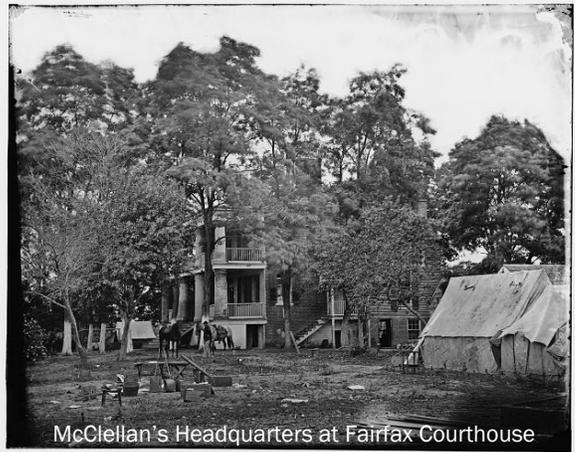
**March 8**, the Battle of Pea Ridge at Elkhorn, Arkansas ended with a Federal victory after three days of fighting.

**March 14**, Federals captured New Madrid, Missouri and New Berne, North Carolina.

**March 28**, at Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, Federal troops forced Confederates to withdraw.

### Events Closer to Home

**March 7**, the Confederate Army under Gen. Joseph Johnston began a three day withdrawal from the Centreville fortifications and headed toward Richmond. What could not be transported was destroyed.



**March 10**, Union Gen. George B. McClellan established his Fairfax Courthouse headquarters at Richard Ratcliffe's Mt. Vineyard house (north of Main & Oak Streets) while the rest of his army occupied western parts of Fairfax County recently evacuated by Confederates.

**March 11**, Union Gen. Philip Kearny's 3<sup>rd</sup> NJ troops occupied the abandoned rail junction at Manassas. McClellan made a 40-mile ride from Fairfax Courthouse to examine Centreville, Union Mills, and Blackburn's Ford where he observed materials and supplies that Confederates were forced to leave behind.

**March 12 – 13**, McClellan held a War council in his Fairfax Courthouse headquarters with his newly named Corps commanders. They approved McClellan's plan to invade the peninsula and capture Richmond.

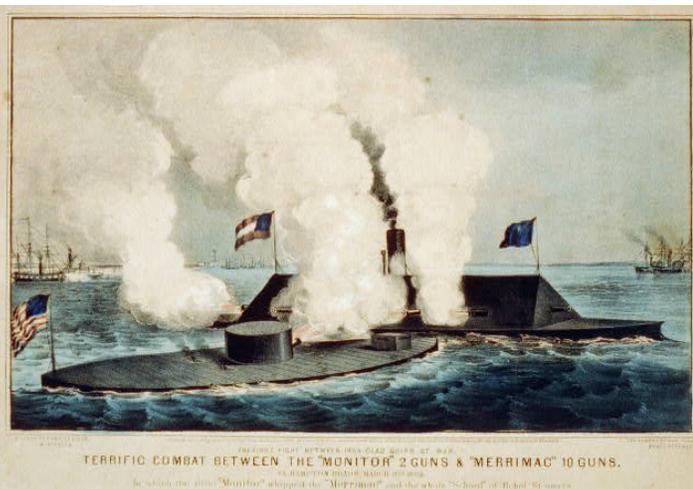
**March 15**, McClellan's Army departed Fairfax Courthouse and surrounding areas and headed toward Alexandria.

**March 17**, McClellan's headquarters were established at the Virginia Theological Seminary near Alexandria until the end of the month. On this day, the army began to embark on ships at Alexandria where they headed for the Virginia Peninsula.

**March 23** the First Battle of Kernstown near Winchester, Virginia, resulted in Gen. T. J. Jackson's Confederate troops being defeated by Gen. James Shields' Federal troops.

Sources: *Day by Day* by Long; Library of Congress; *Time Line of the Civil War in Fairfax County* (Unpublished Manuscript) by Ed Wenzel.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**



**March 9**, near Newport News, Virginia two ironclads, the *Monitor* built by the Federal Navy and the Confederate *Virginia* (formerly the *Merrimack*) engaged in a naval battle which, after two hours of firing and ramming, ended in a draw. It was the first use of iron clad ships in warfare.

**March 9**, Federals marched from Farr's Cross Roads (at Braddock Rd. and Rte. 123) to occupy Fairfax Courthouse and on **March 10** marched to occupy Centreville where they found Confederate fortifications armed with Quaker guns (fake wooden cannon).



# 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 Mar** – Lecture, “Artillery in the Civil War” at the Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. 6:30 p.m. \$35. Registration, call 410-386 8100.

**7 Mar** – Lecture, “D.H. Hill and the Confederate withdrawal from Northern Virginia” at Mt. Zion Church 40309 John Mosby Hwy. (Rt. 50) in Aldie. 7 p.m. \$5. For information go to [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

**8 Mar** – Lecture, “Confederate Blockade of the Potomac,” at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave. Manassas. 7 p.m. Free (donations welcome). For information call 703-792-4754.

**10 Mar** – Workshop, “Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor,” at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site in Alexandria. 1 p.m. \$10. For reservations call 703-746-4848 or link to [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**15 Mar** – Lecture, “Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South,” at the Lincoln Cottage. Reception at 6 p.m. and lecture at 6:30 p.m. \$10 reception/\$10 Lecture. For details go to [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org).

**17 Mar**—“Outfitting the Army for War, CS & US Infantry Accoutrements of 1861 & 1862.” In-depth discussion on the proper outfitting for Civil War living historians. Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave. Manassas. 10:00 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Call 703-792.4754

**18 Mar** – Hike, covering Ft. Stevens battlefield beginning at Battleground Cemetery, 6600 Georgia Ave. NW. 1 p.m. Free. For information call 202-426-7723 or link to [www.nps.gov/cwdw](http://www.nps.gov/cwdw).

**18 Mar** – “Spring Drill Day” infantry and artillery training at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free with park admission. For info go to [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**22 Mar** – Conference, “Leadership and Generalship in the Civil War,” annual Virginia signature event, at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. For registration go to [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org).

**22 Mar** – Lecture, “Return to Bull Run, an Author’s Reflections on the Battle and the Book,” with John Hennessy, at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave. Manassas. 7 p.m. Free (donations welcome). For information call 703-792-4754.

**23 Mar** – Guided tours of the Kernstown battlefield south of Winchester. Meet at the Pritchard-Grimm Farm, (610 Battle Park Dr., Winchester) at 4 p.m. Free. For info go to [www.nps.gov/cebe](http://www.nps.gov/cebe).

**23 Mar** – “Lexington’s Civil War,” special tours of Lexington’s Civil War sites including VMI and the Stonewall Cemetery. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. VMI Dress Parade at 4:30 p.m. Free. Go to [www.stonewalljackson.org](http://www.stonewalljackson.org).

**24 Mar** – “The Union Army Comes to Fairfax – Soldiers at Blenheim in March 1862,” includes those who signed their names at Blenheim. Living history and talk at 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Noon – 4 p.m. Free. For info call 703-591-0560.

**24 Mar** – Lecture, “Confederate Blockade of the Potomac,” at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas. 7p.m. Free (Donations welcome). For information call 703-792-4754.

**24 Mar** – Tours and more on the Rose Hill section of the Kernstown battlefield (1850 Jones Road, Winchester). 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5. Go to [www.shenandoahmuseum.org](http://www.shenandoahmuseum.org).

**24 Mar** – “Unheralded Heroines: Women in the Civil War,” at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (tours begin on the hour). \$5. For information call 703-367-7872.

**24 Mar** – “Basement to Attic Tour” of Liberia Plantation Civil War Headquarters in Manassas. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$15. For reservations call 703-368-1873.

**25 Mar** – Lecture, “The Potomac Frontier: The Mosby Heritage Area in the Winter of 1861” at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway (route 50), Aldie. 3 p.m. \$5. Link to [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

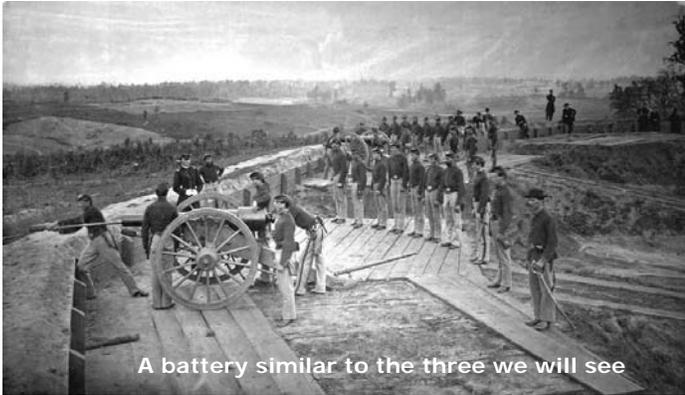
## LEE’S RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG TO WILLIAMSPORT WAGON TRAIL OF WOUNDED

Guided Bus Tour Led By  
Author and Historian Steven French  
**Friday, July 13, 2012 2:00 P.M.**  
Presented by the Town of Williamsport, MD

Gettysburg-Fairfield-Greencastle-Cearfoss-Pinestump Road-Marion—Battle sites in Williamsport July 6, 1863-Confederate pontoon crossing site. A one-of-a-kind guided tour of the Battle of Falling Waters Site at the famed Donnely House by historian, author and Donnely House owner George Franks. See where the Michigan Cavalry charged, where the Medal of Honor was won and where Pettigrew fell on July 14, 1863.

\$30 per seat in our bathroom equipped and climate controlled motor coach. Handicap seating available.

Contact Scott Bragunier at [fattypiper03@yahoo.com](mailto:fattypiper03@yahoo.com), Subject line—Retreat Tour. Funds raised go to the revitalization of Doubleday Hill and the Retreat Event.



A battery similar to the three we will see

## BRCWRT Tour—Saturday, March 17

### Stafford Civil War Park Project & White Oak Civil War Museum

**FAIRFAX ASSEMBLY POINT:** 7:45 A.M. with 8:00 A.M. departure. Meet in the parking lot in front of McDonald's at University Mall, intersection of Ox Road (Route 123) and Braddock Road (Route 620). Note: Just east of I-95 on Courthouse Road in Stafford is a McDonalds for refreshments and restrooms.

**STAFFORD ASSEMBLY & A.M. TOUR LOCATION:** 9:00 A.M. at 400 Mount Hope Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554. No restroom facilities.

**TOUR DURATION:** 9:15 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**DEGREE OF EXERTION:** We will be walking approximately 2 miles during the course of the tour to incorporate the sites.

**COST:** **A.M. TOUR** \$15 per person and is tax-deductible. Cash or checks made payable to FSCWS, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, will be collected before the tour at the park site. **P.M. TOUR** White Oak Civil War Museum—\$4 adults, \$2 seniors. The White Oak Civil War Museum is at 985 White Oak Road, Falmouth, VA 22412 about 15 minutes from the park site.

**LUNCH:** Brown bag lunch or limited nearby fast food.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Glenn Trimmer, Director, Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites. **TOUR CONTACT:** Sandra Cox, 703.675.0702 or scox@capitalav.com.

**SIGN UP AND CANCELLATION:** Sign up at the March meeting or on-line. If you sign up and can't make the tour, please don't be a "no-show." Cancel with Sandra, or if you signed up on-line, cancel on-line as tour participation is limited.

## MARCH 17 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

By Sandra Cox

In last month's issue of *The Stone Wall*, some of the sites we will see at the planned Stafford Civil War Park project were covered which include the remains of three Class A Union artillery battery fortifications (one has a block house); Army of the Potomac's 11<sup>th</sup> Corps, 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions winter quarters encampment dug-in hut and tent site remains; existing rifle pits on the perimeter; a late 1700 sandstone quarry; a pre-Civil War sandstone bridge ruin; and multi-sections of corduroy roads built by Union soldiers and engineers. Our tour guide, Glenn Trimmer, says the corduroy roads are the best he has ever seen.

After our morning tour, we will head to the **White Oak Civil War Museum** just a short 15 minutes drive. John Hennessy, chief historian for the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park says, "The White Oak Museum is perhaps the greatest locally-oriented collection of Civil War artifacts in the country." Most items were discarded or lost by troops camping in Stafford County before and after the Battles of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania in 1862-1863. Displays include weapons, ammunition, bottles, plates, canteens, tools, coins, buttons and numerous personal artifacts of Union and Confederate troops.

The Museum is housed in the old White Oak School built in 1912 as a one-room schoolhouse. White Oak native and founder, D. P. Newton, is an extraordinary man. This carpenter and relic hunter made each display case including a recreated period cannon, by hand, to the specifications used during the Civil War. He also built Civil War winter huts as part of the indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Many BRCWRT members have visited the museum in the past and always enjoy a return visit. For several years now, the museum has benefited from donations from our organization. We also share another common bond. Last year the BRCWRT was honored at the Civil War Trust's annual conference as its round table of the year. At that same conference, D. P. and his museum received the Discovery Trail Site of the Year award.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to see the Stafford Civil War Park project and the White Oak Civil War Museum.

### Civil War Trust (CWT) Annual Park Clean Up Day—BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD-MARCH 31

Join the staff at Bristoe Station Battlefield and the CWT from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at History for Park Day 2012. Park Day is a nationwide event that encourages Civil War enthusiasts to help maintain, restore and preserve Civil War sites through volunteerism. Come out and join us for a fun and rewarding day of work at Bristoe Battlefield. Projects will include litter pick up, cleaning cemeteries and trail maintenance throughout the 133-acre park. Wear sturdy work shoes, bring gloves and remember sunscreen. Tools and snacks will be provided. Meet in the parking lot off Iron Brigade Avenue. Please no pets. The Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA 20136, (703) 366-3049.

## CAMPAIGNS OF A NON-COMBATANT

By Bob Eldridge

George Alfred Townsend, the youngest and one of the most prolific and well-known Civil War correspondents, received his first assignment for the *New York Herald* in March 1862. He was assigned to cover the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps encampment around Hunter's Mill in Fairfax County, Virginia. Townsend devotes the first five chapters of his book *Campaigns of a Non-Combatant* describing riding a decrepit horse across Chain Bridge, up what today is known as Georgetown Pike, through Langley, on to Great Falls, and then over to Hunter Mill Road.



Townsend was born on January 30, 1841 in Georgetown, Delaware. His father was a Methodist circuit rider, so the family moved frequently around the Delmarva Peninsula, before settling in Philadelphia in 1853. While in high school Townsend wrote actively for school publications. When he graduated in 1860, he was offered a job on *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The following year he became city editor and drama critic for *The Philadelphia Press*. When the *New York Herald* offered him the position as a reporter in the field with the Army of the Potomac, Townsend jumped at the opportunity.

After several days with Gen. George McCall's Division at Hunter's Mill, Townsend made his way to Fortress Monroe and followed Gen. George McClellan's Army during the Peninsula Campaign. After several months he suffered a severe attack of "Chickahominy fever," also known as typhus, which nearly killed him. To recuperate he set sail for England in the fall of 1862. He spent about nine months in England then went over to the European continent and roamed around until late 1864, when he returned to America. While overseas he made a living by lecturing and writing for newspapers and magazines.

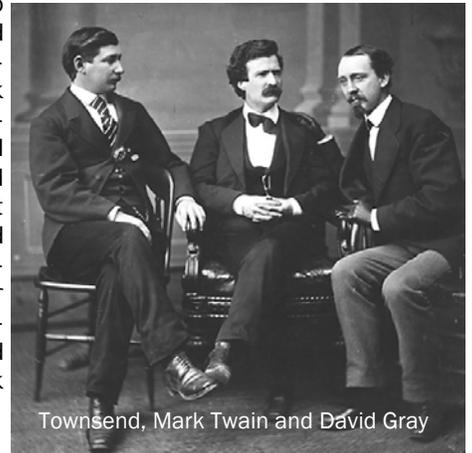
Townsend returned to the front as a correspondent in time to cover some of the last battles of the Civil War. He filed stories during the siege of Petersburg and was one of the first correspondents to enter the captured capital of Richmond. On March 31, 1865 he was the only correspondent present at the Battle of Five Forks as he conveyed word of the Union Army's decisive victory. Townsend was back in Washington, D.C. in April 1865 and was reportedly at the deathbed of President Lincoln as the President's life ebbed away after the shooting at Ford's Theater. He was so moved by that event that he wrote a book entitled *The Life, Crime, and Capture of John Wilkes Booth*.

In 1866 Townsend went back to Europe to cover the Austro-Prussian War. It was during this period that

he rushed into print his Civil War memoirs and his reflections on his two-year journey in Europe during the war. His book *Campaigns of a Non-Combatant: and His Romaunt Abroad During the War* is a personal narrative that focuses on everyday people caught up in war rather than on military heroes and battle scenes. In 1950, the University of North Carolina Press republished the book as "Rustics in Rebellion".

Returning once again to America in 1867, Townsend settled in Washington, D.C., choosing the capital because he wanted to report on political news and issues. Throughout the 1860s and 1870s his columns, articles, and letters appeared in newspapers throughout the United States. He used various pen names but his favorite was "Gath." Townsend produced some twenty books and scores of poems and essays during his 40-year career after the Civil War. As a journalist, he was known to dramatize, exaggerate, and manufacture conversation freely. Despite that, his nationally syndicated newspaper column of political and social commentary was very popular.

One spring day in 1891, Townsend was walking down a street in Washington, D.C. when he noticed a signboard for Mathew Brady's Photography Studio. Townsend, who had met Brady and sat for a photograph with Mark Twain years earlier, was intrigued that Brady was still alive so he went into the studio and reintroduced himself to the 67-year old American legend. Brady told him that Mark Twain had visited him only a few days before.



Townsend, Mark Twain and David Gray

Townsend ended up writing a two-column interview of Mr. Brady, which was printed in the *New York World* on April 12, 1891. The article headline was "Still Taking Pictures."

In 1884, Townsend purchased land at Crampton's Gap, near Burkittsville, Maryland, and established an estate which he named Gapland. It was on this estate, in 1896, that he built the only national memorial to Civil War correspondents. Located near the Antietam Battlefield, the memorial arch bears the names of 157 correspondents and artists. After Townsend's death in 1914, and following a succession of other owners, the estate was deeded to the Maryland State Department of

**See TOWNSEND, Page 9**

## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Unusual Burial Structures At West Point

By Janet Greentree

#### Union General Egbert Ludovicus Viele



Walking in the back gate of the West Point Cemetery with BRCWRT member Gwen Wyttenbach and her daughter Debbie, we passed by two very unusual structures in the cemetery. The first one was an Egyptian pyramid complete with two sphinxes in front. Inside is a recumbent statue of Union General Egbert Ludovicus Viele. To the left of Viele's structure was a huge white gazebo in memory of Union General Daniel Butterfield.

Ms. Rebelle has done research on General Viele but has been unable to find out why he is buried in a pyramid. His is the third grave that I've seen in the form of a pyramid. John Core, one of Mosby's Rangers, is buried in an even bigger pyramid in Norfolk. When walking through Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, SC, I saw one there as well. The interesting thing that I discovered is that the general was extremely afraid of being buried alive. That seemed to be a common fear in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He had a buzzer and light installed in his coffin that connected directly to the caretaker's house on the premises. The second interesting thing is that this buzzer was connected for twenty years after his death. Unfortunately for the general, he did not revive and never rang the buzzer.



General Viele was born on June 17, 1825 in Waterford, New York. He was the son of State Senator John L. Viele. After graduating with honors from the Albany Academy, he entered West Point and graduated 30<sup>th</sup> in the class of 1847. Classmates included Union Generals Romeyn Ayres, Ambrose Burnside, John Gibbon, and Orlando Willcox. Confederate Generals Henry Heth and A.P. Hill were also in the class of 1847. He

was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the Second United States Infantry. After serving in the Mexican War, he established Camp Crawford in Laredo, Texas. In 1853 he resigned from the Army and became the state engineer of New Jersey in 1855. One of his first jobs was to survey the area of Central Park in New York City and submit a design for the park. His original design had four roads going into the park. In 1856 he was appointed engineer-in-chief of Central Park and submitted plans for Prospect Park in Brooklyn, NY.

In 1860 he re-entered the Army with the Seventh New York and became a brigadier general of U.S. Volunteers in 1861. He was in command of the Union forces during the siege of Fort Pulaski in Savannah. Later in 1862, he was appointed Military Governor of Norfolk. He resigned again from the army in October, 1863 to work as a civil engineer in New York City. One of Viele's greatest accomplishments is the *Sanitary and Topographical Atlas of the City and Island of New York* published in 1874. This map is still called the Viele Map and used today by engineers building new buildings in the city. It was used at the World Trade Center site when it was constructed in 1973. The map shows his surveys of the steams, marshes, and the coastline of the city. Over top of the colored map is the street grid of the city. Engineers today state that the map will probably never be updated as it would be practically impossible to trace all the streams today. Viele also developed plans for the subway system in New York.

General Viele helped design the Post Cemetery at West Point. His grave, even though in the back of the cemetery, is very prominent. The General's wife thought the pair of sphinxes guarding the mausoleum was too buxom so they were thrown in the Hudson River. More modest new sphinxes were made per his wife's request. Someone rescued one of the sphinxes and it resides behind one of the quarters at West Point. The general died in New York City on April 22, 1902.

#### Union General Daniel Butterfield

Daniel Adams Butterfield's final resting place is below an elaborate gazebo at West Point. The curious thing about his burial is that he never went to West Point. He was a Medal of Honor winner so most likely that is the reason he is buried there.



Butterfield was born October 31, 1831 in Utica, New York. He graduated from Union College in Schenectady, NY in 1849. He was originally employed by the American Express Company founded by his father, John Warren Butterfield. The elder Butterfield was also the owner of the Overland Mail Company, telegraph lines, and two

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different modes of transportation including stagecoaches and steamship lines.

On April 16, 1861, shortly after Fort Sumter fell, Butterfield joined the Army in Washington, DC as a first sergeant. He was given a commission as a colonel in the 12<sup>th</sup> New York Militia later becoming the 12<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. His unit was the first to cross the Long Bridge into Virginia. In July, 1861 he commanded a brigade and was appointed a brigadier general in September, 1861. He joined McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign and fought at the Seven Days Battles at Gaines Mill where he was wounded seizing the colors of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers. In 1892 he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads: *"Seized the colors of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers at a critical moment and, under a galling fire of the enemy, encouraged the depleted ranks to renewed exertion."* While recuperating from his wounds at Harrison's Landing, VA, Butterfield experimented with bugle calls and is credited with the composition of Taps. Taps was written to replace the firing of three rifle volleys at the end of burials during battle. Shortly thereafter, both sides used Taps, and it is still in use today as the official bugle call.



Butterfield was a brigade commander at Second Bull Run and Antietam, and became a division commander and V Corps commander at Fredericksburg. His corps went through the city of Fredericksburg taking fire from Marye's Heights. When General Joseph Hooker became the commander of the Army of the Potomac, Butterfield became his chief of staff in January 1863. He was promoted to major general in March 1863. Hooker and Butterfield became close friends. Butterfield was disliked by many of his colleagues. After Hooker was replaced by General George Meade before the battle of Gettysburg, Meade retained Butterfield as his chief of staff even though he distrusted him. Butterfield was again wounded by a spent artillery shell at Gettysburg on the third day of battle. Meade removed him as his chief of staff. When he returned to duty as Hooker's chief of staff, he then commanded II corps in the Army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga. He led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the XX Corps in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, then was sent to Vicksburg, and later commanded the harbor forces in New York before the war ended.

President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Butterfield as assistant treasurer of the United States. He was involved in the Black Friday gold scandal during the Grant administration in 1869. General Butterfield died in Cold Spring, New York on July 17, 1901. The Butterfield Paramedic Institute, a former hospital, in Cold Spring, NY is named for him. There is also a statue of him in Sakura Park in Manhattan.

## TOWNSEND from Page 7



War Correspondents Memorial Arch

Forests and Parks in 1949. The estate was renamed Gathland State Park, using Townsend's popular pen name "Gath." The park honors George Alfred Townsend as one of America's most important journalists and novelists of the Reconstruction Era.

Sources:

- 1) Campaigns of A Non-Combatant, George Alfred Townsend, 1966, reprinted 1982 Time-Life Books
- 2) Rustics in Rebellion, University of North Carolina Press, 1950
- 3) University of Delaware, Special Collection Department, George Alfred Townsend Collection
- 4) What "Gath" wrought?, Jerry A. Shields, Article for Collecting Delaware Books, 1993
- 5) The Revolutionary College Project website, Washington College, Notable Alumni
- 6) Blue & Gray Magazine, Vol XV, Issue 3, Feb 1998
- 7) Mathew Brady, Historian with a Camera, James D. Horan, Crown Publishers, Inc. New York, 1955. Photo from Townsend, Twain and Gray from the Brady Collection, National Archives.



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