



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIX, Issue 8, NOVEMBER 2012

## FORMER BRCWRT PRESIDENT AND NOTED LOCAL HISTORIAN KEITH YOUNG SPEAKS ON THE "THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS APRIL 1862"

By Mark Trbovich

For our November general membership meeting and 2012 Civil War Sesquicentennial Event, we will be "damning the torpedoes" and going "full speed ahead" with our guest speaker and 2003 BRCWRT President and former Executive Board member Keith Young. We're heading south along the Mississippi River to New Orleans for a night of Civil War action brought to us by a former U.S. Navy Captain and a man who has spoken to us on various Civil War subjects throughout these many years. Keith retired from our Executive Board at the end of 2011.

Keith was born in Colorado and raised in Arizona. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and retired with the rank of Captain. During his distinguished career, he served as the skipper of a nuclear attack submarine.

Our guest speaker developed an active interest in American history at an early age. His interest in the Civil War came from the fact that he had two great grandfathers that served during that conflict – one on each side. This interest led him to write two books for family members that covered their Civil War service.

Keith was the unit histories section advisor for the CompuServe Civil War Forum. He also was a contributor to the Library of Congress *Civil War Desk Reference* published in 2002. For the past several years, Keith served as co-chairman of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Graves Registration Committee. In 2006, this committee completed its project objective of identifying the names and units of many of the Civil War soldiers and other military veterans buried in the two cemeteries on the grounds of this historic Washington D.C. hospital.

November 8 is the date you won't want to miss. Members are encouraged to meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill for dinner and to visit with Keith. Please come early to the library to fellowship and to get a good seat. Hope to see you then!

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**THURS., NOVEMBER 8, 2012**  
**7:00 P.M. Centreville Library**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Keith Young**

**TOPIC:**

**"The Battle of New Orleans  
April 1862"**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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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 ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013 issue**, e-  
mail articles by 9:00 a.m., MONDAY, November 19, to  
Sandra Cox at scox@capitalav.com. If acknowledge-  
ment 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 **DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2012 issue**  
**advertisers**, click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at  
<http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon,  
Monday, November 12 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 MEETING

**DECEMBER 13**

**SPEAKER:**  
**Don Ernsberger**

**TOPIC:**  
**Meade's Break Through at**  
**Fredericksburg,**  
**Battle of Fredericksburg**  
**December 13, 1862**

A sesquicentennial event lecture.



### 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 High-  
way from the library.



## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

The Thanksgiving month is upon us, and we give thanks for all we have been blessed with throughout the year. What a year it has been for the BRCWRT and all the 2012 Civil War Sesquicentennial events for which we volunteered, participated and enjoyed. Memories for a lifetime!

Sadly, we are coming to the end of Dale Maschino's seven years as our BRCWRT Executive Committee secretary, Sandra Cox's seven years as editor for our wonderful and outstanding newsletter, and Ken Jones' six years as lecture media administrator and webmaster of our wonderful and outstanding Web site. I personally want to thank all of them for their service to the BRCWRT throughout the many years. We will miss their efforts. We must step up and fill those shoes, and I have no doubt that we will by the end of the year. Again, thank you so much Dale, Sandra and Ken. When you see them at the next meeting, be sure to thank them also for the service they gave us over the years and for helping to make our BRCWRT the 2011 CWT Round Table of the year.

November will mark the last month before our 2013 BRCWRT election of Executive Officers that will be held at our December 13, 2012 general membership meeting. Thank you so much, John De Pue, for stepping up once again to be the 2013 Nominating Committee. Please see John if you would like to serve.

I can again tell you our membership increased a good amount this year, and we are closing in on 240 members. Keep putting out the good word to family and friends and tell them our round table would like to meet them. Continue to encourage young folks to come to the lectures, because they are the future of this outstanding organization.

Thank you again for all who came out to the October lecture on the Battle of South Mountain and the Antietam Campaign brought to us in an outstanding fashion by **NPS Ranger John Hoptak**. I really enjoyed



Photo by Janet Greentree

John's energy and the way he made you feel you were fighting rock to rock along those passes trying to stem the advance or drive the foe from them. Truly outstanding! John also brought his excellent books to sell to the membership. We'll have to have John

back again in the future for sure. This was a highly attended event and truly outstanding in content and presentation. Hope to get the audio portions up on the Web site in the next few months.

We are continuing our funding of \$1,500 to edit and index BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County: Part 1 1861-1862*. We are also happy to report that member Bob Hickey is continuing to sell his raffle tickets for the John Paul Strain matted and framed print, *Thompson's Station, Tennessee, March 5, 1863*, when outnumbered, Confederate BG Nathan Bedford Forrest led the attack on Federal forces. Proceeds will also support the book's editing and indexing effort. The raffle will conclude on November 8 with the drawing at the Copper Canyon Grill before our monthly meeting. Ed has already given the copyright for the book to the BRCWRT.

In closing, you will want to come out and hear Keith Young's excellent presentation and to fellowship with our great members. Please bring some more Civil War books to donate; the sales have been a great success. This will be another Sesquicentennial event battle-field lecture even though we are a few months late. Enjoy the Fall cooler weather and join us on November 8, at 5:00 p.m. for supper at the Copper Canyon Grill and at 7:00 p.m. for the meeting.

God Bless all of you.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER Patrick Lennon

In addition to writing the article on Page 4, Patrick is the destination marketing manager for Visit Fairfax.



## BRCWRT ELECTIONS


**Nominations for 2013 BRCWRT Executive Committee Officers began at our October 11 meeting and will end at our November 8 meeting. Election of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary will be held at the general membership meeting on Dec. 13.**

**So far the following have stepped forward. Seeking re-election for President is Mark Trbovich, and for Treasurer is Mark Knowles. Running for Vice President is Rob Orrison and for Secretary is John Pearson.**

**Should you wish to run for one of these offices, please contact election chairman, John De Pue, at [jfdepue@comcast.net](mailto:jfdepue@comcast.net), or call 703.791.3389.**




## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CIVIL WAR TRAILS MARKER DEDICATION CENTREVILLE DAY 2012



### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH


★ ★ ★

*Still Faithful after the Ravages of War*



Passing armies occupied and fortified Centreville, positioned between Washington, D.C., and Manassas Junction, beginning in July 1861 when Confederate and Union forces met during the war's first significant campaign. As American and British journalists sought to understand the First Battle of Manassas and define the character of its combatants, the "desecration" of "the little Episcopal church on the hill" that once stood here became newsworthy.

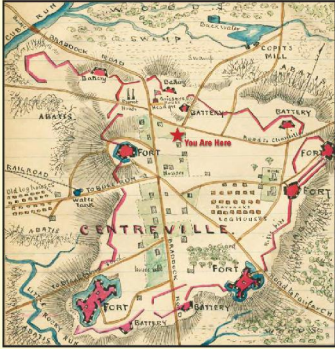
Days after the defeat of the Union army, correspondents for the Richmond Dispatch reported that Saint John's church was covered with drawings and insults to the Confederacy. A British journalist wrote he was horrified that "a building devoted to the worship of the Omnipotent had been desecrated and polluted by the enemy." The New York Times denied that Federal soldiers



*Centreville, abandoned Confederate winter quarters, March 1862, with St. John's Church on far right horizon - Courtesy Library of Congress*


were responsible. In a front-page story, a Times correspondent described his visit to the church before the battle, and pointed to evidence of abuse by Southern soldiers stationed in Centreville prior to the Federal advance. The church vandals, he concluded, were those who had first desecrated "the altars of patriotism." This was not the last church that would fall victim to the vandals of one side or the other.

The little church was destroyed later in the war, as were many houses, farms, and trees around Centreville. Describing the town in his Sketchbook, Alexander Gardner wrote, "War crushed it. ... Scarcely a vestige of its former self remains." In 1872, the parishioners completed the church that stands before you. A key-hole visible in the ceiling suggests that they scavenged wood, including doors, from Centreville's many ruins.



*Plan of Federal works, Centreville - Courtesy Library of Congress*

A mile southwest of here, Confederate soldiers Dennis Corcoran and Michael O'Brien were the first to be executed for mutiny. They were re-interred here in the St. John's churchyard in 1978. The remains of unknown Confederate soldiers killed in the battle of Dranesville on December 22, 1861, are also buried here.



*St. John's Church, reconstructed about 1870, 1902 photo - Courtesy Library of Congress*

By Patrick Lennon

The dedication ceremony was a featured event during Centreville Day 2012 and took place on the main showmobile stage, which was located in the St. John's Episcopal Church parking lot during the festival. The marker, entitled, "Still Faithful After the Ravages of War," focuses on journalists' competing accounts of the desecration of Saint John's Episcopal Church following First Manassas. In presenting, equally, the Confederate and Union accounts of what happened at the church; the text intentionally invites multiple perspectives and interpretations. The enduring faith of Saint John's parishioners, who re-built the church after the war, is also described.

The Reverend Howard Kempself of Saint John's Church opened the event with a thoughtful prayer. After the prayer, elected officials Congressman Frank Wolf (Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District), Delegate Tim Hugo (Virginia's 40<sup>th</sup> House District) Delegate David Bulova (Virginia's 37<sup>th</sup> House District), Fairfax County Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke of the importance of preserving the area's history and thanked the Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and all other participants in the development of the marker for their hard work.

Next Fairfax County History Commissioner for the Sully District Debbie Robison gave a fantastic overview of Civil War history in the area showcasing Centre-

ville's unique strategic position during the war, particularly to journalists covering the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Ms. Robison also delighted the crowd by giving a "fast forward" history overview of Civil War activity surrounding Centreville.

Lastly, the author, speaking on behalf of the BRCWRT's past President John McAnaw, gave his thoughts on the Civil War Trails' impact on tourism in the area. The Civil War Trails markers should be viewed as both tourism assets and educational tools for the county. All Civil War Trails markers are featured on both county tourism literature, as well as the Virginia Civil War Trails map guides. Nearly 100,000 of the state map guides have been distributed to potential tourists in the last year alone.

The ceremony then continued at the actual marker location where Reverend Kempself blessed the marker with holy water using a small branch cut from native boxwood found on site. A ribbon cutting took place immediately following the blessing by all participants who spoke at the dedication.

New Civil War Trails markers are on schedule to be placed in every supervisory district throughout Fairfax County by the end of the year as part of a legacy project being conducted by the county's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. A total of 16 new markers will be erected as part of the project by the end of 2014.

In addition to these signs, the BRCWRT has set aside funds for installation of a Civil War Trails marker for McLean's Ford.

## 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)*

**1 Nov** – "Lincoln's Union in Peril," at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Dr. in Hagerstown, MD. 7 p.m. \$5 Fee [www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org).

**2 Nov** – Lecture, "From Unison to Fredericksburg," at the Unison United Methodist Church (on the anniversary of the battle). 7:30 p.m. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

**3 Nov** – Lecture, "Behind the Lines: Confederate Hospitals in the Wilderness after the Battle of Chancellorsville," at the Lake of the Woods Church, 1 Church Lane, Locust Grove (near routes 3 and 29 west of Fredericksburg). 1 p.m. Free. [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org).

**3 Nov** – Bus Tour, "Mr. Lincoln's Civil and Political Washington," with Ed Bearss. 8 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Begins at 550 C St. SW. \$179. A Smithsonian Associates tour. [www.smithsonianassociates.org](http://www.smithsonianassociates.org). Click on civil war.

**4 Nov** – Lecture, "Small Arms in the Civil War," at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. 2 p.m. Free, donations welcome. [www.brandystationfoundation.org](http://www.brandystationfoundation.org).

**10 Nov** – Conference, "Courage and Conflict in Fairfax County," at the Sherwood Conference Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. Fairfax. Speakers, living history, books, exhibits. 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$20. 703-322-1811.

**10 Nov** – "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee," tales from the Mosby Heritage Area, in the village of Aldie. 7:30 p.m. \$5. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

**10 Nov** – Kids program, "Flying High With Thaddeus Lowe," at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 1 p.m. Free. [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org).

**11 Nov** – Living history, Veterans Day commemoration at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

**15 Nov** – Lecture, "Prelude to Vicksburg," at the Carroll Community College in Westminster. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$35. For details and registration call 410-386-8100.

**16 Nov** – "Civil War Christmas" at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. Period music, Santa, and refreshments. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$2 per person, \$6 max per family. 703-583-6904.

**16 Nov** – "An Evening With the Painting," a special look at the famous Cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park. 5 p.m. \$20.

**17 Nov** – Walking tour of Civil War Campsite at Montpelier, home of James Madison, near Orange. 2 p.m. [www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org).

**17 Nov** – Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade at 1 p.m. Also, illuminations at the Soldiers Nat'l Cemetery (5:30-9:30 p.m.) [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).

**17-18 Nov** – Civil War Gun Show, thousands of artifacts and arms available for sale at the Richmond, VA Raceway Complex. [www.mikekentshows.net](http://www.mikekentshows.net).

**18 Nov** – Lecture, "Does Anybody Really Know What Time it Is?" Civil War confusion results in the evolution of Standard Time in the U.S. At the Mt. Zion Church 4309 John Mosby Hwy. (Rte 50) in Aldie. 3 p.m. \$5. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

**19 Nov** – Gettysburg Address Anniversary Observation with speakers and other ceremonies in Gettysburg. [www.gettysburg.edu/civilwar/institute](http://www.gettysburg.edu/civilwar/institute).

**30 Nov** – Holiday Open House and Candlelight Tours at the Stonewall Jackson Headquarters in Winchester. 7-9 p.m. 540-662-6550.



## SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS FOR THE 1862 BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG

**17 Nov - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**—"Years of Anguish: Struggle at Fredericksburg." The inaugural event of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg, this speaker's forum will feature three of the foremost experts on the battle. This free program will take place at the Fredericksburg Baptist Church, located at 1019 Princess Anne Street.

**7 Dec— 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** "Battle of Fredericksburg" Bus tours. Join NPS historians for a 4-hour tour encompassing the entire battlefield. Fee. **3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** "The Slaughter Pen" - See the portion of the battlefield where 6 Union soldiers won the Medal of Honor. **7:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.** "Prelude to Battle" - Frank O-Reilly sets the stage for the campaign.

**8 Dec— 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** "Fire in the Streets" - Walk the city blocks where Union and Confederate soldiers fought for control of the town. **10 a.m. to Noon** "Protecting Jackson's Left" - Stroll the area around Mannsfield's slave cabins, a Confederate artillery position that anchored the left end of "Stonewall" Jackson's line. **1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** "Across the Bloody Plain" - Follow the steps of Union soldiers as they advanced toward Marye's Heights, and for many, to their deaths.

**See FREDERICKSBURG, Page 11**



## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Captain/Brevet Lt. Colonel  
Myles Walter Keogh**

By Janet Greentree

"Unsurpassed in dash" is the way the late Brian Pohanka described Myles Keogh. According to Keogh's citizenship papers, he was 6' ½" tall, blue eyes, brown hair, and had a florid complexion. It seems that Brian had a lifelong interest in Keogh and the Battle of Little Big Horn. This will be my second article on Myles Keogh but with a little more depth than the first one published in the February 2010 *Stone Wall*.



In August, Ms. Rebelle and her sister went to the Little Big Horn Battlefield. Little Big Horn was on my bucket list, and if you haven't been there, it should be on your bucket list as well. The terrain remains unchanged from that fateful day of June 25, 1876, when Custer's 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry attacked a village of hostile Indians camped along the Little Big Horn River.

My goal was to find the death marker site for Keogh on the battlefield and place a flag there. It turned out to be more of a challenge than I thought. Keogh's Company I was between Calhoun Hill and Last Stand Hill. He and his men died in a clump at the bottom of a hill. 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Frank Varden, Corporal John Wild, trumpeter John Patton, and others would die around Myles. Even though it had been 103 degrees the day before our visit, August 15<sup>th</sup> was cold, windy, and rainy.

We took a bus tour offered by the Crow Native Americans. Our tour guide was a Crow woman who told the story of what happened during the battle, and she also used Indian sign language to tell the story. She was very interesting, extremely knowledgeable, and you could tell she knew the oral history from her people. When I told her that I wanted to walk down to Keogh's marker, she said it would be a good day to do it as the rattlesnakes

would not be out. A park ranger had previously tried to discourage me from doing this. Nonetheless, Ms. R e b e l l e walked down the long winding path,



passing many markers of the unknown dead, until I got to the far right on the path, and there it was. Someone a long time ago had placed a 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry flag on his marker that had become very ragged. Myles Keogh now has a new U.S. flag on his marker. My sister wasn't as brave as me and remained towards the top of the path. I must say I walked very fast up and down that hill "just in case."

Myles Keogh was born March 25, 1840, in Leighlinbridge, County Carlow, Ireland to a well-to-do family. Myles had seven sisters and was the youngest of five boys. The potato famine in Ireland didn't have an effect on his family as they farmed barley, had land, and money. His father died at an early age.

In 1860, when Myles was 20 years old, he fought in the Papal Wars in Italy. After the war, Keogh was invited to be a member of the Vatican Guard. He was awarded the Order of St. Gregory and the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) medals for his Papal War service. His mother died in 1862. During that year, Secretary of State William Seward went to Europe to recruit members of the Papal Army to fight in our American Civil War. Myles and two Irish and Papal Army friends, Joseph O'Keefe and Daniel Keily, were recruited, and came to America. Keogh and Keily set sail with first class accommodations on the steamer *Kangaroo* from Liverpool on March 17, 1862. O'Keefe joined them a week later in New York City. All three men went directly to Washington to sign up for the Union Army and were given the rank of captain. They were all assigned to the staff of General James Shields on April 9, 1862. Their first battle was Port Republic, VA on June 9, 1862, where the Union forces very nearly captured General "Stonewall" Jackson. Keogh was briefly on the staff of General McClellan where he met George Armstrong Custer and his good friend Andrew Alexander. On July 31, 1862, he was assigned to the personal staff of General John Buford.

In researching Keogh, I came across a possible connection to General Kearny at the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly. There is a very likely possibility that Keogh was sent down to Difficult Run with the 9<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry to receive the Confederate ambulance bearing the body of General Kearny. Ed Wenzel and I are still working on verifying this fact with the National Archives, but it is interesting to know that Keogh perhaps had a connection to Ox Hill/Chantilly.

Keogh fought at 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas with Buford, was on the staff of General McClellan at Antietam, fought at Fredericksburg, Brandy Station, Upperville, was on Buford's staff at Gettysburg, fought at Funkstown, Williamsport, Bristoe Station, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta Campaign, and marched in the Grand Review in Washington. He was assigned to General Stoneman's staff after the death of General Buford on December 16, 1863. In 1864, he and Stoneman were captured trying to liberate Andersonville and were sent to Charleston,

**See MS. REBELLE, Page 7**



## MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 6]

South Carolina city jail. General Sherman facilitated their release. After the war, he was assigned to General Stoneman in Knoxville where he shared quarters with Emory Upton and also did court-martial duty in Nashville. His friend Joseph O'Keefe was wounded at Brandy Station and then wounded again at Five Forks. O'Keefe died at Providence Hospital in Washington on May 30, 1865, with Keogh by his side. His friend Daniel Keily would die in Louisiana of yellow fever in 1867.

On May 4, 1866, Keogh was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry but did not serve with them. Instead he received a commission as captain of Co. I, 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, under Brevet Major George Armstrong Custer. The Crow woman who gave us the bus tour at Little Big Horn said Keogh was the bravest of the brave. Many Indian accounts have Keogh fighting to the end with tenacity and bravery. Most of his men and Custer's men shot their horses and used them for cover. Keogh did not kill his horse Comanche. There are reports that Keogh took cover between Comanche's front legs and died with the reins in his hand. Even though he was stripped naked by the Indians, his body was not mutilated like the others. Since he had the



**GUSTAVE KERN WITH COMANCHE**

was found with bullet wounds and seven arrows in his body. He was the only survivor of Little Big Horn other than the Indians.

Comanche was taken to Fort Lincoln and cared for by Gustave Kern who would later die at Wounded Knee. Comanche had seven scars – four to the back of his shoulders, one on each of his back hind legs, and another through a hoof. General Samuel Sturgis, whose own son James was killed at Little Big Horn, wrote a three paragraph General Order No. 7 detailing the care of Comanche. He was never to be ridden again, never to work, to live in a comfortable stable fitted for him, and would be saddled, bridled, and draped in mourning with boots reversed and paraded at special events and on the anniversary of Little Big Horn. Comanche would die at Fort Riley, Kansas on November 7, 1891, when he was around 29 years old. His remains are now preserved and on display at the University of Kansas in Lawrence where he has 120,000 visitors a year. He is one of only two horses to be buried with full military honors. The other horse honored was Blackjack, the caparisoned, riderless horse of the 3rd U.S. Infantry

Regiment—The Old Guard, who took part in the funerals of Presidents Hoover, Kennedy, Johnson, and hundreds of others at Arlington National Cemetery.

Keogh seemed to have a keen sense of humor as evidenced by the pictures taken of him. The one below is on the front steps of Custer's home at Fort Lincoln where Keogh sits on the front porch (left of Nellie



Wadsworth front middle) holding a ladies fan in his hand. Another has him with General Andrew Alexander while he is tugging at Alexander's

beard. There is a picture of him standing on the very edge of Lookout Mountain with a group of soldiers. He also lent one of his Papal medals to one of the Wadsworth sisters who donned the uniforms of Tom Custer and W.W. Cooke. Emma and Nellie both had medals on in the picture with Tom Custer's two Medals of Honor. Myles loved the ladies but never married.

Myles Walter Keogh was disinterred at Little Big Horn in 1877 and is buried at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York, between his two friends Generals Andrew Alexander and Emory Upton. His wishes were to be buried in Auburn as he spent many happy times with the Throop Martin and Alexander families at Willowbrook. The inscription on his stone reads: "Sleep Soldier! Still in Honored Rest, Your Truth and Valor Wearing; The Bravest are Among the Tenderest! The Loving are the Daring!"

Keogh's stone became discolored over the years. Brian Pohanka asked permission to clean it in 1989. Brian also had Keogh's marker at Little Big Horn moved 65 feet after archaeological digs found the base of his original marker. Keogh's medals were said to have been secured by Frederick Benteen after the battle and sent to his family in Ireland. Keogh had taken out a \$10,000 life insurance policy on his life in October 1875. The money was sent to his family in Ireland. Along with Brian Pohanka's interest in Myles Keogh, the late Gene Autry owned several items belonging to Keogh which are displayed in the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles. There is also a stained glass window dedicated to Keogh in St. Joseph's Church in Tinryland, County Carlow, Ireland. His family still lives at Clifden Castle which Myles gave to his sister Margaret.

NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is travelling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far she has located and photographed 384-168 Confederate and 216 Union. You may contact her at [jlqtree@erols.com](mailto:jlqtree@erols.com).



## THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph Swanson

The Maryland Campaign of 1862 has everything one could want in a Civil War battle—grand strategy, superior maneuvering, creative battle tactics, a huge measure of luck, and carnage, especially carnage. A new book, *The Long Road to Antietam: How the Civil War Became Revolution* by Richard Slotkin (Liveright, 2012) takes a fresh approach to the history of this pivotal conflict that will strengthen your overall understanding of the political and military forces battering our nation and our beleaguered President Lincoln, in the early war years.

The purists among us may not fully appreciate Slotkin's treatment, which is not exclusively a battle history. Instead, his title, *The Long Road to Antietam*, is the hint that he intends to place Antietam into the context of the times and the national turmoil in 1862. Slotkin opens with a most insightful review of events and personalities during the first seventeen months of war in the eastern theater. He moves briskly through the cause-effect relationships that shaped the early national response to civil war but hangs new and interesting analyses onto the basic historical structure we already know.

That analysis can best be summed up in three words—George Brinton McClellan. Slotkin thoroughly dissects McClellan from his essentially empty victories in Western Virginia, through his inept performance during the Peninsula and Seven Days campaigns and all his juvenile fits of pique. How could this pompous empty shirt ever have been mistaken for a competent military leader? (OK, in fairness, he was a good organizer.) Most revealing, McClellan refused to abandon his wild overestimates of Confederate troop strength even years later when competent sources had long documented the correct numbers.

McClellan's legacy would have been much better served had he not been such a prolific letter-writer. He shot his pen off in a most irresponsible manner to his wife, newspaper editors, even the President. Of course, without this personal record we would not enjoy such a definitive insight into events transpiring in the upper echelons of the army during these critical early months of war.

Lincoln, no fool, saw through McClellan, particularly after receiving the "Harrison's Landing letter" containing McClellan's political and military views on the war. Lincoln never credited these wholly impractical recommendations. The cheek of this guy to lecture the President on military (and political) matters. And in the aftermath of a military defeat, no less! But then this

was a guy who could not tell victory from defeat. His writings swung from fits of paranoia to a true messiah complex. Quite frankly, it appears McClellan might have been becoming mentally unhinged by late 1862.

Slotkin does not neglect Confederate strategy. In contrast to the Union, the views of Lee and Davis on the pending Maryland campaign were in complete consonance. There was every good reason for Lee to invade the north in September 1862. Paramount among these was the effort to gain Confederate national recognition from European powers. An inducement to Maryland to secede from the Union, thereby isolating Washington DC, could have been crucial to the Confederate war effort. The military goals of destroying key Pennsylvania railroads and threatening Baltimore and Washington D.C. would have had untold crippling effects on northern morale and economics.

Lee, of course fought the Maryland campaign superbly. It is considered by many, including Slotkin, as his finest work, exceeding even the Seven Days and Chancellorsville, his other best performances. His timing, his audacity, the performance of his subordinates, and the stamina of his troops can only be marveled at. Over 16 days, Lee engaged the Army of the Potomac, maneuvered, and then re-engaged in a pattern of battle that would not become standard in the war for another two years. As students, we need to review the battle periodically with new authors and new books and *The Long Road to Antietam* is an excellent opportunity. Slotkin's final chapter, "Dubious Battle: Everything Changed, Nothing Settled" is the best analysis yet of the battle and its implications for the national situation in late 1862.

With it all, the Army of Northern Virginia should have been defeated in Maryland. Only the ineptitude of McClellan prevented a rout of the Confederate army and capture of Lee and all his top generals in front of Sharpsburg. McClellan missed so many opportunities to vanquish the Southern army that it appears deliberate. We can accept that only the commander on the battlefield can see the situation whole, and we generally must defer to his judgment. However, when he finished the battle with Porter's entire Corps (12,800 men) and most of Franklin's Corps (12,000 men) unused and poised for attack, we are entitled to draw obvious conclusions.

And the "revolution" that Slotkin implies? That occurred in the mind of Abraham Lincoln. After Antietam, he realized that no basis for reunion with the rebel states, even with protection of existing "property" rights, would be possible. It must be a war of subjugation, remade on new principles actively forming in his mind, chief among these was emancipation. Until next time, keep reading.

Note: The Book Corner welcomes your comments, and especially your recommendations for outstanding books on the Civil War. Send your comments to [renataralph@gmail.com](mailto:renataralph@gmail.com).



## STEAMBOATING ON THE MISSISSIPPI

By Bob Eldridge



In late April 2012, my wife and I embarked on an eight-day journey up the Mississippi from New Orleans to Memphis aboard the *American Queen*. The six deck, 418 foot-long steamboat is the largest to ever navigate America's rivers. It has a genuine antebellum look and feel about it. Then in early October we boarded the *Queen* again and cruised for seven days down the Mississippi from St. Paul to St. Louis. We made a total of twelve stops, but I will just highlight those with significant Civil War related points of interest.

New Orleans is the home of Confederate Memorial Hall, the oldest operating museum in Louisiana. It was opened in 1891 as a repository for records, artifacts, reports, and memorabilia of the Civil War. The paper records were later moved to the Howard Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University. This is a must stop for anyone interested in Confederate Civil War history.



Our first significant stop was the city of Natchez, Mississippi. In the early 1800s, the city was a frequent stop for steamboats. It was a wealthy city and a major port for the loading of cotton bound for New Orleans, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. The city had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the United States prior to the Civil War. Although occupied by General Grant's army in 1863, Natchez survived the Civil War intact and today has some of the most extensive examples of antebellum homes in the country. The city was home to Varina Howell Davis, first lady of the Confederate States of America. There are four Confederate generals buried in the local cemetery.

The next day we arrived at Vicksburg. We were fortunate to join a bus tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park led by one of the licensed park guides. The three-hour tour started at the Visitors Center and ended at the *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum, next to the Vicksburg National Cemetery. Seeing the old Union gunboat was the highlight of the tour for me. As many of you know, our friend Ed Bearss, was responsible for saving the *Cairo* when he was a young park ranger at Vicksburg. I was pleased to see that there is a concerted effort to restore the battlefield to the way it looked in July 1863.

Of course, the removal of so many trees has stirred up some controversy, but I think it really helps to understand how difficult the terrain was for the fighting men.



The surprise of the trip for me occurred when we stopped at Helena, Arkansas. Founded in 1833, Helena is the second oldest incorporated city in Arkansas. At the southernmost tip of Crowley's Ridge, Helena provided a strategic location overlooking the river. Recognizing the strategic importance, Union forces (4,129 men) under Gen. Samuel P. Curtis, occupied Helena in July 1862, and built four hilltop batteries on the ridge. On July 4, 1863, the Confederates (7,646 men), in order to relieve pressure on Vicksburg, launched an attack on the batteries and had early success. However, the arrival of the Union gunboat *Tyler* helped turn the tide for the Union forces. The Battle of Helena resulted in 203 Union casualties and 860 Confederate losses. Long overshadowed by the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg at the same time, Helena was significant because it kept the river open for Union gunboat movement.

While in Helena, I had the chance to visit the Phillips County Museum. It offers an excellent diorama of the Battle of Helena and many artifacts. One of the people I met at the museum was Jeannie Turley, a museum board member. I asked her about the local cemetery. She volunteered to drive me to the cemetery and show me where the Confederate generals are buried. Phillips



County was home to seven Confederate generals, including Patrick Cleburne, nicknamed "Stonewall of the West," who is buried along with two fellow generals and many Confederate soldiers at the Maple Hill Cemetery. After I returned home, Ms. Turley sent an e-mail with an attachment from Doug Friedlander, the president of the local Chamber of Commerce. The document is a comprehensive study of Helena and the Civil War. One of the source documents is an article written by Ed Bearss when he was a park ranger at Vicksburg. It is titled "The Battle of Helena July 4, 1863," published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Spring 1961.

Our last stop was Memphis. Fortunately there are two interesting Civil War related parks right where

**See STEAMBOATING, Page 10**

## STEAMBOATING [Continued from Page 9]

the boat was docked. Confederate Park was built to commemorate the Battle of Memphis. When Confederate forces retreated to Mississippi after the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862, unfortified Memphis became vulnerable to attack. On June 6, 1862, a naval battle commenced on the river. Within ninety minutes the Union fleet defeated the Confederates, and Union forces held Memphis for the rest of the war. Interpretive markers highlight that battle as well as the *Sultana* disaster. The latter was a riverboat transporting former Federal prisoners of war when it exploded and sank on April 27, 1865.

Jefferson Davis Park commemorates the former Confederate president, who after his release from prison, lived in Memphis from 1869 to 1878. During that period he was president of an insurance company. The park also has signage about Virginia "Ginnie" Bethel Moon, who was a noted Southern spy.

On October 5, we began the second leg of our Mississippi River journey from St. Paul, Minnesota. Our first port stop was at Redwing, Minnesota. Here is the Oakwood Cemetery where Union Gen. Lucius F. Hubbard is buried. He joined the Army in 1861 as a private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Vol. Infantry. In December 1864, he was made a brevet brigadier general for his service in the Battle of Nashville. He was elected governor of Minnesota in 1881.

Dubuque, Iowa led us to one of the Civil War gems. After we disembarked, my wife and I left on one of the premium tours, a twenty-minute bus ride to Galena, Illinois. Once larger than Chicago, Galena was a commercial center for mining and steamboating in the mid-1800s. Today it is known primarily as the home of Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. During the Civil War, nine men from Galena rose to the rank of general. There is a local re-enactment group called the Galena Generals that was formed in 1961 as part of the Civil War Centennial Celebration.

Davenport, Iowa was our next port of call, and it also turned out to be a Civil War highlight. Like most of our stops, we had a group of local leaders greeting us as we disembarked. In this case I had a chance to chat with Mayor Bill Gluba. As a result of our conversation, he arranged for one of his staff members, Steve Ahrens, to drive me to Arsenal Island. The island lies between Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois, and houses the Rock Island Arsenal, the largest government-owned weapons manufacturing arsenal in the United States. During the Civil War, Arsenal Island was home to a large Union Army prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers (the Rock Island Prison Barracks). The prison camp was operational from December 1863 until July 1865 when the last prisoners were freed. During its years in operation, the prison camp housed over 12,400 Confederates. The only surviving remnant of the prison camp is the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery. A total of 1,964 Confederate prisoners and 125 Union guards are buried there.

Our last major stop was at Hannibal, Missouri, the home of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known worldwide by his pen name, Mark Twain. We got the opportunity to attend a performance at the Mark Twain Museum by Jim Waddell, who performs as Mark Twain. In this case he gave us Twain's personal recollections of the Civil War. We learned that Dr. J. M. McDowell was owner of what is known today as the Mark Twain cave, made famous in the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Dr. McDowell shipped munitions to the Southern cause and later became the surgeon general of the Confederate Army. Sam Clemens was a riverboat pilot when the Civil War started. The Union Army tried to get him to work for them as a river pilot, but he had other ideas. Instead, he joined the Marion County Rangers and fought in some skirmishes. In July 1861, he decided he had enough fighting and went west to Nevada with his brother.

Traveling up and down the Mississippi was a great way to get a taste of the Western Campaign. I certainly have a greater appreciation of what the troops and the officers had to go through and the importance and difficulty of river navigation.



Rock Island Confederate Cemetery



**It's time to renew  
your 2013 BRCWRT  
membership.**

**This year let's all renew by  
January to help the Executive  
Committee budget for 2013.**



## FREDERICKSBURG [Continued from Page 5]

**4 p.m. to 5 p.m.** "The Dreaded Heights" - Take a walk along Marye's Heights, the strongest position Gen. Robert E. Lee ever held.

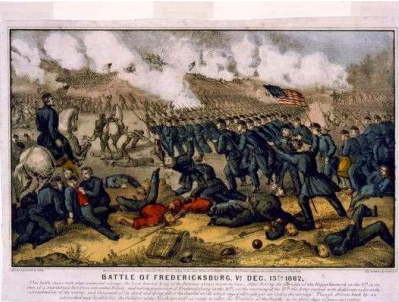
**9 Dec—9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** "Breakthrough at Prospect Hill" - A walking tour of Prospect Hill, where Union troops briefly cracked Stonewall Jackson's line. **1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** "Killing Field to Hallowed Ground"- Join NPS historians on a procession from Riverfront Park on Sophia Street ending with a special program at Marye's Heights.

**11 Dec—Noon to 1:30 p.m.** "Smoke On the Water"- A walking tour from Chatham to the Rappahannock River focuses on Union efforts to construct pontoon bridges under fire. **2 p.m. to 3 p.m.** "Changing the Face of Battle: The Crossing" - From the Fredericksburg City Dock, visit where Union soldiers crossed the river and fought to gain a foothold in town. **3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** "Fire in the Streets: Seizing the City" - Walk the streets where Union troops fought house-to-house in an effort to gain control of Fredericksburg.

**12 Dec—10 A.M. to Noon** "Yankees in the Streets" - Learn how Union troops occupied and pillaged Fredericksburg on the eve of battle.

**13 Dec—10 A.M. to Noon**

"Attacking Marye's Heights: Sacrificing to Win" - Walk the ground where early in the day, Union troops attacked Marye's Heights in an effort to draw Confederate attention away from the attacks south of town.



For complete details with tour locations and reservation information, go to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

## CENTER FOR CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHY HELPS PRODUCE SPECIAL PRY HOUSE EXHIBITION

A Center for Civil War Photography-produced digital slide program of the 3-D photos of Antietam by Alexander Gardner is the centerpiece of a special photography exhibition at the Pry House museum near the Antietam battlefield. "Bringing the Story of War to Our Doorsteps - Rediscovering Alexander Gardner's Antietam Photographs" features reproductions of Gardner's images of the dead after the battle of Antietam as well as five vintage, original Gardner Antietam prints. The exhibition also features information panels as well the digital slide show.

The exhibition was produced by Robert Kozak of Frederick Civil War Roundtable, with assistance from CCWP President Bob Zeller and Imaging Director John Richter, as well as Hood College, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and Antietam National Battlefield.

The exhibition is designed to both recreate and expound on the original October 1862 exhibition of Gardner's Antietam photos at Mathew B. Brady's New York gallery, which electrified the city. "If Brady has not brought bodies and laid them in our door-yards and along the streets, he has done something very like it," the *New York Times* reported on Oct. 20, 1862. Gardner took about 120 photographs during the Maryland campaign, including 80 in stereo, and among them all 20 of the images of the dead. The CCWP show features some of these images.

The exhibition is featured in the two upstairs rooms of the Pry House Field Hospital Museum, including the bedroom where Gen. Israel Richardson died after being wounded in the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg). The exhibition will continue at least through Dec. 1 at the Pry House, located off Route 34 in Keedysville, Md., at 18906 Shepherdstown Pike.

[www.civilwarphotography.org](http://www.civilwarphotography.org)

## BRCWRT WEBMASTER AND STONEWALL EDITOR RESIGN

By Sandra Cox

You may have heard Mark Trbovich's announcement at the October meeting or read in his President's Column (page 3) that Ken Jones, our webmaster for the past six years, is relocating to the Richmond area and will be leaving coming this spring. If you have expertise in this area and would like to volunteer, the BRCWRT needs you. Please contact Mark as soon as possible.

Thanks, Ken, for doing such a great job with our Web site, audio Pod-casts, and newsletter proof reading.

After seven years as editor of the *Stone Wall*, I find my responsibilities with our family business plus my pastoral duties have become such that I need to downsize. I am happy to report that BRCWRT member Nadine Mironchuk has offered to become our new *Stone Wall* editor. Nadine is from Chelsea, MA, and I'll tell you why she is so well qualified in the December/January issue, which will be my last. I'm sure many of you know Nadine or know of her efforts with the "Centreville Six," the six soldiers unearthed from what is now the "drive through" lane of the Centreville McDonalds. I'm excited to see Nadine take the *Stone Wall* to its next level.



## **BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

***The Stone Wall***

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

### **2013 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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**Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the Treasurer at the General Membership meeting, or mailed to:**

**Mark Knowles, BRCWRT Treasurer, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, VA 20164**

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