



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XX, Issue 6, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

**NPS HISTORIAN/RANGER ANGELA ATKINSON TO SPEAK ON THE "BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA, GA - SEPTEMBER 1863" on AUGUST 8th**

By Mark Trbovich

It is a first for the BRCWRT to have a husband and wife speak back-to-back at our monthly lectures. We will next be hearing from Angela Atkinson, wife (and fellow Gettysburg NPS Ranger) of last month's speaker, Matt Atkinson. Angela will talk about another one of the great battles of the western theater, the Battle of Chickamauga, which took place Sept. 19-20, 1863. This presentation is another one of our 150th Civil War Sesquicentennial events series.

The battle was the most significant Union defeat in the western theater, and involved the second highest number of casualties in the war, following the Battle of Gettysburg at 34,624 (16,170 Union and 18,454 Confederate).

Angela has been a National Park Service ranger/historian at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2008. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and recently completed requirements for a master's degree in history from Shippensburg University. She has worked as a park ranger/historian at several national parks, including Independence National Historical Park in Pennsylvania; Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi; and Natchez National Historical Park, also in Mississippi.

She has been a frequent guest speaker and lecturer at various Civil War seminars and roundtables in the region. Angela currently resides in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with her husband Matt and son Benjamin Lee. This is a western theater battle discussion you won't want to miss. As always, see you at the Copper Canyon Grill prior to every meeting this year at 5:00 p.m. or at the Library, prior to the calling of the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**THURSDAY, August 8, 2013**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**NPS Historian/Ranger  
ANGELA ATKINSON**

**TOPIC:**

**"BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA,  
GEORGIA - SEPTEMBER 1863"**

**THURSDAY, September 12th**

**Historian/Author**

**RONNIE A. NICHOLS**

**TOPIC:**

**"THE BATTLE OF FT. WAGNER, SC  
AND THE 54th MASSACHUSETTS"**

**HISTORIAN/AUTHOR RONNIE A. NICHOLS  
TO SPEAK ON "THE BATTLE OF FT.  
WAGNER, SC AND THE 54TH MASS." AT  
OUR SEPTEMBER 12th MEETING**

Our speaker for the following meeting will be Ronnie A. Nichols, an author, artist, historian, genealogist and Civil War re-enactor. His topic will be "The Battle of Ft. Wagner, SC and the 54th Massachusetts." The action at Ft. Wagner, also known as Battery Wagner, began with a Federal attack on July 18, 1863, led by the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, which was one of the first major American military units made up of black soldiers. Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts charged the fort on foot; Col. Shaw and many fellow 54<sup>th</sup> Mass. soldiers were killed in the assault.

Ronnie, who hails from Arkansas, has a B.A. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His Master of Fine Arts degree is from Otis/

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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 **October 2013 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 27, to - Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadinem@mindspring.com](mailto:nadinem@mindspring.com).

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **October 2013 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, September 17, to Charlie Balch at [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com).

**Support the BRCWRT in its important mission  
to educate and commemorate the battles  
and events of the Civil War**

**- place your advertisement in the *Stone Wall* -**

## BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS

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



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**September 12, 2013: Ronald Nichols, Author and Historian "Battle of Ft. Wagner, SC and the 54th Massachusetts "**

**October 10, 2013: Bradley Gottfried, Author and Historian "Battle of Bristoe Station, VA - Oct 14, 1863"**

**November 14, 2013: Gregory Mertz, Author and NPS Historian "Battle of Mine Run, VA - Nov. 1863"**

**December 12, 2013: Dr. Robert Neyland, Author and Historian "CSS Hunley - CW Submarine 1863/1864 "**

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## The President's Column

### By Mark Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

Summer is still heating up and the Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary activities at Gettysburg are still a warm and a beautiful memory for us. We are so blessed to have taken the BRCWRT on a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield on June 22, 2013 and feel the battlefield as we walked that hallowed ground.

My final stop that day, led by our excellent tour master Kevin Anastas, was the "Pickett-Pettigrew" walk to the Cemetery Ridge stone wall angle. I tell you, I felt a strong sense of sorrow on the last 200 yards of the killing field, walking towards the stone wall. The slightly-inclined march haunted by over 700 Confederate deaths made the ground feel like I was walking in a cemetery, and total reverence abounded for them. The image of Gen. Armistead running with his hat on his sword has a new meaning for me today.

tacks at the Confederate strong points on the lines were discussed in detail, with action from member participation serving as props was a first for me to see at a meeting/lecture. What great nights, and thank you again for your efforts.

The next two months will be August 8<sup>th</sup> "The Battle of Chickamauga, GA – Sept. 1863" with NPS Ranger Angela Atkinson (wife of Matt) and September 12<sup>th</sup> "The Battle of Ft. Wagner, SC, and the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts" with historian Ronnie Nichols. You won't want to miss these Sesquicentennial Anniversary battles for 1863.

Again, we are still in recruiting mode for new members for 2013; we have risen to over 225 members so far this year. Please continue to spread the word to your family and friends, students you know and potential members, that the BRCWRT is the place to join and be welcomed to a tremendous organization.

At our June 13th meeting, we hosted our first BRCWRT Scholarship Committee winner and his family, after taking them out to dinner at the Copper Canyon Grill.

It was a pleasure to introduce Taylor Hayes McConnell as  
(Con't on page 8)



NPS Ranger Matt Atkinson was August speaker at the BRCWRT meeting.

Photo by Janet Greentree



Historian Mike Block, June speaker at the BRCWRT meeting.

Photo by Janet Greentree

A huge thank you is in order for our June and July presentations and speakers. In June, "Battle of Brandy Station" historian Mike Block led us on a complete and fact-filled journey through the entire battle, enriched with many battlefield quotes, highlighting the largest cavalry battle this country has ever seen.

NPS Ranger Matt Atkinson led us through a July "Battle of Vicksburg" presentation, with an extremely enlightening look at the Vicksburg campaign and siege of the city. The Federal at-



Recipient Taylor McConnell, right, accepts the congratulations of BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich (left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Nancy Anwyll (middle).

Photo by Janet Greentree





## THE BOOK CORNER



By **Ralph G. Swanson**

You want to talk about it? So OK - let's talk about it!

The allegation that Longstreet failed to obey a "sunrise attack order" on July 2, 1863, and thereby lost the Battle of Gettysburg and, perhaps, the last fleeting opportunity for Southern independence has been hotly debated for well over 100 years. In his book *"Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg"* (Morningside Bookshop, 1982), Glen Tucker provides the most authoritative evaluation of the events and personalities surrounding this disputed issue. In this "summer of Gettysburg," it is appropriate that we, as amateur historians, exercise our right to analyze and interpret this event in our past.

This whole issue of a purported "sunrise attack order" is not trivial. It was not the surmise of some closet researcher pouring over obscure battlefield reports or dusty old letters. In fact, it arose many years after the war from the post-war speeches and writings of key participants themselves. It gained immediate currency due to its authoritative primary sources. Withal it managed to discolor the reputations of some of the finest battlefield leaders of the Confederacy and speaks directly to the failure of that late violent rebellion.

Any number of authors have commented on the matter. The best discussion of the origins and subsequent backbiting among former Confederate comrades that spawned the controversy is found in Thomas L. Connelly's *"The Marble Man: Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society."*

Longstreet ably and vigorously defended himself in his *"Battles and Leaders of*

*the Civil War"* articles and in his book-length memoir *"From Manassas to Appomattox."* It was all apparently to no avail. Longstreet, having become a Republican and a minor official in the Grant administration, lost credibility in the South and people were too eager to believe his detractors.

Tucker devotes the first portion of *"Lee and Longstreet"* to a thorough analysis of the military situation at Gettysburg, as well as the personalities and motivations of the main characters. In our view, Tucker commands the superior position. He has given us one of the most important ancillary studies of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Jubal A. Early is mainly credited with the first allegations of disobedience of orders on the part of Longstreet on the morning of July 2, 1863. In speeches and writings as president of the Southern Historical Society, Early, curiously, did not make reference to a Lee dawn attack order until 1872, two years after Lee's death. In 1874, a published article by an Early collaborator, former artillery chief William N. Pendleton, first criticized Longstreet in print. Prior to this time, any number of subordinates, notably JEB Stuart and A.P. Hill, had been prominently blamed for the Southern defeat at Gettysburg. The vitriol would flow, however, for decades, sweeping in many former Confederate commanders.

(Con't on page 12)

## Battleground Books



110 Blackberry Bend

Yorktown, VA 23693

(757) 848-3563

Battlegroundbooks@cox.net

## Upcoming Speakers - (Con't from page 1)

Parsons Art Institute in Los Angeles, and he is a W. K. Kellogg National Fellow Recipient. He has more than 30 years' experience in the museum field. Ronnie was also the director of the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, Arkansas.

After serving as the director of Audience Development for the Old State House Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas' largest historical museum, he was made the head of the Old State House Museum. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Little Rock/Central High Visitor

Center and Museum as well as the board of trustees of the Arkansas Arts Center. Ronnie currently is the owner of Nichols Consulting in North Potomac, Maryland, where he lives with his family. His business provides planning, research and also technical advice for documentaries, publications, programs, and ex-



Ronnie A. Nichols consults on historical technical advice for all manner of media, and, as shown at left, was privileged to be a re-enactor in the movie "Glory," which was a fictional telling of the 54th's significant military contributions to the Civil War, to African-American history, and to the moral progress of the nation as a whole.

hibits.

In 1988, Ronnie helped recruit students to portray black soldiers of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment for the movie "Glory." In March of 1989, Nichols traveled with six young men from Arkansas to Jekyll Island for the filming of the movie, in which Nichols portrayed the First Sergeant of Company E of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. The movie went on to win awards and has been ranked by many critics as one of the best movies made about the Civil War.



This looks to be an excellent opportunity for all to hear of this action and the brave exploits of the 54<sup>th</sup> Mass., so don't miss the September 12<sup>th</sup> lecture. As always, come meet Ronnie at the Copper Canyon Grill at 5:00 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. lecture.

### The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Newest Recruits!

Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for these folks who

♦ Steven Jaren

♦ James Tanner

♦ Dan Deyo

♦ Frank Kelly

♦ David Kinsella

♦ Ron Holt



## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE Charleston – Part Two

By Janet Greentree

As promised, Ms. Rebelle is continuing with the descriptions of the visit my sister Kathe, Gwen Wyttenbach and I made to Charleston, South Carolina at the end of March.



**Ft. Sumter — all contemporary photographs by Janet Greentree.**

Our first big outing was by car to Fort Sumter from the Point Pleasant side of Charleston. It is a much shorter trip than the boat that leaves from the downtown Charleston area. The first view of the fort is of all the flags blowing in the wind. What a spectacular sight. The fort is sadly in ruins from all the shelling in the Civil War. Our trip was pretty close to the April 12, 1861 anniversary date of 152 years. On April 11, 1861, General P.G.T. Beauregard sent three aides, Colonel James Chestnut, Jr., Captain Stephen D. Lee, and Lieutenant A.R. Chisolm to demand the surrender of the fort. Negotiations failed, and Union Major Robert Anderson held the fort for 34 hours before surrendering to the Confederates. Captain Abner Doubleday, who was second in command to Anderson, fired the first shot in defense of the fort.

Edmund Ruffin took credit for the first Confederate shot, but Lieutenant Henry S. Farley actually fired the first shot from Morris Island at 4:30 a.m. Since the Union was ill-equipped to return the fire, firing wasn't begun for two hours. The fort was surrendered on April 13, 1861. General Anderson

retained possession of the Union flag that flew over the fort when he left. It is now displayed in the museum on the premises. The Union soldiers evacuated on April 13<sup>th</sup> and boarded the *Star of the West* for New York City. It took the Union four years to take the fort back.

The fort was built following the War of 1812. Construction started in 1829 and was still unfinished in 1861 when the shelling began. New England exported 70,000 tons of granite to build up a sand bar at the entrance of Charleston Harbor. The brick structure is five-sided with walls five feet thick.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service doesn't allow a lot of time to look at everything in the fort. Only an hour was allotted to see the inside, the small museum, and walk the grounds.

Park Rangers give talks on the aspects of the fort and answer questions. There is a small museum on the premises and a gift shop.

### Then and Now in Charleston

Touring around Charleston we came across several really old and beautiful buildings. The first one is the **City Market and Hall**. The market was first established in 1692, encompassing four city blocks, from Meeting Street to Church Street. It was original called the Beef Market Building and was redesigned by Edward B. White in the early 1840s after burning down in 1796. If anyone has



read *Gone With the Wind*, Scarlett O'Hara liked to go to the market to socialize and find out the gossip of the day. The building is all open-sided, with many stalls in-

side. The merchandise is taken in and out every day. There is just about anything you might want to buy sold in the building, including food.



The most famous item is the Gullah baskets woven by local African-American Charleston women using a modified spoon to weave the designs. Bring your

(Con't on page 7)



## Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 6)

wallets, though, as they are quite expensive. The Confederate Museum is located on the Meeting Street side at 188 Meeting Street.

**City Hall** is another beautiful building, located at the corner of Meeting and Broad Streets. This intersection is called the Four Corners of Law, as the four buildings represent state, federal, municipal, and ecclesiastical law. Almost everything interesting is on Meeting Street in Charleston.



The second

floor of the grand building is still utilized as city government offices. Also on the second floor is a huge oil painting of General



Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard. The general's sword is on display, as well as some other items belonging to him. The building was designed between 1800-1804 by Gabriel Manigault in the Adamesque style. The round basement windows

are unique to his style of design.

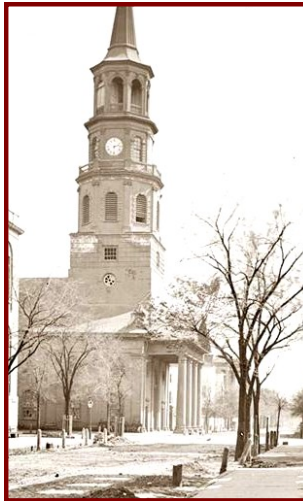
The **Calhoun Mansion** is also located "guess where?" You've got it - 16 Meeting Street. The 35-room mansion was owned



by Vice President John C. Calhoun, who is buried at St. Philips Episcopal Church Cemetery at 142

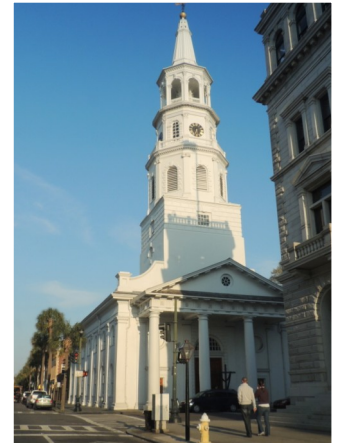
Church Street in Charleston. Calhoun is one of six or more famous people buried there including Charles Gadsen, James Gadsen, Daniel Huger, Charles Pinckney (signer of the Declaration of Independence), Thomas Pinckney, and Edward Rutledge (signer of the Declaration of Independence). Even though John C. Calhoun accomplished quite a bit in his life, he was not eligible to be buried in the church side of the cemetery. Only people born in Charleston were eligible to be buried on the church side. Calhoun was born in Clemson, so he is across the street from the church. The Calhoun Mansion was used in the TV mini-series *North and South* as the home of George Hazard, portrayed by James Read. The movie *The Notebook* was also filmed there.

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church** is located at 17 Broad Street at the intersection of Meeting Street. The steeple of the church is 186 feet



above the street and is visible in many of the old photos of Charleston during the Civil War. The weather vane atop the steeple is 7 ½ feet tall. The clock in the tower has kept the time for Charleston since 1764. George

Washington worshipped there in May, 1791 in pew No. 43 (the Governor's Pew), a large double pew in the center of the church. General Robert E. Lee worshipped there in the same pew in the 1860s. The eight famous bells made in 1794 in England were sent to Columbia during the Civil War but were cracked in a fire there in 1865. Remnants of the bells were salvaged from the fire and sent to England to be recast. The bells still ring in Charleston. The pulpit is original, and there are several beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The chancel stained glass window was crafted by Louis



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## The President's Column (Con't from Page 3)

our deserving recipient, a West Springfield High senior. A huge thank you goes to Nancy Anwyll and fellow BRCWRT Scholarship Committee members for making this happen.

We are looking forward to next year's expanded area-wide competition and, as stated before, this is Civil War education at its finest, reaching out to help worthy students achieve their goals!

Enjoy your summer months, and keep in mind the local Battle of Bristoe Station in October, which will be our next big Sesquicentennial event. Along with participating in that event, I'd like to point out that our members have spent countless hours working for the preservation, betterment and improvement of that hallowed ground. The BRCWRT is working on dedicating a sign at McLean's Ford and Auburn (Coffee Hill) to honor the October 1863 action of the Bristoe campaign.

As always, see you at the Copper Canyon Grill prior to our every meeting this year at 5:00 p.m., and at the library prior to the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy the fellowship at the library, buy some books and get ready for another excellent lecture. The 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial season is in full swing this summer. Come be a part of it!

Let us never forget them and what they did for us. God Bless all of you.



Scholarship Committee member Charlie Balch (left) and Committee Chair Nancy Anwyll (second from left) with BRCWRT Scholarship recipient Taylor McConnell (second from right), joined by BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich (right).



BRCWRT Scholarship recipient Taylor McConnell with his proud parents.

Photos by Janet Greentree



### 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.

5815 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA

703-830-6600

### UPDATE ON THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION IN GETTYSBURG

By Tim Duskin

When the activities of the United States Christian Commission in Gettysburg were last reported in the *Stone Wall*, they were holding services on the grounds of the American Civil War Wax Museum. They are now no longer doing so. Chaplain John Wega, who heads the organization, has since opened a coffee shop called Johnny Como's Cupcakes and Coffee. It is located at 62 Chambersburg Street, which is on the corner of Chambersburg Street and Washington Street in Gettysburg.

The United States Christian Commission Museum, formerly located in the house where Jennie Wade's was born, documents the organization's history during the Civil War, and is now housed in the coffee shop. Worship services are also conducted there on Sunday mornings.



## Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 8)

Comfort Tiffany in 1905 in the design of a blue sky with gold stars and a starburst.

**Boone Hall Plantation** is located in Mount Pleasant, SC at 1235 Long Point Road, a short distance from Charleston. The original house was from a land grant to Major John Boone in 1681. The current house was built in 1936 and was patterned after the original house, which burned down many years ago. One of the most interesting things about Boone Hall is the long driveway with



live oak trees bending towards each other and the hanging Spanish moss on them.

Those of you who love North and South can just visualize the late actor, Patrick Swayze,



riding down the lane at a full gallop as Orry Main. Gwen, my sister Kathe and I spend most of the day there, just enjoying this most beautiful place.

The **Battery** on East Bay Street is one of the most beautiful parts of the city. The mansions overlook Charleston harbor and have a view of Fort Sumter as well. Following the Civil War, Union General John Porter Hatch assumed military command of the city of Charleston and had his headquarters on South Battery Street from February-August, 1865. I am proud to say that he is "one" of my 385 graves visited and decorated; he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

One of our last visits in Charleston was to **The Citadel**, incorporated in 1842. The campus is located at 171 Moultrie Street, along the Ashley River. It reminded us a lot of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. The building that resembles VMI the most has a red and white checker-



board inlaid on the courtyard of the building. I asked permission to walk inside, but in true Southern tradition, a cadet must escort females into the diamond, as they call it. So a nice young cadet took my arm and escorted me inside. Pretty impressive I must say. The photograph above shows the checkerboard pattern underneath the class ring for 2013. Four Confederate Civil War generals graduated from the Citadel – Ellison Capers, Micah Jenkins, Evander Law, and John Bordenave Villepique. The Federal army took possession of the Citadel in 1865 and held possession until 1879. The Citadel reopened in January, 1882. One hundred eighty-nine Cadets reported to the newly reopened Citadel on October 2, 1882.

The places listed above are just a few of the many things to see and do in Charleston. The three of us did pretty well seeing all we could in two days, with two travel days down and back. If you go, you have to have some of the wonderful low country food – shrimp & grits come fast to my mind. We ate at the Hominy Grill which was wonderful. We had the best motel in Point Pleasant – the Quality Inn. The chef made such a spread every morning for breakfast, including a large pan of grits and fresh biscuits or scones with everything else in between. It was wonderful. Ms. Rebelle had grits every day in Charleston. The motel prices are a little more reasonable across the Ravenel Bridge, and there are no parking fees, with quick access back into the city. It is definitely worth the trip.

*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 385....169 Confederate and 216 Union. You may contact her at [jlqtree@erols.com](mailto:jlqtree@erols.com).*

## The Gettysburg 150th Tour

By Brian McEnany

(Photographs by Gwen Wyttenbach and Janet Greentree)

Dawn came early on Saturday, June 22, as 47 members of the Round Table traveled the roughly 80 miles to the Visitors Center at Gettysburg to meet Kevin Anastas, Maureen Quinn, myself, and Bill Carritte – our expert map bearer – for a guided tour of that three-day battle. The weather was perfect – very similar to that actually recorded 150 years ago. I made two trips from my car to the Visitor's Center to bring our gear – no backpacks were allowed. A bright yellow school bus and a couple of extra cars took us through the town. Maureen provided commentary about the routes taken by various units and also about some of Gettysburg's historic buildings as we headed for McPherson's Ridge.

After braving the traffic on Chambersburg Pike (Route 30), the tour gathered at the Reynolds and Buford statues on McPherson's Ridge to discuss the **First Day battle** – (there is no *phear* in McPherson as Kevin reminded us). Kevin introduced the tour, and I then began outlining John Buford's cavalry engagement against Henry Heth, adding a couple of stories about West Point Class of 1862 2nd Lt. John Calef, commanding A Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> US Horse Artillery, Buford's support that day.

I covered the significance of terrain and Buford's plans to delay any threat from the west. Loading and re-loading the bus took time, but we never lost anyone during the tour. Kevin then took over, and at the next stop, at Reynolds's monument, we learned about the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps and the Iron Brigade's fight, Reynolds's death and the path to his burial in his home town three days later. He also began a discussion over the significance of the location of leaders on the field. After crossing the road, he discussed the fight at the unfinished railroad cut. Janet Greentree positioned us for the official picture before we left.

Next stop was Oak Hill and the entry of Ewell's Second Corps and the Union's 11<sup>th</sup> Corps part of the battle. It was amazing to see the battlefield from that high ground and see how much terrain that was deforested put back into 1863 condition. With assistance from Maureen, current day landmarks easily allowed us to envision where both sides occupied key terrain on the left of the Union line. Attendees requested tales about "Sallie" (4 legged mascot of the 11<sup>th</sup> PA) and "Iverson's failures," which were easily handled by Kevin.



Left to right - Brian McEnany, Kevin Anastas, Maureen Quinn and Bill Carritte "take charge" of the BRCWRT tour of Gettysburg.

It was now after 11:00 a.m. and Maureen led us down Seminary Ridge to stop at a unique cannon and at the North Carolina monument, as part of the **Second Day fight**. This position was also important during the Third Day, as we could easily see the terrain over which Pettigrew and Trimble led divisions toward Cemetery Ridge. Back on the bus, we were off to visit Hood's battle position near the Bushman farm, traveling past the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, and across the de-forested Devil's Den to ride up the steep grade past many tourists, bicyclists, and visitors to Little Round Top.

Standing at a perfect spot on the heights of Little Round Top, the entire southern portion of the battle area could be seen, and we could observe the entire length of the Union line to Cemetery Hill. The deforestation effort allowed Maureen to easily explain how and where the Confederate troops moved toward the Union positions that day.

By 1:00 p.m., we were at our lunch site at the Appalachian Brewing Company on Seminary Ridge, where a good buffet was ready and waiting. We chowed down and soaked up the air conditioning until 2:00 p.m., then braved the Chambersburg Pike again for our next leg of our trip, to the Virginia Monument, beginning the **Third Day battle** and the path Pickett's Division took to the Angle. Sheltered under the trees in the shade, Kevin explained how the units were arrayed and expressed a military view of discrepancies in alignment, artillery placement and ef-

(con't on page 11)



## BRCWRT Gettysburg Tour - (con't from page 10)

fectiveness, the choice of the center of the Union line to attack, and Longstreet's role. Each drew comments from the attendees. Kevin then led us across the hot shallow valley toward Cemetery Ridge, stopping three times to explain the changes in formation, the impact of the fence lines along the Emmitsburg Pike and arrival at the Angle, where he conducted a final discussion and the end of the tour.

Kevin provided more stories about what happened at the stone wall, including his great-grand father's part in the action in Armistead's brigade. Commentary about various aspects of the Union line was added by Maureen and myself. By 4:30 p.m., we were back on the bus for the final trip to the Visitor Center and departure. A good time was had by all. We received a wealth of information about the three days of the bloodiest battle in the Civil War. It would take a while to absorb all that was heard, and I am sure many of us will be back.

I wandered through the excellent book store at the Visitor Center and decided to grab dinner at a local restaurant, then caught the sunset along Cemetery Ridge before departing for Virginia and home. Near Zeigler's Grove, where another of my Class of 1862 members fought that day, I found a ranger conducting a tour about the aftermath of the battle. I

stayed for an extra hour to listen and learn. What we presented that day about the battle did not really get across the terrible conditions left behind when the Union army left.

The verdant fields we walked across were littered with the debris of combat and piles of dead so thick one couldn't walk between the Pike and the wall without stepping on them. Burial details worked quickly in the rain on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Most of the dead were rolled into long trenches with signs above them stating such descriptions as "75 Rebels Buried Here." There were efforts to identify the Union soldiers, but not many met adequate condition. The thousands of small arms, ammunition and other equipment left behind was collected by Ordnance personnel over the next few weeks. Soon, the curious wandered over the battlefield.

Left behind when Meade took his army south were the seriously wounded on both sides (5,000 Confederate, 14,500 Union); thousands of dead animals that littered the battlefield and the town. Virtually every barn, house, and church was filled with wounded. Each corps left its hospital and the Confederate division aid stations remained. Piles of arms and legs were evident near almost all of them.

(con't on page 12)



BRCWRT members braved the heat and crowds to be on the battlefield at Gettysburg's 150th—a not-to-be-missed opportunity to commemorate the heroic action that took place July 1, 2 & 3 of 1863. And, as Brian McEnany notes, the days of grief and hardship that followed the battle.



## BRCWRT Gettysburg Tour - (con't from page 11)

The hot July sun soon created conditions never before seen in this country. The stench was horrible. Townspeople and the ladies who arrived to assist wore kerchiefs soaked in camphor or pepper oil to ward off the smells. The dead and wounded littered the streets in the town. The townspeople cared for those left in their homes. They had limited money, almost no bandages - and most were thrown into changing dressings for horribly injured from both sides. The sights and sounds could not have been conceived by anyone in their right minds, until after the battle. The population of the town was only 2,400. The dead on the field were about three times that, and the thousands of wounded tripled and quadrupled the numbers of those townspeople.

At first, the Union medical organization was limited. It took time for the field hospital - Camp Letterman - to arrive and for tents to be erected along the York Road east of town. Meade's logistics and supply wagons were not allowed forward during the battle, and they never made it to Gettysburg. There was no rail line in operation for two weeks. It took days in some cases, before the wounded reached

aid stations. With most lying still on the field of battle, the heavy rain took its toll before anyone found them. Unable to move, some drowned as pools of water gathered where they lay.

The U.S. Christian Commission and another group provided much initial support. Pennsylvania was not welcoming to Catholics, but the Sisters of Charity soon arrived and the nuns were quickly welcomed into the makeshift hospitals. Volunteers arrived from afar to help care for the wounded. They were appalled at the scene facing them, exasperated by the overwhelming stench of death. Smoke from burning piles of animals lay in the valley for weeks.

There is much more to the battle of Gettysburg than just the tactics and heroics. My rush to leave Gettysburg almost caused me to miss an important lesson. Every battle leaves its mark upon the terrain forever and that is why we call it hallowed ground. It is why Abe Lincoln took time to eulogize those that fell there. Even now, we cannot fully understand what transpired at Gettysburg unless we take time to understand its aftermath as well. Perhaps it is worth a lecture by itself in the future.

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## THE BOOK CORNER — (con't from page 4)

In Tucker's view, the overwhelming weight of the evidence is clear: there was likely never a dawn assault planned for July 2. The circumstances in the field simply did not support the military expediency of such a tactic. On the evening of July 1, the bulk of the 1st Corps was at Greenwood, 16 miles west of Gettysburg on the Cashtown Road. McLaws' Brigade (1st Corps) was no closer than Cash-town, 4 miles west of the battlefield. Moreover, on July 1, Lee wished to avoid a general engagement, being completely unfamiliar with the terrain and unsure of enemy dispositions.

As late as 10 a.m. on July 2, Lee was still conferring (arguing) with Ewell regarding 2nd Corps' actions far to the northeast of Gettysburg. These facts are well documented and suggest command indecision, not a dawn attack.

Finally, Early and Pendleton were never privy to councils where such decisions would have been taken; those who were in attendance, or otherwise in position to know, all have denied the veracity of reports of any explicit dawn attack order.

There is some evidence that the public was aware of the issue of Longstreet's general recalcitrant behavior at Gettysburg. Lee himself had occasion to dispute the "offensive strategy but defensive tactics" scenario being shopped about by Longstreet after the war. It is possible that this negative atmosphere provided Early the opportunity to proffer a "dawn attack order" canard to discredit Longstreet.

The remainder of Tucker's book contains other interesting episodes of Gettysburg and post-war reminiscences by prominent historical figures. In a particularly fascinating aside, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and former British Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery review the overall tactics at Gettysburg. The views of the two most notable strategic commanders of the 20th century regarding America's bloodiest 19th century encounter are a rich historical treasury in themselves.

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).

## THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

By Tim Duskin

During the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, I attended quite a few activities. There were many going on and often more than one at a given time. I tried to pick the ones which I thought were the most interesting at the time, and I tried to pick a variety of them.

My first activity was an excellent lecture on Pickett's Charge that was given June 11 at the National Archives by Robert Tringali, a former Bull Run Civil War Round Table member. I also attended the tour which Kevin Anastas and Maureen Quinn gave at Gettysburg for the BRCWRT on June 22.

On June 27, I attended the world premiere of Ron Maxwell's third Civil War movie, *Copperhead*, at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg. It is a story which takes place on the home front in Upstate New York. Maxwell and the production staff and stars had discussion with the audience after the showing. Earlier in the day, I took the guided tour Citizens of Gettysburg, which went through the town and told what life was like

from the Civil War and the reunions after the war.

The opening day of the anniversary of the battle itself was July 1. The first activity I attended was the opening shots of the battle, which were delivered by Union artillery living historians, and the opening of the



The Peace Porch at the Seminary Ridge Museum. The porch was originally built in 1913 for the 50th anniversary veterans' reunion. It was restored this year for the 150th anniversary.

new Seminary Ridge Museum at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. The three floors of the museum have exhibits relating to the role of religion, of African-Americans in the war, the care of the wounded during



The production crew of the movie *Copperhead*, by Ron Maxwell. The premiere was a benefit for Journey Through Hallowed Ground, of which Ron Maxwell is a supporter.

Photos by Tim Duskin

for the citizens during the battle.

On June 29, I attended *Prelude to Gettysburg: The Cashtown Road* in nearby Cashtown. This is the town in which Lee's army was based at the time the Battle of Gettysburg began. There were living historians portraying Generals Lee and Longstreet, and a Confederate surgeon. There were also some homes dating from the period which are now private residences that were open for special tours. They included some remarkable relics

the battle, and the first day's battle respectively. It was quite impressive and included some very interesting exhibits. I also attended a lecture there by author

Jocelyn Green on the role of religion in the Civil War. There were lectures for several days on various Civil War related topics.

That evening, I attended a program at Christ Lutheran Church on Chambersburg Street called Candlelight at Christ Church. It was about the use of the church building as a hospital during the battle and related accounts of those who were there both as wounded and as

(con't on page 14)



## Duskin at Gettysburg - (con't from page 13)

nurses. It also included the singing of Civil War songs.

On July 2, I visited the Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace in Gettysburg, where special tours were being conducted. The church was built for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle and has memorials in it to many who fought in the war on both sides. I also attended a



Some of the memorials in the Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace.

re-enactment of the Battle of Hanover, which took place the day before the Battle of Gettysburg. It was a cavalry battle, so the re-enactment was mostly cavalry action with some artillery as well.

On July 3, I started the day with an early morning tour of Culp's Hill by NPS rangers. They covered the events of the morning of July 3. In the afternoon, I attended a play at the Gettysburg Community Theatre called *Children of Gettysburg: A Civil War Era Musical Drama*. The cast consisted almost completely of children, and it featured accounts of children in the town during the battle and period songs. The author is Kate Pellegrino, a high school student. She based it on research in period diaries. In the evening, I attended a showing of the film "*The Gettysburg Story*" at the Majestic Theater. It is a film made by Jake Boritt, which gives an account of the battle and was filmed entirely on location where the actual events occurred. It will air on National Public Television in November.

On the morning of July 4, I visited the Daniel Lady Farm, which was used as a Confederate field hospital and is owned by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association. Living historians there depicting the field hospital and explained Civil War medicine. I spent the remainder of the day at the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee's re-enactment of the first day's battle. I found the living history tents to be most interesting. Living historians there depicting many aspects of both military and civilian life of the war. I visited the Lee's Lieutenants tent and had a conversation with President Jefferson Davis (David Walker) and General Samuel

Cooper (David Pallo). They were both very knowledgeable about the personage they were portraying. I also encountered General "Extra Billy" Smith (Dave Meisky) and General Richard Ewell (Chris Godart), both BRCWRT members.

My final day was July 6. I spent most of the day at the Gettysburg Perspective Lecture Series at the Museum and Visitor's Center. I heard Thomas Huntington speak on "George Gordon Meade's Road to Gettysburg," Thomas Flagel speak on "The Great Gettysburg Reunion of 1913," Wayne Motts speak on "Gettysburg Treasures in the National Civil War Museum," James Swanson speak on "Lincoln, Booth and Davis in Memory and Myth," Carol Reardon speak on "The Families of Gettysburg's Union Dead vs. the U.S. Pension Bureau," and Ron Maxwell speak on "Civil War Film Making."

At the end of the afternoon, I witnessed *The Confederates Take the Shriver House*, in which living historians depicted Confederate soldiers using the house as a sniper's den.

The final event in which I participated in was the dedication of the Culp Brothers Memorial, a monument to Gettysburg brothers William and Wesley Culp, who fought on opposite sides during the war. The monument was jointly sponsored by the Gettysburg Camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Union



The crowd gathers just before the unveiling of the Culp Brothers Memorial.

Veterans of the Civil War. The ceremony impressed me as being reminiscent of the reunions of the blue and gray in Gettysburg in past years.

The Citizens of Gettysburg tour and Candlelight at Christ Church take place regularly in Gettysburg. The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee re-enactment, the Gettysburg Perspective Lecture Series, and *The Confederates Take the Shriver House* take place annually. All of the other events were especially for the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration.



## **Tours, Living History, Music and National Historians Highlight the Battle of Bristoe Station 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

By Rob Orrison, Historic Site Operations Manager, Prince William County – VP BRCWRT

This Fall, Prince William County will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station with a season of special events. Being that the Bristoe Station battlefield is recently preserved, this will be the first major commemorative event of the battle to ever take place there. The Battle of Bristoe Station was fought on October 14, 1863. After a month-long campaign, Confederate General Robert E. Lee had pursued the Union Army under Gen. George G. Meade from Culpeper, VA all the way to Prince William County. Coming on the heels of his loss at Gettysburg that summer, Lee was trying to reverse the tide that was starting to turn against the South.

Here on the fields around modern day Bristow (then spelled Bristoe), the lead elements of Lee's army fought the rear guard of the Union army. In a short but desperate fight, the Confederate army was badly defeated and suffered heavy casualties for the men engaged. This little known battle would be Robert E. Lee's last major offensive of the Civil War.

The Historic Preservation Division staff has been planning events for this commemoration for over a year now. The series of events will start off in August with an exhibit "*There Was a Want of Vigilance..*" at the Manassas Museum. This exhibit is co-sponsored by the Historic Preservation Division and the Manassas Museum. The exhibit will feature artifacts from around the country that will tell the story of the Battle of Bristoe Station.

On September 14th and 15th, there will be a two-day

symposium on the Bristoe Station Campaign at the Manassas Four Points Sheraton. This two-day symposium will feature a day of talks from historians from across the country and a second day of bus tours covering the Bristoe Campaign. The cost is only \$75 and includes lunch on both days.

On October 5th, County staff will lead a detailed, ten-hour bus tour of the Bristoe Station Campaign and battle. The cost is \$80.00 per person and includes lunch.

The Commemorative Weekend will take place on October 12-13 at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. This event will kick off with nationally renowned historian Dr. James "Bud" Robertson giving a keynote speech at 10am. A new interpretive trail will also be dedicated at that time. During both days, there will be host of lectures, music, living history, kids activities, a battle demonstration and the Virginia History Mobile will be on hand.

Finally, on the actual anniversary of the battle, Monday, October 14th, county staff will host a morning a car caravan tour of the Bristoe Campaign, a bus tour of battlefield sites outside of the Park and "in-time" tours that afternoon – tours that will take place at the same time of the battle events, 150 years later. Parking for the events on October 12-14, will be at the Bristow Shopping Center, with shuttle service to the Park. So there are events for the most casual fan of history to the hard-core Civil War nut. We hope our events will not only educate but also commemorate the sacrifices of so many in this area 150 years ago.

For more details and updates to the event schedule, please visit [www.pwcgov.org/bristoe](http://www.pwcgov.org/bristoe). To sign up for any of these events, please call the Historic Preservation Division office at 703-792-4754 or email [rorrison@pwcgov.org](mailto:rorrison@pwcgov.org). We hope to see you this Fall!

## **The Hidden Battle of Cedar Mountain All-Day Tour - Saturday, August 10**

The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield will be touring select sites of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield on August 10, 2013. Lon Lacey and Mike Block are tour leaders. The all-day tour costs \$25 and will run from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m. Lunch and transportation will be provided. The \$25 includes membership into the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield.

This unique tour will take guests to various locations in the Cedar Mountain battlefield area that impacted the battle and its aftermath. All locations are on private property, and we are very grateful for the owners of this land to allow this event to take place.

Some of the locations to be visited include the Cedar Mountain Shelf, where Latimer's Virginia Battery and Terry's Bedford Artillery rained shells down on Federal positions; the Nalle House, Pope's Headquarters, and Spring Hill, where R. Snowden Andrews was left to "die". We will also visit the location of Pegram's battery position on the evening of August 9 and monuments to the 27th Indiana, 10th Maine, 28th New York and 46th Pennsylvania.

Additional stops are in the planning stages. Please visit the Friends of Cedar Mountain website and Facebook page for updates of this unique tour being offered for the first time.

Please join us for a day of Cedar Mountain Battle sites rarely seen. Seating is limited. To reserve your seat please contact Karen Quaintance at [karendq@comcast.net](mailto:karendq@comcast.net) or mail your \$25 checks to FOCMB, PO Box 1853, Culpeper, VA 22701.

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## **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**

**We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!**

**Annual dues are:**

**Individual—\$20.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.**

**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 mail it to:**

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

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