



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XX, Issue 5, JUNE/JULY 2013

**LOCAL HISTORIAN MIKE BLOCK TO SPEAK
AT JUNE 13th MEETING ON THE "BATTLE OF
BRANDY STATION, LARGEST CAVALRY
BATTLE ON U.S. SOIL - JUNE 9, 1863"**

By Mark Trbovich

I met Mike Block many years ago at our Round Table and always noticed his enthusiasm to bring us a report on Brandy Station Battlefield and later, Cedar Mountain. I thought to myself, "This man is a natural speaker," and we are so blessed to have him as our main speaker at our next meeting on June 13th.

As part of our Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary events series, Mike will speak on "The Battle of Brandy Station," which was a prelude to Gettysburg, and the largest cavalry action on our beloved country's soil.

A fellow member of our BRCWRT and a lifelong student of the American Civil War, Mike found his niche in Brandy Station, Virginia, when he moved to the area in 2004. He became a volunteer at the Graffiti House within weeks of moving and quickly fell in love with the history of the house and the mysteries it had to tell. He has always said that though much has been written about the fight at Brandy Station on June 9, 1863, there is much more to tell.

Mike is currently the vice president of the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield and also serves as a member of both the Culpeper County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the Fauquier County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. He retired in 2001 from the United States Air Force after serving for 20 years in locations such as Europe, Asia and the United States. He continues to support U.S. government activities as a lead associate for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Mike has begun work on a book about the Battles of Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford, battles which took place on November 7,

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THURSDAY, June 13, 2013

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Historian

MIKE BLOCK

TOPIC:

**"BATTLE OF BRANDY STATION,
LARGEST CAVALRY BATTLE ON
U.S. SOIL - JUNE 9, 1863"**

THURSDAY, July 11th

NPS Historian/Ranger

MATT ATKINSON

TOPIC:

**"BATTLE OF VICKSBURG,
MISSISSIPPI - JULY 1863"**

1863, both of which have received very little coverage to-date. He is married to another writer, best-selling romance novelist Caryn Moya Block, his wife of 32 years. They have two sons, Chad and Chris, and currently reside in Bealeton, Virginia.

Please come out on June 13th and have dinner with your fellow BRCWRT members and Mike at 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Kettle Restaurant (5815 Trinity Parkway, Centreville) or see you at 7:00 p.m. for the meeting/lecture (across Lee Highway) at the Centreville Public Library.

**NPS HISTORIAN/RANGER MATT ATKINSON SPEAKS
JULY 11th ON THE "BATTLE OF
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI - JULY 1863"**

While it is a tough enough act to follow the legendary Ed Bearss if you are our June speaker, it will be just as difficult in July to present a topic that is one of Ed's signature areas of knowledge – the Battle of Vicksburg. So we are

(con't on page 8)

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

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 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.
General Membership meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month at the
Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2255
703.830.2223

For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the Web site: <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

NEWLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August/September 2013 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, July 25, to - Nadine Mironchuk at: nadinem@mindspring.com.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August/September 2013 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, July 15, to Charlie Balch at 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

July 11, 2013: Matt Atkinson, National Park Service Ranger - "Battle Of Vicksburg, Miss. - July 1863"

August 8, 2013: Angela Atkinson, Author and NPS Ranger "Battle of Chickamauga, TN - Sept. 1863"

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 just about here, and the Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary activities around Brandy Station and Gettysburg are heating up. We are so pleased our BRCWRT tour to Gettysburg on June 22 is coming up and that it is sure to be an excellent/knowledgeable day!

Thank you again to all who helped out with and supported our May BRCWRT 22nd Anniversary Lecture,

which was truly an outstanding event, featuring Ed Bearss's talk on the "Battle of Gettysburg - Day Two."

Many believe that the second day was far and

away the bloodiest day of the Civil War; although statistics will always show that Antietam was the bloodiest single day, the tendency to aggregate casualty totals of Gettysburg for all three days of battle creates a misleading average for each particular day of the battle.

It was joyful to see a completely packed house and I was glad that everyone had a seat! That was great, and I want to thank all who came out to set up the chairs on every inch of the room to make it happen! I also want to thank the Centreville Library for buying 105 new chairs, which makes our meeting a most comfortable one. What a special night it was, and thank you, Ed, for an outstanding and informative lecture about a day that set the stage for the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy," – July

3rd, 1863. Happy 90th Birthday to you, Ed, and many more!

Our two upcoming lectures – the first in June on "The Battle of Brandy Station" with Historian Mike Block and the next in July on "The Battle of Vicksburg" with NPS Historian Matt Atkinson - in-depth lectures that promise to be enthusiastic and entertaining. Pull yourself away from the beach/pool those days and make every attempt to attend.

I want to also thank everyone who worked on our 2013 Membership Campaign. We have over 220 members now, which is an excellent achievement for all of us, and we will welcome more as the year progresses, I am sure. Please continue to spread the word of our group to your family and friends; let potential members (especially prospective younger members) know that the BRCWRT is the place to come and be welcomed into a tremendous organization.

At our June 13th meeting, we will introduce the 2013 BRCWRT Scholarship winner and his family, after taking them out to dinner at the Copper Canyon Grill. This most worthy and deserving West Springfield High senior was selected and voted on by our BRCWRT Scholarship Committee, chaired by Nancy Anwyll. As stated before, this is our Civil War community at its finest, reaching out to assist in providing Civil War education for worthy students! We are so looking forward to doing this again in 2014, as these programs move us forward.

Our June 22nd Gettysburg tour trip sign-up sheet will be going around for the last time at the June meeting, so please sign up quickly, as seats on the bus are going fast. Again, thank you, Kevin Anastas, for your excellent work putting this together. This will be our cornerstone tour for the year. Don't miss it!

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

Let us never forget those who served, and what they did for us.

God Bless all of you.



Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service Ed Bearss. Ed, a national treasure, spoke at the May BRCWRT meeting.

Photo by Janet Greentree



THE BOOK CORNER



By **Ralph G. Swanson**

It is time to get ready for Gettysburg! The anniversary is coming and a terrific BRCWRT tour is planned. But first, a thorough review is needed to fully appreciate the many complexities of this campaign and no better refresher exists than *Gettysburg* by Steven W. Sears (Houghton Mifflin, 2003). We previously raved about Sears's *Chancellorsville* and he scores big for us again with *Gettysburg*. This book has already won the Fletcher Pratt Award for the best nonfiction Civil War book of 2003 and now earns the coveted Book Corner recommendation.

Gettysburg was not merely one battle in that great contest of our national existence. It was an entire campaign that began on the Rappahannock River in May and continued through mid-July, 1863. It had goals, strategies, maneuvers, tactics, and outcomes. The caliber of scholarship and writing done by Steven Sears helps readers understand the full context of those three bloody days at that obscure crossroads in Pennsylvania. Like all experts, Sears makes his difficult craft—writing complicated history—look effortless. He shapes the intricacies of the entire campaign into a picture of utmost clarity for us mere mortals. Along the way he offers a few new gems for our consideration.

Sears opens with the best analysis yet of the eastern theater in spring 1863. For the South, the realities were manifold and troubling: Lee's army could not remain at Fredericksburg, and a fallback to Richmond environs would only invite a siege the South could not win. Reinforcements out west were ultimately deemed too doubtful. Only an aggressive advance in the east offered favorable possibilities. Lee badly wanted to draw the Army of the Potomac away from Washington, D.C. and beat it on favorable ground. He had read in northern newspapers about the lost order at Antietam and believed only cruel fate had denied him such a victory the prior year.

Joe Hooker was beset with his own prob-

lems. He had foolishly criticized his generals in the press, and they in turn, had begun to scheme against him. Lincoln vetoed two of Hooker's proposed moves as unsound. Had Hooker lost his powers of military reasoning, or was he just afraid to meet Lee again in open battle?

Lee's disengagement from Fredericksburg and movements north were a masterpiece of military deception. His use of Shenandoah geography left Hooker, for a time, baffled. Sears's maps are excellent because they show mountain ranges, mountain gaps, roads and towns without which a map is just a pretty picture. The narrative accompanying the map is a joy to read, for it enables the reader to understand the strategy and movements of both commanding generals.

The role of cavalry is thoroughly reviewed for the students of that arm, but expect no glorification. Union cavalry acquitted itself well at Brandy Station but was woefully inept thereafter. Ultimately, Sears will blame Stuart and his cavalry for the breakdown of intelligence that forced Lee into premature battle and a costly defeat at Gettysburg.

Thankfully, no time is wasted on that old canard of Longstreet's tardiness on July 2. There is no credible evidence of a "sunrise attack order." In fact, quite the contrary. Regardless, Day 2 fighting, including Longstreet's command behavior, is endlessly fascinating. Did Longstreet nearly win the battle of Gettysburg on Day 2? Sears's suggestion that, had Longstreet attacked earlier, he would have been unable to exploit Sickles' ill-conceived move to the Peach Orchard deserves careful consideration during the field trip.

The absence of Stuart and disputes with Longstreet were just two of many problems facing Lee. Ewell's performance on Day 1 and A.P. Hill's lackluster conduct throughout were equally important. All of Lee's problems seemed apiece with the disjointed location and readiness of his respective Corps.

In contrast, Day 3 (July 3) is a sad and depressing read. Sears must write largely from Longstreet's viewpoint, perhaps because Lee

(Con't on page 10)

**It is our pleasure to announce the following
presentation for the recently released**

Sunstroke and Ankle-Deep Mud

**By
Brian McEnany and James Lewis**



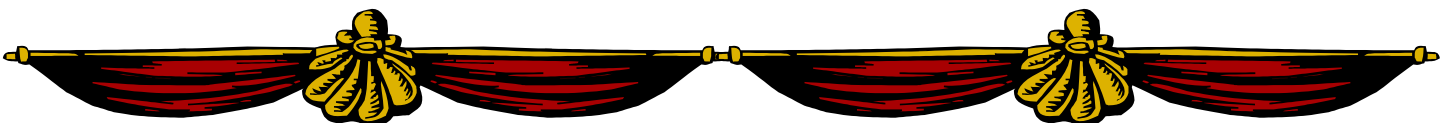
The Arduous Journey of the Union's II Corps Across Northern Virginia on the way to Gettysburg

Learn about the untold story of the Union's II Corps march through Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties on its way to Gettysburg in June 1863. As part of the movement by the 85,000-strong Army of the Potomac (AOP), they endured intense heat and torrential rains to cross a swollen Potomac River at Edwards Ferry. Four days later, they fought in the bloodiest battle in our nation's history.

Hopefully, your calendar will allow you to consider one of the following:

June 15 (Sat.) – Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy., Fairfax – 2 PM

June 27 (Thurs.) – Reston Historic Trust (Reston Community Center at Lake Anne) 1609a Washington Plaza, Reston – 7 PM





CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Myles Keogh,
William Seward & Me**

By Janet Greentree

Ms. Rebelle cannot seem to stay away from anything to do with Myles Keogh so here she is again in Auburn, New York, at Fort Hill Cemetery to visit Keogh's grave. Since going to Little Big Horn last year, I felt that Myles Keogh should have a 7th Cavalry flag on his grave to commemorate his brave efforts at Custer's Last Stand. I scoured the Internet and stores selling flags trying to find a 7th Cavalry flag. There were none available. I did find a large one, but at 2' x 3', it was way too big to put on someone's grave.

The only possible thing to do was to try to make one of my own to place on his grave. I printed a copy of the flag on 8 x 10 photo

paper, placed it on poster board, and encased it in plastic with dowels to hold it up and "a lot" of Scotch tape. "Rest in peace Myles Keogh – Ms. Rebelle" was written on the back. When I got to Keogh's final resting place, other people had left mementos there as well, including a picture of him in his 1872 uniform with a fancy helmet; flowers; flags; and a Rosary hung on his monument. He's buried between his two good friends Generals Emory Upton and Andrew Alexander. It felt really



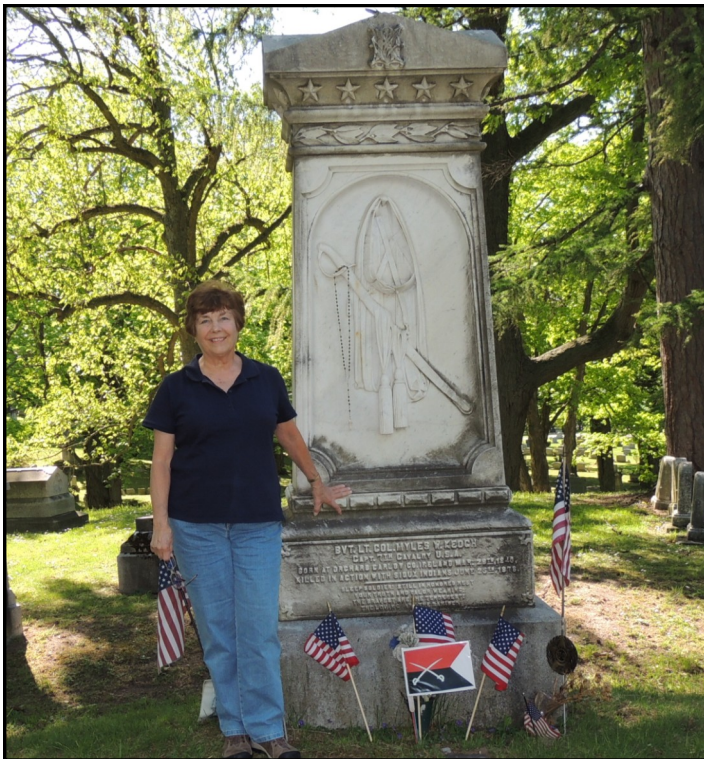
Seward House photo by Janet Greentree

good to leave the flag there for him. Three American flags were placed there surrounding the 7th Cavalry flag.

William Henry Seward's House in Auburn, NY

May 16th was the date of my visit to Auburn which happened to be the 212th anniversary of William Seward's birth in 1801 in Florida, New York. Seward is also buried in Fort Hill Cemetery near Myles Keogh. Another American flag was left for him in tribute. Since May 16th was his birthday, all fees were waived to enter and tour his beautiful mansion on 33 South Street.

All I could think of while touring this exquisite house was how much the Round Table would enjoy seeing this. The house was owned and built originally in 1816 by Elijah Miller, a Cayuga County judge and the father of Seward's wife Frances. He must have been extremely wealthy as the house was absolutely opulent. Seward's sister Cornelia, a classmate of Frances, introduced Frances to Seward. Our tour guide said Seward was interested in two women but picked Frances and in



Ms. Rebelle's dedication to ensuring perpetual recognition of the service of military leaders brings her back to Myles Keogh, time and again.

Photo provided by Janet Greentree

(Con't on page 8)

BRCWRT 2013 Summer Tour

Gettysburg 150th Anniversary

We are continuing our 150th Anniversary series with a tour of the bloodiest battlefield of the Civil War. You will not want to miss this event!

Date: Saturday 22 June 2013

Assembly Location/Time:

If you want to carpool to the battlefield, meet at the Centreville Library parking lot -- we will depart at 7:00 AM sharp. If you choose to drive on your own, meet the group at the Gettysburg Battlefield Park Visitor Center at 9:00 AM. (Driving time from Centreville is about 1 hour and 45 min).

Tour Duration:

9:00 AM until 5:00 PM (approximate tour completion time at the park). We will spend approximately two hours on each of the three days of the battle.

Transportation: We have reserved a local bus to meet us at the visitor center and drive us around the park during our tour. Cost to ride the bus is \$13 per person. See sign up instructions.

Lunch: We have reserved a room and buffet lunch at the Appalachian Brewing Company Restaurant. The cost is \$28 per person. The full list of buffet menu items is listed on the sign up form. Again, see the sign up instructions below.

Degree of Exertion: Light to moderate. We will walk the path of Pickett's Charge (approximately one mile) during the afternoon session.

Special Instructions: We will leave our cars in the visitor center lot all day. Please bring drinks, insect repellent, hats, umbrellas, etc., with you on the bus.

Sign Up: Please fill out the reservation form (sent out via e-mail and paper copies distributed at the May meeting) and send your payment to our treasurer Mark Knowles (mailing instructions are included on the reservation form).

Inclement Weather: This tour will go rain or shine since we have to pay in advance to reserve the bus and restaurant.

Chief Tour Guide: Kevin Anastas Cell: (703) 431-2569. E-mail: kka2@cox.net



Federal 3 in ordnance rifle overlooks the Codori farm where Pickett directed the attack on July 3, 1863.

Bull Run Civil War Round Table - Summer 2013 Tour - Gettysburg 150th Anniversary

When: Saturday 22 June 2013

Where: Linkup at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park Visitor Center at 9:00 AM

Please enter the number of people in your party in the column shaded GREY below

Event	Location	# People	Cost per person	Total Cost
Bus	9:00 AM Visitor Center parking lot	0	\$ 13.00	\$
Lunch	1:00-2:30 PM Applachian Brewing Company Backyard BBQ <u>MENU:</u> Savory <u>Chicken Breast</u> and ABC Hog Wild <u>Pork BBQ</u> , both served on a brioche or kaiser roll. Served with a <u>House Salad</u> with choice of 2 ABC dressings, Homemade Brewhouse Chips and baked beans. Sandwich toppings include sliced cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion, as well as appropriate condiments. Soda/tea is included as is the gratuity. This lunch will be served buffet style and we will have a private room for the group.	0	\$ 28.00	\$
TOTAL	Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). Please give or send check to Mark Knowles, Treasurer, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, VA 20164			\$
Participants: Last, First		E-Mail	Phone	

Ms. Rebelle - (Con't from page 6)

doing so moved up in the world. The judge gave his permission for them to marry but required that the two of them live in the house before the marriage. The Swards married October 20, 1824 and had six children: Augustus (1826-1876), Frederick (1830-1915), Cornelia (1836-1837), William, Jr. (1839-1920), Frances (Fanny) (1844-1866), and an adopted daughter Olive (1841-1908).

His son Augustus was paymaster of the Army in the Civil War as his mother didn't want him in the line of fire. Son William, Jr., was a brigadier general.

Photos were not allowed to be taken in the house, but there are several available on the Internet to share with the Round Table. One of the most interesting things on display was the carriage that Seward was riding in when he had his carriage accident and was confined to bed on April 14, 1865. Five men were injured that night during Booth conspirator Lewis Powell's attack on Seward: Seward, his sons Augustus and Frederick, his nurse Sgt. George Robinson, and messenger Emerick Hansell. Hansell was paralyzed permanently from the stabbing. The small museum upstairs has a piece of the bed sheet that was



The carriage Seward was riding in when his jaw was injured — requiring him to wear the neck brace that later saved his life on April 14th, 1865 when he was attacked in bed by conspirator Lewis Powell.

on the bed at the time of the attack. All five men including Seward survived the attack. Frederick had to wear a skull cap the rest of his life because of his misshapen head. Seward's wife Frances died two months later on June 21, 1865 from a heart attack due to the anxiety she suffered from the attack. Their daughter Fanny died from tuberculosis two years later in 1866.

The house was the only one ever owned by Seward. All the furnishings in the house belonged to the Swards. On display are mementoes from his 44-year political career. There are many beautiful antiques in each

(con't on page 9)

Upcoming Speakers - (Con't from page 1)

grateful to have National Park Service Historian Matt Atkinson bring us his own well-researched expertise on the Battle of Vicksburg as part of our Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary events series. Matt brings an equally high level of passion to his presentation, as our audience will see. He is employed by Gettysburg National Military Park as a park ranger, where you have to be ready to face Civil War enthusiasts daily!

Matt hails from Houston, Mississippi (Grierson's Raid came through his town), where he loved learning about the Civil War. When his parents took him to local battlefields such as Vicksburg and Shiloh, Matt always asked, "Dad, did we win here?" and Dad always responded, "No, not here." At age seven, Matt with his parents made a trip to the Manassas battlefield.... Finally! A victory! Welcome back to Manassas, Matt!

Matt attended 'Ole Miss' and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts in History. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in History at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Matt has also published a manuscript entitled "*Drennan's Letter*," written by a Confederate staff officer. William Drennan witnessed many important events during the campaign and siege of Vicksburg. In May 1863, as the siege began, Drennan began a letter to his wife that eventually totaled ninety pages and chronicled all that happened during the siege.

He currently resides in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania with his wife Angela and son Benjamin Lee. Matt's talk promises to provide an entertaining evening, so don't miss it! As always, see you at the Copper Canyon Grill prior to every meeting this year, at 5:00 p.m., or prior to the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy some fellowship at the library before the start of the meeting/lectures.

Ms. Rebelle - (Con't from page 8)

room. The drawing room has a large painting of their daughter Fanny showing her with one glove on her hand holding flowers pointing downward, with lilies and clouds in the background. This symbolism represents the fact that she sat for the portrait but died before it was finished.



Any Civil War enthusiast has a great respect for a well-stocked library, and the collection of William Seward, a primary figure of that era, is one to admire.

There was a small chair nearby that had a hand-cranked music box under the seat.

His library is magnificent. There are books in most every room. He had the complete Official Records which looked to be very old. There was a bust of Lincoln in one window and a bust of Seward in the other. Seward was a short man at 5'4" and always sat for his pictures. There is a picture of him with his daughter Fanny, and he is seated. There are several pictures around the house of the famous Lincoln cabinet picture. The dining room was very large, and several china pieces belonging to the Searwards were on the table.

A curving stairway leads up to what Seward called his diplomatic gallery. He has many pictures of people he met while being Secretary of State and his later travels. He numbered all his pictures. Abraham Lincoln's picture is No. 66, and Seward numbered his No. 66 ½ to show how close he was to the president. The suit he wore when he met Queen Victoria is displayed in a cabinet upstairs. There are four bedrooms upstairs.

On display upstairs too are items from Alaska, which Seward facilitated the purchase of in 1867. Also on display was a gold ring that the tour guide said was one of five made from the golden spike finishing the transcontinental railroad in 1869 at Promontory Sum-

mit, Utah. He told us that one was given to President U.S. Grant, one to each of the presidents of Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads, one to the minister giving the invocation, and one to William Seward. When researching the golden spike, this story does not come, up but

the ring is definitely there.

Actor David Strathairn, who portrayed William Seward in the movie *Lincoln*, visited the house to soak in the atmosphere prior to filming per the tour guide.

After graduating from Union College with a law degree, Seward entered into a law partnership with his father-in-law Judge Miller. He was the 12th governor of New York from 1839-1842. He was a U.S. senator from New York from 1849-1861. Seward was favored to win the nomination for president in 1860 but lost to Lincoln. Seward was Secretary of State under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson from 1861-1869.

Both Seward and his wife were involved with the abolitionist movement. Frances operated a safe room in their home for fugitive slaves. Seward travelled extensively around the world in 1870-1871. On October 10, 1872, he died in his downstairs office on a green velvet couch, which is still in the room.

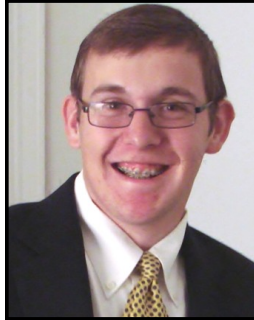
In the next issue of the *Stone Wall*, Ms. Rebelle will get you back to Charleston.

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.

WEST SPRINGFIELD SENIOR WINS BRCWRT SCHOLARSHIP

By Nancy Anwyll

The first Bull Run Civil War Round Table Scholarship will be awarded to Taylor Hayes McConnell of West Springfield High School in Fairfax County. The \$1,000 award will be sent to George Mason University where Taylor has enrolled for the fall term and will major in history. After college graduation, he plans to teach history.



Taylor Hayes McConnell

Taylor fulfilled all of the requirements for the \$1,000 award offered to seniors at Stone Wall Jackson, Centreville and West Springfield High Schools. He submitted not only an application but also a recommendation from a teacher and a transcript of grades that showed high achievement in history. His essay topic deals with Col. John Singleton Mosby, the Confederate partisan ranger. Taylor's last task was to complete an interview in April with the BRCWRT Scholarship Committee.

On June 13th, Taylor and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew McConnell, will join us both at the Copper Canyon restaurant and later at the general membership meeting in the library where BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich will present Taylor a Certificate of Award, a year's membership in the BRCWRT, and a

BRCWRT pin. If you are at the restaurant or at the library on June 13th, be sure to greet Taylor.

The day before the BRCWRT meeting, Taylor also will be recognized at his school's senior recognition ceremony by having his name and his scholarship listed in the awards program. The school's policy does not allow awards to be given individually on stage due to the large number of students receiving awards and the lack of space and time. By coming to our meeting on June 13th, Taylor will be able to receive personal recognition for his achievement.

The idea of a BRCWRT scholarship was generated by the Executive Committee in May of 2012. Since this was the first time that our round table had offered a scholarship, only three schools were selected as a test run. Nancy Anwyll and Rob Orrison were appointed to be on the Scholarship Committee. They were tasked with researching similar scholarships and drawing up rules and requirements for a scholarship offered by BRCWRT. Nancy and Rob were helped by Executive Committee members Mark Trbovich, Mark Knowles, Charlie Balch, Brian McEnany and round table member Jill Hilliard. Ken Jones assisted greatly by posting all of the scholarship information on the BRCWRT Web site where applicants could download forms and requirements.

The decision to offer a 2014 scholarship available to many more schools is now being considered by the Executive Committee. If you have ideas or if you support what's being done, let the Executive Committee or the Scholarship Committee know.

THE BOOK CORNER—(con't from page 4)

left no memoirs. How could Lee not have foreseen another Malvern Hill? Another Sears's interpretation: Did Longstreet deliberately withhold reinforcements to save more boys from the needless slaughter of Pickett's Charge?

There were equally difficult command challenges on the Union side. In a fit of pique (and supreme insubordination), Hooker resigned (June 27) command of the army just three days from battle. Fortunately, George G. Meade was a bold and decisive general, exactly what the Army of the Potomac needed. In raging battle, he was a masterful commander, blessed with excellent subordinates. He was clearly the better general at Gettysburg but not without his own mistakes. His Pipe Creek Circular, a plan to fortify behind Pipe Creek south of Gettysburg, was rendered moot by events but would nonetheless discolor his military legacy. His dilatory pursuit of Lee after

the battle was roundly criticized by Lincoln and the radical Congress.

Will you walk Pickett's Charge on the tour? Take Sears' excellent map along to appreciate the troop alignments. Load your backpack with about nine pounds of water and carry it in front of you like a musket. It is about one mile across. There is no shade and no cover. There is only a storm of death in your face. First, solid shot and exploding case; then the murderous canister; and finally the hail of musketry, often from the flanks. As you walk, remember those poor southern boys and think what unmitigated courage it took for them to walk that same route just 150 years ago.

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.

STAFFORD CIVIL WAR PARK GRAND OPENING

By Sandra Cox

April 27th was an absolutely beautiful day. I wonder if it was as beautiful when the 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Union XI Corps marched 150 years ago to the day from their fortifications and encampment out of what is now officially the Stafford Civil War Park, towards Chancellorsville and the impending flank attack by “Stonewall” Jackson and his troops.

Throughout the day around 1,150 people attended the grand opening which included living history by reenactor Dr. Pete Peterson of Allentown, PA with his display of surgical battlefield instruments. There were infantry drills and cannon firing demonstrations. Reenactors in Union uniforms associated with the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites (FSCWS) led tours of winter camp sites, three fortifications, the Old Potomac Church Road, Corduroy Road and Daniel Bridge ruins at Accokeek Creek plus a historic sandstone quarry.

Many of the Union XI Corps Corps troops were German-Americans, and Dr. Christian B. Keller gave an excellent talk on their participation in the Civil War, particularly Chancellorsville. Al Conner was unable to attend due to illness, but his wife and author, Jane, did an excellent job speaking on Al's book about Stafford County's part in the Civil War where over 135,000 troops were encamped.



Sandra Cox with Pres. Abe Lincoln, portrayed by Don Mullen, a Stafford County science teacher. Or, as Lincoln wryly commented on his debates with Stephen A. Douglas, "That's the long and the short of it...!"

Photo by Alethea Cruz

Al's book, *Union Army's "Valley Forge 1863: 93 Days That Saved America"* will be out this fall and gave inspiration to the sign erected at the park entrance.

The 97th Regimental String Band performed numerous songs from the Civil War and Stafford County and Virginia State delegates represented by Supervisor Paul Milde and Speaker of the House of Delegates and local resident Bill Howell spoke. One of the most popular dignitaries of the day was the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Don Mullen, a Stafford County middle school science teacher who graciously fulfilled numerous photo requests during his first official event.

The children enjoyed all the activities including the Junior Soldiers program where they donned soldier's jackets and learned how to drill, about the types of food the soldiers ate, the equipment the soldiers had to carry, games they played when in camp and how they wrote letters back home. Each child was given a booklet which had to be completed at the various displays. When finished, they were enlisted into the Junior Union Army and re-

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Sandra's grandson Sam Cruz (r) participates in the Junior Soldiers' program. While Union soldiers are not usually described as being 'adorable,' we can sure make an exception here with these fine fellows!



BRCWRT presidents gathered to hear Ed's May meeting lecture (l - r) John McAnaw, Nancy Anwyll, Keith Young, Ed Bearss, Dan Paterson & Mark Trbovich.

Ed Bearss Visits BRCWRT to Speak, Enjoy 90th Birthday Celebration



Left is Sandy Iasiello and right is Deanna Bailey, who do the refreshments twice a year.



In photo at left, Ed (l) is greeted by Mark Knowles (r); in photo at right, John McAnaw (l) welcomes good friend Ed Bearss (r).

Photos by Janet Greentree



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ceived a patch with the FSCWS winter hut logo as a remembrance.

Special guests of the day were the soldiers who cleared the park land and paved the roads. The Virginia Army National Guard's 276th Engineer Battalion and the Virginia Air National Guard's Red Horse Engineer Squadron proudly showed their family and friends the sign dedicated to their honor and hard work and what they accomplished during three "Innovative Readiness Training Exercises" during the summers of 2011 and 2012.

But the two proudest men there were FSCWS Executive Director Glenn Trimmer and President D.P. Newton, who in 2006 addressed the Stafford County Board of Supervisors with plans to save the 41 acres as a Civil War park and saw it to completion. Thanks, guys, it's a treasure!

The Stafford Civil War Park is open daily until dusk and is located at 400 Mount Hope Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554. From the I-95 Exit 140, turn left on Courthouse Road, then 3.5 miles to Andrew Chapel Road. Turn right on Andrew Chapel for 0.9 miles to the VRE trestle. Go under the trestle and make an immediate right onto Brooke Road (south) for 0.4 miles to Mount Hope Church Road. Turn right and go to the end of the road to the park entrance.



Some of the many reenactors who made the opening of Stafford a memorable event.

Photo by Alan Day

BRCWRT Folks at Chancellorsville 150th



At left (counterclockwise): Kevin Knapp talks about Prof. Thaddeus Lowe's observation platform; Artillery "Hell;" Gen'l Sherman and staff talk strategy; J.E.B. Stuart ready for battle; Confederates rally to the flag before Jackson's flank attack.



Article and Photos by Gwen Wytenbach

It was a beautiful but windy weekend for the 150th Anniversary Commemoration and Reenactment of the Battle of Chancellorsville on 3-5 May at Spotsylvania, VA.

Hundreds of reenactors, spectators and living historians turned out for this historic event in memory of the "boys of 1861-65." The reenactment ensured that soldiers on "both sides" in the Civil War were well honored and remembered for their sacrifices during the battle of Chancellorsville and, additionally, to help raise money for local historic preservation ... also, it was an opportunity to shoot off "a lot of black powder!"

Among members and "friends" of the BRCWRT in attendance were: Pam Ungar, Nancy Olds, Gwen Wytenbach, Kevin Knapp (Prof. Thaddeus Lowe), Dave Meisky (Gen. "Extra Billy" Smith), Chris Godart (Gen. "Dick" Ewell), Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, represented by Bill Frueh, Gen. Robert E. Lee by Al Stone, and Maj. Heros von Borcke by R. J. Cicero.

The battle scenario, which featured Jackson's Flank Attack, was well-orchestrated and spectacular in its execution by the Confederate and Union reenactors on the field.

Next up ... Gettysburg 150th!

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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