



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XX, Issue 10, FEBRUARY 2014

EDWARD BONEKEMPER, III SPEAKS ON “HOW GEN. ROBERT E. LEE LOST THE CIVIL WAR” AT OUR FEBRUARY 13th MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

Confederate General Robert E. Lee is beloved in the South for many various reasons, and to say that he lost the Civil War is controversial, to say the least. Our February speaker will come down from Pennsylvania and speak to us on that subject, which, I am sure, will make for an entertaining and lively audience discussion.

Edward H. Bonekemper, III received his B.A. (cum laude) from Muhlenberg College, his M.A. in American History from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and is a graduate of Yale Law School. For more than 34 years, he served as a federal government attorney, including 11 years of active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard, and 17 years as the senior hazardous materials transportation attorney for the U.S. Department of Transportation. He is a retired commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Ed lives in Willow Street, Pennsylvania, where he is very involved in community affairs. He is the author of four Civil War books: “*How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*,” “*A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant’s Overlooked Military Genius*,” “*McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse*,” and “*Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*.” He became the new *Civil War News* Book Review Editor in 2012.

A reminder - we are meeting for dinner at the Coyote Grill -14101 St. Germain Dr., Centreville,

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

7 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

AUTHOR EDWARD BONEKEMPER, III

TOPIC:

**“HOW GEN. ROBERT E. LEE LOST
THE CIVIL WAR”**



On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee (right) surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia.

Credit: The Granger Collection, New York

VA - prior to every meeting at 5 p.m. Come on out, just east of the library in the Giant shopping center, and say hello to Ed. His books available for sale at the 7 p.m. meeting. Hope to see you then.

Cavaliers, Courage & Coffee Program - The Bitter Winter of 1864

Through the eyes of a variety of citizens and soldiers remembering their experiences during the bitter Civil War winter of 1864, the horror and divisiveness of Civil War comes alive with the help of the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group. Stories will tell of the fight at Ankers Shop, smuggling along the Potomac, a shoot-out in Leesburg, and Mosby dining at Temple Hall. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Adults \$8, students \$4.

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 7:30 p.m. Temple Hall Farm Regional Park, 15855 Limestone School Road, Leesburg, VA

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **March 2014 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, February 24, to - Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **March 2014 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, February 14, 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* -

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 13, 2014 - Scott Harris - "Battle of New Market, VA: May 1864"

April 10, 2014 - Al Smith - "Gettysburg 1938 Veterans Reunion"

May 8, 2014 - Ed Bearss - "Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse: May 1864"

June 12, 2014 - Benjamin Cooling - "Battle of Fort Stevens, July 1864"

July 10, 2014 - NPS Ranger Robert Dunkerly - "Battle of Cold Harbor: June 1864"

August 14, 2014 - NPS Ranger Emmanuel Dabney - "Battle of the Crater/Petersburg: July 1864"

September 11, 2014 - Scott Patchen - "Sheridan at Opequon Creek: September 1864"

October 9, 2014 - James Price - "Battle of New Market Heights/Chaffin's Farm: September 1864"

November 13, 2014 - Gene Schmiel and Ron Mayer - "Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era, Battle of Franklin, TN: November 1864"

December 18, 2014 - David Goetz - "Hell is Being a Republican in Virginia: The Postwar Relationship Between John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant"

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The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

During the past two months, the 'Arctic Vortex' has produced record cold, snow and ice, but this month we celebrate Valentine's Day and think of warm nights by the fire with our loved ones. Gladly, we will be nice and warm on February 13th in the Centreville Library as we hear Edward Bonekemper, III's lecture on "How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War." I predict we will have a lively discussion after the presentation, with different perspectives to think about. This should be an entertaining evening for all.

I want to thank our December speaker, Dr. Robert Neyland, for his most enlightening lecture; "CSS *Hunley* - Civil War Submarine 1863/1864." Everyone in the room was keenly



Dr. Robert Neyland

Photo by Gwen Wyttenbach

focused on the excellent pictures and fascinating artifacts recovered from the dives of the historic submersible.

Dr. Neyland led us on a start-to-finish excavation of the *Hunley*, and all who saw it will never forget the men who died in that sub. Each man

was identified and a background of his life was given. What an eye-opening presentation.

Before the lecture, the BRCWRT held its Annual Election of Officers. The following officers were unanimously voted in by the general membership: Mark Trbovich – President; Robert Orrison – Vice President; Mark Knowles – Treasurer; and John Pearson - Secretary. Congratulations to all. I look forward to serving with you, and the entire 2014 BRCWRT Executive Committee.

We are so happy to announce that our

BRCWRT Facebook (FB) page was officially launched December 1st, and now more than 165 folks have added it (or "LIKED" it) to their list of Facebook correspondence. Now is the time to do the same, if you haven't already, by typing in <https://www.facebook.com/bullruncwrt> and hitting "Like". You will then be receiving future real-time pictures of Civil War events, updates and local and regional information that should enhance your Civil War experience and knowledge.

Our January meeting featured the Civil War Sesquicentennial Month lecture: "Major John S. Mosby's 1863 Year in Review" by author and historian Eric Buckland. Quite a large crowd listened to how Mosby pulled his original band of partisans together in January 1863, and how they later in June 1863 became the 43rd Virginia Cavalry Rangers.



Eric Buckland

Photo by Janet Greentree

The individual Rangers' stories were so compelling, and Eric's humor shone while talking about the varied aspects of their social lives, and their experiences as they hid and ran from the Federal Calvary. Thank you, Eric, for such an outstanding lecture, and for making your books available to us.

The January meeting also brought on E.B. Vandiver as our newest BRCWRT Executive Committee member, with all other Executive Committee members returning to serve in 2014. He will be heading up the 25th Silver Anniversary Committee, and is looking for volunteers to help in this notable milestone, coming up in 2016. Our treasurer, Mark Knowles, took the opportunity to outline this year's annual budget to the membership; it was unanimously accepted.

The new year heralds the start of the 2014

(Con't on page 10)

A BRCWRT E-mail Update From Webmaster Alan Day -



The saga continues: The ISP's response to the BRCWRT e-mail problems last fall was to move our account to a new server. This server operates under a new policy and menu system. One side effect is that any posting to the group e-mail list must be approved by the BRCWRT Web master (including his own). Also, if an e-mail bounces on a particular e-mail address, that address is automatically deleted from the group e-mail list. The member may receive a notice from the ISP that the e-mail address has been deleted from the e-mail group. When I receive these notifications, if they are correct, I restore them to the list (there have been some typos on the list.)

Some of these bounces are residual from the old server listing as a spam platform. The BRCWRT members need to notify their ISP to accept BRCWRT postings as "not spam."

BRCWRT members are encouraged to visit the new Bull Run Civil War Round Table Facebook page, "Like" it, and share it with their Facebook friends: <https://www.facebook.com/bullruncwrt>.

Monitor Lab Closes Due to Federal Funding Shortfall

Elliot Gruber, President & CEO of The Mariners' Museum, announced recently that they have made the difficult decision to temporarily close the 5,000 square-foot lab that houses the *USS Monitor's* gun turret and other large artifacts following the Dec. 31, 2013, expiration of an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The decision to close the "wet lab" does not affect other Museum activities. The *Monitor* exhibition *Ironclad Revolution* is still open, as is the rest of the exhibition space at The Mariners' Museum. Also, though no progress in the artifacts' treatment will occur during this period, the artifacts will remain in a stable environment.

NOAA is waiting on Congress' approval of a budget to determine what funding to make available this coming year. NOAA and The Mariners' Museum are working together to ensure that funding is in place to continue this important conservation work. The lab will re-open once funding is secured. The Mariner's Museum urges the public to help by letting federal legislators and NOAA offices know you want the government to designate funding for the *Monitor* conservation project at The Mariners' Museum.

* 2014 Membership Renewals *

It's that time of year to renew your membership with the Bull Run Civil War Round Table! For just \$20, you can support one the largest and best Civil War round tables in the nation. Your money goes towards our speaker program, scholarship program, tours and preservation projects across the region. As John McAnaw once said - we are "the cheap and the proud!"

We had nearly 240 members last year, which enables us to bring in good speakers and support preservation projects. Be sure to see our treasurer Mark Knowles during the next meeting or complete and mail him your membership form on the last page of the newsletter and/or check to: 169 Applegate Dr., Sterling, VA 20164.

Your membership is important to us, and we look forward to an exciting and successful 2014. Stay tuned for information on new tours, and a round table picnic coming up this year.

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

Here's a grateful "shout out" for these folks who have recently joined the BRCWRT:

♦ Stan Augustine

♦ Robert Skelton

♦ Samuel Laudenslager

♦ Gary Greene

♦ Mark Allen

Northern Press Reports Rebels Routed at Bull Run

By Randy Ferryman

Sunday evening, July 21, 1861, citizens across the North went to sleep excited, and more were ecstatic the next morning after reading newspaper headlines announcing that the Union Army had achieved a glorious victory over the Rebels near Bull Run creek in Virginia in the first major clash between the armies of the United States and Confederate States of America. Around dinner time that evening in Washington, D.C., about 30 miles northeast of the battle site, President Abraham Lincoln was so upbeat about his army's success against Confederate troops near Manassas Junction that he went for a carriage ride.

In New York City, the newspaper capital of America, leading tabs and broadsheets were re-releasing "extras" that very day, even before the rout of Union troops at Bull Run was complete, followed the next morning by editions with headlines and reports about a Union triumph that many northerners believed would quickly lead to the reunification of the country.

The New York Herald hailed the "Heroism of the Union Forces," and *The New York Tribune* reported "...The Rebel batteries were ultimately silenced, and their ranks forced back inch by inch until they were driven from Bull's Run, leaving their dead on the field and the National troops undisputed victors..." *The New York Times* echoed the same message "...Crushing Rebellion...The Rebels Routed and Driven Behind the Manassas (railroad) Lines...Now on to Richmond!"

Editors who printed the Union victory story realized the day after the battle that their early releases were wrong - the Confederate Army, not the Union Army, was the undisputed victor at Bull Run. Early, on July 22nd, the telegraph office in Washington re-opened, after its forced closure late on July 21st. With its powering up, the floodgate opened for updated news about the battle, reaching New York and the *Herald*, which that morning published extras about the Union debacle at Bull Run.

The news spread rapidly that the Union army had not only suffered a major defeat, but that it also had hastily fled the scene in a rout, along with scores of frightened civilians who had followed their army to witness a grand federal victory.

In part, to salvage the sullied reputation of their

newspapers after misleading the public about the battle, editors furiously (and justifiably) attacked the U.S. government for having censored reports carrying the real story of the Confederate victory that had been prepared late in the day on July 21st by their reporters in the field.

A *New York Times* editorial about government interference with reporting of the Bull Run battle reflected the view of several newspaper editors: "...We (the *Times*) desire it to be distinctly understood that we are not in the slightest degree responsible for what, if done deliberately by us, would be branded as a wonton and reckless trifling with the feelings of the public.... It was an agent of the government - and not the conductors of the *Times* - who suppressed the facts of this most important case...."

In this instance, the editors were quite correct; government censors - under orders issued by the commander of the U.S. Army, General Winfield Scott - would not permit news of the Union defeat at Bull Run to be transmitted on July 21st by the telegraph service in Washington. Throughout the Civil War, newspaper editors on both sides, particularly northern editors, often claimed that government censorship violated their First Amendment rights and denied them information essential for first-rate journalism. Censorship, imposed extensively but unevenly during the war by both governments, frequently inhibited newspapers from accurately and comprehensively reporting news about military developments. Authorities deemed it necessary, because the print media was often guilty of disclosing sensitive military information that commanders believed aided the enemy.

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CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Wyoming – More Civil War Connections

By Janet Greentree

Don't know if you are aware of this fact or not, but Wyoming is an open state. It's open in the sense that you can carry a gun in public without a permit. This does seem like a strange phenomenon, since Wyoming and the Old West were such lawless places. Cheyenne was once known as "Hell on Wheels." Ms. Rebelle first learned about Wyoming being an open state when my sister and I toured the old historic Governor's Mansion in Cheyenne. We were told by the docents



Governor's Mansion, Cheyenne, WY.

Photo by Janet Greentree

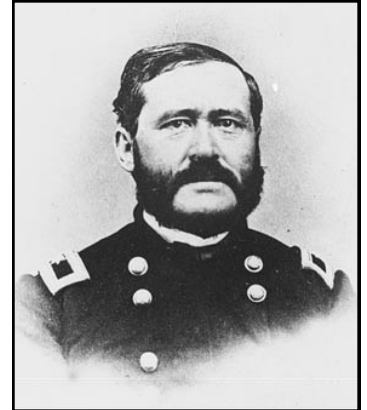
working in the garden to just walk in. They said we could walk around, take pictures, and make ourselves at home. The

mansion was filled with beautiful antiques. Can you imagine that happening here in Virginia?

The mansion, built in 1904, is five blocks from the State Capitol at the corner of 21st Street and House Avenue. The beautiful old house has never had a fence around it, nor had security on the premises, and there is no admission fee. The last of 19 governors' families lived there until 1976. It was also the home of Nellie Tayloe Ross, the first woman governor of

Wyoming. Vice-President Richard Nixon visited the mansion and spent the night there.

I'm sure you're wondering what the Civil War connection is here. It is Governor John Milton Thayer, who was also a Union general in the Civil War, serving his entire time in the Western Theatre, fighting at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and ending with Fort Smith. Thayer was from Nebraska. He commanded General Frederick



General John Milton Thayer

Steele's (profiled in the December 2013/January 2014 *Stone Wall*) rear at the battle of Jenkins' Ferry. General Ulysses S. Grant appointed him governor of the Territory of Wyoming in 1875. He served until 1878. Thayer went back to Nebraska and served two terms as governor of Nebraska from 1886-1888. He died in Nebraska and is buried in Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska (another place for Ms. Rebelle to visit).

Cheyenne has a beautiful state Capitol with a gold dome, located on Capitol Avenue between 24th & 25th Streets. Like our State Capitol in Richmond, the build-



Wyoming State Capitol in Cheyenne.

Photo by Janet Greentree

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

ing has marble floors with fossils in the floor so there is this connection to Virginia as well. This is another building without (much) security where you can walk around, look into the offices, look at the chambers, and even stop in to see the Governor without an appointment if he is in his office. This we didn't find out until



Interior staircase - Wyoming State Capitol.

Photo by Janet Greentree

we took a trolley tour of the city. The trolley tour started at the old train depot that Union General Grenville M. Dodge built. Across the street is a very red building that houses the headquarters store for Wrangler Jeans. Large painted cowboy boots are everywhere in the city, similar to the other public art projects done in several cities in recent years, featuring large, gaily painted sculptures.

On the way to Laramie, Wyoming we stopped at the Ames Monument, dedicated to Oakes Ames, Jr. and his brother Oliver, built in 1882. It's located at Sheridan Summit, the highest point of the



Ames Monument.

Photo by Janet Greentree

Transcontinental Railroad (at 8,247 feet). The Ames brothers were the main financiers for the railroad.

President



Laramie Train Station.

Photo by Janet Greentree

Lincoln himself asked Oakes Ames to be instrumental in finishing the railroad. The monument is shaped like a pyramid, not unlike the pyramid in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA. The monument used to be right on the Lincoln Highway, but since the 'new' Interstate 80 was built, it is now just a short exit from the interstate down a gravel road. The monument has bas reliefs of both brothers near the top – one facing north and one facing south. Unfortunately, being in such a remote location, the noses of both brothers have been shot off!

Fun Facts

Fort Sanders was located outside of Laramie and named for Union General William Price Sanders. The fort used to be named Fort Buford for Union General John Buford. Laramie was named for French trapper Jacques de la Ramie.

Driving towards Jackson Hole we went through a cute little town called Lander, named for Union General Frederick W. Lander. Lander was the home of Camp Augur, named for Union General Christopher Columbus Augur. One of Augur's many duties during the Civil War

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Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 7)

was being the officer in charge of escorting President Lincoln's body from the Peterson House to the White House after Lincoln's assassination.

President Ulysses S. Grant signed the act of dedication of the Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

In Denver, Colorado, the Capitol building is bordered by Grant, Sherman, and Lincoln Streets. The building is also modeled after the U.S. Capitol but with a gold dome. Two former Confederates were elected governor of Colorado – James Grant, 20th Alabama, and Charles Thomas, Georgia Militia. Jefferson Davis' daughter Margaret Davis Howell lived in Colorado Springs.

In the Molly Brown house in Denver, Molly's husband, Leadville Johnnie (J.J.) Brown had three chairs in his office that belonged to Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Not Civil War Related, But Interesting

Driving from Rawlins north towards Jackson Hole, Wyoming, we stopped at Fort Washakie to find the grave of Sacajawea. She was the young Shoshone woman who, carrying her baby with her, traveled with the Lewis and Clark expedition. She was the only woman on the trip to the Pacific Ocean.

Stopping at a trading post on the Wind River Indian Reservation, we asked if Sacajawea was buried nearby and could we be given directions. The clerk did better than that, giving us a map and telling us to turn on to the street parallel to the trading post. The map showed the road to the cemetery to be two (intersecting) roads down and to the right. Roads and gravel roads must be different out West,

because we never saw two roads. We finally came to a dirt road and turned down it, looking for a cemetery. There was nothing there that looked like a cemetery, and we were obviously on someone's land, as two young men were

watching what we were doing. We finally decided to forget finding her grave and get on our way. Then the two young men drove up to our car and asked us what we were looking for. When we told them, they said "follow us, and we will take you there." Not being sure that it was such a

good idea to follow two male strangers, we nevertheless did decide to follow them. They took us right to the correct road and cemetery, which we had somehow missed.

Then, they both told us that they were good Shoshone, and would not have hurt us - they had obviously seen our concern when they said, "follow us." For two women travel-



Sacajawea Statue.

Photo by Janet Greentree



Sacajawea Grave.

Photo by Janet Greentree

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Bull Run Press Reports - (con't from page 5)

The newspaper industry also had its own set of problems to overcome in order to produce quality 'copy' of Civil War battles and developments. The Civil War gave an enormous boost to an already well-established, although not very profitable, industry that now had rising readership across an America that was thirsty for news of the war and its soldiers. Standards for journalism, for objectivity and in publishing, didn't exist within the industry prior to the Civil War, but began to emerge during the conflict, particularly at major outlets of the more than 2,500 newspapers operating in America prior to the Civil War. But these developing standards, found in daily, weekly, and monthly newspapers and magazines, still had a way to go to match modern standards, and articles and publishing early in the war reflected many poor journalistic practices.

According to the 1860 census, 80 percent of all daily newspapers were classified as decidedly "political" in content, and many newspapers were financed by political office-holders and seekers, or were subsidized by local governments. Editors and reporters unabashedly filtered news according to their strongly held biases on various issues, values, and principles. In front-page articles, they routinely commingled facts with editorial commentary, slanting the news to shape public opinion. They would regularly distort the importance and facts of a major battle according to their highly partisan perspective, in order to arouse support or opposition among politicians, the military and the public.

Reporting on military and battle developments from the field was a new experience for all but a few of the estimated 500 field correspondents who pioneered combat and military reporting during the Civil War. Referred to as "specials," they were under consistent pressure from editors to "smoke out" newsworthy topics and report them rapidly, so to "scoop" other newspapers. This inexperience, under a rush to publish, and with the prevailing

biases among specials, combined with several other factors, such as lack of access to the fighting, frequently resulted in poorly written and inaccurate reports of a battle. Sometimes absent altogether from the fighting or areas of a battlefield, specials were known to make up details of events to quickly



Union soldiers and supplies fleeing the Manassas battlefield on July 21, 1861.

Painting by William T. Trego

get stories off to editors. Most of the time, summary results of a battle would not be published until two days after a battle.

About 50 correspondents from northern and southern newspapers descended on the Bull Run area, having received permission from military authorities to cover the battle. The Union commander at Bull Run, Brigadier General Irvin McDowell, welcomed them and instructed them to stay together, stay out of the way, and to wear white so that their role would be clearly discernable. Most reporters, however, violated these terms, in large part because they were trying to scoop each other.

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard imposed stricter terms; those reporters not already in the immediate vicinity of the battlefield were barred from entering it, although a few decided to do so anyway. He shut down civilian communications in

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

ing alone, following unknown men is always a serious consideration. But we took into consideration the fact that they were Native people who would be familiar with the site, and were proud to show it to visiting historians such as we.

The Sacajawea Cemetery was the most interesting cemetery I have ever seen. It was very well-tended with love for departed ones by the community. Every one of the graves was mounded up, and each of the graves had at least 20-30 plastic bunches of flowers placed in the ground. Sacajawea was indeed buried there with her sons Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau and Basil. My sister and I ate our lunch sitting beneath Sacajawea's statue. Back in 2010, Yankee Nan (Nancy Anwyll), my sister and I toured a replica of Fort Clatsop in Oregon, where the Lewis and Clark expedition spent the winter of 1805-1806 on the Columbia River.

At Seaside, Oregon is a wonderful statue on the Pacific Ocean commemorating their journey.

This concludes the West trip. It is always interesting discovering that the Civil War extends all over this country of ours. Hope you all enjoyed our trip.



Lewis & Clark Statue - Seaside, OR.

Photo by Janet Greentree

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 jlgrtree@erols.com.

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

BRCWRT four-month membership drive; you don't want to miss receiving any issues of the BRCWRT Stone Wall, so be sure to renew your membership between now and April. Please continue to spread the word to your family and friends, including the younger folks, that the BRCWRT is the Northern Virginia Civil War hub for information, preservation, and that ours is a tremendous organization.

We are now be meeting for dinner at the Coyote Grill - 14101 St. Germain Dr., Centreville, VA - prior to every meeting at 5 p.m. If you can't make dinner, we'll see you at the library before 7 p.m. to share fellowship, buy some books and get ready for another excellent lecture.

On a personal note, I look forward to enjoying the 2014 Sesquicentennial Event and Anniversary lecture series with you. We have come a long way since the start in 2010 of this lecture series, and have more roads to travel on the journey that was the Civil War.

Let us never forget those who served, and what they did for us. God Bless all of you.



Holiday treats were dished out at the December BRCWRT meeting by cheerful volunteers Sandy Iasiello (left) and Deanna Bailey (right).

Photo by Gwen Wyttenbach

Bull Run Press Reports - (con't from page 9)

the Manassas area after commandeering local rail-road and telegraphic services for military use only.

With the battle underway in an area stretching seven or eight miles, reporters had an isolated view of developments; but those covering the northern end of the field saw the initial Union success in turning the Confederate left flank, and thus began drafting their stories of a Union victory. At 2 p.m. on Sunday, *New York Times* editor Henry Raymond, reporting from the field, wired his New York office from Centreville, Virginia, that a Union victory at Bull Run was imminent and that the road to Richmond was open. At 3:30 p.m., *New York Herald* reporter William Shaw telegraphed New York with news of the Union carrying the day and routing the Rebels. General McDowell sent a similar victory message to his superiors in Washington that was transmitted to the country over the national wires at 5:30 p.m.

Reporters who had submitted victory copy soon realized their blunder. They and other reporters became entangled in the chaos and confusion emerging from the rout of federal forces as Confederate troops under General Thomas Jackson (who stood like a "stone wall") - along with other Rebel units - stopped the Union advance and proceeded to pursue Union soldiers fleeing the field. Several reporters claimed to have tried to rally Union soldiers, only to fail. One *Herald* reporter claimed that he had shot and killed a wounded Confederate officer who had aimed his weapon at the reporter.

Reporters were trapped amidst crowds of despairing Union soldiers and civilians who, with their wagons, buggies, and horses and mules, were desperately seeking the safety of the defenses surrounding the capital; they vainly attempted to dash toward Washington with the real scoop of the day. They struggled to reach their destination along the clogged and wet roads leading to the District, and would arrive throughout the evening and into the early morning only to discover that they could not quickly communicate with their editors because government censors, with the approval of Secretary of State William H. Seward, would not release news of the Union defeat.

Until 7 p.m. Sunday evening, the telegraph office in Washington had been transmitting news of a Union victory, but, about that time, news of the Union defeat trickled in when observers of the rout

began reaching Washington. Associated Press reporters, who had earlier been reporting a victory, were preparing new dispatches with the real story by 11 p.m., attempting to get the telegraph office open in order to transmit them. Their effort failed and the telegraph office did not reopen until the following morning, Monday, July 22, probably around 7 a.m.

When the doors to the telegraph office, located in the Willard Hotel near the White House, were finally opened, reporters poured in, pressing operators to expedite their stories of the Union's defeat to their editors. Each was allowed only 15 minutes of transmission time, a stricture instituted early in the war to prevent a newspaper from monopolizing the wires. When the telegrams were delivered to their home offices, many stunned editors were skeptical about the turnabout of fortune that now trampled their earlier headlines. They soon acknowledged the accuracy of the updated reports, however, and realized that they would now be vulnerable to accusations of having misled their readership and acting recklessly in order to be first with the news.

War reporting in the north had gotten off to a rocky start.

About the author:

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About the article:

The major content for this article was derived from two sources, J. Cutler Andrews' *The North Reports the War*, 1955, University of Pittsburgh Press; and Brayton Harris' *War News, Blue and Gray in Black and White*, 1999, Brassey's. Two other works provided context for this article, J. Cutler Andrews' *The South Reports the War*, 1985, University of Pittsburgh Press; and Ford Risley's *Civil War Journalism*, 2012, Praeger.

On the Edge of History

By Chuck Mauro

Jon Hickox was wondering if he'd find more Civil War relics or grape vines when he started The Winery at Bull Run on the border of the famous National Battlefield Park that memorializes the First and Second Battles of Bull Run. These battles are also known as the First and Second Manassas, per the Confederate forces.

Jon purchased 21 acres in 2008, just northeast of the Stone Bridge, which was made famous when Union General Daniel Tyler fired the opening shot at the First Battle of Bull Run shortly after 6 a.m. on July 21, 1861. The shot was a rouse to hold the Confederates at that location while Union troops



Entrance to The Winery at Bull Run

won by the Confederate army, and where General Thomas Jonathon Jackson earned his famous moniker "Stonewall."

On August 28, 1862, Confederate Major General A.P. Hill's division crossed Jon's future property while traveling west along the Warrenton Turnpike from Centreville, on their way to the Confederate army's second victory at Bull Run.

The "bitten" bullets and syringe that Jon dug up on the property lay testament to the 1840s era house, Hillwood, which was converted into a hospital during the war. The Union army also retreated in defeat after both battles across the Stone Bridge along the Warrenton Turnpike, on the southern edge and entrance to Jon's property.

Jon commented that, "I knew virtually nothing about the Civil War history that occurred on the property, although I expected there to be something related to the battlefield, with its close proximity to the Stone Bridge. The first huge surprise was to find out that the modern house was built literally on top of the older stone foundation of the Civil War period house Hillwood. Once we discovered the older stone foundation buried behind the plaster in the cellar, it was clear the old house had quite the story to tell.

"The artifacts we excavated revealed quite an amazing story of the hospital site in the front yard, the artillery shells from the battle itself, and the



Left to right: Jon Hickox (owner), Frank Entwisle (who grew up at Hillwood), and Chuck Mauro (author).

marched north to Sudley Ford in an attempt to slip in behind them on the opposite side of Bull Run. Union Colonel William Tecumseh Sherman spent the rest of the morning scouting on the hill where Jon Hickox would, more than a century later, build his winery. Sherman completed scouting the location before joining the battle, which ultimately was

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artifacts from encampments representing both sides, with both New York and Virginia buttons. This little 21-acre farm turned out to be an absolute treasure trove of artifacts spanning the many years of activity that took place during and after the Civil War.”

Ever the history buff, Jon had the history of the property researched and written by myself, and published a 24-page booklet to complement his patrons’ interest in the winery.

The history of the property extends back to 1729, when Thomas, Sixth Lord of Fairfax, for whom Fairfax County was named, granted the property to Landon Carter, who handed the property down through his family until it was sold in



A Relic Display at the Winery at Bull Run.

room was built with authentic 1800s-era hand-hewn beams, posts and rafters salvaged from reclaimed barns across South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The tasting room in the larger “dairy barn” embodies the dairy farms so prevalent in the area in the 1920s. Relics that Jon discovered around the property are prominently displayed there.

Opened in 2012, the winery is growing the prized Norton grape, first developed in Richmond, Virginia in the 1830s. Jon adds, “For me, the true embodiment of any memorable experience is based on an authentic experience - one that you wouldn't expect to find anywhere else. This special place lives up to its authenticity by showcasing a distinctively Virginia wine, the Norton vine first conceived in Virginia back in the 1830s. Norton, also known as the ‘Wild Vine,’ is recognized as the first successfully grown grape vine in North America that could produce a respectable and very drinkable world-class wine. The Civil War artifacts that are found throughout the entire property serve as a constant reminder of the “hallowed ground” that the winery occupies, and reminds us all about the incredible history that took place here.”

So, the next time you visit this battlefield park, stop by the Winery and enjoy viewing the relics on display and tasting the wine, both having emerged from “hallowed ground.” Further information can be found at: www.WineryatBullRun.com.



Thomas Lee family at Hillwood, c 1896-1897.

1840, and Hillwood was built. Reaching out to the descendants of two previous owners, the history covers the family farms of Thomas A. Lee (from 1890 to 1936), and H. Frank Entwisle (from 1946 to 1980).

The winery was built next to the foundation of Hillwood, which burned down in 1990. The Winery at Bull Run was built to represent two Northern Virginia farms; a small 1800s-era barn and a larger 1920s dairy barn, complete with a hayloft and hay lift cable. The “little barn” entrance to the tasting

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