



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XX, Issue 16, OCTOBER 2014

HISTORIAN JAMES PRICE SPEAKS ON “THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET HEIGHTS/CHAFFIN FARM: SEPTEMBER 1864” AT THE OCTOBER 9TH MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

Fall is here my friends, and the 1864 Overland Campaign has bogged down in Petersburg, VA, for a long siege, and Gen. Sherman is marching to the sea. By the summer of 1864 the Confederates created a defensive system anchored south of Richmond on the James River at Chaffin's Farm. This outer line was supported by both an intermediate and inner system of fortifications closer to the capital. During the night of September 28-29, Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's Army of the James crossed the James River to assault the Richmond defenses north of the river. The battle of New Market Heights/Chaffin's Farm has begun.

James (Jimmy) Price will bring us the rest of the story at the October 9th meeting. This is another of our great Civil War Sesquicentennial anniversary events. James is the Historic Site Manager for both Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and Ben Lomond Historic Site in Prince William County. He is also an adjunct professor of Civil War history at Germanna Community College. He received his M.A. in military history from Norwich University in 2009 and has worked for such historic sites as Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Richmond National Battlefield and the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar.

James writes about different aspects of Civil War history on his award-winning weblog, “Freedom by the Sword: A Historian's Journey through the American Civil War Era.” His first book, *“The Battle of New Market Heights: Free-*

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

7 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

HISTORIAN JAMES PRICE

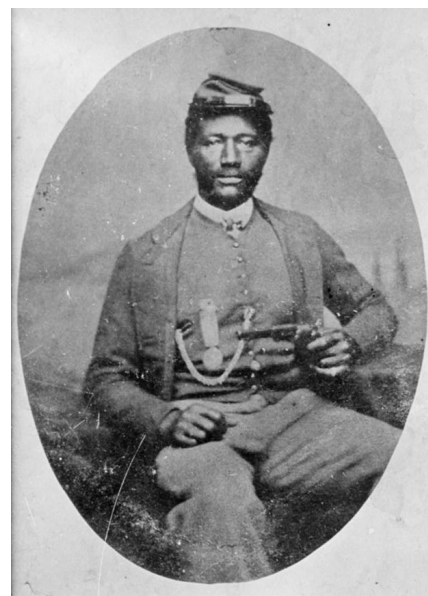
TOPIC:

**“THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET
HEIGHTS/CHAFFIN FARM:
SEPTEMBER 1864”**

*dom Will Be
Theirs by the
Sword,”* was nominated in the nonfiction category for the 15th annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards.

Jimmy is currently working on a second book, *“The First Battle of Deep Bottom: Grant vs. Lee North of the James, 1864,”* which will be published by The History Press in 2014.

As always, members are encouraged to come early and meet Jimmy Price at the Coyote Grill for dinner at 5 p.m. and to enjoy some fellowship. If, unfortunately, you can't make the dinner, please come early to the Centreville Library for the lecture at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.



James H. Harris of the 38th Colored Infantry Unit, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

President: Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net,
703.361.1396

Past President: Nancy Anwyll, njanwyll@verizon.net

Vice-President: Rob Orrison, orrison76@hotmail.com,
703.431.2869

Treasurer: Mark Knowles, 703.787.9811

Secretary: John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com,
703.475.1943

At Large: Charlie Balch, John De Pue, Brian McEnany, E.B. Vandiver

25th Silver Anniversary: E.B. Vandiver

Communications/Media: Jim Lewis,
antietam1862@verizon.net

Membership: Rob Orrison, orrison76@hotmail.com,
703.431.2869

Preservation: John McAnaw, 703.978.3371

Student Scholarship: Nancy Anwyll (njanwyll@verizon.net)
and Rob Orrison (orrison76@hotmail.com)

Sesquicentennial Fairfax: Ed Wenzel, ew136@verizon.net

Sesquicentennial Prince William: Rob Orrison,
orrison76@hotmail.com

Field Trips: Rob Orrison, orrison76@hotmail.com, John De Pue

Webmaster: Alan Day, brcwrt-news_events@bullruncwrt.org

Newsletter Editor: Nadine Mironchuk,
nadine1861@hotmail.com

Newsletter Team: Sandra Cox, Eric Fowler, Janet Greentree,
Jill Hilliard, and Andy Kapfer

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
703.830.2223

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **November 2014 issue**, e-mail articles by 9
a.m., Monday, October 27, to Nadine Mironchuk at:
nadine1861@hotmail.com.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **November 2014 issue**, advertisers should
please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at
<http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, October
17, 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**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

January 8, 2015 - John Coski - "Confederate
Navy, James River Campaign: 1862/1865"



Newspapers in Camp

- Edwin Forbes

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The President's Column

By Mark Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

Fall is here, and the leaves are changing color and carpeting the landscape. It's a tremendous time to be in the Washington, D.C. area (my personal favorite!). August and September proved to be an excellent time of the season for touring along the Potomac River and for attending the August 23rd Manassas Civil War event. Both the Manassas event and BRCWRT information table, headed up by Jim Lewis, combined to be a great success. Many folks visited the table throughout the day, and the evening ended with a mock railroad car fire that brought cheers from the crowd. The September 6th Potomac River fortification cruise and tour of Cockpit Point was also quite a wonderful event hosted by John DePue and Rob Orrison. Everyone was treated to an informative day of late 1861/1862 Potomac blockade history. Thank you again, John and Rob, for organizing and leading an excellent tour!



NPS Ranger Emmanuel Dabney was the speaker at the August meeting of the BRCWRT.

Photo by Janet Greentree

The August and September meetings brought us some excellent speakers, as always. In August, NPS Ranger Emmanuel Dabney brought us an excellent "Battle of the Crater/Petersburg July 1864" lecture, which highlighted the famous battle at the crater and how it came to be. Thank you, Emmanuel, for

bringing us an outstanding amount of information and facts, greatly increasing my understanding of the battle.

In September, former BRCWRT president Scott Patchen spoke about Gen. Phil Sheridan's actions at Opequon Creek in September of 1864, as well as the battle of 3rd Winchester, VA. Scott's new book was presented, and his lecture

was illuminated with a blow-by-blow account of the entire campaign, and the battle. Both of these lectures can be heard at our Web site. I just listened to Scott's lecture, as I was out of town for the (September 11th) meeting. Thank you, Jim Lewis, for stepping in and hosting the meeting.

At our October meeting, we will announce the winner of the annual raffle of the Stonewall Jackson 1862 winter march framed print, undertaken by Bob Hickey. As always, Bob has done a fantastic job organizing this task. We thank you and Mark Knowles, our treasurer, for all you have done in this fundraising effort.

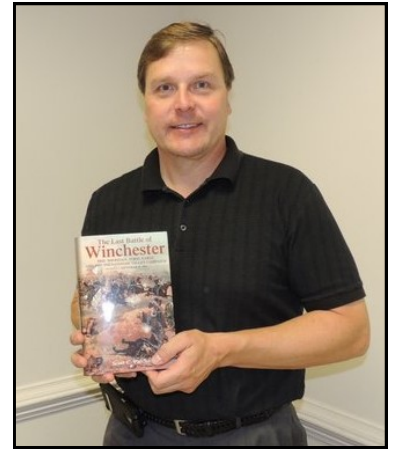
The 2015 BRCWRT College Scholarship process has begun. Our scholarship committee, headed by Nancy Anwyll, has started to reach out to the new high school seniors in our area. A \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded in May 2015 –

it's intended to promote interest in and the education of Fairfax and/or Prince William County students in the American Civil War.

October is also the first month of our process for the 2015 BRCWRT election of officers, according to our by-laws, and we will be bringing you information regarding this at the meeting. Voting on the 2015 BRCWRT roster of officers will take place at the December 2015 meeting.

We are happy to report that we now have more than 250 folks who have chosen to "Like" our wonderful new Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/bullruncwrt>. You can receive future real-time pictures of Civil War events, event updates, local and regional Civil War information, and plenty of BRCWRT information that will enhance your Civil War experience and knowledge. You can also "SHARE" your BRCWRT FB page with your

(con't on page 9)



Historian Scott Patchen displays his new book prior to speaking at the September BRCWRT meeting.

Photo by Janet Greentree



THE BOOK CORNER



Editor's Note: The following review originally appeared in the February 2004 issue of the Stone Wall. "The Last Citadel" by Noah Trudeau is still the single best book on the Petersburg campaign, which began in June 1864, and is recommended reading for all our Round Table members.

Last April [2003] I had the pleasure of attending the annual symposium of the Civil War Preservation Trust [now The Civil War Trust] held, this time, in Richmond with a focus on the Petersburg campaign of 1864-65. The consensus choice, on our battle-field tour bus, for the single best book about the Petersburg campaign was "*The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864-April 1865*," by Noah Andre Trudeau (Louisiana State University Press; \$21.95 in paperback).

The siege of Petersburg was perhaps the most extensive single campaign of the war. It lasted 292 days and involved 108 substantial military actions (as well as thousands of minor actions). Fighting and troop maneuvers covered 176 square miles of infantry action, stretching to 2,700 square miles when you include cavalry action. Petersburg made, or broke, many of our most revered Civil War heroes. In the end, dogged defensive actions by the south, against overwhelming odds, prolonged the war—for good or bad—nearly another year.

Petersburg was also one of the most consequential military actions of the war. It pinned down the Army of Northern Virginia, allowing Sherman to range virtually unchecked; it relieved pressure in the west and in the Shenandoah Valley; the final collapse at Petersburg led directly to the end of the war. Black troops cemented their reputation for all time as courageous soldiers.

Much of the action around Petersburg occurred simultaneously in widely separated parts of the region. Grant's basic tactic was simple: demonstrate on the right (east of the city or up toward Richmond) to draw Confederate strength, and then smash them on the (hopefully) weakened left. Strategically, investing the city was a brilliant move by Grant; tactically, he failed repeatedly for ten long months. The cost of final victory was high in casualties and carnage.

With all that feinting and thrusting, too much was happening at once for this history to be written in simple chronological order. In response, Trudeau

has chosen a unique reporting style. He moves his narrative forward in one (geographical) area, and then drops back in time to cover simultaneous actions on other parts of the field. Don't worry, he never advances too far without bringing up his rear. And his chapters are clearly documented as to date, and often time, so you will not lose your way. It is a technique not encountered before, but you will quickly become accustomed to it and agree this is effective for presenting and analyzing such complex material.

I thought Trudeau's battle maps to be too simplistic at first. But simple maps are required to render the many concurrent maneuvers clearly. Here again, Trudeau adopts a unique manner: he overlays three or four detailed maps atop a single, one-page area map. Thus, the diversionary actions and main battles are all presented together. Readers do not have to flip among several different maps to understand the action.

Petersburg is so drawn out and complicated that it has not been adequately treated in the general war histories; perhaps it cannot be. Serious students need the help of "*The Last Citadel*" and an historian like Noah Trudeau to follow the detailed action and understand the importance of this campaign.

"*The Last Citadel*" is not a breezy read. Trudeau presents a lot of material and you will have to study this book to understand the full scope of Petersburg. Push on through and your efforts will be rewarded with a detailed understanding of all the important battlefield action.

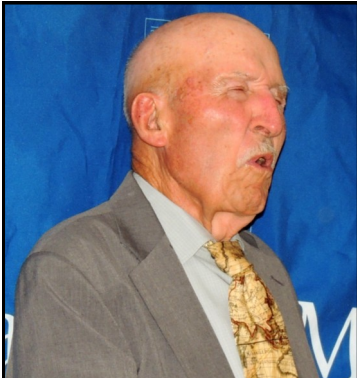
With Trudeau's help, you will also come to appreciate the individual characters who played such important roles in this campaign. Was General Gouverneur Warren, virtually cashiered by Gen. Sheridan at Petersburg, fairly treated? After almost single-handedly saving Petersburg in early battles, why was Beauregard so ignominiously transferred away by Lee? Far from being "bottled up" on Bermuda Hundred, General Benjamin Butler did some significant fighting. Did he deserve his reputation for utter incompetence? Was the fiasco of the Crater entirely Burnside's fault?

It was a great pleasure to see that Noah Trudeau addressed our Round Table last year [2003]. After everyone has read "*The Last Citadel*," I hope he will get a return invitation.

Until next time, keep reading.

Note: The Book Corner invites comment on these critiques and, especially, your personal recommendations for other outstanding books on the Civil War. Comments are always welcome at renataralph@gmail.com.

Manassas CW Weekend Enjoyed by All - Especially BRCWRT Members



The incomparable Ed Bearss draws on his wealth knowledge to speak about the battle that took place on that hallowed ground.

Photo by Janet Greentree



BRCWRT members attending the event include (l to r): Janet Greentree, Gwen Wytenbach, Nancy Anwyll, Gen. Robert E. Lee (Al Stone), RT Pres. Mark Trbovich and his lovely wife Angela.

Photo courtesy of Janet Greentree



Mark Whitenton, known for his great portrayal of Gen. Joseph Johnston.

Photo by Gwen Wytenbach



Debbie Maples reminds us that the war years were not all about the men doing battle.

Photo by Gwen Wytenbach



Stan Clardy & Soldiers in Gray present a "Tribute with Confederate Generals." Photo by Janet Greentree.

Below, a dramatic burning of a replica train car capped off a day filled with very impressive Civil War recreations and reflections. Photos below by Gwen Wytenbach.

Above, center, Charlie Balch (l) and Bob Eldridge (r) at BRCWRT Info Booth. Photo by Janet Greentree.

Below, the fabulous 2nd South Carolina String Band set the right tone for the day with their impeccable renditions of Civil War favorites. Photo by Janet Greentree.





CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE Alonzo H. Cushing

By Janet Greentree

This month's article is pretty newsworthy, as Brevet Lt. Colonel Alonzo Hereford Cushing's bravery at the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, will now be finally recognized, and he will be awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts on Cemetery Hill. President Obama signed the order on August 26, 2014, more than 152 years after the battle.

Normally, the Medal of Honor recommendation must be made within two years after the act of heroism and awarded within three years. The Medal of Honor is awarded for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. An exception was made for then 1st Lieutenant Cushing. Family members, Wisconsin residents (his home state), and Civil War buffs have pushed for this exception for a long time. Cushing's Medal of Honor will be awarded posthumously, and is the longest time span between the actual event and the awarding of the medal.

The United States Congress made the following findings on Cushing: "(1) Alonzo H. Cushing was born in Delafield, WI, on January 19, 1841. (2) Alonzo H. Cushing graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, on June 24, 1861. (3) On July 3, 1863, First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th United States Artillery, Army of the Potomac, during the Battle of Gettysburg. (4) During the battle, First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing was shot multiple times but refused to retreat. (5) First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing continued to command his battery until he was shot and killed. (6) The

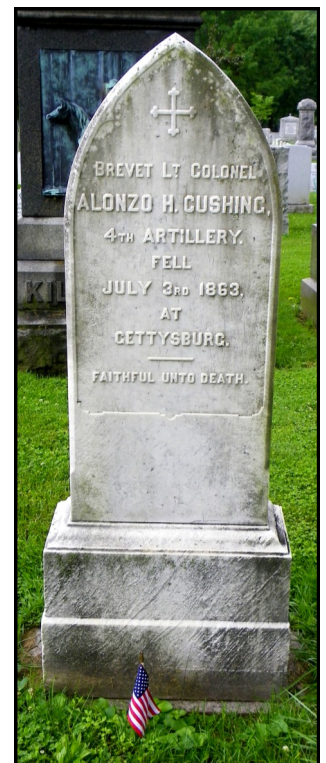
Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg was one of the key turning points of the Civil War. (7) The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense have determined that the actions of First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing do merit the award of the Medal of Honor."

Cushing's grave is located at West Point. He is buried right next to General John Buford. See the (October 2011) *Stone Wall* for more information on Cushing's grave. Cushing's mother wanted the inscription "Faithful unto Death" etched in his marker. He is buried in Section 26, Row A, Grave 7 in the company of many fine Civil War generals.

Cushing was born in Wisconsin, but he was raised in Fredonia, New York. He is one of four brothers who served during the Civil War. Brothers Milton and William were in the Navy. Milton was a paymaster



Alonzo H. Cushing, as a member of the Class of 1861, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



Cushing's grave at West Point, NY.

Photo by Janet Greentree

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

and is buried in Dunkirk, NY. William commanded several Union warships and is buried in the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery overlooking the Severn River. His brother Howard was in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He was later killed by Apaches in 1871 in the Arizona Territory.

Alonzo graduated 12th in his class from West Point in June 1861. Some of his classmates were George Armstrong Custer, Thomas Rosser, Felix Robertson, and Patrick O'Rorke. O'Rorke was killed defending Little Round Top the day before Cushing on July 2, 1863.

I found two interesting pictures of Cushing. In one, he appears with other Army officers (below) at back, center at Antietam in 1862. He saw action at Chan-



cellorsville, where he was brevetted a major. The other (below), Cushing is stand-



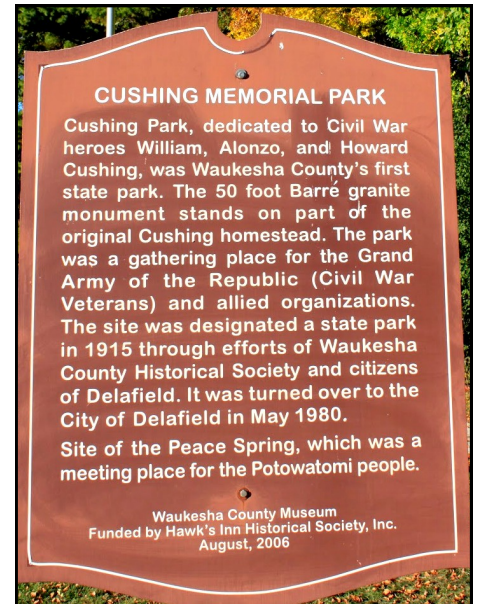
ing to the far left as part of General Edwin Sumner's staff.

Cushing Park, named in his honor, is located in Delafield, Wisconsin. In the park, a huge obelisk dedicated to the Cushing brothers in the park. Cushing Elementary School in

Delafield is also named for Alonzo. A stone monument was placed on Hancock Avenue at the Angle in Gettysburg where he held his position on the fateful day of July 3, 1863.

Cushing was the commander of Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg under General Winfield Scott Hancock. He faced the onslaught of 13,000 men coming towards his cannons on Cemetery Ridge. His cannon was the last remaining working cannon at the Angle. "If one would clap their hands as fast as they could, the sound would be equal to the sharp gunfire coming towards him" said

former Park Ranger Scott Hartwig. Only 22 years old, Cushing was wounded in the shoulder and the stomach. Holding his hand on his stomach with his intestines protruding from the wound, and being held up by his First Sergeant Frederick Fuger, Cush-



(con't on page 8)

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

ing continued to fire. He was then struck in the mouth, with the bullet exiting the back of his head. It was then the brave lad died. The Confederates were within 100 feet of his guns at the time. Out of



Photo by Janet Greentree

110 men in his battery, 32 were injured and 6 died. Sgt. Fuger fired the last shot after laying Cushing on the ground. Fuger was also awarded the Medal of Honor.

If you look out across the field (as in the view above), just imagine what Cushing must have seen... and he still held his



Close-up of the marker at Gettysburg where Cushing was mortally wounded and died.

Photo by Lisa Greentree Tully

position after being told to go back.

My Gettysburg-resident daughter, Lisa, and her husband Paul get a shout-out of thanks for taking the picture of the monument on Hancock Avenue for me. She and Paul photo-bombed the first one they sent me! I have one I snapped of the monument (amongst the thousands of Gettysburg pictures I've taken over the years), but it would have been extremely hard to find it. Thanks again to my freelance team.

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 jlgtree@erols.com.

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:

♦ Michael Tolosa
♦ Megan Tolosa

♦ Larry Howard
♦ Edith Howard
♦ Caroline Howard

The President's Column

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friends, so many of them can sign up, too.

Please continue to spread the word to your family and friends, younger folks and potential members, that the BRCWRT is the Northern Virginia hub for Civil War information and preservation, and is a tremendous non-profit organization. Please come out for James Price's lecture and, as always, if you can't make the 5 p.m. dinner at the Coyote Grille, we'll see you at the library before 7 p.m., as we enjoy some fellowship, buy some books and get ready for another excellent lecture.

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

Potomac Blockade Tour a Great Ride!



Many members of the BRCWRT recently enjoyed a wonderful boat ride along the Potomac River to view the sites associated with the blockade of Washington City during the Civil War. Rob and John De Pue put the tour together, and the guide was Dave Born, who is with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Commission.

Members attending included (not in photo order): Nancy Anwyl, Charlie Balch, Kim Brace, Mike and Nancy Buckley, Doug and Sandra Cox, Alan Day, John De Pue, Bob Eldridge, Janet Greentree, Isabel Harris, Jerry and Sylvia Holy, Chris Kern, Mark and Yvonne Knowles, Jim Lewis, Dan Lundeen, Randy Moller and Rose Nelson, Rob Orrison, Mike Patterson, Ed Wenzel, and Joe Young.

Photo courtesy of Janet Greentree

Official Records of the Union & Confederate Navies Now Digitized

Fold3, the contractor digitizing military records at the National Archives, has announced its latest catalogue of online offerings available to the public. One of Fold3's newest listings is the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*. As its name suggests, this collection contains the two navies' official reports, orders, and correspondence from the Civil War. If you're interested in the Civil War, this is the go-to title for contemporary, first-hand information about the Northern and Southern navies.

Originally compiled by the Navy Department, the Official Records of the Navies are organized into two series: Series I, with 27 individual volumes, and Series II, with 3 volumes and an index. Series I documents all wartime operations of the two navies, while Series II deals with statistical data of Union and Confederate ships, letters of marque and reprisal, Confederate departmental investigations, Navy and State department correspondence, proclamations and appointments of Confederate President Davis, and more.

It took about 40 years for the Navy Department to finish compiling the records, with work officially beginning in 1884 and the final volume of Series II being published in 1922 (and the index in 1927). Because of the massive number of pages contained in the Official Records, Fold3 is still working on getting all of it up on its Web site. At last check, the project was three-fourths complete (but at least you won't have to wait 40 years!).

A few interesting finds in the Official Records of the Navies include the following:

- A Union account of the Battle of Gloucester Point, the earliest engagement between the Union navy and the Confederates.
- A Confederate report on the Battle of Hampton Roads, the first battle of ironclad ships.
- A letter from a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy detailing the death of a fellow lieutenant during the Second Battle of Fort Fisher, the battle in which the Confederacy lost its last seaport.

Beyond historical information, the Official Records of the Navies can be a good place to look for any of your ancestors who served in either navy during the war. Take a look through the extensive 457-page index, and you'll get an idea of just how many thousands of names are mentioned in the records. Even if you don't find your specific ancestors, you're almost guaranteed to find information about their commanding officers or the ships they served on, helping you to round out your general knowledge of what those ancestors' lives were like.

Get started browsing through the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* at Fold 3, or do your own detailed search instead.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2014 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. Family—\$25. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.

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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