

# Stone Wall

The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIII, Issue 7, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016

#### FAMED NPS HISTORIAN EMERITUS EDWIN C. BEARSS SPEAKS ON "BATTLE OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> MANASSAS CAMPAIGN - AUGUST 1862" AT THE AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas Campaign's 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary is upon us, and who could give us a better understanding of this critical engagement than National Park Service Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss?!

I don't have to tell you all that our speaker is a peerless Civil War historian, lecturer, tour guide and preservationist. It is so wonderful to see Ed at our meeting every year, and - 92 years young now - this



NPS Historian Emeritus Edwin C. Bearss. Photo by Janet Greentree

appearance is quite a milestone for him. What an achievement it is for Ed to continue to speak, deep into his "retirement" (from the NPS) to audiences around the world on a wide variety of historical battles and events. We are indeed fortunate to have an American legend as a friend of the BRCWRT.

This month, Ed will be speaking on the "2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas Campaign," which will be followed by our BRCWRT tour of this campaign on Saturday August 20. Please see

the BRCWT Web page for more information and to sign up today.

During World War II, Ed served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps, first with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Raider Battalion, commanded by Col. Harry "The Horse" Leversedge, and then with the 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. While serving with the latter unit during World War II, he was severely wounded at Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain in the South Pacific theater. Following a convalescent period of 26 months, he entered Georgetown

#### **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

7 p.m. Centreville Library

THURSDAY, August 11, 2016

GUEST SPEAKERS:
NPS HISTORIAN EMERITUS
EDWIN C. BEARSS

**TOPIC:** 

"BATTLE OF 2<sup>nd</sup> MANASSAS CAMPAIGN - AUGUST 1862"

THURSDAY, September 8, 2016

GUEST SPEAKERS:
HISTORIAN AND OWNER
JON HICKOX

**TOPIC:** 

THE "CIVIL WAR HISTORY OF THE BULL RUN WINERY"

University. After earning an undergraduate degree at that institution, Ed spent three years working at the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, MD. Ed then enrolled at Indiana University, where he received a Master's Degree in History.

In 1955, Ed joined the National Park Service (NPS) and worked his way up the promotion ladder to become its chief historian. In that position, he gained the respect of innumerable congressmen and members of the Executive Branch for his vast knowledge of history, and his ability to passionately present it to the public (especially to Congressional funders of the Park Service!).

Following his retirement in 1998, Ed became a much sought-after guest speaker and tour guide to battlefields where Americans have fought, spanning

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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: 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 **October 2016 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, September 26, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

#### **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT** SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

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#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

August 11, 2016 - Ed Bearss - "Battle of 1st Manassas"

September 8, 2016 - Jon Hickox - "Historic Finds at Bull Run"

October 13, 2016 - William Backus - "Battle of **Bristoe Station**"

November 10, 2016 - Bruce Venter - "Kill Jeff Davis. The K&D Richmond. VA Raid"

December 8, 2016 - Dwight Hughes - "CSS Shenandoah"





EDWARD T. WENZEL

Get your copy of Ed Wenzel's great

Chronology of the Civil War

For sale at the Bull Run **Civil War Round Table** meetings

Or online at:

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# The President's Column By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

It's been a long, hot summer and the months of August and September don't look to be much cooler. Don't worry about it, though, because the Centreville Library will be a nice, cool refuge as we get ready for two outstanding upcoming BRCWRT lectures: Ed Bearss on August 11th ("the 2nd Manassas Campaign") and Jon Hickox on September 8th: the "Civil War History of the Bull Run Winery."

As president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, it was my honor to welcome everyone to our 25th Anniversary presentation June 9th at the Centreville Library. That certainly was a day for the memory books!

July was again one of the best lectures I've ever heard on the "Battle of 1st Manassas," given



NPS Historian John Hennessey was July's lecturer.

Photo by Janet Greentree

by National Park Service historian John Hennessy. We were riveted as John delivered a passionate lecture on the battle. emphasizing the human element of the battle, as well as new material that you can find in his newly-revised book.

"Outstanding" is the only term I can use to describe the

packed-house presentation. Thank you so much, John – we look forward to have you back soon.

As we have discussed all year, 2016 will be a year of 25th anniversary celebration events, tours and lectures that will be memorable for our members and friends. Our membership drive concluded months ago, but I encourage everyone to continue bringing new folks to join, either by signing up at our Web site, or by attending the next I am always encouraging a "youth the BRCWRT, movement" for as future War generation of Civil historians and preservationists will feel welcome to continue our

proud traditions for the next 25 years.

The BRCWRT is serving as a consultant for the proposed new cell phone tower near the Signal Hill memorial in Manassas National Battlefield Park. Blake Myers and Kimball Brace are heading up the BRCWRT efforts to assist the Prince William County Historic Commission in keeping the view shed clear for the important Civil War historic sites that can be seen from that hill. We will keep you informed as we get more details at future meetings.

Again, we are happy to be in the stakeholder group for the Bristoe Station and Kettle Run Battlefields Preservation Study. This study group's first meeting was hosted by PWC Archaeologist Justin Patton on May 12th. BRCWRT Executive Committee Member John Depue attended, representing the BRCWRT. The PWC Planning Office identified us as having an interest in the outcome of this study because of our interest in the Civil War, as well as our interest in preserving and managing the Rural Area of Prince William County.

As we discussed again at the July meeting, the BRCWRT is actively working with the Alexandria (VA) Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names preservation initiative. Our Preservation lead, Blake Myers, joined by Rob Orrison, has attended these meetings and reported back to us on their findings. Many members of the Executive Committee have written letters to express their opinion about the initiative, and we encourage everyone to express their opinions through written letters, as well.

Being reviewed by the Alexandria council are: the status of the Appomattox statute on South Washington Street; the name of the Jefferson Davis Highway in the City of Alexandria; the names of the many streets within the City that are named after Confederate generals and military leaders; and a specific policy on flying of any flags on property owned or under the control of the city. We will continue to update you as to the council's progress.

Each month this year we will be offering Ed Wenzel's "Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County" for sale. This book has been six years in the making, and I believe the greatest Fairfax County Civil War reference book ever written, or that ever will be written. You can purchase the

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# The Union's Turnpike of Despair

by Karl Reiner

During the Civil War, the Little River Turnpike (modern Route 236) ran from Alexandria to Fairfax

Court House and on to Aldie. Near a small collection of houses called Jermantown, the Warrenton Turnpike (now Route 29) branched off to Centreville, crossed Bull Run and passed through Gainesville on its way to Warrenton.

In the early years of the war, a large stretch of the road to Warrenton became a turnpike of despair for defeated Union soldiers. On their melancholy trek

along the turnpike, troops returning from battle shared the road with horses and mules pulling cannon (weighing a ton), supply wagons and ambulances filled with wounded.

Between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on July 21, 1861, the Union forces engaged in the first battle of Manassas began to retreat. It started as an orderly withdrawal with the majority of the troops leaving as they had come, across Sudley Ford and rejoining the turnpike in the vicinity of Cub Run. The retreating soldiers soon became intermingled with the carriages of the sightseers anxious to leave the scene of the Federal defeat. Sometime after 6 p.m., a Confederate shell smashed a wagon on the Cub Run Bridge. With that explosion, panic set in and discipline seemed to evaporate.

The army of nearly 37,000 disintegrated into a human flood several miles long and a hundred yards wide in some places as it fled back to Washington. The sketches made at the time show civilians, infantry, cavalry, wagons and artillery mixed together in panicked flight. The embarrassing affair became known as "the great skedaddle." One Union officer caught in the chaos described it as: "Cavalry horses without riders, wrecked baggage wagons and pieces of artillery drawn by six horses without drivers, flying at their utmost speed and whacking against other vehicles, produced a noise like a hurricane at sea."

The turnpike became littered with abandoned equipment. The troops discarded packs, cartridge



Confusion reigns in the depiction at right following the First Battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861.

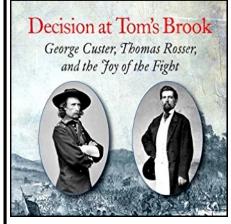
boxes, rifles, wagons and cannon as they fled. Near the Cub Run crossing, the Confederates acquired 14

> abandoned cannon, a large number of horses and wagons.

Gen. Irwin McDowell, the Union commander, tried to halt and regroup his army on the Centreville heights. troops were demoralized to make a stand and the retreat continued. The three brigades that had been held in reserve at Centreville formed the rear guard that followed the dispirited

throng back to Washington.

Although neither army got much more than half (con't on page 20)



# **Special**

to BRCWRT Members

Bill Miller's new book on the cavalry "disaster" at Tom's Brook has arrived! BRCWRT members receive 20% off autographed copies. Sign up for the October 8, 2016 Tom's Brook anniversary tour and receive 15% off. Go to:

decisionattomsbrook.com/brcwrt



#### Alexandria Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

The June 13th (perhaps the final) meeting of the Ad Hoc Group was sparsely attended, with 10-12 citizens present (other than Group members). The meeting agenda was devoted almost exclusively to the Group's discussion of its initial draft report, following public comments that were solicited at the beginning of the meeting.

The draft report was written by a single member, at the request of the Group chair, which served as a starting point for all members' consideration and discussion; therefore, it did not initially reflect the consensus of the Group. After lengthy discussion concerning each element of the draft report, the Group voted on some fairly significant changes that will be incorporated by Craig Fifer, Staff Liaison to the Group, and Director of Communications and Public Information for the City of Alexandria. Results of the Group's deliberations are summarized below:

- a. Recommendation to leave the Appomattox statue where it is currently located. A motion to submit a recommendation in the 2017 legislative packet to include the issue as to whether the Alexandria City Council or the Virginia General Assembly has 'authority' over the statue resulted in a tie vote; it is unclear how this proposed submission of the question of authority will be resolved;
- b. Recommendation to change the name of Jefferson Davis Highway within the City of Alexandria no recommendation as to what the new name should be; name change would apply to a very small section of Route 1 on the north end of Alexandria;
- c. No recommendation was made regarding Alexandria streets named after Confederate leaders because the Group felt much more research and analysis is required before a reasonable recommendation could be made. The Group will include a section in the report that the

City of Alexandria should ensure that the city has a valid process/procedure available to city residents and businesses for requesting a street name change(s), and for the City's consideration for approval/disapproval of such a request(s);

d. Recommendation that only three flags (U.S. flag, Virginia state flag, Alexandria City flag) be authorized to be flown on city property and at city street intersections – Group consensus was that any exception(s) made would establish a double standard, and would not be fair or equitable.'

It was not clear how the final version of the Group Report/Recommendations will be reviewed/approved; it will supposedly be confirmed by members via e-mail, in the absence of another meeting being called. There was a clear intent not to hold another public meeting if at all possible. As of July 25th, no updates have been posted to the Group's Web site since June 14th: (www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate).

#### Proposed Verizon Monopole at Signal Hill Park

The BRCWRT is working in support of Prince William County's Historical Commission and Planning Committee to mitigate the impacts of a proposed Verizon monopole (cellular communications tower) being planned for installation at Signal Hill Park in Manassas.

Representatives from the BRWCRT, PWC Historical Commission (Kim Brace), PWC Planning (Justin Patton) and Manassas National Battlefield Park (Ray Brown) attended an on-site meeting on July 12th held by representatives from Verizon and its site planners and consultants.

After a briefing by the Verizon team, we identified our major concern as the proposed monopole location's impact on the historical view shed from the 1861 signal station (located on what is now known as Signal Hill) toward the 1861 signal station sites located at Yorkshire, the Van Pelt House on Matthews Hill and Centreville.

The Verizon team was receptive to our input and agreed to conduct additional analysis and profile assessments based on studies, information and mapping data to be provided the PWC organizations represented. Once accomplished, Verizon will schedule another discussion to

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#### **CIVIL WAR TRAVELS** WITH MS. REBELLE

#### **Harriet Tubman**

By Janet Greentree

Harriet Tubman was not an actual military general, most as are of the personalities highlighted in this column;

however, the famed "Moses of her people" who escaped slavery and then led many dozens more to freedom was called "General Tubman" by the abolitionist John Brown. Tubman's own words, she said "I was conductor the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say never ran mv train off the track



A colorized version of a photo of Harriet Tubman helps to make her more lifelike to us, instead of like just a character out of a child's book.

and I never lost a passenger." Tubman will soon be honored as the first woman ever to appear on U.S. paper currency. Her image will be placed on the \$20.00 announced by the U.S. Treasury Department on April 20, 2016.



A Tubman \$20 bill, as imagined by enthusiasts who would like to see her depicted as she was when risking her life for enslaved people, as well as during her successful service with the Union Army as a guide and spy.

This article will be a collaboration with our illustrious editor of the Stone Wall -Yankee Girl Nadine Mironchuk. She will incorporate the Eastern Shore trip we took searching out the Underground Railroad while she was here in June for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting.

To begin with, a tour of the Eastern Shore of Maryland in search of the important sites associated with the African-American icon requires preparation, as the markings and preservation of her life and times while enslaved, as well as the telling of slavery in that area of ante-bellum Maryland, is "under construction," as they say - literally.

A new Harriet Tubman National Museum is indeed being constructed by the federal government as we speak; a collection of artifacts and documents relating to Tubman that had been available for viewing has been boxed up and moved from its former home in a small storefront museum in downtown Cambridge to the new site, located in the midst of the landscape of swamplands and forests of Tubman's imprisonment. This new facility is scheduled to open in April of 2017.

To search for Tubman's early history there, one must get a map of a driving tour that has been outlined for Tubman enthusiasts from the Eastern Shore Visitor's Center, and then hope you can manage directions by way of GPS coordinates that are the only locational information included. If not, then you need to come prepared with printouts from internet sites that list addresses and estimates of location, as well as follow your GPS unit's directional information.

Keep your eyes peeled for the few markers along the way (as you zip past them, and then either back up or "bang a U-ie," as they say in Boston). Only by triangulating these references can you judge the locations of unmarked areas that you will want to visit.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland possibly in 1822. She really didn't know what year or date her

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



The site of the Brodess plantation, where Harriet Tubman was born and lived until her escape as a young adult, is pictured above.. The historical marker is one of the few along the driving route that assist a tourist in identifying the places important to Tubman's life and history. The expanse of land pictured is only a part of the size of the plantation. The house within the yellow circle is not the original house, but a modern residence; the structure is, however, in the same location as the site of the original Brodess plantation house.

Photo by Nadine Mironchuk

birthday was or how old she was. Some people think she was closer to 100 than the 91 years she is credited for. Tubman said she was born in 1825, her death certificate lists 1815, and her tombstone lists 1820. She was born Araminta Ross and went by the name of Minty. Her parents were both slaves, Ben Ross and Harriet (Rit) Green. Her mother was a cook and her father was a skilled woodsman. She had eight siblings. The plantation was owned by the Brodess family. Her maternal grandmother was brought to the U.S. on a slave ship from Africa. She was told she was of the Ashanti lineage from Ghana.

Her mother was feisty too. Edward Brodess sold three of the family daughters and wanted to sell Rit's youngest son, Moses. Rit hid him for a month. When Brodess and another planter came to take him, Rit said: "You are after my son; but the first man that comes into my house, I will split his head open." Brodess did not go forward with the sale. Some of Tubman's biographers think this is when she started believing in the power

of resistance.

As a child of six or seven, she worked for and her owner was paid by another planter, James Cook, checking muskrat traps in the marshes and swamps of Dorchester County. This job also helped her skills with the topography of the land and the marshes. Imagine having to walk for hours into freezing water in the dead of winter with no coat, shoes or gloves – just a shawl to keep the howling wind from your face and form, to wrangle dead animals from traps. When she grew older she did field work, plowing and driving oxen. Her mother told her Bible stories, and she had a strong faith in God.

When she was a teenager, sometime between 1834 and 1836, she was sent to the Bucktown store, a fair walk from her home, for supplies. An overseer from a neighboring farm was there looking for a slave boy who had left the fields without permission. Harriet was hit in the head with a two-pound counter

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

weight thrown at the boy by that overseer. The brain injury that she sustained was so severe that she was unconscious for two days, and a scarf she had wrapped around her hair had embedded itself into the cracked-open skull wound. As soon as she awoke, and with blood collecting in her hair, she was sent back to her work. She would endure headaches, seizures and sleep-like trances for the rest of her life.



Ms. Rebelle stands at the entrance to the Bucktown Store, where Harriet Tubman sustained a brain injury severe enough to impair her for the rest of her life. Ms. Rebelle and Stone Wall Editor Nadine (Yankee Girl) Mironchuk enjoyed one of their most meaningful adventures together in June when they followed the trail of Harriet Tubman's early life, enslaved on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Photo by Nadine Mironchuk

In fact, the peculiarity of her falling into unconsciousness every 20 minutes - to every few hours gave her mission to escape, and to later free others, a dangerous aspect that makes her achievements even more Tubman credited the brain injury amazing. and its accompanying seizures with giving her an almost supernatural insight while on the run, which she believes saved her many times from imminent capture. As with many epileptics, she had visions, or 'epiphanies,' of having spoken directly with God. believed that God had particularly directed her many times out of danger.

The Bucktown Store can today be visited, being located in its original spot, but was rebuilt after burning down prior to the



An original Meredith family property, next door to the Bucktown Store, re-acquired and preserved by the current generation of the family.

Photo by Nadine Mironchuk

Civil War. The current structure there pre-dates the war. The Meredith family has continually owned the store for several generations. It continued operating into the 1930's, when it was closed at the death of the great-grandfather to the latest generation of Merediths. It has since been refurbished and is kept as an original 18<sup>th</sup>-century general store. The family is hoping that, through its non-profit status, they can make it a true link to the life and heroism of Harriet Tubman.

If you are visiting this location, at 4303 Bucktown Road in Cambridge, MD., you are urged to call the curators at: 410-901-9255; they are sometimes available to open the store and answer questions you may have about the Tubman incident. As we found out by taking a chance and calling, you may meet one of the family, whose history as plantation owners is closely interwoven with the history of enslavement in that area.

One famous incident connected with them involves the flight of the "Dover Eight," which made national headlines on March 8,

(con't on page 9)

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

1857 when eight slaves (two owned by the Merediths) escaped from Dorchester County. The group first sought help from Rev. Samuel Green in East New Market. Then they found assistance from Harriet Tubman's father, Ben Ross. They soon found their way to Thomas Otwell, a black Underground Railroad conductor in Delaware. Tubman trusted Otwell with the group's safety. Instead, he lured them to the Dover jail so he could collect the \$3,000 reward for their capture. With quick thinking and a show of force, the group successfully broke out of the jail and fled to Wilmington, then Philadelphia, and finally to Canada.

Matt Meredith, a charming young man, answered our call with a warm welcome and an enthusiasm for his family's story, as it related to the Tubman association. opened the store, and discussed the incident of the counter weight being flung at and injuring the young slave. He had on hand such a weight (used to weigh goods for sale), handing it to us, so that we could feel the devastating impact it would have had.

We happened to mention that author Kate Clifford Larson, who has produced the most serious biography on Tubman in the last 60 years (Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman: Portrait of an American Hero), was a speaker north of Boston recently, and had mentioned that a priceless treasure of historic importance to the Tubman story had been recovered in recent times. when a home in the area was being sold out of an original family's ownership and the contents being dumped into a dumpster by the contractor. Neighbors rushed to save the many antique quilts, albums and memorabilia being discarded; they knew that such a trove is rarely just scattered to the winds for the taking and preserving. The old cartons of newspapers produced the only original copy ever found of the "runaway ad" that was published locally when Tubman "stole" herself from her owner, running away from the Brodess farm, never to return.

> "That was ME!" cried Matt! "I'm the

one who found it," he exclaimed, with pride and joy.

Matt explained that, when he was much younger, he and his Dad saw the house in downtown Cambridge being cleaned out, and wondered why no family members wanted the many items that a family would want to keep, such as albums and records. There were beautiful old guilts and antiques, and boxes and boxes of saved documents, records and photos. Every night, they would sit at the table and read the old newspapers that they had rescued. One night, Matt saw the ad for a runaway slave named "Minty."

"Hey, Dad," he said, "wasn't Harriet Tubman named Minty?" he asked. Dad (Jay Meredith) was dumbfounded, and called all the historical societies he could. matchless item of history - a first source was the only exact reference existing that verified the date of her run to freedom; even Tubman never could recollect the exact day she had fled enslavement. Such a priceless item was saved by a ten-year-old who thought



Matt Meredith (right) shares his once-in-a-lifetime historic find with Nadine Mironchuk.

Photo by Janet Greentree

it was neat to read old newspapers with his Dad!

Matt was happy to run next door to his family's house (also having passed out of his family a few generations ago, only to be re-acquired by Jay and preserved). He came back with the actual newspaper ad to show us and have us photograph. Jay Meredith has made it his life's work to re-purchase the

(con't on page 10)

# Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 9)

properties his family owned, and to donate lands (like the store) to the community for historical preservation of this important history. Matt was very frank about his slaveholding ancestors, and agrees that the mission to contribute to the recognition of Tubman's life and struggles is a true calling.

1844, In Harriet married John Tubman, a free black man. Even though he was free, Harriet's slave status dictated that any children born of the marriage would be enslaved. She changed her name from Minty to Harriet after her marriage. She became ill again in 1849 and was unable to work. Her owner, Brodess,

tried to sell her again but he died before that happened. His wife Eliza also tried to sell the family slaves at her husband's passing, and the sales to itinerant slave purchasers was decided. These slavers roamed the Eastern Shore in waves, knowing that the timely increases in enslaved families required some owners to divest of their "property," if they could not maintain growing families of slaves. This is when Harriet determined to run away.

She had been hired out to another plantation, so Eliza didn't realize that she was She took her two brothers Ben and Henry with her. She escaped with them on September 17, 1849. Most likely, her route was along the Choptank River, through Delaware, and then north into Pennsylvania. The route was about 90 miles from her home, in Dorchester County. She was helped by free enslaved blacks, abolitionists, and Quakers. She followed the North Star and had to be constantly on the alert for

THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD. R ANAWAY from the subscriber on Monday the 17th ult., three negroes, named as fol-Alows: HARRY, aged about 19 years, has on one side of his neck a wen, just under the ear, he is of a dark chestnut color, about te 5 feet 8 or 9 inches hight; BEN, aged aged about 25 years, is very quick to speak when spoken to, he is of a chestnut color, about six feet high; MINTY, aged about 27 years, is of a chestnut color, fine looking, and about 5 % feet high. One hundred dollars reward will be given for each of the above named negroes, if taken out of the State, and \$50 each if taken in the State. They must be lodged in Baltimore, Easton or Cambridge Jail, in Mary-ELIZA ANN BRODESS. Near Bucktown, Dorchester county, Md. Oct. 3d, 1849. The Delaware Gazette will please copy the above three weeks, and charge this office.

Above - as absurd as it seems to us today that someone's property can run away from them, and then be returned to them via an advertisement in the local paper, the tiny graphics of black travelers decorating this ad is the height of absurdity.

Photo by Nadine Mironchuk

slave-catchers. When she came to Pennsylvania, she said: "When I found that I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt I was in Heaven."

In 1851, Tubman returned to Dorchester County find to her husband. Unfortunately, he had remarried, was happy with the new wife, and didn't want to leave. She started ferrying slaves from Dorchester County up to Canada. The Fugitive Slave Act, which the South had insisted be part of the Compromise of 1850, demanded that northernstates authorities assist in

recapturing runaway slaves who fled the South. Therefore, Tubman could not, nor could any escaped slave, settle in the north and chance that they would not be found, caught, and sent back into slavery. Most people escaping slavery went along the Underground Railroad directly into Canada.

This one piece of legislation was the determining factor in energizing the North for the abolition of slavery; while they may not have been offended by the institution of slavery as it existed before 1850, they were quite angry to now be under threat of being jailed if they did not participate in the enforcement of slavery by turning in or helping detain slaves who ran from their Southern masters.

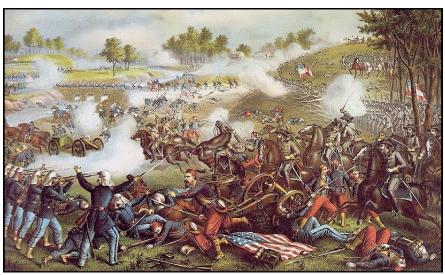
Tubman's last trip to aid in the escape of slaves was in November, 1860. All in all, she risked her freedom accomplishing 13

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# The BRCWRT Tour of First Manassas - an After Action Report

by Brian McEnany ~ photos provided by Jim Lewis

The 25th anniversary celebration of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table continued on July 16 with a tour associated with the Battle of First Following the detailed Manassas. lecture by the noted historian and author John Hennessey a few days before, 32 members and guests of the Round Table met in the Centreville Library parking lot at 8 a.m. The tour was designed to focus on events surrounding the battle of First Manassas and not the battle itself. By day's end, we had covered a good bit of the eastern side of Manassas and visited sites that were created prior to the battle, as well as several that were occupied after the battle.



A depiction by Kurtz and Allison (1889) of the Battle of First Manassas, with all its confusion and terror.

Tour guides for the day - Rob Orrison and Bill Backus - gathered us together for a pre-tour briefing, passed out historical maps and photos, and urged us to use our GPS to drive to each tour stop. Members quickly aligned themselves with designated drivers. We needed to consolidate into as few vehicles as parking was limited at several of the sites. loaded up and headed out - several in convoy mode, others knowing shortcuts, and those trying to decipher GPS coordinates or relying upon entering an address in a moving vehicle that expressly resisted all finger-poking while in motion. Meanwhile, our erstwhile tour leaders left at high speed. Fortunately, most of us knew where Blackburn's Ford lay, just off Route 28 at the bridge crossing over Bull Run at the Prince William County line.

**Stop 1: Blackburn's Ford**. All of us made it to the parking area and gathered around the Civil War Trails sign on the steep banks above the ford and



Rob Orrision reviewing the events that led up to 1st Manassas.

listened Rob recounted the history of the site. Here. the first shots were fired on July 18, 1861, as Union forces advanced toward Gen. P. T. G. Beauregard's forces dug in on the Prince William side of the ford. Traffic sounds drowned out some the history given by both Rob and guest lecturer Mark Trbovich who was responsible for the erection of the Civil War Trails sign at the site. Mark led us down the steep stairs to the banks of Bull Run. The

actual ford

lies



Mark Trbovich explaining the events at Blackburn Ford. Below, Blackburn's Ford as it looks today. Bottom — the actual site of the ford.





(con't on page 10)

#### First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 9)

under the existing highway bridge where one could see the remnants of the old road on the far side. We learned that this road really tracked an old farm road in the 1860s and the main road to Manassas Junction followed today's Old Centreville Rd., crossing Mitchell's Ford, our next stop.

Union forces under Gen. Irvin McDowell were ordered out of Washington by President Abraham Lincoln to attack Manassas Junction. Military officers decried moving until better trained, but popular opinion to attack the rebellious Southerners was shared by the President. He was heard to say - "You are green, it is true, but they are green also; you are all green alike." Spies quickly informed Gen. Beauregard of the Union's movements.

The fight at Blackburn's Ford was part of a reconnaissance by McDowell's forces to find Beauregard's positions along Bull Run. Mark told stories about the 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts (whose quick volunteer enlistments attempted to recreate their role during the Revolutionary War as 'Minute Men'); they intended to assault Gen. James Longstreet's units, dug in on the far side.

Stories from this engagement included a few errant Zouaves who just wanted to get into the fight as well. The multi-colored forces present that day wore similar garb, compounding confusion as to which side they were on. Massachusetts' units were mostly outfitted in gray, and other troops in blue on both sides forced close-quarter conversations that ended in gunfire. This issue was duplicated almost

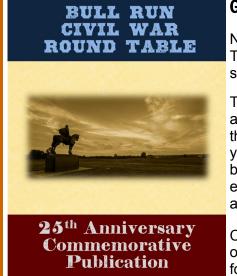


Mark T. recounting stories about the 1st Mass.

every day at various points on the battlefield on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

At the end, Union forces pulled away from the ford and marched back toward Centreville. Mark reminded those present that a detailed listing of units could be found in Ed Wenzel's Fairfax County Chronology as well as John Hennessy's books and articles about the First Battle of Manassas. Other source material could be found in the proceedings of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War Congressional Records. That committee was formed soon after the abortive First Manassas battle to investigate the reasons for its failure. Mark speculated that its continued operation during the war may well have contributed to the cautious approach to battle by Union officers, who knew their every action would be examined by the committee in the

(con't on page 11)



# **Get Your Copy of the BRCWRT 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book!**

Now available - the 25th anniversary of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table is here, and this Commemorative Publication will be a "keeper" souvenir of this milestone event!

The book is a trip down *Memory Lane*, featuring the many great accomplishments and events that have been shared by members over the years. Not only will you reminisce about the many wonderful people you've met and enjoyed being with as we all learn so much about history, but you will be proud to see the highlights of all the preservation and education the dedicated members of the BRCWRT have put forward year after year.

Copies are \$15 - you can purchase yours at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of the BRCWRT on June 9<sup>th</sup>, or visit our Web site (www.bullruncwrt.org) for details regarding online ordering.

# First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 10)

future.

Stop 2: Mitchell's Ford. Our small fleet of cars, SUVs, pickups and vans headed south along Route 28 to Liberia Avenue and on to Old Centreville Road and the grounds of the Yorkshire Elementary School, where the Civil War Trails sign detailed the history of Mitchell's Ford. The actual ford was about a half-mile away where the old road crossed Bull Run. Much of that area is currently covered in brambles and heavy underbrush. Rob suggested that a later trip in the early spring or late fall would make it easier to see the actual earthworks and site.

Meanwhile, Rob and Bill gave us the history of the site, and what transpired there on July 19-20, 1861. He began by explaining that Gen. Beauregard

had laid out an extensive plan that assumed Gen. Joe Johnston's forces would march there from the Shenandoah Valley and which planned for them to conduct a flank attack



Bill Backus (right) explaining the litany of events occurring at Mitchell's Ford.

against the rear of any arriving Union forces attempting to cross Mitchell's Ford. When Gen. Longstreet apprised him of the fact that Johnston's forces were arriving by train at Manassas Junction, Beauregard was forced to rethink his plans. Gen. Milledge Bonham's brigade, and later Jackson's, dug in at Mitchell's Ford. Within a few days, the movement of Union forces toward Sudley Ford caused Longstreet's brigades - Gen. Barnard Bee's and Gen. Francis Barlow's - at Blackburn's Ford, and later Jackson's brigade at Mitchell's - to march away toward Matthew's Hill on a six-mile march over country roads and cow pasture lanes to a historic confrontation on July 21. Bonham's brigade would continue to protect the far right flank until late in the battle.

Rob and Bill spoke about historic reports that alluded to how quiet the area was that day, enabling the sounds of arriving trains at Manassas Junction to be easily heard. A single train track from the Piedmont forced the sole locomotive in action to reverse its

movement to pick up the next load of units coming from the Valley. It quickly became obvious that Union Gen. Robert Patterson's ability to keep Johnston's army in the Valley had failed. It became a matter of timing - which side would be able to bring the greatest number of forces to bear on July 21, 1861. It was the Union that initially brought more to the fight in the morning hours, only to be rebuffed, forced to retreat, loose valuable artillery batteries, and ultimately find that the battle to end the war would not occur that day. McDowell's force retreated into the Washington defenses and it would take McClellan's rebuilding of those unit remnants to form the Army of the Potomac before the next engagement took place.

**Stop 3: Mayfield Fort**. Our third stop lay further down Route 28. Turning south on Liberia Avenue, we soon found Quarry Lane and one of the Manassas Museum's historic preservation sites, the Mayfield Redoubt. Part of the Hooes family's Mayfield plantation, the redoubt was part of the entrenchments



Above, Mayfield Fort landscape. Below, reviewing some of the Civil War Trails markers in place at the fort.



and redoubts built to protect the railroad junction at Manassas before the war. Constructed by both slaves and Confederate soldiers (who had done little manual labor), the Mayfield fort was one of two Civil War forts preserved by the Manassas Museum in the

#### First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 11)

area. Civil War Trial signs abound at this well-preserved grassy site atop the highest point around the railroad junction. The opposite end of the hill was the location of the Mayfield house. Prior to the war, the Hooes family was one of the richest in Prince William County, and one of its largest slave owners. The family left the area prior to the war.

We wandered around the walkway, stopping to read various signs, learning that this site was possibly one of the sites of "Quaker guns" that confounded McClellan's intelligence arm for so long. One very simple one was re-created along the walkway. We learned that these fake munitions were accompanied by several heavy real naval guns transported there by being dragged up the hill. Many of them were left behind when the Confederate forces withdrew to the Rappahannock River line in March 1862. The movement of Union forces into the area was accompanied by occupation of the Mayfield



Brian McEnany welcoming tour attendees into the Hooes family cemetery.

plantation. The old plantation house no longer exists, but the Hooes family cemetery is one of the protected areas on the ridge. As I observed the faded inscriptions on the headstones in the cemetery, I picked up a baseball left behind by some visitor - or was it possibly a relic from Union soldiers playing a game under supervision of Abner Doubleday?

**Stop 4: Ben Lomond Historic Site**. Originally part of Robert T. Carter III's Bull Run land holdings called the Cancer farm, the Ben Lomond site was sold to Benjamin T. Chinn, who built the house in

1832 for his wife and family. The red stone manor house and 10 slaves served as their homestead as the Civil War closed in, at which time it was leased to the Pringle family. Chinn suffered great financial losses



At right, the front of the original homestead of the Chinn family, now known as Ben Lomond Historical Site.



At left, the approach from the rear to the red stone manor house that is now Ben Lomond.



At right, the slave quarters at the Chinn family's homestead.

as the war dawned, and had so moved to a home on Chinn Ridge, where the area surrounding his house became part of the historic fight.

After the First Battle of Manassas, this house became a general hospital for Stonewall Jackson's brigade. It is now restored to that period, with rooms for surgery, recovery, and other hospital functions. Prince William County Historic Site Preservation

(con't on page 13)

# First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 12)



Having served as a field hospital, Ben Lomond's rooms are outfitted for treatment of the wounds of battle, with accommodations for officers (above) and the common soldier (below). At bottom, Ed Wenzel and Mike Buckley point out a realistic depiction of a surgical table.







Guide intern Shawn explaining the stench emanating from this room after usage as a surgery.

After the tour, we headed to a large tent on the grounds behind the manor house for lunch.

Stop 5: Willcoxen Hill (Signal Hill). After lunch, we drove to the Willcoxen farm site in Manassas Park. Taking Manassas Drive south of the railroad to Signal Valley Road, one reaches a stone monument identifying the hill as the signal station where Captain E.P. Alexander saw Union movements that were turning the Confederate left flank at Sudley Ford. Sending a message to his commander, "You are Turned," this warning served as the first use of signal stations to intercept and transmit messages at the beginning of the war. Attendees were reminded that E.P Alexander's book – Fighting for the Confederacy - addressed the establishment of signal services in the Confederate army and the incident discussed here. A series of earthworks still exist above the monument on the hillside. Again, a late fall or early spring visit could provide more visibility of the use of that area during the war; the trenches are significant, and easily viewed. This site is the current focus of a Prince William County planning commission investigation over a request to raise a cell phone tower near-

#### First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 12)



Capt. E. P. Alexander's signal station at the Bull Run battle area.

by. The Round Table has been asked to provide advice on its location.

**Stop 6: Liberia**. Heading back up Manassas Drive, we turned on Route 28 to Breeden Ave. and then on to the intersection of Portner Ave. near the Princeton Park townhouse community where the Liberia plantation resides. Liberia, another part of Robert Carter III's lower Bull Run tract, was built in

1825 by William Weir. Over time, it became a very successful farm, with 90 slaves. At the outset of the war, it became the headquarters for Gen. Beauregard and was subsequently occupied by Union Gen. McDowell later in the war, after Confederate forces moved south to the Rappahannock River line. It is currently under exterior reconstruction by Prince William County's Historic Preservation Division. Katie Hand, the onsite guide, led us around the house, explaining its construction and describing its occupants. Much of the interior furniture has been lost over time and the county is attempting to acquire period items to place in the house.

**Stop 7: Camp Carondolet**. Back to Manassas Drive and south over the rail line to Stephanie Street near the Manassas Park Elementary

School. Camp Carondolet was the campsite of the Louisiana Brigade after the battle of First Manassas. Located in the midst of a housing area on a forested ridge line, we reached it by following a pathway between houses from Stephanie Street. The



The Liberia Plantation manor house, home of wealthy, comfortable slave owners, and, sadly, scene of misery for 90 enslaved people. Below, docent Katie Hand explaining the history of Liberia.



Rob setting up the history of Camp Carondolet.



path through the woods winds around downed trees and stands of tall pines. Within a few moments, we began to see depressions in the ground where winter log huts once stood. Roughly 2,500 Louisiana men would have occupied this ridge line after the first battle. These regiments were known for their rough and tumble life style and liquor consumption. A gala dance was held at the site, complete with handbills and invitations sent south to New Orleans. A number of women and others journeyed north to enjoy the evening. Letters stated that no real organization of the

#### First Manassas Tour - (con't from page 14)

site existed, much different from Union campsites with orderly company streets, etc.

Summary. Camp Carondolet was the last stop on the tour, and Rob and Bill were given a heartfelt round of applause for their efforts to provide us with unique information about the events and sites that surrounded the battle of First Manassas.

As an anniversary event, it accomplished its mission well. Those attending this tour learned more than they expected to about the events leading up to and taking place after that first massive encounter on July 21, 1861. A driving tour between sites in a city environment would be hard-pressed to compare with a convoy. The use of place addresses and individual movement to the various stops worked well - no one got lost - although a few, including myself, suffered traffic jams at one point (but I missed nothing on the tour).



Youngsters Ben and Bryan Holzer (at left and right), already avid Civil War enthusiasts, completed the First Manassas tour with little signs of weariness - and set an example for all the other attendees in cheerfulness and engagement! Proud Mom Julie needs the break from the action!

#### Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 10)

rescue trips, freeing about 70 slaves, including quite a few family members. She carried a gun and would threaten to shoot them if they decided to go back. Children were given paregoric to keep them quiet. Most of her trips were in the winter, since the nights were so lona. She planned her rescues to coincide with holidays or weekends, when runaway ads could not appear in publication until after a day or two had passed without notification being posted.

Traveling through the Eastern Shore where her early life was spent toiling in the swamps and felling trees alongside her father - she a slave piling up profits for her owner he a free man, making his own meager living in the black community that sustained itself outside the plantations of Eastern Maryland you can sense the isolation and weary toil that inflicted such misery on so many people who were born into life as packhorses... abused animals... just property that an owner could profit from, tear from their family in desperation for capital, or extinguish at will, given "sufficient" cause.

Harriet became friends with Frederick Douglass, John Brown, and William Seward, who lived in Auburn, NY. She was active in abolitionist activities with all of them. knowledge of swamps and topography led her to be the first woman to lead an armed assault by Union troops during the Civil War against plantations along the Comabahee (con't on page 18)

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Newest Recruits! Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for these folks who have recently joined the BRCWRT:

- Jeanine Lawson
- Daniel Lawson
- Naomi Arlund

Andy Rabin

♦ William Clabault

#### Ms. Rebelle - (con't from page 17)

River in South Carolina on June 1-2, 1863. More than 750 slaves were liberated during this raid.

In 1859, William Seward sold her a piece of land in Auburn, New York where her house still stands. Later, she was able to bring her aging parents and several family members to New York to live with her. The



The Auburn NY house Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, sold to Harriet Tubman. The building is now a museum dedicated to Tubman, who lived her life in the North quite poor and always reaching out for assistance to the formerly enslaved people who needed help after having been kept ignorant and destitute in their captivity.

**Photo by Janet Greentree** 

house became a haven housing former slaves and others looking for a better life. One of her boarders was a Civil War veteran, Nelson Davis. They fell in love and were married on March 18, 1869. He was 22 years younger than her. In 1874, they adopted a baby girl, Gertie.

Harriet's seizures and headaches continued to plague her for the rest of her life. In the late 1890s she had brain surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. She requested no anesthesia and instead bit down on a bullet like the Civil War soldiers did. She died of pneumonia in 1913 and was buried with semi-military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, NY. She shares her final resting place with William Seward and his family, Captain Myles Keogh, and Generals Emory Upton and Andrew Alexander. installed a memorial plague on the Courthouse in Auburn dedicated to Tubman. Booker T.



Above, the burial of Harriet Tubman Davis in March of 1913. Below, her headstone marks the resting place of a true American hero.

Headstone photo by Janet Greentree

Washington gave the keynote address.

Her home was abandoned in the 1920s, but the AME Zion Church renovated it. It now stands as a museum and



education center. It took a lifetime for Harriet to travel so far and wide, and accomplish so much, not just for her own people, but for all Americans who could then live in a better, more perfect society, freed from the terrible obligations of oppression through emancipation.

If you embark on the tour to the Eastern Shore, follow her life there and comprehend the enormous scope of her heroic accomplishments and how they contributed directly to our nation, you will then understand why she is worthy of appearing on our currency, as other great Americans do.

NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is traveling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far, she has located and photographed 412 - 169 Confederate and 243 Union. You may contact her at <a href="mailto:illgrtree@erols.com">illgrtree@erols.com</a>.

# SMHS Recognizes Donors to Stuart Statue Restoration

Article by Ben Trittipoe ~ photos by Janet Greentree

The Stuart-Mosby Historical Society held a ceremony on Saturday, May 14, to recognize and thank the donors for the restoration of the J.E.B. Stuart Statue on Monument Avenue in Richmond.

The ceremony was held at St. John's United Church of Christ on Stuart Circle, with the restored statue sitting just outside its doors.

As President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, I was pleased to welcomed the attendees before inviting Past President Mrs. Susan Hillier to the podium.



SMHS Pres. Ben Trittipoe

Mrs. Hillier provided a recap of how the Society became involved in the restoration of the statue, which was originally unveiled on May 30, 1907. She also presented the Society with a book containing the address given by Theodore S. Garnett, Stuart's aide-de-camp, at the statue's unveiling. book will be displayed at the Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum Centreville, Va.

Mrs. Hillier then introduced Mr. Steve Roy, who led the restoration of the statue, and he discussed the repairs



SMHS members (left to right) - Ken Jones, Gwen Wyttenbach, Janet Greentree and Ben Trittipoe.

done and the process of restoring the Stuart Statue to its original glory. Mr. Roy and his partner, Mr. Andrew Baxter, have restored

many of the prominent monuments in Richmond, including the Washington statue at the State Capitol, and several on Monument Avenue.

Mr. Roy discussed how periodic maintenance projects on the statue would keep it preserved for quite a long time before a full restoration would be necessary again. I then took a moment to announce that the excess funds collected beyond the \$35,000 restoration cost would be placed in a fund to go toward these future maintenance



Above, the Gen. J.E.B. Stuart statue on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va. The statue was recently refurbished with donations made through the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. Below, attendees of the recent soiree to fete the donors to that refurbishment.



projects, and that further fund-raising efforts would be announced in the near-future.

The featured speaker of the day was Mr. Wayne Jones, who performs living-history presentations as J.E.B. Stuart. Jones spoke as the "Spirit" of Gen. Stuart and reflected on how Stuart would have appreciated the original dedication of the memorial to him and this current restoration of the statue.

The ceremony included a reading of the names of all 65 individuals and 15 organizations that made donations to the restoration. It concluded with the attendees leaving the church and joining Bishop Dennis Campbell in a blessing to rededicate the statue. Attendees then adjourned to a luncheon at the Capital Ale House in downtown Richmond.

# Turnpike of Despair - (con't from page 4)

of the troops available into the battle, it turned out to be a training ground for future generals. Of the officers engaged, 54 Confederate and 63 Union

officers would become generals by the time the war ended.

A little over a year later on August 30, 1862.

another Union army was retreating on the Warrenton Turnpike, this time after being soundly defeated at the costly second battle of Manassas. There was no panic in the ranks, as there had been the previous year. Gen. John Pope's sullen troops had fought well and they knew it. The loss had come because Gen. Robert E. Lee had totally outwitted Pope.

By the next day, Pope's army was regrouped on the Centreville heights. Although Gen. Pope now held a strong position, his army had left behind on the battlefield 7,000 prisoners, 2,000 wounded and 30 pieces of artillery. Between the Stone Bridge and Cub Run, it had given up an additional 30 wagons. Near the turnpike east of Centreville at Willow Springs, a Union field hospital was in operation. It was a busy collection point for the wounded.

Although Lee wanted a decisive victory, he declined to launch a frontal assault against the high ground around Centreville. Instead, he sent Gen. Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson's Corps around the flank. The objective was to move down the Little River Turnpike and get behind Pope's army at Fairfax Court House. On September 1, Jackson was brought to a halt in a twilight battle fought in a rainstorm at Ox Hill (Chantilly) by Union forces, commanded by Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearny.

Both Union generals were killed in the fighting



While the Second Battle of Manassas (depicted above) was more evenly fought by troops of both armies, the Union's decision-making was second to Lee's strategy for the day. The results of this battle were familiar defeat.

that took place partly on the site of what is now Fair Oaks Mall. Gen. Kearny, one of the Union's most promising generals, had moved his division along the Warrenton Turnpike east of Centreville before the battle.

Although he still outnumbered Lee, Gen. Pope ordered the strong Centreville line abandoned. With campfires burning brightly to deceive the Confederates, Pope's forces began withdrawing around 2:30 a.m. on September 2. They traveled on the Warrenton Turnpike toward where it joined the Little River Turnpike; they made a right turn and passed through Fairfax Court House on their forlorn journey back to the defenses of Washington.

On March 12, 1952, Civil War veteran James A. Hard died at Rochester, NY at the age of 111 years and 8 months. He was the last combat soldier to have been in both Manassas battles, having served as a private in a New York regiment. His death erased the last living military connection to that mournful Civil War road.

# Preservation Report - (con't from page 5)

review the view shed concerns and any other concerns identified during the 'new' analysis.

Ox Road/Braddock Road Intersection (Farr Crossroads) Redoubt & Corduroy Road (Ox Road)

The BRCWRT is still engaged and tracking these two projects. There are currently no sub-

stantive updates - we remain in contact with George Mason University and Friends of the Historic Courthouse through continuing discussions in hopes of collaborative future planning efforts for both projects.

# **Upcoming Speakers** – (con't from page

the French and Indian War through World War II both the European and Pacific theaters of operation. We anticipate a full house for this lecture, so try to get here early to get a good seat.

Come on out prior to the meeting at 5 p.m. and meet the Ed for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

#### OWNER JON HICKOX SPEAKS ON THE "CIVIL WAR HISTORY OF THE BULL RUN WINERY" AT THE SEPTEMBER 8th MEETING

We are indeed fortunate to have the Bull Run Winery's owner, Jon Hickox, come speak to us on the history of the part of the battlefield in which the winery is located, and discoveries of artifacts he has made there. In conjunction with Jon's appearance, we will have our first BRCWRT picnic there on Sunday, October 9th. Please see the BRCWRT Web site for more details and to sign up today.

Jon Hickox moved as a young boy to Fairfax County, VA, in 1982. He always preferred to spend time outdoors hunting, fishing, camping and scouring the woods and fields for Civil War relics and Indian artifacts. Many summers and weekends were spent on a friend's family farm near Chantilly; by working on the farm and spending time outdoors, Jon developed a deep spiritual bond with the land and the people who had lived and worked there.

He was also deeply affected by witnessing firsthand the slow destruction of farmland associated with the rural crescent that encircles the D.C. metropolitan area. Through these combined experiences, Jon has gained an appreciation and respect for the land, history, and people associated with this passing of "Old Virginia." While Jon is a relative newcomer to the wine industry, the core components of business management, respect for history and an understanding of agriculture are nothing new for Jon.

While attending George Mason University, Jon met the love of his life, Kimberly, who was also a history major. In 2005, they got married and settled in Arlington, VA, where they live today with their beautiful daughters Delaney and Lilly (who have wines named in their honor), and two dogs, Hunter and Mosby.

In 2008, with the real estate market in full downturn, an opportunity to purchase a 21-acre farm at the edge of Fairfax County, presented itself. It was perfectly nestled against the Manassas National Battlefield and Bull Run Creek. Jon and Kim took a leap of faith and, four years later (and with a lot of hard work and determination), the winery opened in June, 2012.

Come on out before the meeting at 5 p.m. and meet the Jon for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

# President's Column - (con't from page 1)

book at the meetings, or online at the BRCWRT Web site. You don't want to miss buying this book - Ed Bearss wrote the foreword, saying this book is a "gold mine of information...." Also, the BRCWRT 25th anniversary book will be on sale at meetings.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas tour has been scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>, and again, our first picnic on

Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bull Run Winery. We will be having "Bad to the Bone BBQ," along with many other treats that day. Put that date on the calendar, and as well as other events awaiting us as the BRCWRT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season continues. Let's make some memories together.

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

Keep up-to-date on all the great activities sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table by visiting our Wed site:

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
The Stone Wall
P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, VA 20122

#### <u> 2016 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM</u>

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)—FREE.

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: