



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIII, Issue 5, JUNE/JULY 2016

## **PANEL OF PAST PRESIDENTS TO CONVENE AT JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> BRCWRT 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING**

By Mark Trbovich

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table was founded in May of 1991, and for these past 25 years, the promotion of education, historical preservation and study of heritage have been the cornerstone of our efforts to provide leadership regarding the Civil War for the Fairfax and Prince William County districts. It is our honor to host our founder, Bill Miller, president from 1991-92, and those serving as president who followed Bill, as participants in the Presidents' Panel being presented at the June 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting.

Past presidents include: Kevin Leahy (93-94) / Scott Patchan (95 & 99-2000) / Gary Ecelbarger (95-96) / John McAnaw (97-98, 01-02, 04-08) / Dan Paterson (98-99) / Keith Young (03) / Nancy Anwyll (09) and Mark Trbovich (10-16). Each will take a few minutes to discuss his and her presidency.

We are very fortunate to have partnered over the years with many fine local historical groups and governmental bodies in order to help preserve hallowed ground, which included historic sites, battlefields, and to create historic districts. Some of these honored partners will also speak during the program.

Please remember to bring an extra \$15 to the meeting so that you can purchase the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative book. This book is truly a great memento of the many years we have spent together and accomplishments we have achieved as the premiere organization in the northern Virginia area for the study of the Civil War.

This will be a special night – the culmination of a two-year effort by the BRCWRT 25<sup>th</sup> Anni-

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

7 p.m. Centreville Library

**THURSDAY, June 9, 2016**

### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Panel of Past  
BRCWRT Presidents**

### **TOPIC:**

**CELEBRATING THE  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BULL RUN CIVIL WAR  
ROUND TABLE**

**THURSDAY, July 14, 2016**

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**NPS RANGER AND AUTHOR  
JOHN HENNESSEY**

### **TOPIC:**

**"THE FIRST BATTLE OF  
MANASSAS: AN END OF INNOCENCE  
JULY 18-21, 1861"**

versary Committee to mark this milestone meeting. Try to get here early to get a good seat, as we expect a full house for this celebration.

**NPS RANGER, AUTHOR JOHN HENNESSEY  
SPEAKS ON THE "THE FIRST BATTLE OF  
MANASSAS: AN END OF INNOCENCE  
JULY 18-21, 1861" AT THE JULY 14th MEETING**

On July 21, 1861, near a Virginia railroad junction 25 miles from Washington, DC, the Union and Confederate armies clashed in the first major battle of the Civil War. As a part of our

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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 **August 2016 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, July 25, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August 2016 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, July 15, to Charlie Balch at [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com)

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

**- PLACE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN  
THE STONE WALL -**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**June 9, 2016** - Anniversary Meeting - Panel of Past BRCWRT Presidents

**July 14, 2016** - John Hennessey - "Battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas Campaign"

**August 11, 2016** - Ed Bearss - "Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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"

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## The President's Column

By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

As President of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, it is my honor to welcome you to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation on June 9th at the Centreville Library. It is also my honor to have served since January 2010 as the Round Table's 14<sup>th</sup> president and wish to extend my deepest thanks to all who preceded me as president, shaping the foundation *and future* of our very successful round table.

A high point during my term came in May 2011, when the BRCWRT was presented the *Civil War Round Table of the Year Award* by the Civil War Trust. This honor occasioned such a moment of pride for us all, but also humbled us, realizing that we must work even harder to attain the higher goals we envision to better serve our Northern Virginia Civil War community. Please come on out at 7 p.m., the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>, to hear former BRCWRT presidents and honored guests speak at our celebration event.

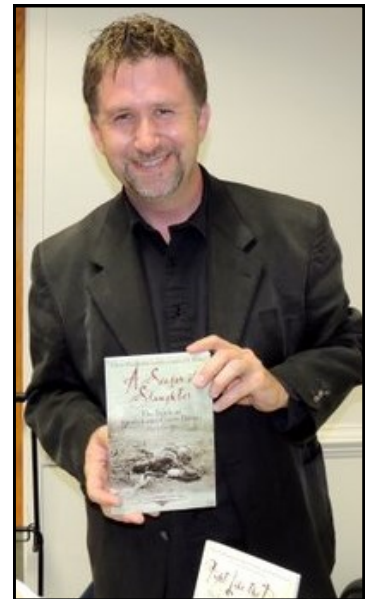
The BRCWRT is one of several round tables in the country, members of which objectively study and share information and who actively preserve American Civil War history within their communities. Formed May 9, 1991, the attending membership count at that first meeting/lecture was 22. Mr. Bill Miller presided over that first meeting, held at the Manassas Public Library. His vision for our Round Table has been completely fulfilled; I am happy to say that the Round Table has grown tenfold - to over 220 members. This is due to the work of our past presidents and their Executive Board members.

I also wish to thank the BRCWRT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their efforts in organizing this wonderful celebration, as well as researching, compiling and producing the souvenir commemorative book for this event. Your efforts have provided a wonderful look back on this Round Table's successes, recognizing the many people who supported it for the past 25 years. I also wish to thank the Centreville Library for scheduling and hosting our current meetings for

the past 16 years. We truly appreciate the use of the conference room and the hospitality you have provided us with.

As we have discussed all year, 2016 will be a year of celebration events, tours, and lectures that will certainly be memorable for our members and friends. Our membership drive concluded in April, so folks - please encourage friends and acquaintances to join up or, for lapsed members, to renew their membership through our Web site, or at the next meeting.

Our May 2016 speaker, author and historian Chris Mackowski, brought us an outstanding presentation on the "Battle at the Muleshoe Salient - May 1864." This was a powerful lecture on such a bloody, terrible fight. I am so happy a packed house attended to hear this battle story. You can always hear this lecture on our Web site, if you missed the meeting. Thanks to Chris for a job well done! We hope to see you again for future lectures.



May meeting speaker Chris Mackowski displays the several books he has authored on various aspects of the Civil War.

Photo by Janet Greentree

The BRCWRT is pleased to be a member of a stakeholder group for the Bristoe Station and Kettle Run Battlefields Preservation Study. The first meeting regarding this study was hosted on May 12<sup>th</sup> by Prince William County Archaeologist Justin Patton. BRCWRT Exec. Comm. member John De Pue attended as our representative. The PWC Planning Office identified us as having an interest in the outcome of this study because of our interest in the Civil War; members were also chosen for their interest in preserving and managing the Rural Area of Prince William County. Prince William County was awarded a grant through the American Battlefield Protection Program, a division of the National Park Service,

(con't on page 13)



## THE BOOK CORNER



**By Ralph G. Swanson**

I doubt very much that author T. Harry Williams wrote, or even concurred with, the title of his biography of Confederate General Beauregard: *P.G.T. Beauregard -- Napoleon in Gray*. It had to have been forced on him by his publisher, Collier Books, in 1955. Likewise, the cover copy describing Beauregard as one of the Civil War's "outstanding generals" is surely editor's fluff, designed merely to pump up sales. No one, least of all T. Harry Williams, would compare Beauregard to Napoleon, nor consider him an outstanding general.

Thankfully, none of that gratuitous pomp detracts from the quality or importance of this book - possibly the only book-length biography of Beauregard available. Williams knows his generals and is particularly well-known for his studies of those in high command during our Civil War. Despite any efforts by his editor, Williams does not deceive, once we dive between the overheated covers of his book. All leaders must accept a fair - even if harsh - assessment of their records, and Williams is nothing if not harsh on Beauregard. This is no puff piece.

Beauregard was prominent in the Confederacy, being fifth in command seniority. (Considering that Sam Cooper did not actually command, Albert Johnston was dead, and Joe Johnston was wounded or often out of favor, Beauregard was, effectively, second only to Lee in field command). He was an active field commander in many important battles; First Manassas, Shiloh and Petersburg most notable among them. We cannot fully comprehend those battles without an understanding of Beauregard.

While he most often fought in subordinate command, he did hold six independent commands. Most of those were departmental or area commands, however, where his leadership was primarily administrative.

Beauregard was a flamboyant and romantic figure in the south, with his West Point education and handsome European features, name and manners. He was the first hero of the Confederacy after taking the

surrender of Ft. Sumter at the onset of the War. His fame only increased after the fortuitous, if stumbling, victory at Manassas in 1861. In the euphoria of that victory, Confederate President Jefferson Davis promoted Beauregard from brigadier directly to a full general, a mistake the President quickly came to regret.

At Manassas, Beauregard developed, then revised, several plans for offensive action, but never implemented any of them. In the midst of battle, he issued a confusion of orders, some of which were never received in the field. Poor James Longstreet crossed and re-crossed the Bull Run fords all day, but never joined the battle. Fortunately, Joe Johnston went to the front and relayed orders back to Beauregard for the advancement of troops, which largely won that battle.

At Shiloh, Beauregard unaccountably counseled his superior to call a full retreat on the evening before the battle. This was astounding arrogance from a subordinate officer newly arrived on the scene and unfamiliar with the terrain, the condition of the army or the strategic planning of the campaign. Albert Sidney Johnston ignored him. In fairness, after Johnston was killed, Beauregard continued to fight aggressively at this battle, pushing the Confederate army to the brink of victory. In retrospect, he made crucial tactical mistakes at the end of Day One by withdrawing his army too far, then not reorganizing and reassessing the battlefield situation before the fighting on Day Two commenced.

Nevertheless, criticism of Beauregard after Shiloh was unfair. Anyone who believes that one last attack by exhausted and outnumbered Confederate troops on Day Two would have defeated Grant, freshly reinforced by Buell, is being unrealistic. Beauregard accomplished all that was possible and the subsequent preservation of his shattered army was paramount.

Manassas and Shiloh reinforce Williams' main biographical thesis: once battle was joined, Beauregard was effective at moving his troops and fighting his army. In Division or even Corps Command, Beauregard might have been outstanding, rivaling even Longstreet. But in overall army command, he was vastly out of his depth, and the Confederacy suffered for it.

(con't on page 10)



# Marching Orders...

**BRCWRT 1st Manassas  
Saturday, July 16**

**“Off the Battlefield” Tour**

**Date:** 16 July 2016

**Assembly Location/Time:** Centreville Library, 8 a.m.

**Tour Duration:** Tour expected to end about 4 p.m.

**Cost:** Free to All. Suggest carpooling from the Centreville Library parking lot to minimize site congestion & to maximize camaraderie.

**Uniform of the Day:** Dress for possible hot & humid weather, wear comfortable shoes; and bring bug spray to deal with possible ticks, etc.

**Lunch:** Bring water and lunch; the 45-minute lunch break will be at the Ben Lomond Historic Site. It is also possible to buy lunch at one of the nearby fast food places.

**Tour Features:** Because the Bull Run Civil War Round Table has held many tours of the Manassas battlefields, the tour leaders chose to highlight sites near the battlefield that played a role before, during, & after the battle. A packet with maps and tour stops will be handed out the morning of July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Possible sites include (not in order):** Blackburn's Ford, Liberia, Ben Lomond Historic Site, Mitchell's Ford, Signal Hill, Manassas Junction, Mayfield Fort and more.

**Tour Leaders:** Rob Orrison and Bill Backus, both with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division.

Questions can be directed to Rob Orison: [rorrison@pwcgov.org](mailto:rorrison@pwcgov.org).

Please don't be a no-show. If you sign up, but can't attend, please cancel. Tours are limited in space, and your empty spot can be filled by another Civil War enthusiast, if you let us know in advance that you won't be there.



## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Publication

### 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](http://www.bullruncwrt.org)) for details regarding online ordering.



## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Gen. Samuel Cooper, CSA

By Janet Greentree

Trying to decide which general to profile this month, our own BRCWRT member, Drew Pallo, who reenacts as General Samuel Cooper



At left, BRCWRT member Drew Pallo reenacts CSA Gen. Samuel Cooper. Above, Gen. Samuel Cooper.

with 'Lee's Lieutenants,' suggested Cooper for my article.

Samuel Cooper was one of the oldest Civil War generals in the war. He was born June 12, 1798 in New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York on his father's birthday. Not much is known about his early life. His parents were Samuel Cooper and Mary Horton. In 1813, at age 15, Samuel entered West Point and graduated two years later 36<sup>th</sup> in a class of 40. A two-year term was the normal length of courses at West Point at that time. He was appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the U.S. Light Artillery on December 11, 1815. He was promoted to captain in 1836.

Cooper's family history is interesting as well. He married Sarah Marie Mason, the daughter of General John Mason of Clermont, Fairfax Co., VA, and the granddaughter of George Mason. His future brother-in-law was James M. Mason, a Confederate diplo-



Sarah Maria Mason Cooper

mat. His wife's sister Ann Maria Mason was the mother of General Fitzhugh Lee. Ann Marie's father was Sidney Smith Lee, the brother of Robert E. Lee. Sarah's brother John was the son-in-law of General Alexander Macomb. Cooper himself would become the father-in-law of General Frank Wheaton. He and his family were close friends with the Lee family of Arlington.

On his paternal side, his great-uncle Samuel was president of Harvard during the Revolutionary War. His father Samuel, at age 18, was in Lexington at the meeting house when British Major Pitcairn told the patriots gathered on the town green to "disperse, you rebels, throw down your arms and disperse" on April 19, 1775. His father fought with the Knox Artillery of Washington's Army at Lexington, Bunker Hill, Brandywine, and Germantown.

Cooper served as aide-de-camp for General Macomb from 1828-1836. Cooper authored *A Concise System of Instructions and Regulations for the Militia and Volunteers of the United States* while working under Macomb. He was promoted over the years, remaining a career military man. He served in the Second Seminole War in 1841-42, but most of his time (including the Mexican War) was spent in Washington. Cooper served for a time as acting U.S. Secretary of War in 1857; he was appointed Adjutant General on July 15, 1862.

Since marrying into a Virginia family,

(con't on page 7)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

Cooper's loyalties stayed with the South at the beginning of the Civil War. He was also good friends with Jefferson Davis. Cooper resigned as Adjutant General from the U.S. Army on March 17, 1861, traveled to Montgomery, Alabama (the Confederate capital), and accepted his duties as Adjutant General and Inspector General of the Confederate Army.



Samuel Cooper as a civilian, date unknown.

He was the highest ranking general of five promoted on May 16, 1861, to full general. The other four were: Albert Sidney Johnson, Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston, and P.G.T. Beauregard.

Cooper spent the war in Richmond, using his knowledge as adjutant for the Confederacy and reporting directly to President Jefferson Davis. Cooper's last act in office was to preserve the records of the Confederate Army and, following the war, turned them over to the U.S. Government. These records became part of the "OR," as we know it today – the *Official Records, The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* published in 1880. Civil War historian Ezra Warner said that "Cooper thereby made a priceless contribution to the history of the period" by saving the records.

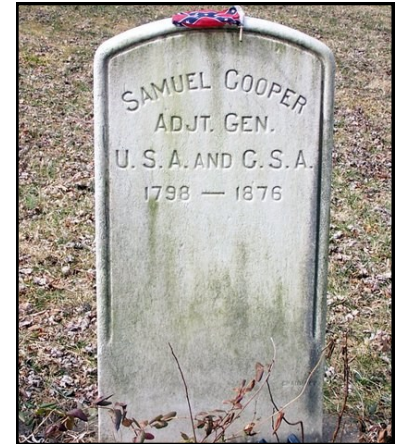
Gen. Cooper surrendered on May 3, 1865 at Charlotte, North Carolina. After the war, he went back to his home, Cameron, in Alexandria, to farm. His house had been turned into a fort during the war. Cooper moved into the overseer's house on the property. Cameron was located at the present-day site of the Cameron Run area. The house no longer stands.

The general drifted into financial decline in 1870. Gen. R. E. Lee raised \$300 to give to Cooper, and added \$100 of his own for a gift

of \$400 to help sustain General Cooper. Lee said in his note to Cooper: "To this sum I have only been able to add \$100.00, but I hope it may enable you to supply some immediate want and prevent you from taxing your strength too much. You must pardon me for my moving in this matter, and for the foregoing explanation, which I feel obliged to make that you might understand the subject."

General Cooper lived until December 3, 1876, dying in Alexandria at age 78. He is buried in the Christ Church Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia.

In a letter written by Jefferson Davis after Cooper's death, he states, in part: "....his sole personal relation with the South was that he was the husband of a granddaughter of George Mason, of Virginia, not yet belonging to the Confederate States. He foresaw the storm, which was soon to burst upon the seceding States, saw that the power which had been refused in the convention which formed the Constitution of the Union, the power to use the military arm of the General Government to coerce a State, was to be employed without doubt, and conscientiously believing that would be violative of the fundamental principles of the compact of Union, he resigned his commission, which was his whole wealth, and repaired to Montgomery to tender his services to the weaker party, because it was the party of law and right. ....Faithful to the cause he espoused, unmoved by the prospect of disaster, when the fortune of war seemed everywhere to be against us, Cooper continued unswerving in the discharge of his



Grave marker of Gen. Samuel Cooper, Christ Church Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

(con't on page 8)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

duty, and when the evacuation of the capital became a necessity, he took with him such books and papers as were indispensable, and although worn down by incessant labor, never relaxed his attention to the functions of his office until disease compelled him to confess his inability to continue the retreat. The affection, the honor and the confidence with which I regarded him made our parting a sorrowful

one, under circumstances so hard for us both."

*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 [jlgrtree@erols.com](mailto:jlgrtree@erols.com).*

## BRCWRT Members Rally for Tot's Benefit

BRCWRT member Bob Hickey is conducting a raffle for a beautiful color Civil War print entitled "*Sinking of the USS Cumberland by the CSS Virginia*," by James Gurney. Bob had the print mounted and framed and it would complement the den or family room of any Civil War enthusiast.

Bob is donating the proceeds of the raffle to a fund established in the name of Hadley Burgman. Hadley is the three-year-old granddaughter of BRCWRT member Pat McGinty. She developed a brain tumor about a year ago. The tumor damaged the optic nerve and Hadley is now blind. To date, she has had two brain surgeries and while the tumor is benign, it continues to grow. The next step is radiation,



Toddler Hadley Burgman

complicated by a diagnosis of diabetes. Needless to say, the Burgman family finances are strained; hence, the raffle.

The drawing for the valuable print will be held at a fundraiser for Hadley at the Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant in Fairfax City on Saturday, August 6th, (3-7

p.m.); attendance at raffle is not necessary.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket on this beautiful Civil War print and, at the same time, contribute to a worthy cause, please contact Robert Hickey

at: (703) 978-8265. If no answer, please leave your contact information: name, address, phone number (and e-mail address if available). Bob will send you a raffle ticket and instructions for payment details.

Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each.



"Sinking of USS Cumberland by the CSS Virginia" by James Gurney.

**More details are available at [www.gofundme.com/hadleyshope](http://www.gofundme.com/hadleyshope)**



# Colonel Joseph B. Mitchell: Civil War Historian

by Tim Duskin

Joseph Brady Mitchell was born on September 25, 1915 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, into an Army family from Alabama. He grew up in West Point, New York, and his father taught him military history from his youth, which included numerous visits to many battlefields. Mitchell graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1937 and was commissioned in the field artillery. In 1938, he married Vivienne Brown. They had two children. Mitchell also graduated from the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He served in Europe during World War II and was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal for actions during that war.

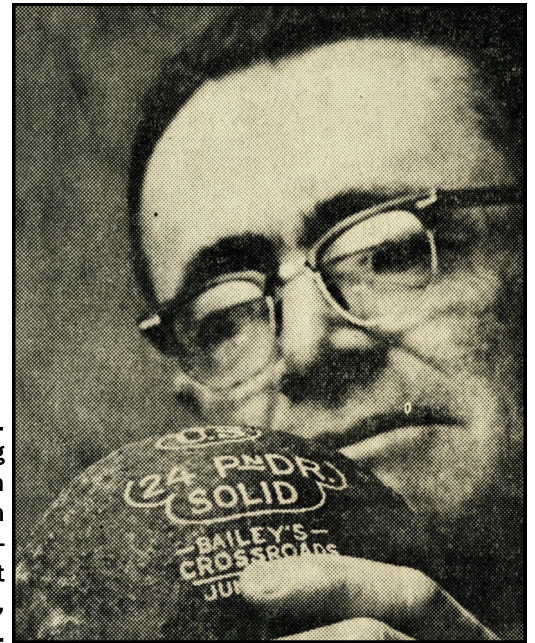
After the war, he served on the Operations Division of the War Department's General Staff and with the Historical Division of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He retired from active duty in 1955, having risen to the rank of full Colonel.

Colonel Mitchell resided in Alexandria, Virginia and was primarily responsible for the preservation of Fort Ward and the establishment of Fort Ward Park and the Fort Ward Museum by the city of Alexandria in 1963. Fort Ward was one of the defenses of Washington during the Civil War and was the fifth largest of its 66 forts. Colonel Mitchell became the first Curator of the Fort Ward Museum and remained in that position until his retirement in the mid-1970's. He also served as president of the Alexandria Historical Society.

Colonel Mitchell was very knowledgeable about military history and was the author of six books on the subject, including three on the Civil War: *Decisive Battles of the Civil War*, *Military Leaders in the Civil War*, and *The Badge of Gallantry: Letters from Civil War Medal of Honor Winners*. He also added five chapters of his own to *The Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World: From Marathon to Waterloo* by Edward S. Creasy (1812-1878) to bring it through World War II. He titled it *Twenty Decisive Battles of the World* and the battle he had a chapter on as the decisive battle of the Civil War was Vicksburg. Colonel Mitchell always believed that the Civil War was decided in the West and that the Western Theater of that war was the one of the most primary importance in determining its outcome.

Colonel Mitchell was a member of the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia and a founding member and president of the Alexandria Civil War Round Table, which spun off from the D.C. Civil War Round Table. The D.C. Civil War Round Table presented

Photo of Col. Mitchell holding Civil War cannon ball (unknown publication) courtesy of the Fort Ward Museum, Alexandria, VA.



Colonel Mitchell with its Bruce Catton Award for his contributions to Civil War history,<sup>x</sup> and the Alexandria Civil War Round Table established an award named after Colonel Mitchell.

Colonel Mitchell was also Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) and Chief-of-Staff of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. While serving in the former position, he had the SCV work with the National Park Service to create a better slide show of the First and Second Battles of Manassas for the Visitor Center at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. (This, however, has since been replaced with a film.) He was also the founder of the American Revolution Round Table of the District of Columbia and won the 1962 best book award from the American Revolution Round Table of New York for his book *Decisive Battles of the American Revolution*. His sixth book was *Military Leaders in the American Revolution*.

I was in high school when I attended my first meeting of the Alexandria Civil War Round Table in June 1969. The organization met in the library of the Fort Ward Museum, which has a sizeable Civil War research collection. Most of the organization's members at that time were World War II veterans and have since passed on, but I learned a great deal about the Civil War during my early years of studying it from those men; more than I learned from anyone or anywhere else at that time. Colonel Mitchell was one of the primary leaders of that Round

(con't on page 10)

## Col. Mitchell – (con't from page 9)

Table and, I think, the foremost one. In addition to perpetuating Civil War history, he lead field trips of the Alexandria Civil War Round Table. He also led that Round Table, and through it, Civil War Round Tables around the country, in battlefield preservation when development began to threaten them.

One thing that I first learned about historical research from Colonel Mitchell was that it should be guided by objectivity and critical thinking. I was also later reinforced in this approach to history by Dr. Lowell H. Harrison (1922-2011), who was my advisor and primary history professor at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He also believed in this approach to history. (As with Colonel Mitchell, Dr. Harrison was the author of many books on history, in his case - Kentucky history, three of which were about the Civil War: *The Civil War in Kentucky*, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, and *The Government of Confederate Kentucky*.) I have seen the importance of their approach to history as I have seen the approach to history taken by others these days: that of looking at history as a vehicle to promote a particular agenda, frequently, a political agenda. This approach starts with a premise that it reads into history, leading to the distortion of history. Colonel Mitchell taught that, when studying history, it should be studied solely to seek

the truth of it. I have never forgotten what he taught in this regard.

After the Bull Run Civil War Round Table spun off from the Alexandria Civil War Round Table in 1991, I changed my membership to the former. I saw Colonel Mitchell two more times after that. The first time was when he spoke at the Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables held by Civil War Round Table Associates in New Market, Virginia, in June 1991. The last time was when he was the speaker at a meeting of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table at the Visitor Center at Manassas National Battlefield Park sometime in the spring or summer of 1992. He spoke both times on General "Stonewall" Jackson in the Seven Days' Battles, a topic which he was researching at the end of his life. Colonel Mitchell passed from this world on February 17, 1993, at the age of 77. He died at Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia, of congestive heart failure. He is buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria. The epitaph on his tombstone reads, "Life's work well done. Now comes rest." Colonel Mitchell's life work was, indeed, well done. His wife, Vivienne (1918-2012), and their daughter, Sherwood Neave Mitchell Haas (1941-2009), are also buried in the same cemetery.

## The Book Corner – (con't from page 4)

We can only hope that *Beauregard* is taught in our military academies, for there is much for today's officer corps to learn from it. Beauregard devised complicated strategies that his undermanned and poorly trained armies could not perform. His overblown sense of superiority led him to gross insubordination. He played politics poorly, seemingly unaware that he had no friends in high places. As a consequence, he was piqued when his hasty and ill-conceived advice was rejected.

Sadly, *Beauregard* can be a depressing read about an officer with considerable ability who squandered it in petty quarrels with the political leadership of the day and with his brother officers. He would have been more effective had he fought in the cause of the Confederacy rather than in the cause of P.G.T. Beauregard. Perhaps that is the greatest lesson to be learned by today's officers, if not all managers.

In all, Petersburg was probably Beauregard's finest performance. He correctly divined Grant's intentions and rushed his troops into the trenches to defend the city and protect Lee's rear. He easily beat

back initial Union attacks on June 15, then constructed new fortifications and fought well to repel Grant's increasing onslaughts. He arguably saved the Army of Northern Virginia and the Confederacy in June 1864.

Ironically, late in 1864, Beauregard had theater command over, primarily, the western armies of John Hood and Richard Taylor. Hood was doggedly proceeding to his demise at Nashville. Along the way, Beauregard became so exasperated with Hood's own insubordination that he (Beauregard) just quit commanding and went back to Charleston. One wonders if the parallels ever dawned on him.

Napoleon Bonaparte was a brilliant strategist, tactician and leader of men and nations, operating on a world stage; Beauregard was none of that. He is worthy of our attentions, just not our laudatory acclaim.

Until next time, keep reading.

**Note:** The Book Corner welcomes your comments and, especially, your recommendations for outstanding books on the Civil War. Send your comments to: [renataralph@gmail.com](mailto:renataralph@gmail.com).



# Mount Gilead's Civil War Legacy

by Karl Reiner

The house located at 5634 Mount Gilead Road in Centreville was built during the 1700s. For a number of years, it operated as a tavern, a resting place for weary travelers. Located in Centreville's Historic District, it is one of the dwellings that survived the devastation of the Civil War years. The house and grounds were acquired by Fairfax County in 1996. Mount Gilead is currently maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Although Mount Gilead is not a battle site, the tense psychological drama that unfolded there had consequences. The dispute between Confederate President Davis and General Joseph E. Johnston, which grew in intensity at Centreville, contributed to the demise of the Confederacy.

It was a somewhat disgruntled Confederate army that began setting up winter encampments and defensive fortifications around Centreville in October 1861. According to local tradition, General Joseph E. Johnston used Mount Gilead, or the Jameson House, as it was known during the Confederate occupation, as his headquarters residence. Other army staff components set up shop in the Grigsby House. The Grigsby House, or the Four Chimney House as it was sometimes called, was located to the west of Mt. Gilead in the vicinity of what is now Route 28 and the entrance ramp to east I-66.

Gen. Johnston faced a multitude of problems as the short war that nearly everyone had expected became a fast-fading dream. The report submitted by his nominal subordinate, Gen. Beauregard, on the first battle of Manassas insinuated that President Davis prevented the pursuit of the retreating Union forces. When the report became public in October 1861, it created a political firestorm. Opposing politicians used it to attack Davis for his management of the war.

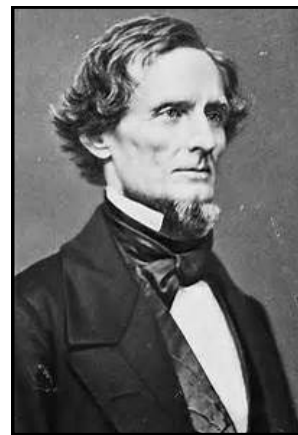
Although he was a West Point graduate, a veteran of the Mexican War, a former U.S. Secretary of War and U.S. Senator, Jefferson Davis was proving to be far from the ideal chief executive. Many people in Richmond were surprised to find that Davis, the



Mt. Gilead, Centreville, VA.

successful pre-war politician, suffered from a real inability to get along with people. He regarded any opposition to his programs as a personal attack. He discouraged thoughtful argument and was unwilling to delegate authority. One exasperated observer curtly described Davis as: "cold as a lizard and ambitious as Lucifer."

Davis often quarreled bitterly with Confederate congressmen, generals, governors and the press.



Confederate Pres. Jefferson Davis

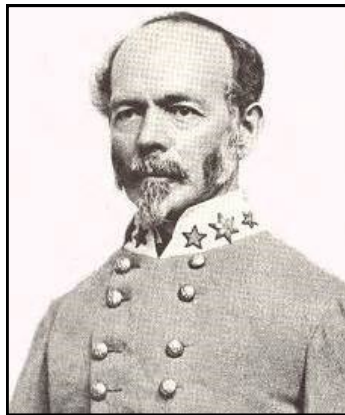
Never forgetting a slight or being able to forgive the person who committed it, Davis transferred Gen. Beauregard out of Centreville in January 1862.

His relations with Gen. Johnston, the senior commander in northern Virginia, were equally atrocious. While the exact reasons for the mutual bad feelings are unknown, it has been speculated that the two men disliked each before the war.

Some historians believe it was rooted in an obscure dispute involving their wives. Others think it began when Johnston was promoted to Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army in 1860 and Davis, then a U.S. Senator from Mississippi, supported another candidate.

The mutual loathing increased in September 1861 when Johnston learned that Davis had put him in fourth place on the seniority list of generals. Based on his previous rank in the U.S. Army, John-

(con't on page 14)



Gen. Joseph E. Johnston



## IN MEMORIAM: ALBERT Z. CONNER, JR.

November 20, 1943 – May 20, 2016

by Sandra Cox

Many of you will remember Al as our February 2013 speaker and his talk on the "Union's Army's 'Valley Forge' - Stafford, VA, 1863: 93 Days That Saved America" that served as the prelude to the opening of the Stafford Civil War Park on April 27. The BRCWRT had toured the park twice before its opening; in March 2012 and March 2013.

Al was hoping to finish his book on the same topic in the fall after speaking with us. It was finally published this past March with the help of our May speaker Chris Mackowski. It is titled: *Seizing Destiny: The Army of the Potomac's "Valley Forge" and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union*. I was happy to be able to buy a copy from Chris.

Al battled cancer on and off for over 30 years, believed to be caused by the Agent Orange exposure he received in the service. My husband Doug and I drove Al and Jane to the February meeting, as they lived nearby. Due to pain, Al had to lie back in the car seat. When he stood up to speak, it was like he was a different man, because he was speaking about something he loved. He passed away in his sleep May 20.

Al was quite a guy, and he and his wife Jane made quite a team. As was Al, Jane is an author and speaker on the Civil War and Stafford County-related historical subjects. Al also led one of the BRCWRT's Stafford tours when John McAnaw was president.

Al graduated from the Virginia Military Institute,

got his Master's degree at Georgetown University and served for 30 years in the government – 12 years in the U.S. Army in the infantry and military intelligence branches, and 18 years with Defense Intelligence Agency, including a 12-year detail with the Central Intelligence Agency. His combat service included two tours in Vietnam.



Albert Z. Conner, Jr.

He received the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star for valor and the Staff Service Honor Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Class for meritorious service, plus numerous other awards from the DIA and CIA.

Interment will be in Quantico National Cemetery. Al had been president of the Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table and Stafford Historical Society, served as a historical interpreter with the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park at Chatham and helped with so many other organizations including the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites. Due to his health, Jane delivered Al's remarks at the Grand Opening of the Stafford Civil War Park and couldn't wait to tell him that the park entrance sign included: "Union Army 'Valley Forge' 1863."

## BRCWRT Members Observe Memorial Day at Ox Hill Battlefield

Photos by Janet Greentree



BRCWRT Past President John McAnaw served as Master of Ceremonies at Ox Hill Memorial Day observance. At right, Kate Hickey, the wife of BRCWRT member Bob Hickey. Kate sang "Lorena" and "Hard Times" at the ceremony.



BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel spoke eloquently about Gen. Philip Kearny, who gave his life in service to the United States during the action at Ox Hill, Sept. 1, 1862.

## Upcoming Speakers – (con't from page 1)

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the BRCWRT is honored to have National Park Ranger John Hennessey speak on the new revised edition of his tactical account of First Manassas/Bull Run, titled as the lecture for the evening: *The First Battle of Manassas: an End of Innocence – July 18-21, 1861*.

John is a veteran of the National Park Service at Manassas and Harpers Ferry and is involved in the development of interpretive media and programs for the public. He is currently chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he has worked since 1995.

John is the author of four films and three books, most notably: *Return to Bull Run: The*

*Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (Simon and Schuster, 1993). His other publications include more than 100 reviews, essays, and articles on everything from the preservation of New York historic urban areas; the exodus of slaves from central Virginia in 1862, and the legacy of the Civil War in modern society.

John is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany. He has also worked for the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

Come on out at 5 p.m. on June 9<sup>th</sup> and meet the BRCWRT Past Presidents' Panel members for dinner - and on July 14<sup>th</sup> to meet John Hennessey - at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, located at 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

## President's Column – (con't from page 3)

to complete this study. Our support for these battlefields' preservation has been ongoing for many years and will continue for many more.

As we discussed again at the April meeting, the BRCWRT is actively working with the Alexandria, VA, Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names preservation initiative. Our preservation leads, Blake Myers and Rob Orrison, have attended the three meetings held so far, and have reported back to us on their findings. Many of the Executive Committee members have written letters to this board, as well as other officials. We encourage all to express their opinions through written letters as well. Matters being reviewed by the council are: the status of the Appomattox Statue 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 named after Confederate generals and military leaders; and formulating 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 this issue progresses at these council hearings.

This month (and every month this year) we will be selling member Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County*. This book

has been six years in the making, and I believe it is the greatest Fairfax County Civil War reference book ever written, or that will ever be written. You can purchase the book at the meetings, or on-line. You don't want to miss buying this book. Ed Bearss wrote the Foreword, saying that this book is a "gold mine of information....."

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas Tours have been scheduled, as well as our first picnic on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bull Run Winery. We will be having "Bad to the Bone BBQ," that day, along with many other treats. Put that date on the calendar, and also other events awaiting us as the BRCWRT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season begins. Let's make some memories together.

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

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

◆ Mike Sammartino ◆ Greg Eck

## Mt. Gilead – (con't from page 11)

ston thought he should have been given the top slot. Annoyed, he sent Davis a very rude letter. The easily insulted Davis refused to reconsider, firing back a disdainful reply.

Correspondence flew back and forth between Centreville and Richmond on supply issues, the replacement of transferred officers, the need for additional troops and policy. The differences were heated; Johnston wanted to attack Washington, Davis was unable to provide the reinforcements and arms Johnston required.

As word of the quarrel spread in Richmond's fevered political arena, Johnston became too closely identified with the political opponents of President Davis. As an army commander, it was something he should have avoided because the irritable Davis began to mistrust all his decisions.

At a meeting in Richmond in early 1862, Davis, his cabinet and Johnston discussed withdrawing the army from Centreville and Manassas. After the plans were leaked to the public, an infuriated Johnston decided that he could no longer confide in the Confederacy's civilian leadership. When Johnston's army began evacuating its northern Virginia positions in early March 1862, Davis was not informed.

To make matters worse, the retreat was so poorly organized that vast stockpiles of supplies had to be destroyed. The sudden and uncontested withdrawal from northern Virginia damaged public morale, leaving Davis humiliated and angry.

At the battle of Seven Pines east of Richmond on May 31, 1862, Gen. Johnston was severely wounded and relieved of command. Davis selected Gen. Robert E. Lee to replace him. By the time Johnston recovered, Lee had thoroughly demonstrated his battlefield skills. Not even the fiercest political critic of Davis cared to argue for giving Johnston his old job back.

Anxious to get Johnston as far away from Richmond politics as possible, Davis transferred him after he recovered in November 1862. Davis expected Johnston to help reverse the Confederacy's sagging

fortunes in the West. The bitterness between the two men grew deeper when Davis held Johnston partly responsible for the devastating loss of Vicksburg in July 1863.

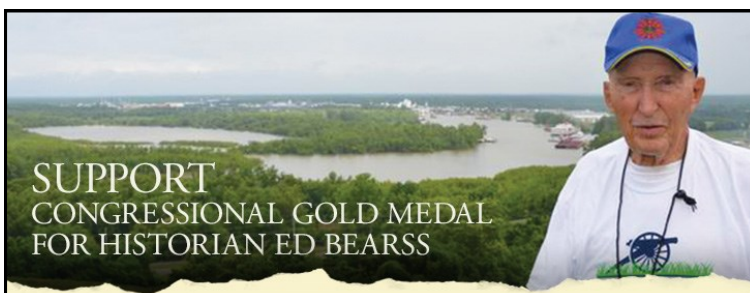
After the command structure of the Confederate Army in Tennessee collapsed in chaos in late 1863, Davis reluctantly put Gen. Johnston in command of the army responsible for blocking Gen. Sherman's drive on Atlanta. Johnston's wariness continued to hamper his relationship with the president because he again avoided informing Davis of his plans.

Lacking clear communications from Johnston, Davis believed other reports, including those from Gen. John B. Hood, that Johnston was incapable of holding Atlanta. Yielding to political pressure, Davis relieved Johnston in July 1864, replacing him with Gen. Hood.

Despite having an injured arm and missing a leg, Gen. Hood was full of fight. He abandoned Gen. Johnston's defensive approach, the one that might have retained Atlanta in Confederate hands until after the Northern election in November 1864. Instead, Gen. Hood switched to an offensive strategy. Gen. Sherman's confident veterans parried Gen. Hood's desperate blows, capturing Atlanta in early September.

As a consequence of the city's fall, Abraham Lincoln was reelected as President of the United States. As the hope for a peace deal negotiated with Lincoln's successor evaporated, Hood and Davis decided to launch an audacious invasion of Tennessee in an effort to redeem Confederate fortunes. Gen. Hood got as far north as Nashville, which he nominally put under siege.

The defender of Nashville, Gen. George Thomas, brought his forces out of the Union lines on December 15 and in two days of hard fighting, mangled Hood's army in the worst defeat ever suffered by Confederate arms. As Hood's surviving troops fled south on frozen roads, the fate of the Confederacy was sealed.



Please visit the Web site below to ensure that this great American soldier, historian and educator gets the recognition he deserves from his fellow & sister historians - add your name and comments to the petition to Congress for the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Ed Bearss!

<http://www.civilwar.org/take-action/speak-out/ed-bearss/?referrer=https://www.facebook.com/>





## PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS

### Ox Road/Braddock Road Intersection (Farr Crossroads) Redoubt

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, BRCWRT members Jim Lewis, Brian McEnany and I met with George Mason University's Tom Calhoun (Vice President, Facilities) and Cathy Pinskey (Director, Campus Planning) to discuss the BRCWRT's goal of preserving the redoubt located on the northeast corner of this historic intersection, where Civil War corduroy road artifacts are located.

After a short meeting and discussion in Tom's office, Tom and Cathy joined us at the redoubt site for a 'tour'/historic perspective and further discussion of the preservation of the site. GMU envisions future site development focused on revenue production for GMU, potentially including commercial aspects.

We allowed that any such development will likely have some amount of green/open space as part of the overall site plan and the redoubt (with appropriate historical/educational signage) could be incorporated accordingly. Tom agreed with the concept/possibility of incorporating the redoubt into future GMU development plans (GMU's planning horizon is 4-5 years). Cathy (who is an architect) took a number of pictures of the redoubt itself, and Tom agreed to stay in contact with us as GMU's planning for this site matures.

### Corduroy Road (Ox Road) Update:

Efforts continue in conjunction with *Friends of the Historic Courthouse* in talking with appropriate property owners to establish a site with appropriate signage describing the history and location of the Corduroy Road (Ox Road). Potential site locations include University Mall and perhaps GMU (as part of redoubt site [see above]). At present there are no substantive

plans...but stay tuned.

### Bristoe Station & Kettle Run Battlefields Preservation Study

On the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Nokesville Volunteer Fire Department Station #5, the Prince William County (PWC) Planning Office hosted a public meeting to present and solicit comments on the Kettle Run & Bristoe Campaign Preservation Study. The purpose of this study is to document both the Bristoe Station and Kettle Run Battlefields and recommend preservation goals and strategies. PWC was awarded a grant through the American Battlefield Protection Program, a division of the National Park Service (NPS), to complete this study. Both battlefields are located near the intersection of Bristow Road and the Norfolk Southern Railway tracks. PWC contracted with Commonwealth Heritage Group to conduct this study. Commonwealth's Jane Jacobs and Jo Balicki presented an overview of the study plan at this forum attended by Rob Orrison (wearing both his PWC and BRCWRT hats) and Blake Myers. For more information, visit [www.pwcgov.org/bristoeestation](http://www.pwcgov.org/bristoeestation)

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

The next public meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2016, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at City Hall (301 King St.), Sister Cities Conference Room 1101. Information on the Group's work to date, public comments submitted and letters submitted by the Mary Custis Lee – 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Chapter #7 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy can be found at [www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate).

### Editor's Note:

### Theft of Civil War Relics from the Petersburg Battlefield

The BRCWRT is aware of the situation and will be happy to participate in efforts to retrieve them.

## Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run Civil War Commemoration

### MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

12521 Lee Highway  
Manassas, VA 20109  
703-361-1339  
Saturday, July 23  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Join park staff as we commemorate the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) with a variety of historian-led walking tours and living history demonstrations. All ranger-led walking tours will last 60-90 minutes.

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## **BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

***The Stone Wall***

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

### **2016 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)—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:**

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

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