



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIII, Issue 2, MARCH 2016

NPS RANGER AND AUTHOR DANIEL VERMILYA SPEAKS ON “THE BATTLE OF KENNESAW MOUNTAIN, GA” AT THE MARCH 10TH MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

We will go down to Georgia this month for the “The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain”, which was fought on June 27, 1864, during the Atlanta Campaign of the American Civil War. It was the most significant frontal assault launched by Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman against the Confederate Army of Tennessee, under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. This ended in a tactical defeat for the Union forces. Strategically, however, the battle failed to deliver the result that the Confederacy desperately needed—namely a halt to Sherman's advance on Atlanta. Our speaker is well versed in this pivotal western theater battle.



The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864 .

Dan Vermilya is a National Park Service ranger at the Antietam National Battlefield and was the first to receive the Joseph L. Harsh Memorial Scholarship Award this year for his re-

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THURSDAY, March 10, 2016

7 p.m. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR

**NPS RANGER AND AUTHOR
DANIEL VERMILYA**

TOPIC:

**“THE BATTLE OF
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN, GA”**

search on the Union Army at Antietam.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and politics from Hillsdale College in 2009 and graduated cum laude, with departmental honors in history. His Master of Arts degree (2011) is from John Carroll University. His studies were mainly focused on the Civil War. Dan's master's thesis analyzed motivations and experiences of Ohio soldiers in Sherman's army during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864.

Dan writes and maintains a blog, “Our Country's Fiery Ordeal,” dedicated to his third great-grandfather, Private Ellwood Rodebaugh, Company D, 106th PA Volunteer Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862.

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

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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>

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For the **April 2016 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Friday, March 28, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 10, 2016 - Dan Vermilya - "Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA"

April 14, 2016 - John Quarstein - "Battle of Mobile Bay"

May 12, 2016 - Chris Mackowski - "Battle at the Mule Shoe Salient"

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

July 14, 2016 - Ed Bearss - "Battle of 1st Manassas"

August 11, 2016 - John Hennessey - "Battle of 2nd Manassas Campaign"

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,

Since March 21st signals the beginning of spring, I hope it comes in like a “lamb” this year. This winter has been fierce, so let’s get some sun and warmth going! I am looking forward to our March 10th meeting, when our lecture subject will be the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA - June 27th, 1864. We missed this lecture during our busy Sesquicentennial Anniversary lecture series in 2014, but wanted to get it in as soon as we could, following the 150th set schedule of commemorative talks.

As discussed again at the February meeting, we are looking forward to our June BRCWRT 25th Anniversary meeting event with great anticipation. The 2016 calendar will contain a year of BRCWRT 25th celebrations and lectures that will certainly be memorable for our members and friends.

Please make an effort to sign on again in March, either at the meeting or online, to remain on the BRCWRT rolls, as the membership drive continues. April will be our last month for the membership drive, at which time, if you haven’t “re-upped,” you will be dropped from the rolls. You will not want to miss any of these special 25th events, nor will you want to miss any issues of our award-winning newsletter.

Our February speaker, Kevin Knapp, brought us an outstanding Civil War ballooning presentation, made all the more interesting by his being a present-day balloonist, himself. The talk was filled with the history of ballooning prior to, and during Civil War campaigns in 1861 and 1862.

Kevin’s knowledge of the subject is extensive, and all left the meeting with a great deal of information themselves about ballooning and its related strategy. Thank you, Kevin, for a job well done, and we hope to see you soon with your beautiful air craft at local Civil War events!

Again our March 10th lecture will be presented by NPS Ranger Daniel Vermilya. You won’t want to miss it.

As was noted at the February meeting, the



Civil War balloon expert Kevin Knapp brought several items to the February meeting demonstrating the history of the unusual air craft that was introduced as a tool of war by both the Union and Confederate armies.

Photo by Janet Greentree

BRCWRT is actively working with the City of Alexandria’s Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names preservation initiative. Our Preservation lead, Blake Myers, along with Rob Or-

rison, attended their initial meeting in January and reported back to us on their findings. Many members of the BRCWRT’s Executive Committee have written letters regarding the matter of either changing or retaining present memorials and street names associated with Confederate history, and we encourage all to express their opinions through written letters as well.

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 that are named after Con-

(con’t on page 10)



BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich (left) thanking Kevin Knapp for his great talk February on Civil War ballooning.

Photo by Nancy Olds



THE BOOK CORNER



by Ralph G. Swanson

I often wish I had been alive in the 19th century so I could have experienced our American Civil War. Not so with Reconstruction - that post-war period of turmoil, corruption and injustice that wracked our nation. *"Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution: 1863-1877"* (Harper Collins, 1988) by Eric Foner is the outstanding historical treatment of our Reconstruction trauma. There are shorter summaries available (Foner himself wrote one), but none provide the breadth and depth of analysis necessary to comprehend what is the true legacy of our Civil War.

Eric Foner is the DeWitt Clinton Professor of American History at Columbia University. He occupies the most distinguished history chair in our American university system. He is particularly known for his Reconstruction-era scholarship, largely due to this book, which has won both the Bancroft and Parkman Prizes. His other academic awards are too numerous to list; praise for his work is too voluminous to quote. He is, quite probably, the preeminent American historian working today.

Reconstruction nominally covered just 12 years (1865-1877), but its impacts still reverberate today. Foner handles this sweep of history with seeming effortlessness that surely belies the years of hard work necessary to analyze these many interrelated forces of history.

Reconstruction was the struggle to: 1) readmit to the nation the seceded states, and 2) develop economic, social and labor systems to deal with four million, mostly ignorant and unskilled, ex-slaves. The only problem was that nobody could agree on how to do it. The issues were so intractable, and our leaders so unable to cope, that what ensued was social and political chaos. The loss of Lincoln, the ineptitude of Johnson, a vengeful Congress and a racist white society, all worked to complicate our national reconciliation. Perhaps a benevolent dictator would have better served our nation during this tumultuous period. No, I would not have cared to experience any of it.

The reconstruction policies of Lincoln form what Foner calls "Wartime Reconstruction." Several ex-

periments to settle blacks on confiscated agricultural lands in the south during the war promised success, only to be reversed by Andrew Johnson. It was one of many cruel betrayals of our ex-slaves.

Politically, Lincoln hoped for a simple re-admission of the states with new, free-state constitutions. But he was not naïve. He knew that a successful reuniting of our nation would turn on the extraordinarily difficult issue of race. He did not believe the races could live together, but by war's end he had abandoned his ideas of colonization. He had accepted that blacks must somehow be integrated into our society as evidenced by his tentative approach to the issue of black suffrage in his last public address on April 11, 1865.

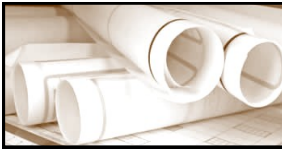
Poor Andrew Johnson mishandled virtually everything during the brief period of "Presidential Reconstruction." Never was a politician more qualified to be president, yet so hopelessly unfit. He was politically myopic, inflexible and racist. He had served a lifetime in elective office without acquiring a single political skill. In less than a year, he managed to alienate his own Republican-controlled Congress with his lenient policies toward ex-rebels and opposition to any progressive efforts to assist blacks.

In the 1866 Congressional elections, Republicans swept to commanding majorities sufficient to inaugurate their "Radical Reconstruction" agenda without Johnson. The Civil Right Act of 1866, the Freedmen's Bureau re-authorization, and the Reconstruction Act of 1867 were all enacted over presidential vetoes. (Johnson also opposed the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.) Congress overrode six of seven Johnson vetoes, then impeached him.

The issue of black suffrage came to define Radical Reconstruction. Republicans saw the black vote as the means to perpetuate their political power. Much of America could not abide the concept. After all, women did not vote; why should blacks?

Oh, there is plenty of meat on this bone for the hungriest amateur historian. There was so much happening in Congress, in the states and nationally, that only an intellect such as Eric Foner's could organize and explain it all. The Freedmen's Bureau, the Constitutional amendments, and the disastrous Grant administration are well covered here, but each is still worthy of its own book-length treatise. Do not be intimidated by Foner's 600+ pages and plethora of footnotes. This book is too important, and Recon-

(con't on page 10)



PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS

Editor's Note: *The following was submitted as a Preservation Report, as it speaks to the City of Alexandria's consideration of either keeping or removing/renaming its Confederate statues and named streets (see "President's Column" in this issue). As Pres. Trbovich has noted, each member is encouraged to make their views known to decision-makers meeting now on this matter. The comments below were submitted by Blake Myers (under the auspices of the BRCWRT) to Alexandria City's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names. Similar letters were sent to the mayor, vice mayor, city manager, each city councilman/woman as well as the Alexandria Times and Alexandria Gazette.*

"I am a native Virginian, a retired Army Veteran, a resident of Fairfax County since 1995 and a long-time member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. My avid interest in early American history and Civil War history has led to countless hours and days exploring the many historical sites, buildings and events the City of Alexandria has to offer.

"I have been following with interest the formation and proceedings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, established by the Alexandria City Council.

"The specific tasks assigned to this Group, along with the entities designated by the City Council to provide an Advisory Group member gives the impression of bias (or a politically motivated effort) to remove the Appomattox statue and change all the subject street names. While perhaps an understandable emotional reaction to the June 17, 2015 mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist

Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC, actions potentially being considered by the Ad Hoc Group deal directly with the 19th century history and growth of the City of Alexandria and Virginia. To ignore or attempt to remove this history does a tremendous disservice to the City, and its residents and the scores of local, U.S. and international tourists who come to Alexandria and Virginia specifically to experience and better understand this history.

"Given the impact potential actions being considered might have from a historical perspective, it is striking that no civil war heritage group, the City's own Office of Historic Alexandria, or historians are included in the membership of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Relying on public comment and input to fully understand the historical and cultural relevance and significance of the issues the Group is tasked to address is insufficient – I strongly recommend including the Director, Office of Historic Alexandria in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group as a full member, or alternatively in an advisory role.

"Having attended recent meetings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and in light of the public comments and input received to date, it is heartening to see that several Group members are looking beyond the narrowly worded tasks included in the City Council Resolution establishing the Group. Alexandria and Virginia residents and visitors alike want to learn more about and discuss this period of our shared history (as recent events have shown) – the City of Alexandria should capitalize on this, not retreat from it. I urge the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and the City Council to look towards more effective and holistic ways to convey Alexandria's history, including increasing public knowledge and awareness of the City's civil war and post-civil war history, not to simply remove it."

BRCWRT Executive Committee Hears Confederate Statues Viewpoint

Editor's Note: *the following was submitted by BRCWRT member Tim Duskin, following its reading at the last board meeting of the Round Table. Board members approved its inclusion here. While officials considering Confederate monument visibility are receiving contemporary comments about their meaning, including those opinions expressed by current African American leaders, Mr. Duskin presents this viewpoint of a black Mississippi state legislator in 1890.*

The following speech was delivered by John F. Harris, a black Mississippi state senator. It regarded a vote on Senate Bill Number 25, which proposed to erect a monument to the Confederate dead on Capitol Square in Jackson, Mississippi. The bill passed. Senator Harris was sick at the time, but got out of his sick bed to deliver the speech and cast his vote. The following is a portion of that speech as recorded in the Jackson, Mississippi, *Daily Clarion Ledger* for February 23, 1890:

"Mr. Speaker, I have arisen from my place to offer a few words on the bill. I have come from a sick bed. Perhaps it was not prudent for me to come, but, sir, I could not sit quietly in my room without contributing a few remarks of my own.

"I was sorry to hear the speech of the young gentleman from Marshall County. I am sorry that any son of a soldier

should go on records as opposed to the erection of a monument in honor of the brave dead, and, sir, I am convinced that had he seen what I saw at Seven Pines in the Seven Days fighting around Richmond, the battlefield covered with the mangled forms of those who fought for their country and for their country's honor, he would not have made that speech.

"When the news came that the South had been invaded, those men went forth to fight for what they believed, and they made no request for monuments. But they died, and their virtues should be remembered. Sir, I went with them. I, too, wore the gray, the same color as my master wore. We stayed four long years, and if that war had gone on till now I would have been there yet. I want to honor those brave men who died for their convictions.

"When my mother died, I was a boy. Who, sir, then acted the part of a mother to an orphaned slave boy but my old mistress. Were she still living now, or could she speak to me from those high realms where gather the sainted dead, she would tell me to vote for this bill and, sir, I shall vote for it. I want it known to all the world that my vote is given in favor of a bill to erect a monument in honor of the Confederate dead."



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

General Edward Porter

Alexander, CSA

By Janet Greentree

Just imagine you are 26 years old on July 3, 1863; you are a Colonel in the Confederate Army Artillery, and chief of artillery for General James Longstreet at Gettysburg. After a two-hour long cannonade using 150-170 cannons and most of your ammunition, you are ordered to tell General George Pickett then to step off for 'Pickett's Charge.' How would you feel - knowing both General Longstreet and you, yourself, weren't in support of the charge being ordered? That is a lot of pressure on a young person. Alexander would write in 1901: "Never, never, never did General Lee himself bollox (*bungle*) a fight as he did this."

E.P. Alexander, or known to his family and friends as Porter, was born in Washington, Georgia, about 100 miles east of Atlanta on May 26, 1835. His parents were Adam Leopold and Sara Gilbert Alexander. Adam lived in the low country on a



Fairfield Plantation, Washington, GA.

plantation named Hopewell near Riceboro, GA, south of Savannah. After his marriage to Sara, they would live in the high country at the old Gilbert plantation Fairfield, which is located on Alexander Drive (between North Alexander and Poplar Drives) in Washington, GA. Fairfield was not burned by the Yankees during the Civil War. Today, it is the Yawkee Wildlife Preserve. Porter would be one of eight children born there. He had a passion for hunting and fishing that would endure throughout his life. His older sister, Fredericka Louisa, would marry future Confederate General Jeremy Francis Gilmer, a recent graduate of West Point. His sister Sarah would marry future Confederate General Alexander Robert Lawton. Gilmer convinced Porter's father that Porter should



Edward P. Alexander as a cadet at West Point, circa 1853.

go to West Point. Future Confederate General Robert Toombs would recommend his appointment to West Point. Alexander was 5'9½" tall (and 150 pounds) when he reported to West Point in June, 1853. He graduated third in his class in 1857. He received his commission as 2nd lieutenant as an engineer on October 10, 1858. He would briefly teach engineering and fencing at there. He would then be sent on the Utah Expedition under General Albert Sidney Johnson. Alexander would lead the first column of six. He would fall back on his hunting and fishing skills to kill 25 buffalo from horseback, plus shooting other prey. It was on this expedition that he would meet captains Lewis Armistead and Richard Garnett, later his compatriots at Gettysburg.

Porter returned to West Point to resume teaching and met his wife Betty Mason, a visiting Southern Belle. They would marry in King George, VA, on April 3, 1860. That marriage produced five children. They would be married for 39 years when Betty died on November 20, 1899. Porter would marry again at age 66 to Betty's niece, Mary Mason.

Alexander went from graduation at West Point at age 22 to Brigadier General by age 28. He fought in battles at First Manassas, Peninsula Campaign, Antietam, 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Knoxville Campaign, Overland Campaign, Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, and was present at Appomattox for the surrender.

He and Major Albert Myer developed the wig-wag signal flags that were used at Signal Hill in Manassas to warn Colonel Nathan "Shanks" Evans:

go to West Point. Future Confederate General Robert Toombs would recommend his appointment to West Point.

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E.P. Alexander carte-de-visite, date unknown.

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

"Look out to your left, your position is turned." At Gaines Mill, even though afraid of heights, he ascended on June 27, 1862, in the gas-filled balloon Gazelle, the silk dress balloon, to check on General McClellan's troop movements. Our last month's speaker, Kevin Knapp, told us that the balloon was made of silk that could have been used for ladies' dresses - adding that no Southern belle's dresses were harmed.

On November 7, 1862, Alexander became head of Longstreet's Artillery. His cannons were placed in defense of Marye's Heights at the battle of Fredericksburg. Alexander is quoted as saying to Longstreet: "General, we cover that ground now so well that we will comb it as with a fine tooth comb. A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it." His guns were instrumental in stopping the Union troops. On July 2, 1863, he provided support for the Confederate assaults at Gettysburg. On July 3rd, we all know what happened.

During the Petersburg Campaign, Alexander became convinced the Union was tunneling under Confederate lines. He would be wounded in the shoulder on June 30, 1864, by a sharpshooter at Elliott's Salient. He informed General Lee of his suspicions before leaving on medical leave. In October, 1864, he was appointed Brigadier General.

At Appomattox Courthouse, Alexander counseled General Lee to disperse the army rather than surrender it. General Lee told him the army had endured enough. Alexander was so distraught

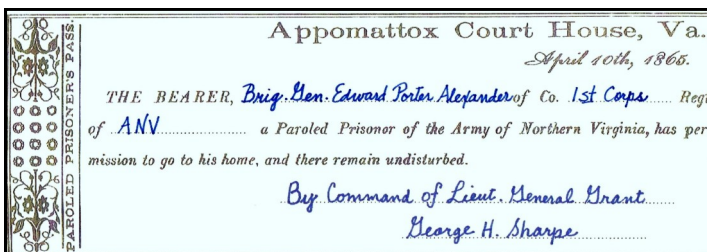
He became friends with President Grover Cleveland, renewing his interest in duck hunting with Cleveland at his home in Georgia. In May, 1897, President Cleveland appointed him to the commission to settle the boundaries between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. He also looked into building a canal across Central America. When all

was settled, Nicaragua gave him a hero's welcome with a 50-piece band, 21-gun salute and church bells ringing. He returned to the states in 1899. His first wife died shortly thereafter.

Some interesting tidbits learned about General Alexander are that, during the war, he had two horses - Dixie and Meg. Dixie was a large horse and Meg a smaller one. He seemed to make the right decision to ride each horse at the proper time, so his head wouldn't be taken off or his leg from artillery fire. He was known as "the cuss with the spyglass." A friend had gifted him a six-foot long telescope that was crafted to fit in his saddle. He learned how to use it without a tripod to keep it steady. He never used field glasses. He also used his spyglass at Munson Hill in Falls Church to see



E. P. Alexander later in life.
Date unknown.



Gen. Alexander's parole pass - issued the day after Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

after the surrender that he briefly toyed with the idea of joining the Brazilian Army. He decided against that, though, and went on to teach mathematics at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Alexander served on the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Railroad, the Savannah and Memphis Railroad, and later became president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. He served on the Central Railroad & Banking Company of Georgia until 1891.



Depiction of Alexander — "the cuss with the spyglass," looking at Munson Hill from Bailey's Crossroads.

signals from E. Pliny, who rented a hotel room in Washington. Pliny would signal important information to him with a coffee pot reflecting the sun. The spy, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, was also involved in this operation.

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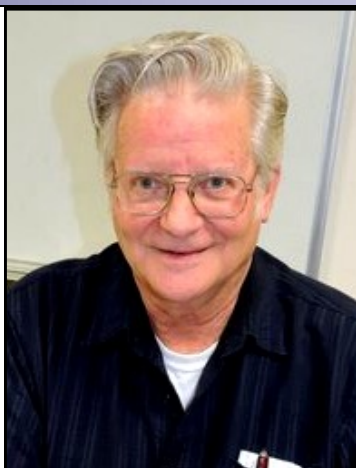
Meet the Member ~

A Preservationist and Chronologist

Ed Wenzel is a preservationist, a chronologist, one of the founders of the modern Civil War battlefield preservation movement, a forceful voice for preserving what was left of the Ox Hill/Chantilly Battlefield, a veteran of many preservation battles, and the author of the newly-published *Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I, 1859-1862* (plus an appendix with some of 1863). He has been a member of the Bull Run Round Table for 23 years and a member of the Board of Directors for the past 10.

Our Round Table first came to his attention in the years following the 1988 battle to preserve the ground of Longstreet's attack during the Second Battle of Manassas from an encroaching regional shopping mall and other massive development. In that landmark, nation-wide fight, Ed was a member of the board of Annie Snyder's "Save the Battlefield Coalition."

The loss of almost all the Ox Hill/Chantilly Battlefield to urban development in 1986 served as a wake-up call for historians and preservationists across the country. Ed, Brian Pohanka and Bud Hall founded the Chantilly Battlefield Association in Octo-



**Ed(ward)
Thomas
Wenzel**

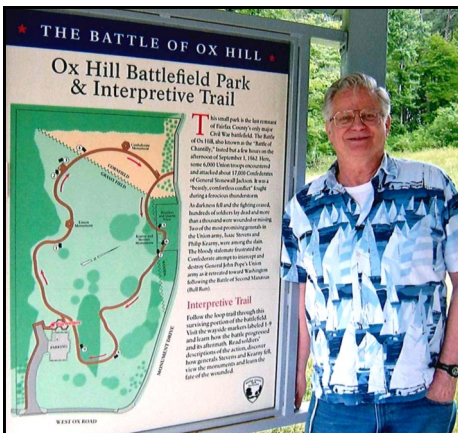
Since 1993

ber 1986 in a successful effort to halt the planned relocation of the Kearny and Stevens monuments from their original historic site, and to preserve whatever of the battlefield was left adjacent to the monuments. At that time, except for Jerry Russell and his CWRT associates, there was no active organization dedicated to Civil War battlefield preservation. The destruction of the Chantilly battlefield became the catalyst that changed the landscape of Civil War preservation.

In July of 1987, Ed attended the organizational meeting for the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) in Fredericksburg. Following that meeting, Brian Pohanka invited Ed to join with himself and historians Bob Krick, Gary Gallagher, Don Pfanz, Wilson Greene and others to comprise the first board of directors. Ed says he was not a "historian" and knew he was in over his head, but he was honored and eager to join the fight. The APCWS, after mergers and name changes, survives today as The Civil War Trust.

At the beginning of Fairfax County's planning for the Sesquicentennial in early 2009, one of the first questions asked was, "OK, we know about Ox Hill and Dranesville and Mosby's capture of Stoughton at Fairfax Court House, so what else happened here?" That simple question led to a history subcommittee with volunteers John McAnaw, Don Hakenson, Paul Herbert, and Ed. They would compile a list of battles, skirmishes, incidents, and events that happened in Fairfax during the war. That simple list turned into a full blown chronology of the war that consumed nearly all of Ed's time, and that of a special BRCWRT support team and book committee. It proved an immense task, with more than six years of effort needed for just the years 1859-1863, with multiple indices and relevant photographs. The book has just recently been published and is available from the Round Table, local historical book stores, and directly from

(con't on page 11)



At left, Ed Wenzel shown standing in a covered kiosk at Ox Hill. An eighth panel (with soldiers' images) will be unveiled in May. Nine interpretive markers document the battle and monuments along a quarter-mile trail. Photo by Marianne Metzelaar.



Left, The 1986 Chantilly Battlefield Association founders. From left to right: Ed Wenzel, Brian Pohanka and Bud Hall.

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)



Alexander's Battalion position marker at Gettysburg. Alexander wrote a letter to his wife before the "high water mark" was reached there—it directed her to buy more slaves, as the conquest of northern territory would make the commerce in slaves more valuable, hence increasing their wealth in this "property."

Photo by Lisa Greentree Tully

Alexander also hired a 15-year old "ginger cake darkie," Charley, as a body servant; Charley accompanied him throughout the war. He rented Charley from his master, making payments for his service to a Richmond bank account. When the master never withdrew the funds, Alexander withdrew them, converted them to a 10-dollar gold piece and gave it to Charley after the war.

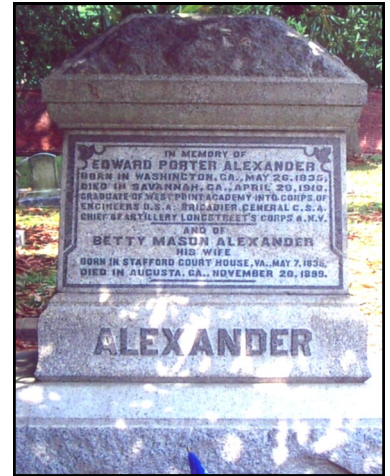
When General George Custer captured Alexander's baggage wagon at Petersburg, he lost his new frock coat, personal items and his sword.

General Alexander is the author of two books – *Military Memoirs of a Confederate* (public edition) and *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander* (unabridged private edition), published posthumously.

On June 9, 1902, Alexander was asked to be an honored guest at West Point for its Centennial. The *New York Times* stated that Alexander's speech was the best of the day. Famous guests on the speaker platform included President Teddy



The two markers, a military one at left and family marker at right, near and at the grave of Gen. E. P. Alexander, in Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta, Georgia.



Photos by Janet Greentree

Roosevelt and General Longstreet.

In Alexander's honor, one of Gettysburg's shield markers is positioned on the battlefield by the stone wall just south of the Millerstown Road on West Confederate Avenue. My daughter Lisa Tully gets credit for her never-ending search for markers for her Mom.

General Alexander had several small strokes and died in Savannah, GA on April 28, 1910. He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia. He has two markers – one at his grave site, and inclusion on a military marker to all the Confederate generals buried there.

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.

Railroad Museum to Sponsor Tour of Local Civil War Sites in Fairfax Station, Clifton and Centreville

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will sponsor a tour of rarely visited Civil War sites and earthworks in Fairfax Station, Clifton and Centreville on Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Stuart Mosby Museum will also be on the tour. Local Civil War Historian, John McAnaw, will lead the tour. Wear good walking shoes and bring a brown bag lunch or eat at a nearby Centreville restaurant. The tour departs from the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The cost of this special, one-of-a-kind tour is \$20 for Museum members; \$30 non-members. Register for the tour or direct questions to: events@fairfax-station.org or leave a message at: 703-425-9225. Please leave contact info, email and phone, for last-minute changes or cancellation. Payment can be made the day of the tour or online.

Civil War Forum: "Honoring Those Who Served During the Civil War"

Mary Lipsey, a docent for the American History Museum of the Smithsonian and for the National Archives and former president of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, will present the forum "Honoring Those Who Served During the Civil War" at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m.

During the Civil War, thousands of known and unknown soldiers, both Union and Confederate, were hastily buried in shallow graves on the battlefields. In 1862, the U.S. Congress authorized the purchase of land for the establishment of cemeteries for those who died fighting on behalf of the U.S. As a result, fourteen national cemeteries were created including Arlington National Cemetery.

The forum is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. For more information on this and other events sponsored by the Fairfax Railroad Station Museum, visit: www.fairfax-station.org or www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. Telephone: 703-425-9225.

President's Column – (con't from page -)

federate generals and military leaders; 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 progress of the Advisory Group's hearings.

Debuted at the BRCWRT's February meeting was Ed Wenzel's "*Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County*," a book that was six years in the making and, which is, I believe, the greatest Fairfax County Civil War reference book ever written (or that ever *will* be written!). You can purchase the book at our meetings or online. You don't want to miss owning this book! Ed Bearss, writing in the Foreword, says this book

is "...a gold mine of information..." for Civil War enthusiasts and historians.

The 1st and 2nd Manassas tours have been scheduled, as well as our first picnic on Sunday, October 9th, to be held at the Bull Run Winery. We will be enjoying their "Bad to the Bone BBQ," along with many other treats offered that day. Put that date on the calendar and keep it updated with the dates of other events forthcoming as the BRCWRT 25th Anniversary season begins. Let's make some memories together.

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

Book Corner – (con't from page -)

struction too significant, to be ignored.

Of course, we still struggle with Reconstruction. (Note Foner's title: "The Unfinished Revolution.") We had to revisit civil rights and voting rights in the 1960's. The 14th amendment is the single most frequently litigated concept before our Supreme Court. When we argue over photo identification at the polls or illegal immigration, we re-echo deep passions generated in Reconstruction.

Foner ultimately labels Reconstruction a failure. As "Redeemer Rule," i.e., white supremacy, re-emerged after 1877, Reconstruction gains for blacks were quickly reversed. Foner ends with the coming of a repressive Jim Crow south and a north too weary of the "negro question" to maintain interest.

Still, important social advances came from those difficult years. Three of our most important Constitutional amendments – the 13th, 14th and 15th - were ratified in this era. Publicly-supported, compulsory education for children began during Reconstruction, and historically black colleges, like Howard University and Tuskegee Institute, were founded. The concepts of universal voting (at least manhood voting), the 8-hour work day, protective labor laws, progressive income taxes, and a nascent black middle class all emerged from Reconstruction struggles.

Our Civil War made us "one nation, indivisible." But what we are as Americans, and what we have become as a nation, was forged in the fires of Recon-

struction where we first struggled to define "liberty and justice for all." We cannot grasp the full import of what that war wrought for our nation without an understanding of Reconstruction.

Until next time, keep reading.

Note: How would you like to attend Columbia University tuition-free? Go to www.ericfoner.com to view Professor Foner's video lecture series on the Civil War and Reconstruction. You won't get a degree from Columbia, but that is nothing compared to the opportunity to learn from one of America's greatest historians.

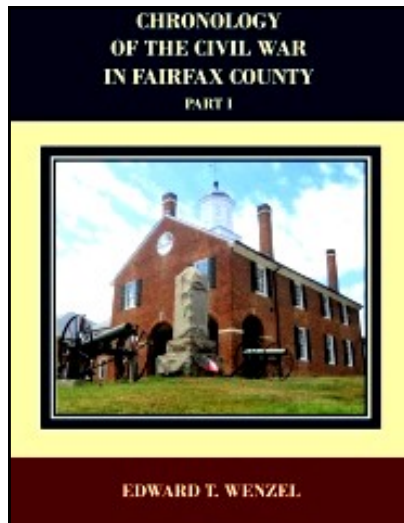
The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Newest Recruits!

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

◆ David Kent

◆ Jim Libovicz

Meet the Member – (con't from page 8)



the printer. It is a model for how such projects should be conducted. We are hopeful that Part II (1863-1865) will be continued for Fairfax County, and perhaps spawn similar efforts for other Virginia counties.

Ed is a great rarity in our area – a native, born in Washington, D.C., in August 1939.

World War II began the following month in Europe, but he assures us this was pure coincidence. His family lived in Branchville, Maryland, until he was 12, then moved to Falls Church, Virginia. Ed graduated from Gonzaga High School (1957) in the District, traveling there by streetcar from Rosslyn Circle after his Dad dropped him off en route to his job as a typewriter mechanic at the Pentagon.

His Dad was born on South Capitol Street in Washington, and had grown up in the District and in Branchville. He attended McKinley Tech High School in the District, and worked for the U. S. Government thereafter in a variety of jobs, retiring in 1968 as foreman of the Army's Pentagon typewriter repair shop. He had always wanted to be a mapmaker and a draftsman, but it was not to be. However, he did influence Ed in that direction. Ed's mother had come from Bellevue, Kentucky (across the Ohio from Cincinnati), and besides Ed, mothered his two brothers, Paul and Joe, and his sister, Mary.

After high school, Ed enlisted in the Army and chose cartographic drafting (MOS 813.10) as his specialty. He was shipped to South Korea and assigned to a military intelligence company at Yongdung Po. There, he worked with maps and aerial photos in the Order of Battle section where he learned some about that specialty. Upon separation, he became employed by the U.S. Forest Service Photogrammetric Service Center (then in downtown Alexandria) as a draftsman and topographic map compiler, where he worked for them 20 years, then worked another 15 years with the U.S. Geological Survey, retiring in 1996.

A term paper was required for his high school history class, with the topic to be chosen from the names of Civil War battles posted on a bulletin

board. He grabbed one of the last remaining names: It was the Battle of Chancellorsville, about which he then knew nothing. He researched the battle, found Lee's audacious tactics and Jackson's flank march nothing short of incredible and wrote a paper containing hand-drawn maps, which earned a good grade. He was hooked.

In his high school summers, Ed worked for a land surveyor as a rodman and chainman, surveying areas for new construction around Seven Corners, Falls Church and Lewinsville. The crew chief was a native Virginian knowledgeable about the Civil War who would identify wartime sites, including entrenchments and fortifications. Sometimes, they found mini balls and other artifacts. From these early beginnings, his interest in the war, and especially preservation, has steadily grown and matured.

The Wenzels came to America from Germany after the Civil War, settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. After his grandparents married in early 1909, they, and some of his grandmother's family, came to Washington where they all worked as draftsmen and sign painters. They produced for the tourist trade behind-the-glass souvenirs of public buildings. Hence, Ed hasn't any Wenzel ancestors who served in the Civil War, but his grandmother's family did; notably Franz Beierlein, a former Prussian Army officer who had settled in Cincinnati. He was commissioned a Captain in the Ohio Volunteer Militia and spent the war drilling Union troops at Camp Harrison, close by the Ohio/Indiana state line.

These days, Ed is recuperating from his labors in compiling the chronology, while promoting the distribution and sale of the books. He actively contributes to the affairs of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park, most recently (last October) teaming up with Chuck Mauro to hold a Centennial rededication of the Kearny and Stevens monuments. He is also involved with Paula Elsey's Ox Hill 150th Committee, in their quest to erect two new monuments for the soldiers of the Blue and the Gray who fought there in September 1862. We are fortunate indeed, in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, to have such a dedicated and competent scholar to further our aims of education and preservation. In this, our 25th year, we salute Ed, who has done so much to ensure our success. Thank you, Ed Wenzel.

E. B. Vandiver III is the author of Meet the Member — profiles of long-time, devoted members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

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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