



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIV, Issue 2, MARCH 2017

**HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR GARY ECELBARGER SPEAKS ON "SLAUGHTER AT THE CHAPEL - THE BATTLE OF EZRA CHURCH" AT THE MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The Battle of Ezra Church was fought on July 28, 1864, in Fulton County, Georgia. The battle was part of the Atlanta Campaign, with Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Union Army of the Tennessee clashing with Confederate Lt. Gen. John B. Hood's Army of Tennessee. Hood was defending the Confederate stronghold of Atlanta, Georgia.

Between July 25-27, Sherman moved Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard from his position at the left of the lines to the right wing, ordering Howard's troops to advance and cut the railroad between Atlanta and East Point, Hood's only remaining supply line. Hood, anticipating Sherman's maneuver, moved his troops out to oppose Howard's action. Hood planned to set a trap for Howard's troops. Although Hood's troops were outnumbered by the main Federal army, he calculated that a surprise attack against an isolated portion of the enemy could succeed. The armies met on the afternoon of July 28th at the nearby chapel called Ezra Church. To hear the rest of this story, please come to our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our guest speaker that evening will be Gary Ecelbarger. He is a former president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and a charter member of the Kernstown Battlefield Association. Gary is the author of several books on Civil War subjects and, in particular, the battles around Atlanta. His work includes: *The Great Comeback: How Abraham Lincoln Beat the Odds to Win the 1860 Republican Nomination*, along with biographies of Civil War generals "Black Jack" Logan and Frederick W. Lander. He also has authored military histories

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**7 p.m. Centreville Library**

**THURSDAY, March 9, 2017**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR  
GARY ECELBARGER**

**TOPIC:**

**"Slaughter at the Chapel:  
The Battle of Ezra Church"**

of the Shenandoah Valley campaign and the First Battle of Kernstown. His expertise on the Valley's battles has led him to be consulted frequently for historical interpretations of clashes there. Gary has also completed *The Day Dixie Died: The Battle of Atlanta*, along with his most recent offering, *Slaughter at the Chapel: The Battle of Ezra Church, 1864*.

Gary has also emerged as a Lincoln scholar and has divided his spare research and touring time to focus additionally on the Rockies and on Revolutionary War sites.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Gary grew up with a fascination for history and science, and a burning desire to write. He received an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Nutritional Biochemistry in 1989 and spent the next 16 years working in hospital intensive care units, teaching medical students and conducting clinical research. He lives in Northern Virginia with his wife and three children. Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet Gary for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

**The Civil War Trails sign dedication on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Cockpit Point has been cancelled. Tours scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> are still taking place (see Page 15 to reserve your place).**

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

### Executive Committee

**President:** Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net, 703.361.1396  
**Past President:** Nancy Anwyll, njanwyll@verizon.net  
**Vice-President:** Mark Whitenton, mark.whitenton@gmail.com  
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**Secretary:** John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com, 703.475.1943  
**At Large:** Charlie Balch, John De Pue, Brian McEnany  
**25th Silver Anniversary:** Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis  
**Communications/Media:** Jim Lewis, antietam1862@verizon.net  
**Membership:** Rob Orrison, orrison76@hotmail.com, 703.431.2869  
**Preservation:** Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net  
**Student Scholarship:** Nancy Anwyll (njanwyll@verizon.net), Brian McEnany and Charlie Balch  
**Field Trips:** Scott Kenep  
**Webmaster:** Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org  
**Graphic Design:** Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net  
**Newsletter Editor:** Nadine Mironchuk, nadine1861@hotmail.com  
**Newsletter Team:** Sandra Cox, Ed Wenzel, Eric Fowler, Janet Greentree and Andy Kapfer.  
 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.

**General Membership meetings** are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at:

**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 **April 2017 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, March 27, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

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For the **April 2017 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on March 17, 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**

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**April 13th, 2017** - U.S. Army Col. John Biemeck (Ret.) - "Civil War Artillery Projectiles and Fuses"  
**May 11th, 2017** - Gordon Dammann - "General Civil War Medicine"  
**June 8th, 2017** - NPS Historian Emeritus Edwin Bearss - "Gettysburg - Day 3"  
**July 13th, 2017** - Drew Gruber - "Battle of Williamsburg, VA"  
**August 10th, 2017** - David Powell - "Battle of Chickamauga, GA"  
**September 14th, 2017** - Kevin Pawlak - "The Jewels of War: Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and the Battle of Antietam"  
**October 12th, 2017** - William Backus and Robert Orrison - "The Potomac River Blockade 1861-62"  
**November 9th, 2017** - Wayne Motts - "Fighting the Civil War: Historical Treasures of the Conflict in the Collection of the National Civil War Museum"  
**December 14th, 2017** - John Quarstein - "CSS Albermarle"

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**Time is running out to renew your membership and keep receiving the *Stone Wall* !!  
 Send in your dues now through April to avoid missing any Civil War news or events.**



## The President's Column

### By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

March is here, and it is hoped that by the end of the month, warmer weather will soon prevail. It has been a very long winter, but I wanted to thank everyone for coming out to our winter meetings on two especially cold days. As we move towards a new season, our BRCWRT Spring Tour has been announced and can be accessed for sign-up on our website. That tour will feature the history associated with "The Road to Antietam." We will also be looking forward to participating in the Fairfax 275th Anniversary event on June 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The BRCWRT is well represented on the 275th events planning team, and updates on scheduled events will be sent out to you as it becomes available. All in all, it will be a great year with many events and great lectures to enjoy.

I want to thank our February speaker, Jenée Lindner, for presenting (in period dress) "Clara Barton in the Civil War" at the meeting. She did a wonderful presentation on Clara's early life, and how it shaped her devotion to serving the sick and wounded during the war. I believe everyone came out of the lecture with a much greater understanding of Clara in her later years, as founder of the American Red Cross. Wonderful job, Jenée; we always look forward to seeing you attending our monthly meetings.

We are now in the middle of our 2017 BRCWRT four-month membership drive; you don't want to miss receiving any issues of the BRCWRT's newsletter, the *Stone Wall*, because you let your membership lapse, so be sure to renew it between now and April. Please continue to spread the word to your family and friends,

including the younger folks, that the BRCWRT is the Northern Virginia hub for Civil War information and preservation, and that our round table is a tremendous organization.

As noted above, our 2017 Spring Tour this year will be held on Saturday, May 20th. "On the Road to Antietam" will look at origins of the Antietam campaign, the decisions that were made by the commanders, how the terrain influenced the fighting, and the circumstances that brought the Union and Confederate armies face-to-face along Antietam Creek. We plan to stop at Harpers Ferry, Crampton's and Fox's Gaps, and walk these battlegrounds that were preliminary fighting stages to the actual battle of Antietam. Please sign up today - you won't want to miss this comprehensive tour.

Our 2017 BRCWRT Scholarship Award program is in full swing, the conclusion at which we will present a \$1500 scholarship to one 2017 high school senior from a public or private high school in Prince William or Fairfax County, including the cities of Manassas, Fairfax, and Manassas Park. Falls Church High School is included. The goal of our scholarship, which is awarded on the basis of submitted essays, is to increase interest and knowledge of American history, with special emphasis on the Civil War. We are so proud of our past winners and look forward to this year's entries.

Throughout 2017, we will continue to offer for sale Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County*. This book is the perfect gift for the Civil War enthusiast on your shopping list. Six years in the making, I believe it is the greatest Fairfax County Civil War reference book ever written, or that ever will be written. You can purchase the book at the meetings or online. Ed Bearss wrote the Foreword, saying this book is a "gold mine of information...." Also, the BRCWRT 25th anniversary book will be on sale at the meeting and on the Web site - another great gift idea!

Can't wait for the Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> BRCWRT Annual Picnic at the Bull Run Winery, open to all members! More details will follow as the year progresses. What a great time we all had last year, and how we look forward to this year's! Mark your calendars — you don't want to miss this warm and convivial event!

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



February speaker Jenée Lindner portrays Clara Barton, Civil War nurse, for her wonderful lecture about the great woman.

Photo by Janet Greentree





## THE BOOK CORNER



With a veritable mountain of literature available on American Negro slavery, where should we begin? Perhaps with a classic. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, is the seminal novel of American slavery. Published in 1852, it was an immediate bestseller. It was the first American novel to sell over 1 million copies, and was translated into 20 languages. On a "book tour" through England, Stowe was mobbed like a latter-day rock star. Her novel is believed by many to be as significant to our Civil War as the Battle of Gettysburg. Every student of our greatest national conflict should read it.

Stowe's novel is, of course, a call for abolition. It is an appeal to the innate goodness of the American people to end a fundamental human wrong and live up to the true meaning of our American creed. This message comes stridently through her characters and by means of the events of the novel.

And those symbols and messages are about as subtle as a wrecking ball. Stowe's characters are starkly drawn and unambiguous. Their dialogue, their actions and their fates drive straight to her message. But just in case you missed something, she occasionally offers a literary aside to explain things.

Over 30 books were quickly published in rebuttal of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, arguing the various justifications for slavery. They needn't have bothered. Stowe touches all sides of the issue, usually with a major character or an important incident, and always with a powerful statement. She covers the biblical arguments, the economic imperatives, the (supposed) benevolence of the institution and more. She saves her most powerful arguments, however, for the cruelty and simple injustice of the thing. Note how she condemns, especially, the break-up of families, and miscegenation (the very destruction of the black race). These appear to be her two strongest arguments against slavery. Both speak eloquently to the very humanity of Americans in any age.

Back to the characters. They may as well be

wearing sandwich boards. George Shelby is the kind plantation owner of *Uncle Tom* at the outset of the novel. Pressed by debt, he must sell Tom and Eliza's little boy Harry or lose his lands and his entire black "family." Shelby would give all his slaves their freedom, but he cannot, for he is himself a slave - to his creditors. Perhaps the entire south was a slave - an economic slave - to its peculiar institution and the agriculture that it so depended on.

Tom, not for the first time, accepts his fate; this time, his sale as being a way to save the other Shelby slaves from disruption. Eliza, however, represents the desire for freedom burning in all oppressed people. She escapes with her son and begins a perilous journey to freedom. In her final run, she must cross a raging river with her pursuers close behind. Could any but divine intervention part the waters to save her?

Eva St. Clare - pure, innocent little Eva - who justifies slavery because "it makes so many more round you to love" is the innocence of a naïve America (on the slavery question). She sees no difference in the people around her (black or white) and cannot conceive of cruelty or injustice. Her little mind is yet unformed; at least her prejudices are yet unformed.

Eva's father, Augustine St. Clare, who comes to own Tom, is the comic epitome of the wealthy, soft-hearted southern aristocrat. (He punishes Adolph, the house boy, by limiting his access to cologne water and cambric handkerchiefs.) Left to the St. Clares, slavery would be a charitable, uplifting institution that would care for and advance all blacks in America. Alas, St. Clare's version of slavery is no more a workable model for his society than is the cruel repression of human rights. There simply is not enough idle wealth around to support it.

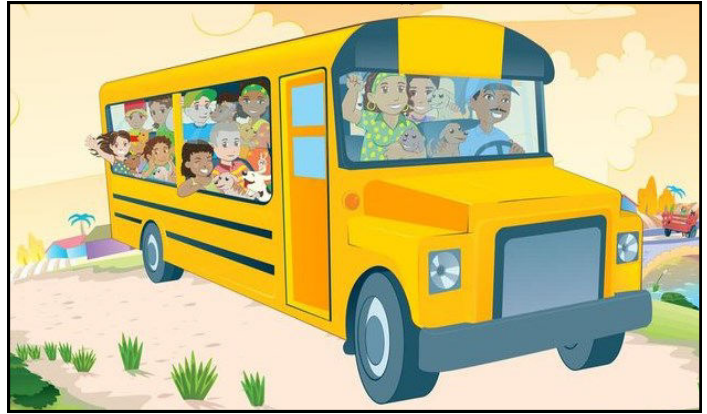
Then there is Legree. Cruel, slovenly, rapacious Simon Legree will break gentle Tom to be a field slave driver. Tom will have none of it, and will arise to fulfill his unmistakable symbolism. Lest there be doubt, Tom will "redeem" the two meanest of Legree's slaves, pressed to torment him. Is Legree Satan, who infests and pollutes all aspects of American Negro slavery?

As I write, more analogies, more symbols, more  
(con't on page 9)

## Manassas Museum Bus Tour Assistance Needed From BRCWRT Membership!

On Friday afternoon, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a convoy of 25 buses will be coming to the Manassas National Battlefield – with approximately 1,300 students – visiting from the Knoxville, TN region. The tour group will mostly be middle school children, 12-15 years of age.

We are looking for at least 15-20 volunteers to assist with leading visitors and to provide support for this tour; primarily, looking for tour guides who can share stories about the battles and its background in relation to the Civil War. Due to the many logistical challenges, the extent of discussion is not expected to be more than 30 minutes during the 90-minute tour. You can be familiar with local history and the battles, but it's not mandatory. "Cheat sheets" and talking points will be provided well in advance, and we will be practicing this tour before the program date. It is preferable if you have a strong enough voice to be capable of talking to groups of 100 people or more for 10-15 minutes at a time. Re-enactors to interact with the groups as they move through the locations are



also desired.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Doug Horhota, Programs Coordinator for the Manassas Museum System, at: [dhorhota@manassasva.gov](mailto:dhorhota@manassasva.gov) or [dhorhota@ci.manassas.va.us](mailto:dhorhota@ci.manassas.va.us). Telephones: (Office) 703-257-8265 or (Cell) 571-330-9147.

Thanks so much in advance for your help in providing an introduction to Civil War history for these deserving students!

## Dedication of New Monuments Set for Memorial Day at Ox Hill

by Ed Wenzel

The long-awaited dedication of monuments for Union and Confederate soldiers at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park has been approved by the Fairfax County Park Authority for **Memorial Day, May 29, 2017**. The dedication will be part of the annual wreath laying program at the Kearny and Stevens Monuments sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). This year, however, the unveiling of the new monuments will take center stage with a greatly expanded program for the dedication. Please mark your calendars for this much-anticipated event. After more than a hundred years, the Kearny and Stevens monuments will at last be joined by two obelisks that memorialize the common soldiers who bore the brunt of battle on September 1, 1862.

For historical background on the Ballards' 1915 deed to the monument lot and its provision for additional monuments, see the November 2016 issue of the *Stone Wall*. Also, stay tuned for an article by Paula Elsey, Chair of the Ox Hill Committee, describing the years of planning invested in this project, the design of the new monuments, the inscriptions, and the forthcoming dedication program. Paula's article will appear in the May issue of the *Stone Wall* just prior to the event.



## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Brig. Gen. Charles Russell Lowell

By Janet Greentree

Brig. Gen. Charles Russell Lowell has a connection to my last story about General Lunsford Lindsay Lomax. Lomax led the charge at Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, when Lowell was mortally wounded. Lowell also chased Colonel John Singleton Mosby for 10 months through Mosby's Confederacy, and was present at the Front Royal incident where six of Mosby's command were executed by Gen. George Armstrong Custer and Gen. Wesley Merritt's troops.

Lowell's family, including his mother's Jackson and Cabot families, were part of the First Families of Boston. [Ed. Note: "And this is good old Boston / The home of the bean and the cod; / Where the Lowells talk to the Cabots / And the Cabots talk only to God." – old toast chiding the '1%' of Boston society.]

Charles Russell Lowell, III was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 2, 1835, to Charles Russell Lowell, Jr. and Anna Cabot Jackson. Anna was the daughter of Patrick Tracy Jackson. Charles, Jr. was the son of Charles Russell Lowell, Sr., a Unitarian minister. Patrick Jackson was the founder of the city of Lowell, Massachusetts. Lowell, Sr. spoke out about the issue of slavery, and was the editor of the Anti-Slavery Standard. Lowell, III was educated at Boston Latin School, English High School and Harvard, graduating as the valedictorian in 1854. After college, he worked in an iron mill in Trenton, NJ; he spent two years abroad (1858-1860) trying to recoup his health after he contracted



Charles Russell Lowell, III

tuberculosis, and, in 1860, he was put in charge of the Mount Savage Iron Works in Cumberland, Maryland. He married Josephine (Effie) Shaw, the sister of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, on October 31, 1863, at Staten Island.

He happened to be in Baltimore on April 19, 1861, when an angry mob set upon and attacked a regiment of Massachusetts volunteers as they changed trains for Washington.

Lowell went directly to Washington and ap-

plied for a commission in the regular army. He was commissioned as a captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Cavalry. He later transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. He served as aide-de-camp to General George B. McClellan during 1861 and 1862. He was with McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign and at Antietam.

Lowell organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry under Col. Percy Wyndham (Mosby intended to capture Wyndham at one juncture in the war, but captured General Edwin Stoughton in Fairfax instead), and was appointed its colonel, a rank he held to his death. He was assigned to stop General Jubal Early's raid on Washington. He commanded a brigade of cavalry for Gen. Wesley Merritt in the Valley Campaign of 1864. He was also at Tom's Brook, fighting against General Lomax. Merritt was part of General Phil Sheridan's army and Lowell fought alongside General Custer at Cedar Creek.

Lowell was described as being 'closely knit,' with a wiry frame and a light, delicate figure; his intense vitality and exhaustless energy achieved what seemed impossible to others. There wasn't an ounce of superfluous weight on him. He had 13 horses shot from under him.



Effie and Charles Lowell

(con't on page 7)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

Lowell was first wounded in general fighting at Middletown, sustaining a collapsed lung and internal bleeding. He refused to leave the field. General Merritt, knowing Lowell was dying, allowed him to be strapped into his saddle to lead the charge of 3,000 cavalymen. He was immediately shot, this time in the spine, by a sharpshooter on the roof of a house in Middletown.

He fell off his horse, paralyzed. He lived through the night, dictating letters and giving orders, and died at dawn the next morning, October 20, 1864. There is a marker to him on the grounds of the Wayside Inn in Middletown. When Custer heard of his death he wept. General Sheridan stated: "I do not think there was a quality which I could have added to Lowell. He was the perfection of a man

Many of Lowell's relatives and friends were also lost during the Civil War, including brother-in-law Robert Gould Shaw; his brother, James Jackson Lowell; friends Richard Goodwin, Richard Cary, Stephen Perkins, William Sedgwick, Wilder Dwight, James Savage, and classmate Paul Revere at Gettysburg; cousins William Lowell Putnam, Warren Dutton, Cabot Russell, Samuel Storrow, and Sumner Paine.



The fatal shot to Lowell, leading the troops, at Cedar Creek, by James Taylor.

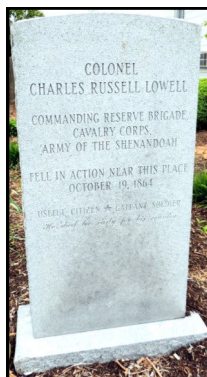
Two of his cousins survived the war - Oliver Wendell Holmes, future Supreme Court Justice and Henry Lee Higginson, who later founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Lowell's body was sent back to Boston by train. The funeral was held on October 28, 1864. The people of Boston must have truly loved him. Caroline Healey Dall and several other women decorated the Harvard College Chapel for his funeral. Pine boughs, fern fronds, variegated ivy, chrysanthemums, orchids, camellias, miniature orange and lemon, geraniums, pelargoniums, and cape jasmine were used to decorate the chancel, reading desk, and pulpit. It is said the entire chapel had a heavy floral fragrance. Notables attending included Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Joel Hayden (the lieutenant governor of Massachusetts), Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Frank Stanborn, Thomas W. Higginson, General Francis C. Barlow, and Senator Charles Sumner.

His coffin rested at the Lowell residence on Quincy Street, just across the street from Harvard



The Wayside Inn in Middletown, VA, site of Lowell's demise. A marker noting the location is located there.



Photos by Janet Greentree

and soldier." Sheridan himself made sure Lowell was given his brigadier general rank on October 19<sup>th</sup>. General Merritt stated that he would give up his command if only Lowell were there to receive it.

(con't on page 8)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

Yard. Just before noon, the Corps of Cadets assembled in front of the house. Pallbearers carried the coffin down the steps of the house in pouring rain to the chapel. The pallbearers were officers of Lowell's regiment. His adjutant and one of the pallbearers, Lt. Henry E. Alvord, had escorted the



Gen. Lowell's grave marker at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

body back from the Shenandoah Valley. Lowell had fallen from his horse into Alvord's arms. Lowell's coffin was draped with the U. S. flag and covered with flowers. Lowell's sword, hilt, scabbard, cap and gauntlets were placed on top of the coffin, as well. His body was buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery on Fountain Avenue, Lot 323 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. My dear Boston friends gave me a

tour of the cemetery, where we found his grave, plus many other notables.

General Lowell died two weeks short of his first anniversary, at age 29. His wife, Josephine, was eight months pregnant with their first child. Their daughter, Carlotta Russell Lowell, was born November 30, 1864. She lived until 1924.



Effie and Carlotta Lowell

*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).*

## Addendum to Gen. Lunsford Lindsay Lomax

by Janet Greentree

In the last issue of the *Stone Wall*, Dan Carr was recognized for his fine portrayal of General Lomax. He kindly sent me two additional pictures of 'General Lomax' that I think readers may be interested in. He wanted us to know that General Lomax spearheaded the movement to have a Virginia monument placed on the battlefield in Gettysburg. He wanted it completed by the 50th anniversary of the battle in 1913. Lomax died on May 28, 1913. The stone bottom part was unveiled in June of 1913, but the statues of Lee and Traveller were not finished until 1917. The statue stands 42 feet high, and is the largest monument in Gettysburg. Thanks to Dan Carr for the information on the monument!



Above, Lomax (4th from left) at Devil's Den with commission to put a Virginia monument at Gettysburg. Secretary of War William Howard Taft is fourth from the right. At left, Lomax with commission at Virginia monument site.





## PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS

During Virginia's 2016 General Assembly session, Governor Terry McAuliffe vetoed HB 587, which would have overridden the authority of city governments to remove or alter war or veteran memorials erected before 1998. The bill was intended to address a 2015 decision by Virginia's 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit regarding a local ordinance, adopted by Danville's City Council, to restrict the types of flags flown on municipal property. The resultant removal of the Third National flag of the Confederacy from Sutherlin Mansion, the last capitol of the CSA, spurred legal action by the Heritage Preservation Association and other local groups. Judge James Reynolds found that an amendment extending state-level legal protections to war monuments in all localities (rather than just counties, as was previously the case) did not apply retroactively. This decision, which was not taken up by the Virginia Supreme Court, left open a legal avenue through which the Commonwealth's cities could remove or alter war memorials erected prior to the 1998 amendment. Since Virginia's most recent 'Confederate' monument was erected in 1995, this finding affects all existing 'Confederate' monuments in Virginia cities.

Recognizing her experience as a former mayor and her leadership in Virginia's historic preservation efforts, Governor McAuliffe directed Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward to convene a diverse work group to consider the issues that arose in the debate over HB 587. The group was asked to pull together resources and best

practices to help willing localities foster a constructive dialogue about their monuments. The work group completed its work in November 2016 and has since submitted its report, which can be viewed at the following link:

[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf\\_files/Report%20of%20Governor%20McAuliffe's%20Monuments%20Work%20Group%20--%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Report%20of%20Governor%20McAuliffe's%20Monuments%20Work%20Group%20--%20FINAL.pdf)

The work group's recommendations are listed below – the report includes explanatory sections for each recommendation:

Recommendation 1: Start from the same page; include an educational component.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that all stakeholder groups are represented.

Recommendation 3: Ensure the process is conducive to conversation.

Recommendation 4: Reach out to other communities, professional facilitators, and other resources.

Recommendation 5: Monuments should be preserved – at least somewhere.

Recommendation 6: Signage can provide context and reveal previously untold stories.

Recommendation 7: Reflect the diversity of Virginia through monuments.

Recommendation 8: Take advantage of existing resources and expertise.

While working group members did not agree unanimously or completely on every point, all expressed support for inclusive community discussions. The report includes the work group's sense that the report should be considered a living, breathing document and a mere starting point for discussions at the local level. The consensus opinion was that, ultimately, decisions regarding the appropriate treatment of monuments rest within the communities that house them.

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

messages come to mind. They jump from every page. But I will forbear to spoil your reading enjoyment. Let your mind run free and you may find meanings that even Stowe herself missed. After all, our viewpoint, coming 165 years hence, should be different from hers.

Stowe seems ultimately optimistic and ends her novel on an uplifting note. Is George Shelby, the younger, her hope, her call for a reasonable resolution to the slavery issue, presaging a peaceful future for America?

At the end, Stowe raises the colonization issue,

but it seems an odd and unnecessary addendum. It does not seem to fit her narrative. In 1852, there was strong support for colonization of freed slaves as a solution to growing racial tensions. Lincoln still doggedly supported colonization 10 years later, until Frederick Douglass finally set him straight following their Executive Mansion meeting. Blacks will no more go back to Africa than whites will go back to Europe. We are stuck with each other. The only question worth considering is how to make this whole thing work for all of us.

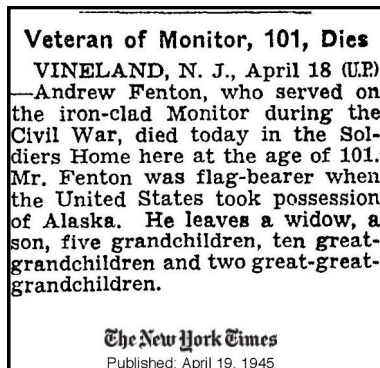
Until next time, keep reading.

# The Union's Last Ironclad Sailor

by Steve Glazer

On April 19, 1945 - less than three weeks before the end of World War II in Europe - *The New York Times* carried an article headlined, "Veteran of Monitor, 101, Dies." The United Press news report, datelined the previous day from Vineland, New Jersey, began, "Andrew Fenton, who served on the iron-clad Monitor during the Civil War, died today in the Soldiers Home here." Thus was born a tortuous tale that continues to this day.

*The Times'* report drew the attention of numerous historians over the years. Professor Jay

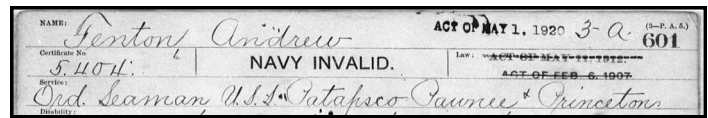


Hoar of the University of Maine wove an elaborate tale describing how Fenton suffered the partial loss of sight and hearing in action against Fort Sumter when one of the Monitor's guns unexpectedly discharged, and how he later dramatically survived the iconic ironclad's sinking. (*The North's Last Boys in Blue*, Higginson Book Co., 2006, pp. 352-57.) Hoar largely relied on an interview of the old sailor published in 1938.

On the other hand, John Quarstein, Director of the *USS Monitor* Center in Newport News, Virginia, concluded that there is no proof for Fenton's purported service on the Monitor. Quarstein goes much further. He categorically and repeatedly asserted in his book on the ship's crew that "there is no indication of any naval service" by Fenton. (*The Monitor Boys*, The History Press, 2011, pp. 299-301.) The Monitor



Andrew Fenton, circa 1938.

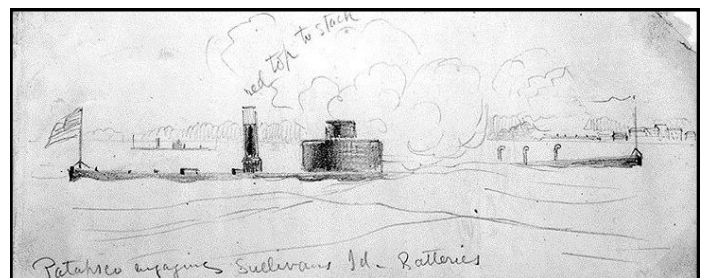


Andrew Fenton's service record, US Veterans Administration.

Center's website similarly now asserts that "no records of naval service have been found" for Fenton.

Both Hoar and Quarstein, as well as *The Times*, were mistaken. Moreover, there are abundant official records documenting Andrew Fenton's distinguished military service, making him New Jersey's last known survivor of the Union Navy, and the nation's last known veteran of the Civil War's ironclad monitors, albeit not the *USS Monitor*.

Andrew Fenton was born in St. Augustine, Florida, on Christmas Day of 1843, but his family moved to Philadelphia when he was still an infant. According to unearthed naval records, Fenton enlisted for three years as a 1st Class Boy at the U.S. Naval Rendezvous in Philadelphia on September 2, 1862, on the receiving ship *Princeton*. Soon thereafter, he was sent to the *USS Patapsco*, a Passaic-class ironclad monitor first launched later that month from Wilmington, Delaware, by shipbuilder Harlan & Hollingsworth. *Patapsco* was commissioned on



Unattributed sketch of the ironclad ship *USS Patapsco*.

January 2, 1863, when Fenton was formally assigned to her, according to his service records. Fenton and his ship would be engaged in combat operations for the next two years.

According to naval records, on the afternoon  
(con't on page 13)

# John Pope - The Hard Luck General

by Karl Reiner

Union Gen. John Pope is one of Centreville's most infamous temporary residents, having made his headquarters at Royal Oaks before and after the battle of Second Manassas during the summer of 1862. Although nothing remains of Royal Oaks today, the residence was located on the east side of Braddock Road just north of Lee Highway (Rt. 29).

Royal Oaks was a frame house of two stories, plus an attic. It was built in about 1770 with a stone chimney at each end. It was supposedly named for the trees that at one time lined the drive running from Braddock Road to the house. Royal Oaks survived the Civil War and was in good repair and occupied in the early 1950s. In 1959, the house was dismantled and moved to Fauquier County, where it was reportedly never reassembled.

Mr. J. Harry Shannon, a roving reporter, wrote for the old *Washington Star* newspaper under the pen name of "The Rambler." He traveled (often by walking) throughout Virginia, writing about and photographing the historic sites and structures that were disappearing due to the ravages of time. In a 1921 article involving Centreville, he described it thusly: "The Civil War threw such a glare upon the village that the eyes of the world were on it."

He documented Royal Oaks "as a big frame house about 200 yards back from the dusty street, overshadowed by old Locust trees. A frame house with a front porch and a set of wooden stairs leading to it at the middle." Shannon also mentioned the glass insulated pins he noticed on the house. These insulated pins, he said, "once supported Civil War telegraph lines." Noting Gen. Pope's use of the house as a headquarters, Shannon stated that for a time previous to his current visit, the dwelling had been a hotel run by a Mrs. Simpson, now deceased. The person Shannon found occupying Royal Oaks in 1921 was a Mr. Jim Dobbins, described as "one of the prosperous farmers of the Centreville neighborhood."

At the present time, Centreville's Historic District



Gen. John Pope

contains many vacant tracts. Shannon's commentaries help explain why many of the structures are no longer standing. At the time of his visits, many of the buildings were in a poor state of repair. He noted that Centreville, despite its wartime importance, never seemed to have recovered from the ravages of the Civil War. He saw it as a small quiet village of dusty roads, sunken graves and buildings in need of restoration.

Of the commanders who fought in the region, one of the most controversial is Gen. John Pope, a man with enemies on both sides of conflict. While campaigning in Virginia, he was the only Union commander to earn the personal animosity of Gen. Lee. Gen. Pope was also intensely unpopular with many of the troops under his command in Virginia. The wording of his military orders inflamed Southern resistance and insulted his soldiers.

By misjudging Gen. Lee's intentions, Gen. Pope led his army to defeat at the battle of Second Manassas. Soundly trounced, he has gone down in history with a badly blemished record. Many modern historians view Gen. Pope as an incompetent swaggering braggart, a bombastic imbecile outwitted by Lee. He is also accused of committing the unpardonable military sin of blaming others for the mistakes he made on the battlefield.

In reality, General Pope may not have been as inept as his record in Virginia indicates. His many enemies may have succeeded in reducing his standing to a contemptible caricature of the man he really was. Although he was a failure in Virginia during his short tenure from June to September 1862, he was successful in other military assignments before he arrived and after he departed.

John Pope's excellent connections probably helped him rise in the army ranks. He was a distant cousin of George Washington and was connected by marriage to President Lincoln. A West Point graduate (1842), Pope was a career military

(con't on page 13)



## SPREAD THE WORD

Do you know a high school senior who is fascinated with American History or the American Civil War? You can help the BRCWRT find that student, so that we can give away a \$1500 scholarship to be used for that student's first semester tuition in college. In general, the requirements include:



- Graduate in 2017 from a public or private high school
- Reside in Prince William or Fairfax County
- Enroll in college or community college
- Prove a strong interest in American history or Civil War history
- Show how American history will be included in one's post-college career, whether as their vocation, or avocation
- Visit a local Civil War historic site and write a short essay about it
- Apply for the BRCWRT scholarship by April 1, 2017

All of the information about how to apply can be found on the BRCWRT website at <http://bullruncwrt.org>. In addition, interested students can find information on the Prince William and Fairfax County public high school scholarship sites, which can be accessed at their schools' career centers, guidance departments, and by students' personal computers. In addition, BRCWRT members can pick up a flyer at the monthly general membership meetings to share with anyone they think might be interested. Contact Nancy Anwyll, Brian McEnany or Charlie Balch if you have any questions. Let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our offer! Spread the word!

## 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. 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 — for details, visit our Web site ([www.bullruncwrt.org](http://www.bullruncwrt.org)) regarding online ordering.

## Andrew Fenton – (con't from page 10)

of November 2, 1863, while firing at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, a premature explosion of one of *Patapsco's* guns instantly killed a crew member and injured several others, including then-landsman Andrew Fenton. (Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XV, p. 88.) And on the night of January 15, 1865, the *Patapsco*, on station for picket duty some 700 yards from Fort Sumter, struck a large torpedo and sank in the harbor's channel within 15 seconds, taking the ship's complement with her. Most perished, but Ordinary Seaman Andrew Fenton survived. (Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVI, pp. 178-79.) Two weeks later, Fenton reported for duty on the *USS Pawnee*, which saw action the following month in South Carolina against numerous Confederate artillery batteries.

On July 26, 1865, *Pawnee* was decommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where Fenton was honorably discharged the same day, according to the ship's final muster roll. However, Fenton was not done serving his country. One year later he re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and after that term expired, he enlisted yet

again.

After his years at sea, Fenton made his home in Fairfield and Mount Holly, New Jersey, as well as in Philadelphia, where he was a member of Anna M. Ross G.A.R. Post No. 94. In 1881, he married Susan Cecelia Bamford of Bridgeton, New Jersey, having a son, Andrew Percy, the following year. On April 18, 1945, the ancient mariner passed away in Vineland, being buried in Overlook Cemetery in Bridgeton, NJ, marking the end of a direct link to the Civil War and its transformation of naval warfare.

*Steve Glazer, Lt. Col. (U.S. Army, Ret.), was a member of New Jersey's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (2010-2015). He has written Discover Your Community's Civil War Heritage, as well as contributed to the award-winning New Jersey Goes to War and New Jersey's Civil War Odyssey. He is a member of the Abner Doubleday Civil War Round Table in New York and the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table in New Jersey. He was an intelligence and electronic-warfare officer before retiring after service at the Pentagon on the staff of the Secretary of the Army.*

## Gen. Pope – (con't from page 11)

officer and a trained topographical engineer. He fought with distinction at Monterrey and Buena Vista during the Mexican War and was brevetted for gallantry.

At the onset of the Civil War, he was in Maine serving on lighthouse duty. As the Union Army rapidly expanded, Pope was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers. He captured New Madrid, Missouri and Island No. 10, opening the Mississippi River to Union ship traffic up to those points and setting the stage for the capture of Memphis.

Pope was promoted to major general in March 1862. When Lincoln brought him east, Gen. Pope was unfortunately given more responsibility than his talents merited. After Pope's stinging defeat at Manassas, Lincoln quickly sent him into exile. He was given command of the Department of the Northwest, arriving in time to help put down the

Sioux uprising in Minnesota. By all accounts, he recovered from his debacle in Virginia and did well in the job. So well in fact, that in 1866, the citizens of Minnesota named a new county after him.

Gen. Pope commanded other departments (mostly in the west) during the remainder of his career, retiring from the army in 1886 as a highly respected authority on Indian problems and conditions on the frontier. Gen. Pope died at the Old Soldiers and Sailors Home in Sandusky, Ohio on September 23, 1892. All that remains as a remembrance of Gen. Pope's wartime stay in Centreville is a stone wall on the east side of Braddock Road, part of the property that once contained a house called Royal Oaks. Although his military reputation in this region is forever tarnished, Gen. Pope's later exploits are fondly remembered by the residents of Pope County Minnesota.



# SAVE THE DATE

## March 25-26, 2017

*Everything is New Here: A Symposium on Prince William County/Manassas History*  
explores our rich and diverse local history.

**Saturday, March 25:** Speakers (at the historic Old Manassas Courthouse) include:

*The Washingtons and Prince William County* with Dr. John Maass

*J.E.B. Stuart's Christmas Raid* with Robert O'Neill

*The Great Fire of Manassas & the Town it Inspired* with Lisa Sievel-Otten

*World War I Through the Eyes of the Marines* with Thomas E. Williams

*The Courageous Four and the Integration of Prince William County Schools* with Norma Fields  
and a Reception with the Curator at the Manassas Museum

**Sunday, March 26:** Enjoy an optional Bus Tour of Historic Private Homes  
(includes lunch) for \$50

**\$10 registration fee for Saturday Program**

**Call 703-792-4754 or email [historicpreservation@pwcgov.org](mailto:historicpreservation@pwcgov.org)**



**The Bull Run Civil War Round  
Table's Newest Recruit!**

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

◆ **Gerald Leedom**

## TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

**Do not wait to be Drafted, but Volunteer!!**

**WE WILL ATTEND THE**

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**JOIN THE BULL RUN CIVIL  
WAR ROUND TABLE!**



# Coming this Spring PWC's Historic Sites!



**While the historic sites are closed to regular tours until May, guests may arrange a tour by appointment! To schedule a tour, please call 703-792-4754 for more information.**

**March 11**

## Cockpit Point Tours

*11 a.m. Tours are offered by reservation only, \$20 a person*

Join us as we explore our newest historic park, Cockpit Point Civil War Park. Tours of the site will take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations are required for the tours. Tours will include difficult terrain and off trail style hiking. For reservations call 703-792-4754.

**\* Historic sign dedication cancelled—tours still taking place.**

**March 16**

## Brews and Brains Series at Bad Wolf Brewery

*6 p.m. - 8 p.m., free, donations accepted.*

The Prince William and Northern Virginia area has a rich social history throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries in which beer played a part. Join the Historic Preservation Division and Bad Wolf Brewery as we examine the role of beer throughout American History in this four-part series of lectures, artifacts, and activities. The series will take place at Big Bad Wolf Brewery, located at 8420 Kao Circle, Manassas, VA. The first session will be "Brewing Past & Present." For more information call 703-367-7872.



**March 23**

## If This Old Building Could Talk

*7 p.m. Free, donations accepted*

Staff Preservationist, Sarah Nucci, will share her research on Williams Ordinary from its beginning in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century through the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She will use primary source material, dendrochronology, and other research to give a clearer picture of the early use of the building that now is used as the HPD headquarters. **Old Manassas Courthouse, Manassas VA. 703-792-4754.**



**March 25-26**

## "Everything is New Here" Prince William – Manassas History Symposium

*\$10 for all day symposium (8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.) on March 25, \$50 for historic homes tour on March 26. Spaces are limited, reservations required.*

Founded in 1731, Prince William County is one of the oldest counties in Northern Virginia. Join several local historic organizations as we celebrate this history at our First Annual Prince William-Manassas History Symposium. The \$10 fee for the Symposium include, speakers throughout the day and an evening reception at the Manassas Museum.

On March 26, take a rare chance to visit four privately owned historic homes in Prince William County. The \$50 fee includes transportation and lunch. Spaces are limited. For information and reservations call 703-792-4754.



**April 1**

## Civil War Trust Annual Park Clean Up Day – Bristoe Station Battlefield

*8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Free*

Park Day is a nationwide event that encourages Civil War enthusiasts to help maintain, restore and preserve Civil War sites through volunteerism. Come out and join us for a fun and rewarding day of work at Bristoe Battlefield. Wear sturdy work shoes and bring gloves. Tools and snacks will be provided.

**Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049.**

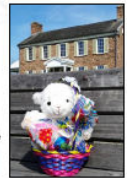


**April 8**

## Eggstravaganza at Ben Lomond Historic Site

*11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; \$5 per person, 2 and under free*

Ben Lomond Historic Site and Pat White Center at Ben Lomond are coming together for a special Eggstravaganza, but we have lost our eggs and are asking for your help to find them! Egg Hunts will be every hour at the historic site and enjoy kid friendly games and crafts at Pat White Center at Ben Lomond. Purchase tickets at Pat White Center at Ben Lomond. **Ben Lomond Historic Site, Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.**



**April 8**

## Potomac Blockade Bus Tour

*8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; \$80 per person (lunch included)*

From September 1861 through March 1862 the Confederate army was able to blockade the Potomac River. Join historians for a special bus tour that will explore this little known period of Civil War history. Tour includes lunch and departs from Williams Ordinary in Dumfries. **For reservations call 703-792-4754.**



**April 15**

## Easter Egg Hunt at Rippon Lodge

*11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; \$5.00 per Child, \$2 per Adult;*

*Free for 2 and under.*

Eggs have been hidden among the trees, bushes and vines at Rippon Lodge, and we need you help to find them! Along with the search for eggs, crafts, games, and tours of the historic house make this a day the whole family may enjoy. Egg hunts are at 11:30, 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30, and will be separated by age groups. Bring your own baskets to collect eggs. House tours are on the hour.

**Rippon Lodge Historic Site, Woodbridge, VA. 703-499-9812.**



**April 20**

## Brews and Brains Series at Bad Wolf Brewery

*6 p.m. - 8 p.m., free, donations accepted.*

The Prince William and Northern Virginia area has a rich social history throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries in which beer played a part. Join the Historic Preservation Division and Bad Wolf Brewery as we examine the role of beer throughout American History in this four-part series of lectures, artifacts, and activities. The series will take place at Big Bad Wolf Brewery, located at 8420 Kao Circle, Manassas, VA. The first session will be "Alcohol in the Civil War." For more information call 703-367-7872.



Prince William County Department of Public Works  
Historic Preservation Division

[www.pwcgov.org/history](http://www.pwcgov.org/history)

[historicpreservation@pwcgov.org](mailto:historicpreservation@pwcgov.org)



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PWC\_History



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NETWORK TO FREEDOM

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

***The Stone Wall***

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

### **2017 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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