



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVI, Issue 9, DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

AUTHOR/HISTORIAN JOHN QUARSTEIN SPEAKS ON "THE BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL - JUNE 1861" AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

The Battle of Big Bethel was one of the earliest land battles of the Civil War. It took place on the Virginia Peninsula near Newport News on June 10, 1861. As Civil War battles go, the engagement at Big Bethel didn't amount to much. Had it occurred later in the conflict it would have hardly merited any mention in the newspapers. Regardless, the fray between mostly amateur soldiers marked the first land battle of the war and sent a sobering message - that brave young men, lots of brave young men, were going to die in this war. So glad to have an old friend visit us again to speak on this memorable battle!

John Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist, lecturer, and author. He served as historian for the city of Hampton's 400th anniversary and previously worked for 30 years as the director of the Virginia War Museum, and as a consultant to The Mariners' Museum's Monitor Center. He is now serving as the Chief Development Officer for the USS Monitor Foundation at The Mariners' Museum.

John has been involved in a wide variety of historic preservation initiatives, including the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like Redoubt Park in Williamsburg and Lee's Mill Park in Newport News; also historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation. His current preservation endeavors feature the Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, Causey's Mill, Big Bethel Battlefield and Fort Monroe. He also serves on several boards and commissions such as Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council and the Newport News Sesquicentennial Commission.

John is the author of fifteen books. His volume, "The Monitor Boys: The Crew of The Union's First Ironclad," received the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. He also has produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries, of which the film series Civil War in Hampton Roads, was awarded a 2007 Silver Telly. His latest film, Hampton: From the Sea to the Stars, is a Bronze Telly winner. He is the recipient of the

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7 p.m. Centreville Library

THURSDAY, December 12, 2019

GUEST SPEAKER:

**Author/Historian
John Quarstein**

TOPIC:

**"Battle of Big Bethel, VA -
June 1861"**

THURSDAY, January 9, 2020

GUEST SPEAKER:

**Author/Historian
Jan Croon**

TOPIC:

**"The War
Outside My Window"**

National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1993 President's Award for Historic Preservation; the Civil War Society's Preservation Award in 1996; the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999; and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal in 2009. Besides his lifelong interest in Tidewater Virginia's Civil War experience, John is an avid duck hunter and decoy collector. He lives on Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, and on his family's Eastern Shore farm near Chestertown MD. Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet and dine with John at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA: (703) 266-9755.

**AUTHOR/HISTORIAN JANET CROON SPEAKS ON
"THE WAR OUTSIDE MY WINDOW"
AT THE JANUARY MEETING**

LeRoy Wiley Gresham, an Invalid teenager left a seven-volume diary spanning the years of

(con't on page 10)

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
Treasurer: Joe Young, 703.281.7935
Secretary: John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com, 703.475.1943
At Large: Charlie Balch, John De Pue, Brian McEnany
Communications/Media: Jim Lewis, antietam1862@verizon.net
Marketing: Stephanie Vale, mustangkoala@yahoo.com
Membership: Mark Whitenton, mark.whitenton@gmail.com
Preservation: Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net
Student Scholarship: Nancy Anwyll (njanwyll@verizon.net), Brian McEnany and Charlie Balch
Education: Brian McEnany, bmcenany@cox.net; Nancy Anwyll
Field Trips: Doug Horhota
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 **February 2020 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, January 27, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **February 2020 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on January 17, to Charlie Balch at: BRCWRTads@gmail.com

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

JOIN US AT CARRABBA'S

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early to dinner? Join BRCWRT members and their monthly guest speakers for good food and camaraderie. Currently, we gather prior to each meeting around 5 p.m. at Carraba's Italian Grill, located just across Lee Highway from the Centreville Regional Library.

UPCOMING 2019/2020 MEETINGS

December 12: Author/Historian John Quarstein - "Battle of Big Bethel, VA, June 1861"

January 9: Author and Historian Jan Croon - "The War Outside My Window"

February 13: Author and Historian Terry Heder - "The Burning of the Shenandoah Valley"

March 12: NPS Historian Jim Burgess - "JEB Stuart's Raid on Catlett Station - August 1862"

April 9: Historian Deborah Mueller - "Clara Barton"

May 14: Author and Historian Steve Ditmeyer - "Railroads, Herman Haupt, and the Battle of Gettysburg"

June 11: Author and Historian Richard Quest - "I Held Lincoln; A Union Sailor's Journey Home"

July 9: Author and NPS Emeritus Ed Bearss - "Civil War Question and Answer Session with BRCWRT Membership"

August 13: Author Historian Chris Mackowski - "Grant's Last Battle - Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant"

September 10: Historian Kristen Pawlak - "Battle of Wilson Creek, MO - Aug 1861"

October 8: Professor of History Noah Cincinnati - "Capitalism, 1830-1860"

November 12: Historian David Dixon - "The Lost Gettysburg Address"

December 10: Historian Ron Beavers - "Arlington House, The Last Battle of the Civil War"

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| President's Column | Page 3 |
| Scenes at Gettysburg | Page 4 |
| Election of Officers is Here | Page 5 |
| OLLI at GMU: South's Navy | Page 5 |
| Ms. Rebelle | Page 6 |
| New Member | Page 10 |
| December PWC Activities | Page 11 |
| Preservation Report | Page 12 |
| Stratford Hall Events | Page 16 |
| Christmas at the Civil War | Page 17 |



The President's Column By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members -

It's the 2019/2020 holiday season, when good friends and families gather to bring in the Christmas and New Year's holidays (as well as Hanukkah, and others), with warm fireplace chats regarding all that has been accomplished through the year and to engage in hoping for blessings to come in 2020. This year was a tremendous one for the BRCWRT, our 28th, with many memorable events and meetings. I tell the Executive Committee every year I don't know how we could ever top the previous year, but we are going to try to do just that in 2020, and in future years. We have accomplished many things at our Round Table, but as always, our work is never done - as we will never be a stagnant organization!

It has been my pleasure and honor to have served as your president for the past ten years. As you know I have decided to resign at the end of the year. We will welcome a new president and vice president on January 1, 2020, and I will be so happy to work with them during the transition. I will serve in 2020 as a member of the Executive Committee, so I'm so glad to still be an officer of this dynamic organization. As always, the BRCWRT is committed to continue bringing you outstanding Civil War speakers, tours and presentations throughout 2020. We are proud to be an outstanding group of dedicated folks, now 366 members strong, who look forward with excitement to the future.

At our November meeting, Paige Gibbon Backus gave us an outstanding presentation on the Civil War Hospital at Ben Lomond house in the Sudley section of Manassas. The audience was given an account of how horrific battlefield conditions for the wounded after 1st Manassas was, and how medicine and battlefield hospitals evolved throughout the war. Thank you, Paige, for an excellent lecture, and we hope to see you visit us again in the future. Don't forget - you can also "tune in" to all of our lectures, and follow along with Powerpoint slides, at our Web site audio archives, located at the address: http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/AudioArchives/Audio_menu.html.

According to our by-laws, December is the third and final month of our process for the 2019 BRCWRT election of officers. Voting on the 2019 BRCWRT roster of officers will take place at the December 12th meeting. Thank you so much, John De Pue and Ed Wenzel, for heading up our nominating committee this year.

Our 2020 BRCWRT membership drive has begun to take early membership dues for the 2020 season. I am so happy to announce that a final count of 366 members was achieved in 2019! This tremendous achievement was attained by hard work from BRCWRT Executive Board Members and member volunteers, and all the credit goes out to YOU! I always encourage you members to please continue to spread the word to your family and friends that the BRCWRT is the Northern Virginia hub for Civil War information and preservation, in addition to being a tremendous organization.

Our BRCWRT Scholarship Award program, led by Committee Chair Nancy Anwyll and her team, has begun for 2020! We are so happy that our scholarship has, for many years now, served to increase interest in and knowledge of our American history, with special emphasis on the Civil War. Please feel free to donate to the Scholarship Fund throughout the year. We truly appreciate your support.

On November 20, 2019, your Executive Committee met again at our 5th annual Vision Meeting. What an outstanding evening of ideas and vision by all members of our Executive Committee. We look forward to hearing members' ideas anytime, by having folks contact the

members of our Executive Committee. We have been working overtime on new initiatives for constantly improving our round table's vision and mission.

Preservation Chair Blake Myers and his team have been working on many projects this year and look to be involved with many more as the year un-



Paige Gibbon Backus, who gave November's lecture on the Ben Lomond historical house in Sudley, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

(con't on page 10)

Remembrance Day in Gettysburg is Just That, as BRCWRT Members Join in Commemoration



Above, left: Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, was the center of attention at the Gettysburg Remembrance Day parade; one of his great friends, Gwen Wytenbach of the BRCWRT, brings the RT's greetings to him. Above, center (l to r) BRCWRT members John Myers and Fred Eckstein represent at the day's commemoration of Pres. Abraham Lincoln's powerful address in November of 1863. Above, right: Bryan and Ben Holzer, members of the BRCWRT, prove young folks love history!

Above left and center photos by Janet Greentree; right photo by Julie Holzer



At far left: (l to r) Janet Greentree, Al Smith and Gwen Wytenbach reunite at the parade; Al is one of the two BRCWRT members from Boston. He marches each year with the Sons of Union Veterans. Near left: Mark and Debbie Whitenton always provide much of the atmosphere at Civil War gatherings, with their richly precise depictions of an officer and his lovely lady. Other BRCWRT members attending the day's commemoration but not pictured, were Stephanie Vale, Fred and Noreen Eckstein, Mario Lucero and Julie Holtzer.

Photos by Janet Greentree

"Four score and seven years ago..."



Above, left: the great Ed Bearss is sure to be at the center of Civil War activities, warmly greeted by many dear friends, including Janet Greentree of the BRCWRT. Bearss is an honored member of the BRCWRT! Above, right: third from left, Dan Paterson, great-grandson of Gen. James Longstreet, chuckles when he sees he's been targeted by photographer while marching in the Remembrance Day parade. At right: BRCWRT member Drew Pallo offers a southern officer's salute to the crowds observing the parade.

Photos by Janet Greentree

VOTE!

VOTE!

BRCWRT Annual Elections Coming in December

The members of the Executive Committee have designated a slate of nominees to be officers of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table for 2020; the recommended slate is as follows:

- ◆ President -- Mark Whitenton
- ◆ Vice President -- Greg Wilson
- ◆ Treasurer -- Joseph Young
- ◆ Secretary -- John Pearson.

The membership will have an opportunity to vote for this slate of officers at the December 12th meeting (nominations of any other people to serve as officers closed out at the November 14th meeting).

Please come to the December meeting and show your support for the BRCWRT's leadership, and the programs that are planned for the upcoming year.

The Different Civil War: Guerrillas Afloat

This four-session Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) course at George Mason University's Fairfax campus covers Confederate naval guerrilla warfare. The importance of naval warfare in the Civil War remains one of the least understood and studied aspects of the conflict. The scope of this warfare goes far beyond the blockade of Southern ports, ironclads Monitor-Merrimac, submarine Hunley, and commerce raider Alabama. The Confederates pioneered many of the tactics and techniques that revolutionized maritime conflict through the 20th century.

Desperation was the mother of much of their invention

The sessions will look at building a fleet through hijacking a warship; turning coastal waters and rivers into death traps through mining; taking the war into the Great Lakes to liberate Confederate POWs and terrorize Northern cities, and stealth attacks on the blockaders -- where David TKO'd Goliath in Charleston.

The sessions begin the week of Jan. 27

John Grady, instructor for these sessions, is the author of the Matthew Fontaine Maury, Father of Oceanography, nominated for the 2016 Library of Virginia's non-fiction award. He was a regular contributor to the New York Times "Disunion" series and his Civil War writings have also appeared in Civil War Monitor and Naval History. He was most recently interviewed on Civil War Talk Radio, <https://www.impedimentsofwar.org/singleshow.php?show=1611>.

How to Register for this Course

Go online to the Web address: <https://olligmu.augusoft.net/> and follow the information that will allow you to sign up not just for this course, but for the many great offerings that keep Northern Virginia residents involved in forever learning.



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Broadening Horizons Together



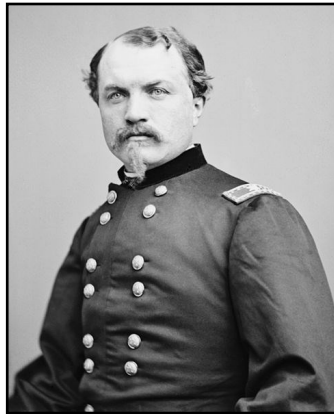


CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Maj. Gen. William Woods Averell, USA

By Janet Greentree

Are you all waiting with bated breath to find out just how my last subject - William Hicks Jackson - saved the life of his friend, William Woods Averell? Ms. Rebelle only found one reference in her research that this event was factual, and actually happened. She did find, however, that Averell kept a diary during his time at West Point through the Civil War, called: *"Ten Years in the Saddle."* His diary was edited and published posthumously by Edward K. Eckert & Nicholas J. Amato in 1978. Averell described the event in his diary. Ms. Rebelle is going to steal a little thunder from our late 'Book Guy' Ralph Swanson and suggest it as a very good read for all of you to enjoy. Averell writes magnificently, and name drops like crazy. To we fellow Civil War enthusiasts, his dropping of names is paramount to us trying to drop famous people's names. I don't think the book is in print anymore, but I was able to buy it very cheaply at Amazon.



Gen. William Woods Averell

Some of the interesting things learned from reading his diary during his time at West Point are:

- When reporting to West Point, he took his first train ride on the Erie Railroad, arriving at Cold Spring, NY. He then crossed the Hudson River in a skiff to report in.
- Robert E. Lee was the superintendent at West Point while Averell was there. Averell accumulated 108 demerits, which Lee reduced to one.
- He loved Benny Havens.
- He excelled in pencil and watercolor artwork. One of his classmates was James Whistler.
- His roommate in 1853 was David

McMurtrie Gregg.

- He was No. 1 in horsemanship, and he got to choose his own horse in his senior year. He was given Duroc, the wildest horse on campus, who he tamed.
- He, William Hicks Jackson and FitzHugh Lee became friends at West Point.
- He described himself as 5'8" and 135 lbs. at graduation. Three years later he would be 5'10" and 165 lbs.
- He graduated from West Point with the class of 1855 and was ranked 26th out of 34 members in the class.
- Both he and Jackson were later assigned to the Carlisle U.S. Army Cavalry School. His nickname there was "Swell".

William Woods Averell was born in Cameron, New York, on November 5, 1832, to Hiram and Elizabeth Young Averell. Hiram was a farmer, constable, justice of the peace, postmaster, and revenue collector in Cameron. Hiram's father, Ebenezer Averell, was a captain in the Revolutionary War, along with his brothers Jacob and Thomas. Young William worked in a drug store in Bath in his youth, which is 11 miles from Cameron. He was appointed to West Point by Bath, NY, Congressman David Rumsey. He was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army Mounted Rifles after graduation. He was first sent to the Carlisle U.S. Army Cavalry School and subsequently to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. While there, he met U.S. Grant, who was looking for a job.

His next assignment was two years of service fighting Indians in the New Mexico territory at Fort Craig, in 1857. William Hicks Jackson was also assigned there. Jackson arrived later than Averell, and was quartered with his old friend. One of his interesting comments on fighting Indians was that every time his command would approach a fort or any other place in the west, within one hour there would appear Indians on the bluffs, watching their every move (just like in all the cowboy movies). An alert came into the fort that a Mexican rancher reported a band of Indians had killed one of his cows and he wanted protection for his family and ranch. Averell, Jackson and about 15 soldiers went to help the Mexican. The Indians were busy feasting on the cow and didn't notice the

(con't on page 7)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

arrival of the troops. About 12 Indians came out of the house and were told they were to be taken back to the fort. They cooperated, until their chief gave a specific yell which meant for all of them to scatter. Averell and five of his men captured the chief when he ran off. Averell cornered him and fired his pistol into the captive's thigh. This didn't stop the chief, and both of them got into a hand-to-hand fight.

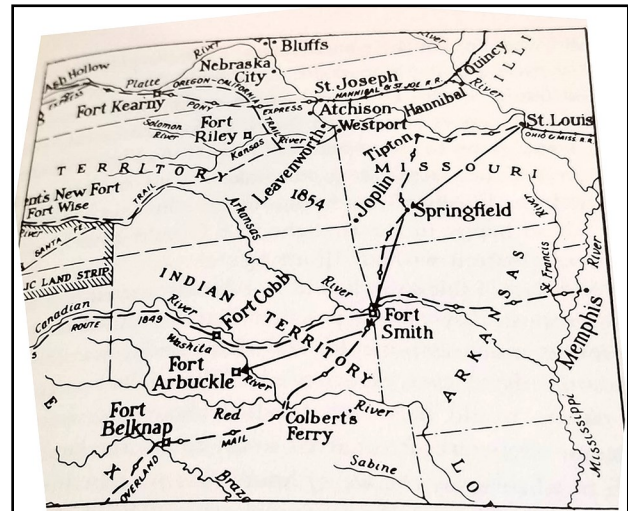
From Averell's diary: "...Then I ran to the Indian to strike him with it (his pistol) upon his head. He met me aggressively and seized my uplifted tight wrist with his left and my left elbow with his right and turned me around into the hollow of his left arm drawing my right arm under my left, all in one quick motion, and then releasing the hold of his right hand brought it around and tried to catch hold of my free left arm in which he failed, and instead I caught his right by the wrist, but he pulled it down to his waist and drew out a belt knife.... If he was hit in the shooting, why didn't he weaken? He did not pause an instant for breath.... while my breath was giving out.... Then I heard Jackson's voice 'steady Averell, I'm going to shoot.'.... Then I could hear the tread of Jackson's horse almost upon us, a revolver was thrust under my left arm, there was report and the Indian let go and sank to the ground. Jackson had placed the muzzle of his revolver almost against the right forearm of the savage when he fired, and the arm being bent the ball passed through below and above the elbow." The Mexican asked Averell to shoot the Indian, giving Averell a large revolver. Averell declined, stating: "No, he is a brave man, I would rather kill you."

No mention was made by Averell of the name of the Kiowa chief. He did report that the fort surgeon treated the Indian, dressed his wounds, and set his broken arm. The chief liked to hang around at the fort with the officers, especially Averell. Later, in 1863, the Indian chief, along with other Indian chiefs, would visit Father Abraham (Lincoln) in Washington. The Kiowa chief remained in Washington for a few months, and also spent time in New York City. The chief contracted typhoid fever and passed away in 1863.

In 1859, Averell received a serious leg wound in New Mexico and was sent back to his home in New York to recuperate. He was

on crutches for 18 months. On February 25, 1861, he left New York to go to Washington City to see Pres. Lincoln in order to enlist in the Army of the Potomac. He enlisted at the War Department on April 16, 1861. While in Washington, he attended the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861. He also spent an evening with Stephen Douglas and happened to be with Robert E. Lee on the day he resigned from the Union Army.

He was playing a game of billiards at the Willard Hotel with Irvin McDowell, Fitz-John Porter and J.B. Fry. He met with the three of them in his room, where they gave him orders to travel to Fort Arbuckle to deliver a private message to the fort commander, Col. W.H. Emory. He started out by train and went as far as St. Louis. He traveled in civilian clothes so as not to attract attention. Then he went by horse the rest of the way.



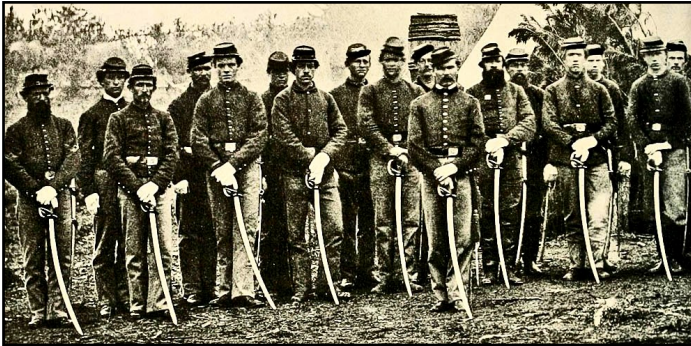
Averell's route to Fort Arbuckle, where he was to deliver a private message to the commander, but where he was instead given orders to push on to Fort Washita to begin his military career.

His description of his trip and all the trials and tribulations he went through is amazing. Finally arriving at Fort Arbuckle, he was told to go to Fort Washita. On May 4th, he finally arrived at Fort Washita. His classmate at West Point, Eugene Carr, barely recognized him because of the effects from all his traveling. When he gave the papers to Col. Emory, the colonel's remark was: "My God! Averell, how did you get here?" The whole story reminds me of Kevin Costner's trip out west in the movie *Dances with Wolves*."

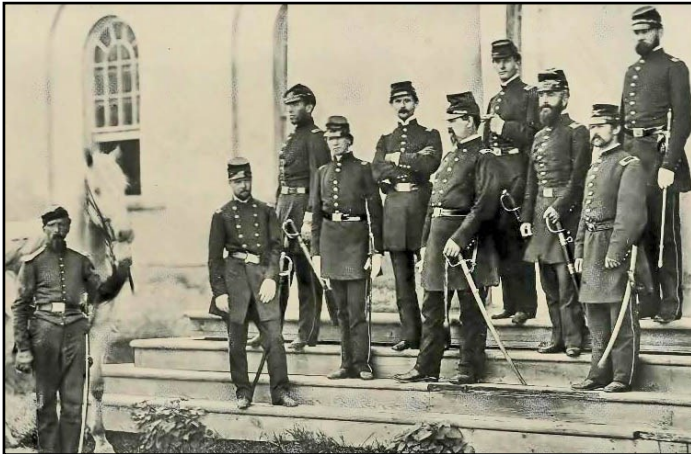
(con't on page 8)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

His first battle in the Civil War was at Bull Run. He was present at McDowell's council of war. After the battle, he was appointed a colonel of the 3rd Pennsylvania. He commanded the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry from August 23, 1861 - September 26, 1862. He describes



Men of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment.



Gen. Irvin McDowell and his staff on the steps of Arlington House.

Gen. McDowell riding in a carriage to the battle wearing a white helmet. McDowell started out from Arlington House, traveled down the Columbia Pike to Fairfax Court-house, and then went on to Manassas. I know all of you who hiked with John McAnaw remember him talking about the McDowell map. Guess who drew that map? None other than William Averell.

After the Yankees were routed from 1st Manassas, McDowell was on the porch of Arlington House, fast asleep, when Averell found him there. The other battles he fought in were the Peninsula Campaign; Seven Days; Fredericksburg; Kelly's Ford; Cove Mountain; Droop Mountain; Rutherford's Farm, and Moorefield. He was wounded at Wytheville. He also fought at 3rd Winchester, where they named the camp in which they bivouacked from September 1864 - March 1865. There

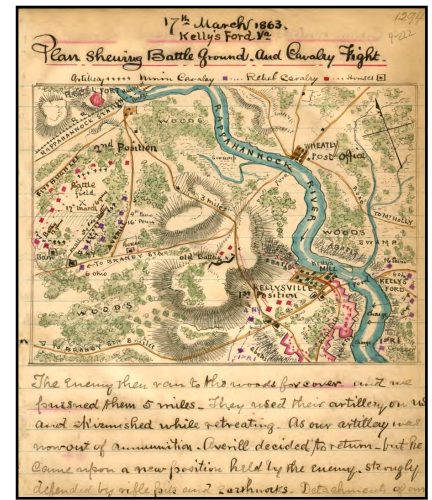
is a historical marker at the site as well. Remnants of the winter huts can still be found on the site. At Kelly's Ford, he fought against his good friend FitzHugh Lee.

Averell was a tremendous fan of Gen. George McClellan and wrote glorifying things about him. Averell was compared to McClellan as also having the 'slows.' Averell was fired by Gen. Joseph Hooker, who ordered him to find a suitable field for a cavalry fight prior to Chancellorsville. Averell told him he could not find one. He was then sent to West Virginia.

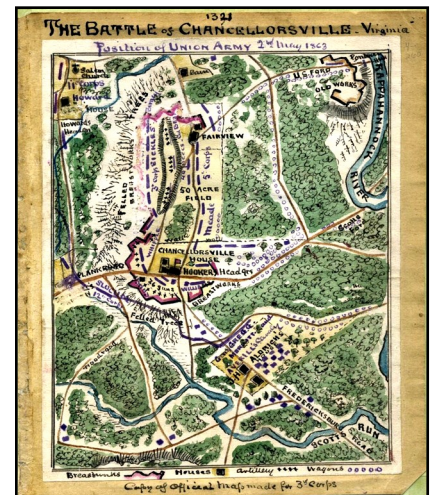
His most successful raid was against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad depot in Salem, VA. He captured 200 prisoners and 150 horses and destroyed a large amount of supplies. He was fired a second time by Gen. Phil Sheridan after the battle of Fisher's Hill, when Averell halted and camped, instead of pursuing the Confederates in a 15-mile chase. Averell fought the rest of his life to clear his name of the cloud of his firing, thinking Sheridan's decision was political. He sat out the rest of the war with a head wound, malaria and dysentery. He resigned from the army on May 18, 1865.

Averell, a life-long Democrat, was appointed on October 2, 1866, as consul general in

(con't on page 9)



Above: a map of the battle of Kelly's Ford on March 17, 1863. Below: a map of Chancellorsville illustrates some topographical features that Averill told Gen. Hooker included no adjacent field upon which to stage a cavalry fight.

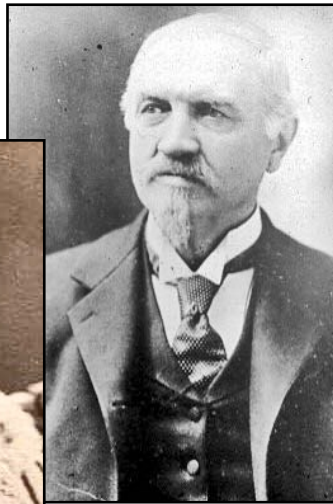


Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

Montreal, Canada. He held that post until June 1, 1869, when Pres. Grant named a Republican to succeed him. After moving back to Bath, NY, he became interested in asphalt, was awarded several patents for a new formula for the pavement material and had very successful companies dealing the substance. In 1875, two interesting things his asphalt company did was to pave Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, and also 5th Avenue in New York. Now every time you drive or walk on Pennsylvania Avenue, you can thank a Civil War general for having been instrumental in developing asphalt. He also received a patent for an asphaltic conduit for underground electrical systems to propel streetcars. Additionally, he owned the Averell Coal and Oil Company.

He tried running for Congress in 1878 but was unsuccessful. On September 24, 1885, William Averell married for the first time to an English widow, Kezia Hayward Browning. On their marriage license he listed his occupation as engineer, manager and inventor. They lived at 121 Liberty Street in Bath, NY, which is now a Sherwin Williams store. The couple had no children.

In 1888, he was reinstated into the U.S. Army by a special act of Congress and placed on the retired list as a captain. He



Above: Averell later in life; at left: his wife, Kezia Hayward Browning.

wanted to accomplish this, as a way to avenge his firing by Sheridan 24 years earlier. He was appointed by Pres. Grover Cleveland as an assistant inspector general of soldiers' homes. He resigned the position in 1898.

Some other interesting things he was involved with include the capture of Confederate spy Rose Greenhow alongside the Pinkertons; he was present at Lincoln's review at Bailey's Crossroads; had an enslaved man named Jim, and sued the Barber Asphalt Paving Company and won a \$700,000 judgment after 17 years of

litigation. He, David McMurtrie Gregg and George Bayard were the principal cavalry instructors for the Army of the Potomac.

Gen. William Woods Averell died on February 3, 1900, at age 68, and is buried in Bath's Grove Cemetery, East Morris Street & Delaware Avenue, in Section 3, Row 8, Lot 11B. I must say, his grave is by far the easiest I have ever found. The directions said he is buried in the back of the cemetery next to a mausoleum. The cemetery is very small and there was one mausoleum. Bingo – found my 426th general. I surely wish they were all that easy. At the request of member Denis Lyddane, who gave me a coin to put on the next grave I found, I placed the coin on the general's grave.



The Averells' headstone in Grove Cemetery, Bath, NY.

Photo by Janet Greentree



Gen. Averell's house, post-war, in Bath, NY.

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 426 - 169 Confederate and 257 Union. You may contact her at jlgrtree@erols.com.

Upcoming Speaker – (con't from page 1)

secession and the Civil War (1860-1865). He was just 12 when he began and he died at 17, just weeks after the war ended. His remarkable account spans the gamut of life events that were of interest to a precocious and well-educated Southern teenager—including military, political, religious, social, and literary matters of the day. This alone ranks it as an important contribution to our understanding of life and times in the Old South. His diary is also the only known account of the Civil War from the perspective of a young make non-combatant. These five years of detailed entries make LeRoy's diary an exceedingly rare (and perhaps unique) social history from the nineteenth century. We're so excited to have the author come visit us!

Janet Croon has recently retired from teaching advanced high school history in Fairfax

County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science, with Modern European History and Russian Language Area Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1983) and a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Dayton (1985). She has been teaching International Baccalaureate History for nearly two decades and developed a deep interest in the Civil War by living in northern Virginia. Originally from the Chicago area, she has lived in several places, including Dayton, OH; Albuquerque, NM, and Wiesbaden, Germany, before eventually ending up in the Northern Virginia suburbs. Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet and dine with Janet at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Parkway, Centreville VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

President's Report – (con't from page 3)

folds. Marketing Committee lead, Stephanie Vale, needs some volunteers as she unveils our BRCWRT to a larger audience in the region. As a member, you can volunteer in many of our committee groups. Please contact a committee chair to get started. We can use your help.

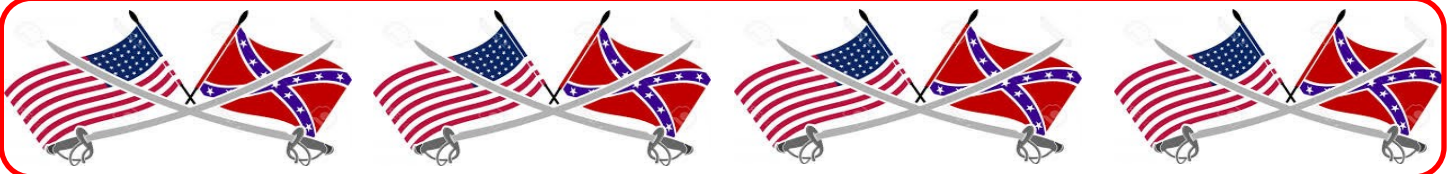
Please try to make it out to each meeting, as we will have so much local Civil War information to get out to you, and we also provide an opportunity for you to find friends with whom you can enjoy fellowship. As always, this month every

month in 2020, we will continue to offer for sale Ed Wenzel's Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County. The BRCWRT 25th anniversary book will also be on sale at the meeting and on the Web site. As the year moves forward, we will be here bringing you the best Civil War lectures, tours, events, picnic and newsletters in the region, with preservation and education as a solid part of our mission!

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

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Newest Recruit!
Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for these new members of the BRCWRT:

♦ **Mary Shine**





PRINCE WILLIAM

Historic Preservation

December Events and Programs

The grounds of the historic sites are open daily from dawn until dusk and the sites are open for tours during special events and by appointment. Call (703) 792-4754 to schedule your tour today.

Upcoming Event at

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 20136



Civil War Christmas & Concerts

Dec 14 | 5–8pm | FREE EVENT

During the winter of 1861, Prince William County was home to nearly 70,000 soldiers who spent Christmas here instead of in their homes. Step back over 150 years to see how soldiers and civilians celebrated Christmas time during the Civil War. Walk through camps by candlelight and interact with soldiers to learn about Christmas customs of the past. Get your picture taken with a Civil War Santa and enjoy hot cider as you enjoy a musical performance by the Brentsville District High School Choir at 7pm and sing along!

Upcoming Events at

Rippon Lodge Historic Site

15520 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

(703) 499-9812



Holidays Through The Ages

Dec 6-8, Dec 13-15 & Dec 20–22 | 11am–4am | \$5 | Ages 5+

Stroll through seasonal celebrations of the past at Rippon Lodge Historic Site. With interiors and exteriors richly decorated for the holidays, guests view seasonal festivities over the centuries as well as different religions, from the Colonial Period through the 1940s.

Candlelight Tours

Dec 7 | 6–9pm | \$7 | Ages 6+

For one night only, view Rippon Lodge by candlelight at Christmastime. Beginning with a special tree lighting ceremony with tree ornaments decorated by local schoolchildren, visitors will marvel at the beautifully lit historic grounds and buildings. Guests may tour the Holiday through the Ages decorations by candlelight, listen to music, see World War II reenactors on the grounds, enjoy making seasonal crafts, a warm beverage, and shopping and holiday cookies.

Santa Visits Rippon Lodge

Dec 14 | 1–3pm | \$3 | All Ages

You better watch out! You better not cry! Santa Claus is visiting Rippon Lodge for one afternoon only. Be on your best behavior and keep your name on the “Nice” list. Parents will be given special “Things Santa Should Know” cards upon arrival.



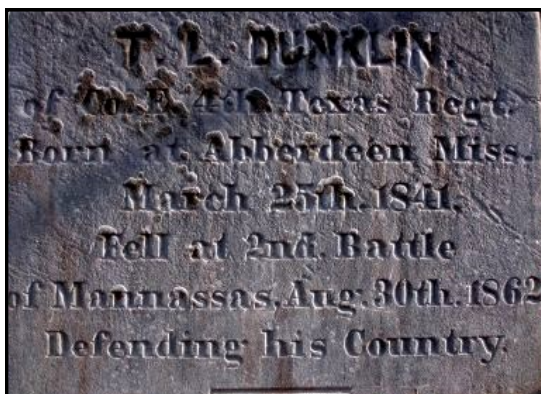
PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS

Gainesville Crossing

Members may recall that in November 2017, a Gainesville Crossing Rezoning Request was submitted to Prince William County to rezone ± 190.56 acres from A-1, Agricultural, and M-2, Light Industrial, to PMD, Planned Mixed Use District, to allow a mixed-use development consisting of 1,150 dwelling units (townhouses and multifamily), and approximately 796,000 sq. ft. of nonresidential uses (office, office flex, assisted living, and retail).

This property (informally known as the Latsios tract), an approximately 200-acre tract along Pageland Lane opposite Stuart's Hill & Manassas National Battlefield Park Headquarters & Visitor Center, is located on the south side of Lee Hwy. (Route 29) between its intersections with Heathcote Blvd./ I-66 Exit 43B off ramp and Pageland Lane and includes land area on both the north and south sides of I-66. Historically, the tract is associated with the Battle of 2nd Manassas (Bull Run); (1) Confederate artillery located on this ground supported the opening stages of Jackson's engagement with Union forces at Brawner Farm on August 28th, (2) site of the Lee, Jackson and Longstreet meeting on August 29th, (3) site of a Texas field hospital, (4) site of a monument to Timothy Dunklin, 4th Texas Infantry, mortally wounded in the Battle of 2nd Manassas and died at the Texas field hospital.



The Dunklin Monument

Construction of the University Drive Park & Ride Lot (part of the Transform I66 Outside the Beltway project) injected a new and previously unknown (to the developer) factor into development planning. In November 2018, the developer (Gainesville GGP c/o Buchanan Partners) submitted a request for a special

Use Permit (SUP) to permit data centers on the property. Based on this request, Prince William County continued to await a revised Gainesville Crossing rezoning request.



Lee-Jackson-Longstreet Meeting Marker

In August 2019, the developer submitted a rezoning request, #REZ2018-00008, Gainesville Crossing to rezone ± 152.7 acres from A-1, Agricultural, to PBD, Planned Business District (PBD), to allow a mix of commercial uses, and a modification to allow for by-right data centers, an electric substation, and other uses in the PBD.

On November 14, 2019 BRCWRT received, via email, a letter from the attorney handling the Gainesville Crossing rezoning request for the developer. This letter, dated November 8, 2019, indicated that the developer (and attorney) had been provided a copy of BRCWRT's January 24, 2018 letter, and had been working diligently with the Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park on the project and the proposed proffers. Proposed proffers relevant to the initial concerns raised by BRCWRT include:

The applicable archaeological sites are those identified as 44 PW 1792 and the area identified on Exhibit A hereto. Site 44 PW 1792, adjacent to the William H. Brown House, will be the subject of a Phase II study including metal detection and a review of the life of William H. Brown. The area described on Exhibit A will be subject to metal detecting and a report regarding the purported artillery incident on or near the property pursuant to the scope of work prepared by the County Archaeologist as of September 23, 2019. The Applicant will curate in accordance with the recommendations of the reports. The reports and curation shall be in accordance with accepted standards, and the reports shall be prepared and submitted to the Director of Planning or his or her designee prior to submission of the first site plan.

Land Bay D (area including the site of the Texas field hospital site and the Dunklin monument) shall

(con't on page 13)

Preservation Report – (con't from page 12)

be donated to the American Battlefield Trust or its designee with a restrictive covenant that it shall remain maintained in an undisturbed state except as provided below. If the American Battlefield Trust declines said donation, the Applicant shall donate the land bay D to the County, or its designee or, if they decline said donation, then the County. Said donation shall occur prior to the final site plan approval for land bay A. The Applicant shall contribute \$25,000.00 to the American Battlefield Trust or its designee within one year of final nonappealed zoning approval for plantings in or improvements to land bay D related to the Civil War, such as the relocation of an historical marker currently located in Conway Robinson State Forest, a Civil War Trail interpretive sign, and the repair of the Dunklin Monument.



Site of Improvements

Based on the attorney's November 14, 2019 letter, the developer effectively addressed all BRCWRT requests and concerns with the exception of the Lee-Jackson-Longstreet meeting marker and proposed historical site/kiosk at the pond. An issue concerning the capacity of the local electrical power infrastructure has been identified by PWC residents and the Prince William Conservation Alliance. The specific issue, stemming from the multi-year contention involving the Amazon data center and the Haymarket transmission line planned by Dominion, concerns the capacity of the planned/in-place electrical power infrastructure to support both Amazon's planned Data Center as well as the data centers (up to 4.5 million square feet) proposed for Gainesville Crossing.

On November 19, 2019 BRCWRT submitted a letter to the PWC Planning Office with our concerns regarding Rezoning Request#REZ2018-00008,

Gainesville Crossing. The substantive content of the BRWRT letter is summarized below.

Consistent with our January 2018 letter to the PWC Planning Office, BRCWRT remains committed to ensuring that any development of the subject land tract include a Lee, Jackson, Longstreet August 28, 1862 meeting historical site/kiosk area near the pond bordering US Route 29 (directly across Rt. 29 from the current location of the Lee, Jackson, Longstreet meeting marker in Conway Robinson State Forest).

Though the Rezoning Request indicates that the pond will remain as is (and not used for storm water management), the request did not include the requested historical site/kiosk area with the relocated meeting marker (currently located in Conway Robinson State Forest). The rezoning request envisions the existing meeting marker potentially being relocated to Land Bay D, being donated to the ABT or its designee along with \$25,000 for land bay work/upgrades including repair of the Dunklin Monument. The meeting site is sufficiently documented to have occurred at or near the pond (site of Lee's field HQ), not the area within Land Bay D. Why couldn't a historical site/kiosk area be located near the pond and tied into the planned trail on the south side of Lee Highway?

As a result of the controversy surrounding the Haymarket Transmission Lines required to provide sufficient electrical power to support the Amazon data center, PWC amended the County's Zoning Ordinances regarding data centers, and established a Data Center Overlay District. One of the Zoning Ordinance amendments mandates that data centers proposed outside of the overlay district go through an SUP process both for the data center itself and any accompanying substation - - specifically instituted to ensure that such new data center locations had access to sufficient infrastructure. The proposed data center complex is located outside the

(con't on page 14)

Preservation Report – (con't from page 13)

PWC-established Data Center Overlay District, and it may be questionable whether the Haymarket transmission line would have the capacity to meet the electrical power requirements of the proposed data center complex at Gainesville Crossing. This issue is not addressed in the PWC Staff assessment and recommendation. Has any PWC office looked at this electrical power capacity issue? What are the potential implications for the proposed data center plans, including the impact on MNBP if power transmission line capacity this becomes an issue?

On November 20, 2019 The PWC Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the Gainesville Crossing rezoning request. The Planning Commission voted 6-2 to forward the request to the PWC Board of Supervisors for consideration, with two stipulations/amendments; 1) confirmation from Dominion, certified by professional engineers, that the no additional power transmission will be required to service the proposed data centers, and 2) inclusion of 'hard data' that indicates where the power for the proposed data centers is coming from, location of transmission lines that will service the proposed data centers, and the redundancy plan for sustaining electrical power in case of emergency(ies). The date of the Board of Supervisor consideration and Public Hearing is 'to be determined.'

Ox Hill Battlefield Park

Many of you have been following BRCWRT's initiatives regarding Fairfax County's Ox Hill Battlefield Park, including installation of the *Ox Hill* and *Chantilly* monuments, conducting annual commemorations of the battle and development of the Ox Hill (Chantilly) battle app.

Led by Greg Wilson the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) Battle App team, including Ed Wenzel, Blake Myers, Charlie Balch and Eric Sebastian, have been working on several fronts to move this project forward. In addition to developing the content for otential use on the battle app, they have met with American Battlefield Trust (ABT) representatives, providing an Ed Wenzel-led tour and discussion of the history and interpretation of Ox Hill Battlefield Park followed by an in-depth discussion of form and content desired for the battle app. As the content

development work continues, including tailoring content specifically for Ox Hill Battlefield Park, the team is working to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ABT and BRCWRT that will address the specific responsibilities of each party regarding the development and hosting of the battle app.

Planning for the 2020 Commemoration of the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) has begun and BRCWRT has established a Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) Commemoration Committee to plan, oversee and conduct the commemoration. Led by Blake Myers, committee members to date are Ed Wenzel, Greg Wilson, Scott Atkinson and Dave Welker, but we need more volunteers/members - specific skill/talent needs include videographers, photographers, volunteers to design and make commemoration displays (envisioned to focus on the battle, the park's history, park preservation, etc.), volunteers to design and develop marketing materials (flyers, newspaper notices, etc.), event organizers and coordinators, and volunteers for BRCWRT's information table. While initial planning is underway, the Commemoration Committee will begin its work after the New Year (Jan 1, 2020). If you are interested in joining the committee and helping with the planning and conduct of the 2020 Commemoration, please contact Blake Myers, or any committee member.

BRCWRT's efforts regarding the installation of the *Ox Hill* and *Chantilly* monuments at Ox Hill Battlefield Park continue - stay tuned for future developments and updates.

Farr's Fort (CW Redoubt on George Mason University Campus)

BRCWRT is continuing in its efforts and work with George Mason University (GMU) to preserve and interpret the Farr's Fort site located on GMU's Fairfax Campus. On September 24, 2019 Dr. Bran Platt and Blake Myers met with Frank Strike, Vice President Facilities, and Doug Lipscomb, GMU Assistant Vice President Planning and Design, to discuss implementation of the Initial Draft Farr's Fort Treatment Plan prepared by our Farr's Fort preservation team. Doug informed us that he had discussed the site and treatment plan with Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and that DHR strongly recommended that a site archaeologi-

(con't on page 15)

Preservation Report – (con't from page 14)

cal assessment be done prior to any site disturbance, including preservation or interpretation project work. As GMU has no archaeological department, Doug's recommendation was to add a site archaeological assessment to the cultural resources assessment planned as part of the development of the Mason Master Plan, due to begin this Fall (2019).



Views of Farr's Fort – early Fall (above) and early Spring (below).



In a series of email requests for information and updates in November 2019, Blake Myers received the following from Doug Lipscomb on November 18th, “Due to other causes as of last week we are currently not proceeding with the parking lot project which would have funded the archaeological assessment.

Therefore, we have no source to fund the archaeological assessment at this time. Depending upon funding level we may incorporate this effort into our Master Plan which we will be initiating in the relative near term.”

Doug provided additional clarification on November 19th, “As per the Virginia Department of Historic Resources we are directed not to proceed with any modifications, improvements, etc. associated with the Fort Farr area until we have completed an archaeological assessment. The parking study and associated archaeological assessment is not proceeding at this time. It is possible if funding allows that this will be incorporated into the Master Plan - the scope of which I am currently negotiating with a consultant. I have no other information at this time on the subject.

We are currently working with Dr. Brian Platt, GMU's Chair of the Department of History and Art History, in following up with Virginia DHR and Doug Lipscomb to determine a way forward to, 1) implement GMU Senior Vice President Carol Kissal's June 5, 2019 guidance to preserve and interpret the Farr's Fort Site, 2) consider site preservation and interpretation in terms of both short- and long-term actions, and 3) revise and update, as appropriate, and then implement the Initial Draft Treatment Plan.

Stay tuned for further developments and updates.

The Latest on Farr's Fort - Civil War Redoubt on the George Mason University Campus

BRCWRT is continuing in its efforts and work with George Mason University (GMU) to preserve and interpret the Farr's Fort site located on GMU's Fairfax Campus. On September 24, 2019 Dr. Bran Platt and Blake Myers met with Frank Strike, Vice President Facilities, and Doug Lipscomb, GMU Assistant Vice President Planning and Design, to discuss implementation of the Initial Draft Farr's Fort Treatment Plan prepared by our Farr's Fort preservation team. Doug informed us that he had discussed the site and treatment plan with Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and that DHR strongly recommended that a site archaeological assessment be done prior to any site disturbance, including preservation or interpretation project work. As GMU has no archaeological department, Doug's recommendation was to add a site archaeological assess-

ment to the cultural resources assessment planned as part of the development of the Mason Master Plan, due to begin this Fall. In a series of email requests for information and updates in November 2019, Blake Myers received the following from Doug Lipscomb on November 18th, “Due to other causes as of last week we are currently not proceeding with the parking lot project which would have funded the archaeological assessment. Therefore, we have no source to fund the archaeological assessment at this time. Depending upon funding level we may incorporate this effort into our Master Plan which we will be initiating in the relative near term.” Doug provided additional clarification on November 19th, “As per the Virginia Department of Historic Resources we are directed not to proceed with any modifications,

(con't on page 16)

Farr's Fort – (con't from page 15)

improvements, etc. associated with the Fort Farr area until we have completed an archaeological assessment. The parking study and associated archaeological assessment is not proceeding at this time. It is possible if funding allows that this will be incorporated into the Master Plan - the scope of which I am currently negotiating with a consultant. I have no other information at this time on the subject.

On December 4, 2019 Blake Myers participated in a teleconference with Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) during which Blake provided a summary of the current Farr's Fort preservation initiative with GMU since 2015, and DHR confirmed the essence its discussion with Doug Lipscomb. During the DHR – Doug Lipscomb discussion, DHR informed Doug that as an archaeological site recorded with DHR and as the site was state-owned property, a DHR permit is required before any ground disturbing work is done on the site. DHR also recommended a site archaeological assessment be done prior to any work on the site. Based on DHR's request, Blake provided (via email)

Brian Corle's ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESMENT OF SITE 44FX185 THE EARTHWORK AT FARR'S CROSSROADS and the INITIAL DRAFT FARR'S FORT TREATMENT PLAN. After DHR reviews Brian Corle's report and the Initial Draft Treatment Plan, DHR plans to schedule a teleconference including DHR, GMU representatives Doug Lipscomb and Dr. Brian Platt, and Blake to discuss the project and potential next steps.

BRCWRT continues to work with Dr. Brian Platt, GMU's Chair of the Department of History and Art History, in following up with Virginia DHR and Doug Lipscomb to determine a way forward to, 1) implement GMU Senior Vice President Carol Kissal's June 5, 2019 guidance to preserve and interpret the Farr's Fort Site, 2) consider site preservation and interpretation in the context of both short- and long-term actions, and 3) revise, as appropriate, finalize and then implement the Farr's Fort Treatment Plan.

Stay tuned for further developments and updates.



Stratford Hall
HOME of THE LEES of VIRGINIA



Christmastide

December 14 @ 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 pm.

Experience the magic of the season on December 14 at a special Holiday Program by Stratford Hall, Christmastide !

Christmastide Dinner

December 14 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

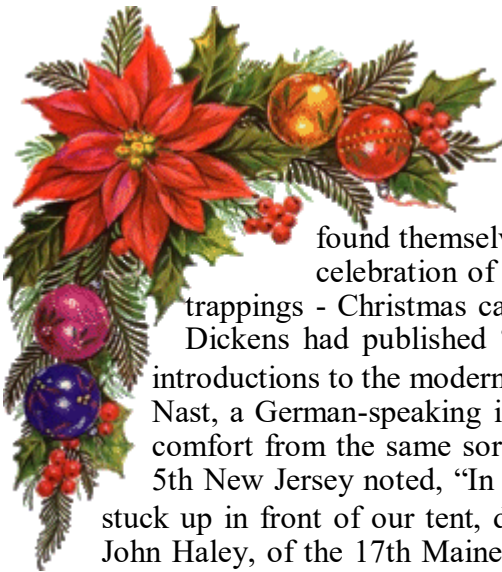
Dining Room at Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road
Stratford, VA 22558

Dine at Stratford Hall on December 14, 2019 for a special Christmastide Dinner, catered by local favorite Relish Restaurant! Reservations now open.



Christmas During the Civil War

* From the *American Battlefield Trust* Web Site



It can be difficult to relate to the men and women of the Civil War era. Despite the extraordinarily different circumstances in which they found themselves, however, we can connect with our forebears in traditions such as the celebration of Christmas. By the mid-19th century, most of today's familiar Christmas trappings - Christmas carols, gift giving and tree decoration — were already in place. Charles Dickens had published “A Christmas Carol” in 1843 and indeed, the Civil War saw the first introductions to the modern image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus through the drawings of Thomas Nast, a German-speaking immigrant. Civil War soldiers in camp and their families at home drew comfort from the same sorts of traditions that characterize Christmas today. Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey noted, “In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc.” John Haley, of the 17th Maine, wrote in his diary on Christmas Eve that, “It is rumored that there are sundry boxes and mysterious parcels over at Stoneman’s Station directed to us. We retire to sleep with feelings akin to those of children expecting Santa Claus.”

In one amusing anecdote, a Confederate prisoner relates how the realities of war intruded on his Christmas celebrations: “A friend had sent me in a package a bottle of old brandy. On Christmas morning I quietly called several comrades up to my bunk to taste the precious fluid of...DISAPPOINTMENT! The bottle had been opened outside, the brandy taken and replaced with water...and sent in. I hope the Yankee who played that practical joke lived to repent it and was shot before the war ended.”

For many, the holiday was a reminder of the profound melancholy that had settled over the entire nation. Southern parents warned their children that Santa might not make it through the blockade, and soldiers in bleak winter quarters were reminded, more acutely than ever, of the domestic bliss they had left behind. Robert Gould Shaw, who would later earn glory as the commander of the 54th Massachusetts, recorded in his diary, “It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in merry humor.” On the Con-



federate home front, Sallie Brock Putnam of Richmond echoed Shaw’s sentiment: “Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us...We had neither the heart nor inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a sad calamity hovered over us.” For the people of Fredericksburg, Virginia, which had been battered only a matter of days before Christmas, or Savannah, Georgia, which General Sherman had presented to President Lincoln as a gift, the holiday season brought the war to their very doorsteps.

Christmas during the Civil War served both as an escape from and a reminder of the awful conflict rending the country in two. Soldiers looked forward to a day of rest and relative relaxation, but had their moods tempered by the thought of separation from their loved ones. At home, families did their best to celebrate the holiday, but wondered when the vacant chair would again be filled.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The *Stone Wall*

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2020 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:

Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ **STATE**_____ **ZIP**_____

PHONE_____ **E-MAIL**_____