



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVII, Issue 3, APRIL 2020

A Beleaguered President Endures Life's Tribulations with Humor

Contributed by Nadine Mironchuk

In these difficult times, when the usual diversions from our responsibilities have been taken from us, it may be restorative to enjoy the humorous observations of one of the most burdened people in history - President Abraham Lincoln.

"I have often known him within the space of a few minutes to be transformed from the saddest face I have ever looked upon to one of the brightest and most mirthful. It was well known that he had his great fountain of humor as a safety valve; as an escape and entire relief from the fearful exactions his endless duties put upon him. In the gravest consultations of the cabinet where he was usually a listener rather than a speaker, he would often end dispute by telling a story and none misunderstood it; and often when he was pressed to give expression on particular subjects, and his always abundant caution was baffled, he many times ended the interview by a story that needed no elaboration." - Col. Alexander K. McClure

It was the President's overweening desire to accommodate all persons who came to him soliciting favors, but the opportunity was never offered until an untimely and unthinking disease, which possessed many of the characteristics of one of the most dreaded maladies, confined him to his bed at the White House.

The rumor spread that the President was afflicted with this disease, while the truth was that it was merely a very mild attack of varioloid. The office-seekers didn't know the facts, and for once the Executive Mansion was clear of them.

One day, a man from the West, who didn't read the papers, but wanted the post office in his town, called at the White House. The President, being then practically a well man, saw him. The caller was engaged in a voluble endeavor to put his capabilities in the most favorable light, when the President interrupted him with the remark that he would be compelled to make the interview short, as his doctor was due.

"Why, Mr. President, are you sick?" queried the visitor.

"Oh, nothing much," replied Mr. Lincoln, "but

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS Postponed Until Further Notice



**When rescheduled, join us at
7 p.m.
at the Centreville Library**

**Each Second Thursday
of the Month**

Check: bullruncwrt.org for updates.

the physician says he fears the worst."

"What worst, may I ask?"

"Smallpox," was the answer; "but you needn't be scared. I'm only in the first stages now."

The visitor grabbed his hat, sprang from his chair, and without a word bolted for the door.

"Don't be in a hurry," said the President placidly; "sit down and talk awhile."

"Thank you, sir; I'll call again," shouted the Westerner, as he disappeared through the opening in the wall.

"Now, that's the way with people," the President said, when relating the story afterward. "When I can't give them what they want, they're dissatisfied, and say harsh things about me; but when I've something to give to everybody they scamper off."

~

The President told of a southern Illinois preacher who, in the course of his sermon, asserted that the Saviour [sic] was the only perfect man who had ever appeared in this world; also that there was no record, in the Bible or elsewhere, of any perfect woman having lived upon the earth.

Whereupon there arose in the rear of the church a persecuted-looking personage who, the

(con't on page 16)

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The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.

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

Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2255
703.830.2223

For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the Web site: <http://bullruncwrt.org>

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **May 2020 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, April 20, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **May 2020 issue**, advertisers - please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on April 10, to Charlie Balch at: BRCWRTads@gmail.com

Support the BRCWRT in its 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 2020 MEETINGS

June 11: Author and Historian Richard Quest - "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"



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The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Fellow BRCWRT members -

Given the seriousness of the COVID-19 epidemic and in compliance with Governor Ralph Northam's order, all April and May BRCWRT events are cancelled or postponed. The Governor's order currently extends to June 10, so we will consider whether to cancel our June 11 general meeting as we get into May. Doug Horhota will work with Field Trip sponsors to reschedule the Field Trips planned for April and May for times later in this year.

Alan Day, our Webmaster, reminds us that the Bull Run Civil War Round Table records the talks & posts them on its website with the graphic materials. People can listen online or download the materials. He has also collected C-SPAN Civil War urls for their weekend history series. Visit: http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/AudioArchives/Audio_menu.html. In addition, we are planning to post weekly video messages on our website and on our Face Book page (thank you Stephanie Vale).

Those of you who have not yet renewed your membership for 2020, please go to our website at bullruncwrt.org, and renew by credit card or mail your check (made out to BRCWRT) to Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122. We will continue our robust schedule of lectures (arranged by Mark Trbovich), field trips (arranged by Doug Horhota), and special events (arranged by Greg Wilson) as soon as it is safe to do so. See the Schedule of Events printed on the next page, and on our webpage.

Until we meet again, enjoy your seclusion/social distancing more by reading this edition of the *Stone Wall*, with its many informative articles prepared by our members. Also, please see Blake Myer's Preservation Report posted on our webpage.

More Great Web-sites to Visit in Upcoming Weeks

20 virtual fieldtrips

https://adventuresinfamilyhood.com/20-virtual-field-trips-to-take-with-your-kids.html?fbclid=IwAR0MDd6PvjVsDRMwz-ydpDBIO5Ue8_IV5DvHBGwYjNdmruOkzTkC9I0BUBI

The Ultimate Guide to Virtual Museum Resources, E-Learning and Online Collections

http://mcn.edu/a-guide-to-virtual-museum-resources/?fbclid=IwAR1r8BNTIwcrwva_83775t6Dv5qNkvIbee9yIPhGGGo24_xjeIRCe6ouUM

BRCWRT's John Grady - Virginia Historical Society talk on Matthew Fontaine Maury

[https://www.virginiahistory.org/read-watch-listen/video-and-audio/"matthew-fontaine-maury-last-crusade"-john-grady](https://www.virginiahistory.org/read-watch-listen/video-and-audio/)

America's Civil War Museum talk on scientists at war :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wurMvM1SSYA>

David Blight - Frederick Douglass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1kXKIKCrLM>

Mister Lincoln Lecture Series - Alan Guelzo

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLUHqKmasrS0kVgFqWUHKHJsbeNTSNkh>

Craig Symonds - On Lincoln - "Lincoln and His Admirals"

<https://youtu.be/XwQcmEOstVO>

Megan Kate Nelson -3 new videos including her new book - "The Three-Cornered War"

<https://youtu.be/vcOrr3qrySE>

"A House Divided"

<https://youtu.be/9UZ6FnfFWFU>

Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War

https://youtu.be/Jd_xKIPXCaU

Kevin Weddle on Antietam:

<https://youtu.be/orsHewn72H4>

Chuck Veit for his "8 Bells" lectures:

Natural Genius: Brutus de Villeroi and the U.S. Navy's First Submarine

<https://youtu.be/iVdPYAV-KzI>

The Yankee Expedition to Sebastopol

<https://youtu.be/L9SWkwKLldw>

The U.S. Navy's Secret Torpedo Program of 1862

<https://youtu.be/GrZNnQAN1Qg>

James Conroy on Lincoln and the Hampton Road Peace Conference - "Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865"

<https://youtu.be/6BgXHHKBqQY>

Todd Brewster on " Lincoln's Gamble "

<https://youtu.be/MFYBSkRfxOO>

Kate Ramirez – 'Til The Curtain Falls: The Genius of Edwin Booth

<https://youtu.be/7BhdMsO9CFc>

Douglas Egerton on the black Civil War regiments including the 54th - from his Lincoln prize winning book "Thunder at the Gates" - The Black Civil War Regiments that Redeemed America



Bull Run Civil War Round Table 2020 Program of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Comment</u>
April 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Deborah Mueller – “Clara Barton”	<u>Cancelled</u>
April 11	<u>Field Trip</u> – “1863 Cavalry Battles in Loudoun County” – Richard Gillespie	<u>Postponed</u>
May 9	<u>Field Trip</u> – “Centreville Confederate Military Railroad” – Blake Myers	<u>Postponed</u>
May 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Steve Ditmeyer – “Railroads, Herman Haupt, and the Battle of Gettysburg”	<u>Cancelled</u>
May 29	<u>Knoxville TN Public School Bus Tour</u> – Manassas National Battlefield Park – Doug Horhota	<u>Cancelled</u>
May 30	<u>Spring Special Event</u> – “Tracing Your Civil War and Other Military Ancestors” – Laura Wickstead (Virginia Room Librarian, Fairfax County Public Library) + individual BRCWRT Members’ Stories Fairfax City Regional Library, Meeting Rooms A&B, 9:00 a.m. to noon Informal lunch at nearby restaurant after	<u>Cancelled</u>
June 11	Annual Scholarship Presentation and Monthly Meeting Speaker: Richard Quest – “I Held Lincoln”	Confirmed, but subject to Cancellation.
June 13	<u>Field Trip</u> – “Kernstown” – Larry Turner	Full-day tour
July 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ed Bearss – “Civil War Q&A Session”	Confirmed
August 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski – “Grant’s Last Battle – Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant”	Confirmed
September 5	<u>Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly Commemoration</u> Ox Hill Battlefield Park 4134 West Ox Road Fairfax, VA	Confirmed
September 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kristen Pawlak – “Battle of Wilson’s Creek”	Confirmed
September 12	<u>Field Trip</u> – “Antietam” – David Welker	Full-day tour
September 27	<u>Annual BRCWRT Free Fall Picnic</u> – The Winery at Bull Run	Confirmed
October 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Noah Cincinnati – “The Political Crisis of Slavery”	Confirmed
October 10	<u>Field Trip</u> – “The Civil War from Mount Vernon to Pohick” – Greg Wilson	Half-day tour
November 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: David Dixon – “The Lost Gettysburg Address”	Confirmed
November 21	<u>Fall Special Event</u> at Manassas Battlefield National Park – Speaker TBD – Open to the Public	TBD
December 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ron Beavers – “Arlington House – The Last Battle of the Civil War”	Confirmed

NOTE: All events are sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and are posted on our Web site: <http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/Meetings.html>. More logistics, sign-up, and contact information will be posted on the website as individual events get closer.

March 31, 2020 Prepared by Greg Wilson



Commemoration Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly)

**Fairfax County's Only Major
Civil War Battle**

**Saturday September 5, 2020
158th Anniversary
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**



**Ox Hill Battlefield Park
(West Ox Road & Monument Drive, Fairfax)**

**Walking, Guided Tours
Park History Presentations
Childrens Activities
Soldier Re-enactors
Living History
Period Music
Commemoration Program
Wreath Laying Ceremony**

**Parking – Fairfax Towne Center
(Monument Drive, opposite the Park)**

**Sponsors: Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) & Father
William Corby Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)**

Ox Hill Battlefield App Update

by Greg Wilson

The Ox Hill Battlefield App currently is under development and making good progress - to be released on schedule, no later than June 2020. A joint project of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and the American Battlefield Trust (the Trust), the app's purpose is twofold: 1) to provide the viewer and visitor to Ox Hill Battlefield Park on West Ox Road in Fairfax, Virginia, with a more complete, virtual experience about the battle inside and outside the park; and 2) educate the user about both past and ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the park's hallowed ground.

While the park is just 4.9 acres, Fairfax County's only major battle during the Civil War covered roughly 500 acres, where Federal and Confederate forces fought for several hours in the middle of a raging summer thunderstorm on September 1, 1862. When completed, the app will allow the viewer or visitor to get a better and more complete visual picture of the entire engagement, beyond the confines of the physical park.

For example, the first map you will see is a current satellite image of the park and surrounding area. The park will be clearly outlined, and other pertinent actions that occurred outside the park's boundaries will be highlighted. When the app is complete, more than forty sites will be listed so viewers and visitors can have a better perspective of precisely what happened where on the battlefield, not just inside the park. These sites include the nine stops and interpretive panels currently found on the park's walking trail. Thanks to our colleague, Ed Wenzel, another thirty-plus sites will be easily identified on the app, which currently are not physically marked, and so not apparent to visitors today. Most stops will also have a brief audio and/or video recording to elaborate on the historical significance of the site.

In addition to the maps and the walking and driving tours, there also will be plenty of other content about the battle. Anyone using the app – either from the comfort of your home, on your computer or while walking at the park – will be able to start with a brief overview of the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly). Viewers and visitors will also be able to identify all the units from the Order of Battle for both the Federal and Confederate armies who fought there. For those with Civil War ancestors, this feature allows the user to quickly see if their ancestor was there based on his unit. Other features include

historical and current pictures, first-person accounts of the fighting, and a section on what observers had to say about that terrible afternoon thunderstorm.

There also will be a tab on the app about the preservation of the park, which was among the first such efforts of the modern era, and probably the only one where a few citizens were able to publicize the imminent destruction of a battlefield, stop the relocation of existing Civil War monuments, and eventually preserve a small fragment of the battleground. In turn, this effort ignited the spark for the national preservation movement across the country by the forerunners of today's American Battlefield Trust. In the late 1980s, Ed Wenzel, Brian Pohanka and Bud Hall (the Chantilly Battlefield Association) were at the forefront of the local battle to preserve the Ox Hill park we know and honor today.

Finally, there will be a section on events, both past and future. Planning is already underway by Blake Myers, Chair of the BRCWRT Historic Preservation Committee, for a commemoration of the battle on September 5, 2020, which is listed on our 2020 Program of Events (see page 5) and which is available on our Web site. Watch the *Stone Wall* for more details about that event, but please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for that special occasion – the first commemoration after the launch of the app.

This effort would not have been possible without the generous financial and other support of the Round Table and its members. The core team of Ed Wenzel, Blake, Charlie Balch, Eris Sebastian, and myself has been working for more than six months to develop the content, and interacting with Larry Swiader and Mike Rosst of the Trust to build the app. Additional help with the content for the project was graciously provided by Dave Welker and Chuck Mauro.

If you would like to sign up on the Trust's Web site for the latest release news on the Ox Hill Battle app and be notified as soon as it is available, go to their website at the following link to sign up: <https://www.battlefields.org/visit/mobile-apps/ox-hill-chantilly-tour-app>.

This app will be available for **FREE** on all mobile Web browsers, as well as in the Apple Store and Google Play. Stay tuned for additional updates about the progress of the Ox Hill Battle app on our website and in future editions of the *Stone Wall*.



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Maj. Gen. LaFayette
Huguenin McLaws, CSA**

By Janet Greentree

On one of my most memorable 'Four Days in May' trips with the Boston Civil War Roundtable in 2007, our tour guide was Park Ranger Jim Ogden of the Chickamauga National Battlefield. I know you are all thinking just what this has to do with General McLaws, but..... There is a town in Tennessee called Lafayette near Chickamauga. The proper way to pronounce the name of this town is: *La-Faay-ette*, not *Laaf-ay-ette*. Jim made sure all the tour members knew the proper pronunciation. BRCWRT members on the trip, Nadine Mironchuk and Nancy Anwyll, will never forget this little piece of information. So, the proper way to pronounce General McLaws' name is also *La-Faay-ette*.

Lafayette Huguenin McLaws was born on January 15, 1821 in Augusta, Georgia, to James McLaws of Augusta and Elizabeth Violet Huguenin of South Carolina. His ancestry was Scotch and French Huguenot. The family consisted of three boys and two girls. His brother Abraham would later become a major in the CSA. His brother William would become a judge. McLaws' early education was at local schools in Augusta. In 1837, he went to the University of Virginia for one year. While there, he was appointed to West Point (1838) and graduated with the class of 1842. Some of the illustrious men who were in his class were: John Newton, William Rosecrans, Alexander Stewart, John Pope, Abner Doubleday, D.H. Hill, George Sykes, Earl Van Dorn, James Longstreet, and Richard Anderson. McLaws graduated 48th out of 56 members of the class. His friend, U.S. Grant, graduated a year behind him, in 1843.

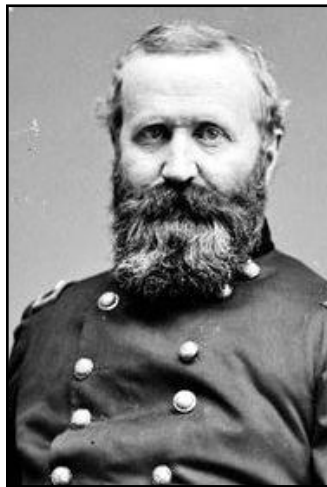
McLaws' first duty station after gradua-

tion was in Texas. In 1845, during regular duty, he was struck by a bullet that had glanced off a tree. He was taken off his horse, was spitting blood, and a wound was found in his chest. His index finger was also hit. It was determined that he had put his finger in his mouth, and that is where the blood came from. The bullet had penetrated his chest and came close to his spine. He was taken back to San Antonio for recovery. He was later sent to Corpus Christi, Mexico, in 1846, under Gen. Zachary Taylor. Like most of his classmates, he fought in the Mexican War at the defense of Fort Brown, Monterey, and Vera Cruz. He witnessed the surrender of Vera Cruz under Gen. Winfield Scott. He returned to the U.S. in poor health and did recruiting duty for a time. While assigned to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, he met Emily Allison Elizabeth Taylor, a niece of Zachary Taylor. They were married on August 9, 1849, in Louisville, KY. They would have seven children.

He was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of New Mexico. He also fought in the 1858 Mormon War. He was then sent to fight the Navajo in 1859-60. Here, he earned distinction for personal bravery and meritorious service. When the South seceded from the Union, McLaws offered his services to the Confederacy, on June 27, 1861 at age 40. He was appointed colonel of the 10th Georgia Regiment and then was quickly appointed brigadier general on September 25, 1861. He was appointed major general on May 22, 1862. The 10th Georgia was commanded by Gen. James Longstreet, with the Army of Northern Virginia, for the entire length of the war, except for a short time in late 1863. The 10th fought at Yorktown, Lee's Mill, Williamsburg, Seven Days Battles, Savage's Station, Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chickamauga (present - not engaged), Chattanooga, Knoxville, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Cedar Creek, Saylor's Creek, and Appomattox Courthouse.

After Harrison's Landing, the 10th went on to Harper's Ferry, where McLaws' men built a road up the Maryland Heights so that their cannons could fire on the town. Although I have never climbed the Maryland Heights, they are extremely high. What fortitude those men had, to accomplish this task. As soon as

(con't on page 8)



Gen. Lafayette H. McLaws

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

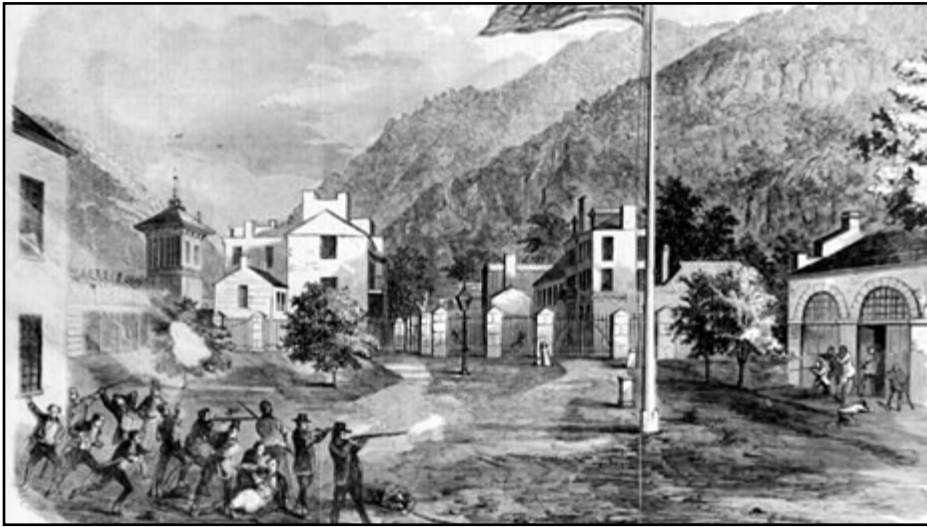


Illustration of Harper's Ferry, showing Maryland Heights.

they began firing on Harper's Ferry, the Union retreated.

The *Dallas Morning News* of August 16, 1897 (in McLaws' obituary) reported: "In the Maryland campaign Gen. McLaws played a prominent part in the capture of Harper's Ferry. It was his division that drove the enemy from and occupied Maryland Heights which commanded the enemy's position at Harper's Ferry."

The 10th fought at Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg with Gen. David Barksdale's Mississippians to keep the Union from crossing the Rappahannock River. Gen. Robert E. Lee praised McLaws' performance at Marye's Heights. Gen. Longstreet recommended McLaws for a corps command after Gen. Stonewall Jackson was killed at Chancellorsville. Both he and Longstreet were disappointed that Lee chose Gens. Ewell and A.P. Hill, instead. McLaws requested a transfer, but it was denied. McLaws' men defeated Gen. John Sedgwick at Salem Church, after Chancellorsville.

At Gettysburg, with Gen. Longstreet, the 10th was part of the party that climbed the hill near the Black Horse Tavern to get to the Emmitsburg Road, but realized they could be seen from the Round Tops. There is a marker at the Black Horse Tavern about McLaws and Gen. George Pickett camping there. Their position on July 2nd was next to the headquarters of Gen. Longstreet. A monument for the Army of Northern Virginia, First Corps, is located on West Confederate Avenue just

At Right: the McLaws-Pickett marker at Gettysburg, noting the site where these generals encamped during the battle.

Photo by Lisa Greentree Tully



after the Millerstown Road, near Longstreet's HQ marker, and across from the Longstreet observation tower, on the right side of the road. It lists the brigades of Kershaw, Barksdale, Semmes, and Wolford, all under Gen. McLaws. The marker about the activities of July 2nd reads: "The Division was placed in position facing the Union line on the Emmitsburg Road. About 4 p.m. the batteries opened on the position the Division pressing to the front and the Union troops retiring to the hill in rear. The battle continued until nearly night when a strong Union force met the supporting Division which was cooperating on the left and drove one brigade back and checked the support of the other brigade exposing the left. It was thought prudent not to push further until other troops came up. The Division was withdrawn to the first position of Union troops resting at the Peach Orchard the conflict to be renewed in the morning when other orders were received."

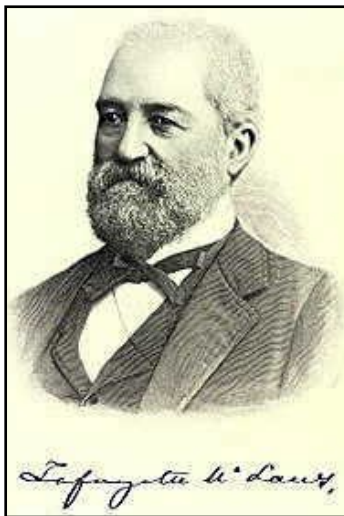
McLaws commanded the Second Division to step off in Longstreet's massive attack on the Union forces in the Wheatfield and Peach Orchard. Many men were lost in that battle. They were only involved in skirmishes the next day, during Pickett's Charge on July 3rd, 1863.

(con't on page 9)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

McLaws' corps went with Longstreet to the Knoxville campaign. At the attack on Fort Sanders, McLaws retreated after he determined that success was not possible. For this, Longstreet made a complaint against McLaws, which ended in a court martial. In a letter to Adj. Gen. Samuel Cooper on December 30, 1863, Longstreet submitted three charges of neglect of duty. Secretary of War James Seddon and President Jefferson Davis were advised. Both determined that Longstreet was not authorized to relieve and assign officers under his command. Gen. McLaws requested a court martial to clear his name. Gen. Cooper acquitted him of the first two charges but found him guilty of "failing in the details of his attack to make arrangements essential to his success." However, Cooper later overturned the verdict, citing fatal flaws in the procedure of the court, and ordered McLaws to return to duty. Even though McLaws was acquitted, he was forever bitter toward Longstreet, who had been his friend and classmate at West Point. Even though Longstreet later defended him, McLaws never fully forgave him.

After Appomattox, McLaws most likely surrendered with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston on April 26, 1865. However, there was no record of his parole on that date, but he was paroled on October 18, 1865. After the war, the general returned to Savannah, working first in insurance, then as a tax collector for the Internal Revenue Service; he was appointed as postmaster of Savannah from 1875-76. He was also prominent in Confederate veterans' organizations. In November 1886, he lectured on the Maryland Campaign in Boston, as well as other cities.



Gen. McLaws later in life.

Gen. Lafayette H. McLaws has a monument in Chippewa Square, Forsyth Park, in Savannah, GA, along with Col. Francis



At left: the controversial Confederate monument in Chippewa Square, Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA, also features a bust of Gen. McLaws (middle) and also of Gen. Bartow (right).

Photos by Janet Greentree

Bartow, who was killed at First Manassas/Bull Run. The *Savannah Morning News* of June 4, 1902 states: "The exercises of the unveiling of the busts imposing and impressive. Military spectacle was one of interest. Gen. Clement A. Evans' address an eloquent tribute to Davis, McLaws, Bartow and the South. Great crowds witness the parade.... Fair hands of sweet young girls pulled the cords; Confederate flags, pure in the spotless beauty of their white fields, were loosed from the encased busts of Confederate heroes and floated free from the staffs to which they were drawn; a thousand soldiers presented arms; thousands of spectators shouted their applause, and the monuments to Gen. Lafayette McLaws and Gen. Francis B. Bartow were unveiled." (Not sure why they called him a general when he was only a colonel at Manassas.)

The large Confederate monument was unveiled in 1876, while McLaws was still alive. The busts were unveiled in 1902. The organizers of the monument insisted the stone must not originate or pass through a northern state on its way to the city. McLaws comments in 1876 about the monument are as follows: "For the honor of the Southern country, of the descendants of the soldiers of Lee, let us hope that no such choice will be made in any instance. But, if it is done, let it be ascribed to the fungus growth of that New South which has none of the Old South in it; and when it is done, with full knowledge and without protest,

(con't on page 10)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 9)

when the day comes, when the honored dead are forgotten and their monuments teach us no lessons let them be taken down, even as the Communists, when they triumphed for the day, in efforts to establish a New France, tore down the monuments illustrative of the past glories of their country, as being not from them or for them. But let ours be not destroyed, but put away with our tattered banners, to wait for the resurrection. Despite desperate cries to the contrary, I don't anticipate a "resurrection" any time soon." I wonder what General McLaws would think about what is going on today with our Confederate statues.

Before being appointed as postmaster of Savannah, the following story was posted in the *Topeka Weekly Capital* on September 14, 1897 (after McLaws death). "When General Grant was elected president, the friends of McLaws urged him to apply for the Savannah post office. The confederate general hesitated for a time, feeling that doing so would incur the censure of southerners.... He thereupon decided to make the application for the office and took the train north to see Grant in person." Grant had left Washington for his cottage in New York. "He had some misgivings as to how the president would receive him. They had not met in years. Approaching the cottage, the confederate general found the president sitting on the veranda, with his feet upon the balustrade, smoking one of those cigars that would end his life.... Hello, Mac: where did you come from, was the greeting that the president gave the Georgian, as he drew near enough



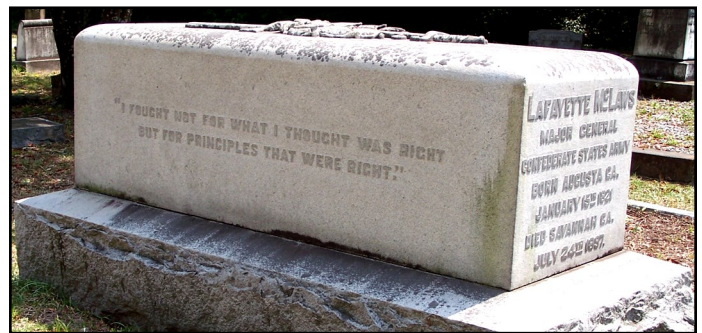
Above, left: well-known National Park Ranger Jim Ogden doing an impression of Grant, highlighting the bad habit Grant had of smoking dozens of cigars each day. At right: former president Ulysses S. Grant on the porch of his cottage in upstate New York; above, right:

Photo above, left, by Janet Greentree



Gen. McLaws' gravestone in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, GA.

Photos by Janet Greentree



for recognition. I am truly glad to see you.... Pull up a chair and tell me how you have been getting along and all about yourself since the last time we met." McLaws had been appointed to the post office by then and had a very nice visit with his old friend Grant. The veranda is the porch that Grant would sit on later in 1885 prior to his death trying to finish his memoirs for the financial security of his family. One of Grant's comments in the article was: "Can you tell me General how to make and save money?"

Gen. McLaws died of heart disease as one of the oldest surviving Confederate generals, at his home in Savannah, at 112 East 52nd Street on July 24, 1897, and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Lot 451, in Savannah. Col. Francis Bartow is also buried there, nearby his fellow countryman.

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.

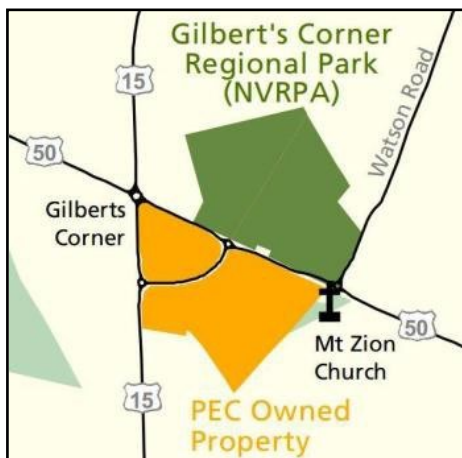


PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

Development Threat to Mt. Zion Battlefield and Mt. Zion Historic Park

Located immediately south of, and directly across Route 50 from, Gilbert's Corner Regional Park (NVRPA) in Aldie, Virginia, sits the Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, constructed in 1851, and Mt. Zion Historic Park.



Mt. Zion Church was a place of worship for Old School Baptists until 1980 and served various purposes during the Civil War, including a rendezvous point for Mosby's Rangers, a hospital, a prison, and a battleground. The adjacent cemetery contains more than 240 marked graves, including those of Civil War soldiers, and a veteran of the War of 1812. The Battle of Mt. Zion on July 6, 1864, pitted Union cavalry under Maj. William Forbes against Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers, who carried the day.

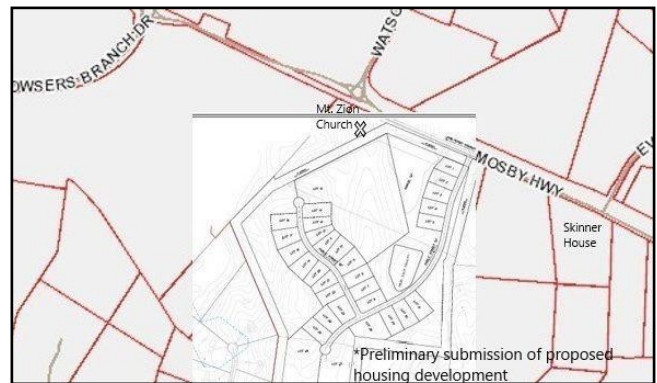


Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery

In February 2020, a developer (yet to be identified) submitted a proposed site plan for the private property immediately adjacent to historic Mt. Zion Church and the Mt. Zion Cemetery. This preliminary

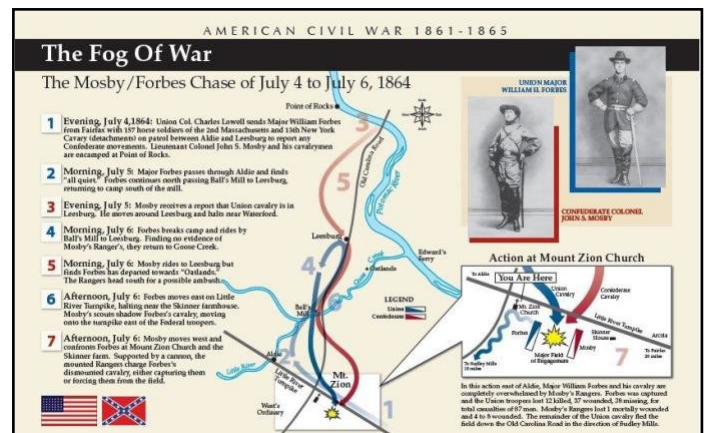
proposed development plan, submitted to Loudoun County Building and Development, would destroy the integrity of the Mt. Zion Battlefield (approximately 230 acres), the extant remnant of the historic Old Carolina Road, the viewshed of historic Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church and its adjoining cemetery, and the adjacent African American burial ground. As currently zoned, there are no restrictions on by-right development for this property.

Several local organizations have joined forces and resources to raise awareness of this threat and to ensure that the historic nature of this landscape is recognized, understood and honored. Led by the



Proposed Development Site Plan

Ohana Preservation Foundation and including the Aldie Heritage Association, the Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Aldie Conservation Fund and the Mt. Zion Cemetery of Aldie, this group is actively working to diffuse and/or mitigate the imminent threat to this historic land. The group has initiated an on-line petition asking Loudoun County and potential developers to protect the viewshed of Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery, Mt. Zion Battlefield and Mt. Zion Historic Park - the gateway to rural Loudoun County. To support this preservation effort, the group has launched a [Protect Mt. Zion](#) website and Facebook page.



The Battle of Mt. Zion – Mosby vs Forbes, July 1864

(con't on page 12)

Preservation Corner – (con't from page 11)

During its March 10, 2020 meeting the BRCWRT Executive Committee voted unanimously to support and join the Protect Mt. Zion preservation group led by the Ohana Preservation Foundation in the campaign to protect Mt. Zion and raise awareness of the development threat to this historic land. BRCWRT is now a member organization and listed as a supporter on the Protect Mt. Zion website.

BRCWRT members are encouraged to support this initiative to protect the Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery, the Mt. Zion Battlefield, and the gateway to rural Loudoun County by:

- Signing the on-line petition <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-mt-zion> (Please

note that the preservation group is not collecting or accepting donations. After you sign the petition, a pop-up may prompt you to donate - those donations will go to ipetitions. You can close the pop-up, if you do not wish to donate to ipetitions.)

- Liking and sharing the Protect Mt. Zion Facebook page.
- Let your friends and family know about this development threat and the Protect Mt. Zion preservation effort, and share the information, website and Facebook page with them.

Historic Signage - Paying Homage

By Brian McEnany

In support of the Education objective of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Jim Lewis and myself presented a class on March 2, 2020, on the process of how historic signage is created, approved, installed and dedicated. The instructor, Dr. Mark Dlugar, heads up the Northern Virginia Community College Public History and Historic Preservation Program at the Loudoun and Annandale sites. It was an evening class and 10 students were in attendance, along with Dr. Dlugar, at the Annandale campus. Jim and I talked for the better part of an hour about the approval process and described several successful case studies. The students were very attentive and asked a number of interesting questions.

The presentation involved describing how the plentiful highway signs and markers along our major highway and byways make their appearance, such as the ones shown here. They offer glimpses into our past, and commemorate historic events, sites, or battles. They offer a brief history lesson if you take the



time to slow down and pull over, or halt your tour to read them.

Jim's research has resulted in a compilation of 'best practices' developed by BRCWRT members over the past 25 years to create some 100(+) historic markers in Fairfax and Prince William counties. Those efforts included the coordination of multiple historic organizations at both county and state level, and required great persistence and accuracy.



The class covered two major types of markers - roadside (vertical) and way-side (interpretive). The entire process involves a great amount of research about the event or site, finding the right location, determining property ownership, finding funding, identifying sponsor groups, and getting county and state approval. In most cases, it takes a year to complete all the steps in the process. But that's not all; once approval is granted, a dedication ceremony with any number of citizens, politicians, musicians, photographers, law enforcement, reenactors, relevant historical groups, and other targeted audiences is advisable. A successful dedication and subsequent publicity raises the level of historic understanding of a particular event, site or battle in the area.

The Round Table will continue to seek opportunities for academic outreach in the future. If there is interest in making these program continuous, please get in touch with Brian McEnany, Education Committee Chair, at bmcenany@cox.net, or talk to him at one of the member meetings.

After Action Report - Wolf Run Shoals Tour

by Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis

Saturday, March 14, was a splendid day with the sun shining brightly, no wind, birds chirping, and the foliage still subdued, enabling maximum viewing pleasure for all attendees. In all, 22 members of the Round Table arrived at the end of Wolf Run Shoals Road. Several subgroups quickly formed before the tour with some elbow bumps to discuss the latest state of affairs regarding the virus. While practicing a little prudent social distancing, everyone gathered at the Civil War Trails marker about ten minutes before 9 to begin the tour.

Brian McEnany oriented the group and gave an overview of the colonial and Civil War history of the site. The Washington-Rochambeau Wagon Route, constructed in Sept. 1781 just before the Battle of Yorktown, ran down the hillside behind the marker. Two regiments of the 2nd Vermont Brigade, camped, picketed and corduroyed the road we arrived on, a major supply route into Prince William county during the Civil War. Regimental camp sites were located in the flat areas just east of the road and two guns of the 2nd Connecticut Artillery were located in earthen embrasures close to where the group stood. A period photo and 1st person map were shown in support of Brian's description.



2nd VT camps at Wolf Run Shoals.

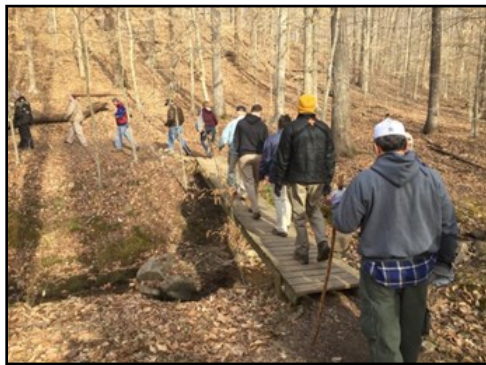


On the banks of the Occoquan.

Jim Lewis then led the group down the old, yet still pristine, roadbed to where it reached the Occoquan River. It was so still that you could almost hear fish jumping. A couple of boats upstream were searching for fish while we talked about the river which was the de facto Mason-Dixon line early in the Civil War. We then walked alongside the river for a short distance to a point where Dry Run joins the Occoquan. There Brian pointed out the route the wagons and soldiers took to cross the three islands that made up the shoals, while Jim supported with a 1937 aerial photograph, that showed them. The shoals are now submerged under 25 to 30 feet of water due to the construction of a dam in 1957 that formed

the Fairfax Reservoir. He pointed out the ridge line where Ford's Mill, the guns and camp sites of the 2nd Vermont soldiers lay on the opposite side of Dry Run, the next stop. Before leaving, Brian and Jim explained the plight of soldiers making forced marches in a heat wave during movement of the Army of the Potomac north in June 1863. A good portion of the right wing of the Army crossed at Wolf Run Shoals during the Gettysburg Campaign.

A ten-minute walk over the Bull Run Occoquan Trail led us to its intersection with Ford's Mill Road where Jim led the group down the ridge. Within a few minutes, the road disappeared and the group ducked



Crossing Dry Run on the bridge.

under branches and stepped over logs to reach the foundations of the Ford family home site. Several of us noted that a number of little clumps of daffodils in full bloom stood waving in the slight breeze. A short distance away, what appeared to be the remnants of a root cellar, was still visible. Jim then led the group farther down the ridge to an overlook where Wolf Run joined the Occoquan. A small sign near the bank identified the location of the foundations of the mill some 60 feet out, now underwater. Jim turned the group around, looking back up towards where the Ford house remnants were located, and showed a period photo of what the area looked like back during the war with everything intact, including the mill. The group was then led back up the ridge to a flat area where several parts of the old mill still lay, and a few feet away, the depressions and head stones of a family cemetery. Jim explained where the parts actually fit into the old mill, using an illustration from the George Page Tool Descriptive Catalog published in the 1800s.

We then cut through the forest to what appeared to be a rock pile that overlooked Dry Run. The pile of

(con't on page 12)

Wolf Run Shoals – (con't from page 11)

rocks was actually a Crimean Oven, built to warm the hospital tents where soldiers recovered from diseases in the camp. Jim discussed how it was used and period photos of the hospital tents that were raised on that site were shown.

From there, the group followed Jim and Brian farther up the ridge to reach a very visible 150-yard long earthen trench line (if you knew where to look for it) that wrapped around the ridge. Standing near the center of the line, one could easily see why it was located at that position to protect the camp sites and guns still farther up the ridge. Some 50 yards behind the trench line, two guns of the 2nd Connecticut Artillery were positioned behind a raised, earthen berm. The fire of the guns at the end of Wolf Run Shoals Road and these two guns provided a perfect crossfire over the ford itself.

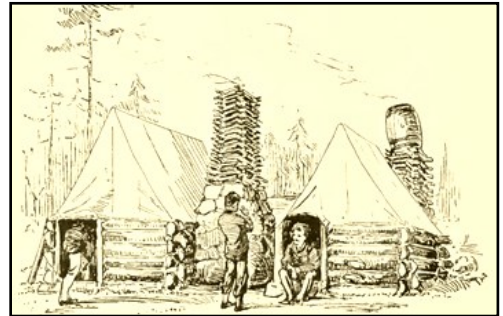
The last stop and climax of the tour included the camp sites of two companies of soldiers from the 2nd Vermont. As the sun's rays filtered through the branches of the trees around us, Brian and Jim pointed to numerous distinct depressions in the ground where the tent sites of the soldiers were positioned. The depressions were lined up side by side, to form a "company street." Different types of tents were discussed. Brian talked about how the tents were "stockaded" with logs and their "pup" tent canvas carried by the soldiers was draped over a ridge pole to form the roof. Chimneys were built along the rear or sides of the structure to keep the soldiers warm. It was a severe winter in early 1863. Period photos were shown to support the discussion. A second series of tent sites with two separate "company streets" were easily identified with the brilliant sunshine. Jim then led the group down to an old forest road and headed back toward the parking lot. Halfway back, the group astutely forded Dry Run and linked up with the Bull Run hiking trail before returning to the Civil War Trails marker.

After collecting the group once more around the marker, Jim finished up with what happened to the 2nd Vermont after it left this site to become part of the Army of the Potomac in late June 1863. Shortly thereafter, Jeb Stuart and his cavalry were able to cross the now unguarded shoals on his controversial circuitous ride to Gettysburg. Jim also made mention of a seminal event that occurred here on April 10, 1865. Earlier in the day, Mosby's Company's D & H were attacked by the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Arundel Tavern, just up the road at today's intersection of Clifton and Ox Roads. That action led to a retreating fight that passed here with the Illinois Cav. giving up the chase down at the shoals. This action just happened to be the last fight in the American Civil War in Northern Virginia.

Jim then pointed out where the Wellington Fairfax cemetery lay just up the road and the farmhouses that he and his family lived in during and after the war. Wellington, a descendant of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax, also happened to be a Mosby Ranger. And, Brian told the last story, a moving, human interest story regarding Mary Willcoxon who nursed a Vermonter, Lt. Carmi Marsh, back to health and how Wellington returned many years later to financially support her each quarter until she passed in 1902.



The Crimean oven.



A sketch of winter tents .



BRCWRT members attending the Wolf Run Shoals trip.

At the end, Jim opened up a black ice bag and passed out "Corona" beer, in tribute to the brave BRCWRT souls who attended the tour. All agreed, it was a fitting end to a day when all were conscious of the potential effects of the Coronavirus sweeping the country. The Round Table was toasted and ten stalwarts joined Brian and Jim at Los Teltocos restaurant near St. Mary's church, to continue talks about the Civil War and local history over another Corona beer and lots of food. It was a fitting end to a tour of the best kept secret in Fairfax County!



PRINCE WILLIAM

Historic Preservation

April Highlights

Plus the Spring Historic Perspective Newsletter

At this time all Prince William County Historic buildings are closed and programs cancelled until further notice as a precautionary measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We look forward to resuming our activities

Visit Prince William County Historic Preservation website for updates regarding hours of operation and upcoming programs.



While Historic Preservation observes the mandatory closures in Prince William County and Virginia, the staff has gone to their cell phones, tablets and computers in a big way!

We are adding new historical content every day to our social media accounts ranging from virtual tours of county historical sites, interesting pieces of local and national history, and fun quiz questions and activities.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

Join us in our mission of historic preservation where on this channel you will be able to learn more about the history of Prince William County, what staff does to reserve our local history, unique how-to videos and more!



Find us on our **Facebook** page



[c/](#)

Spring Historic Perspectives Newsletter

View Spring Newsletter



Bushy Park, Haymarket Dating back to 1791, Bushy Park Historic Site is a small frame house that was originally built on the edge of Matthew Whiting's property near Catharpin Creek. The home passed through the Whiting Family and was eventually sold to an Alexander McMullin whose family lived in the home throughout the Civil War. McMullin willed the property to his grandson, William Buckley, and after his death the house and farm was worked or rented by numerous families, namely the Robertsons, Whitmores, and Childress', in the 20th century. To preserve this reminder of rural Northern Virginia living, the house was moved in 2014 to the current site beside the Gainesville-Haymarket Library. In 2015 the exterior was returned to its original appearance, yet the unrestored interior remains off limits to the public. Since all PWC historic buildings are closed for the near future, why not stop by

Visit Prince William County Historic Preservation Website: <https://www.pwcgov.org/>

Lincoln's Humor – (con't from page 1)

parson having stopped speaking, said "I know a perfect woman, and I've heard of her every day for the last six years."

"Who was she?" asked the minister.

"My husband's first wife," replied the afflicted female.

~

At an editors' banquet held in 1856, Lincoln—not being a journalist—felt rather alienated. Addressing his audience, he compared himself to the ugly horseman. This fellow, while riding one day, happened upon a woman who curtly remarked, "Well, for land sake, you are the homeliest man I ever saw."

"Yes, madam, but I can't help it," he responded.

"No, I suppose not," she allowed, "but you might stay at home."

~

Even presidential nominees get bad hair days. After the 1860 RNC wrapped up, Lincoln recalled, newspaper boys couldn't resist poking fun at his mop.

When I was nominated, at Chicago, an enterprising fellow thought that a great many people would like to see how Abe Lincoln looked, and, as I had not long before sat for a photograph, this fellow having seen it, rushed over and bought the negative. He [published copies] ... and, so active was their circulation, they were selling in all parts of the country. Soon after they reached Springfield I heard a boy crying them for sale on the streets. "Here's your likeness of Abe Lincoln!" he shouted. "Buy one, price only two shillings! Will look a good deal better when he gets his hair combed!"

~

The President had decided to select a new War Minister, and the Leading Republican Senators thought the occasion was opportune to change the whole seven Cabinet ministers. They, therefore, earnestly advised him to make a clean sweep, and select seven new men, and so restore the waning confidence of the country.

The President listened with patient courtesy, and when the Senators had concluded, he said, with a characteristic gleam of humor in his eye:

"Gentlemen, your request for a change of the whole Cabinet because I have made one change reminds me of a story I once heard in

Illinois, of a farmer who was much troubled by skunks. His wife insisted on his trying to get rid of them.

"He loaded his shotgun one moonlight night and awaited developments. After some time, the wife heard the shotgun go off, and in a few minutes the farmer entered the house.

"What luck have you?" asked she.

"I hid myself behind the wood-pile," said the old man, 'with the shotgun pointed towards the hen roost, and before long there appeared not one skunk, but seven. I took aim, blazed away, killed one, and he raised such a fearful smell that I concluded it was best to let the other six go.'"

~

During the war, one of the Northern Governors, who was able, earnest and untiring in aiding the administration, but always complaining, sent dispatch after dispatch to the War Office, protesting against the methods used in raising troops. After reading all his papers, the President said, in a cheerful and reassuring tone to the Adjutant-General:

"Never mind, never mind; those dispatches don't mean anything. Just go right ahead. The Governor is like a boy I once saw at a launching. When everything was ready, they picked out a boy and sent him under the ship to knock away the trigger and let her go.

"At the critical moment everything depended on the boy. He had to do the job well by a direct, vigorous blow, and then lie flat and keep still while the boat slid over him.

"The boy did everything right, but he yelled as if he were being murdered from the time he got under the keel until he got out. I thought the hide was all scraped off his back, but he wasn't hurt at all.

"The master of the yard told me that this boy was always chosen for that job; that he did his work well; that he never had been hurt, but that he always squealed in that way.

"That's just the way with Governor—. Make up your mind that he is not hurt, and that he is doing the work right, and pay no attention to his squealing. He only wants to make you understand how hard his task is, and that he is on hand performing it."

(con't on page 17)

Lincoln's Humor – (con't from page 16)

"That reminds me of a fellow out in Illinois, who had better luck in getting prairie chickens than anyone in the neighborhood. He had a rusty old gun no other man dared to handle; he never seemed to exert himself, being listless and indifferent when out after game, but he always brought home all the chickens he could carry, while some of the others, with their finely trained dogs and latest improved fowling-pieces, came home alone.

"How is it, Jake?" inquired one sportsman, who, although a good shot, and knew something about hunting, was often unfortunate, "that you never come home without a lot of birds?"

"Jake grinned, half closed his eyes, and replied: 'Oh, I don't know that there's anything queer about it. I jes' go ahead an' git 'em.'

"Yes, I know you do; but how do you do it?"

"You'll tell."

"Honest, Jake, I won't say a word. Hope to drop dead this minute."

"Never say nothing, if I tell you?"

"Cross my heart three times."

"This reassured Jake, who put his mouth close to the ear of his eager questioner, and said, in a whisper:

"All you got to do is jes' to hide in a fence corner an' make a noise like a turnip. That'll bring the chickens every time."

~

When Lincoln was a candidate for re-election to the Illinois Legislature in 1836, a meeting was advertised to be held in the courthouse in Springfield, at which candidates of opposing parties were to speak. This gave men of spirit and capacity a fine opportunity to show the stuff of which they were made.

George Forquer was one of the most prominent citizens; he had been a Whig but became a Democrat—possibly for the reason that by means of the change he secured the position of Government land register, from President Andrew Jackson. He had the largest and finest house in the city, and there was a new and striking appendage to it, called a lightning-rod! The meeting was very large. Seven Whig and seven Democratic candidates spoke.

Lincoln closed the discussion. A Kentuckian (Joshua F. Speed), who had heard Henry Clay

and other distinguished Kentucky orators, stood near Lincoln, and stated afterward that he "never heard a more effective speaker;... the crowd seemed to be swayed by him as he pleased." What occurred during the closing portion of this meeting must be given in full, from Judge Arnold's book:

"Forquer, although not a candidate, asked to be heard for the Democrats, in reply to Lincoln. He was a good speaker, and well known throughout the county. His special task that day was to attack and ridicule the young countryman from Salem.

"Turning to Lincoln, who stood within a few feet of him, he said: 'This young man must be taken down, and I am truly sorry that the task devolves upon me.' He then proceeded, in a very overbearing way, and with an assumption of great superiority, to attack Lincoln and his speech. He was fluent and ready with the rough sarcasm of the stump, and he went on to ridicule the person, dress and arguments of Lincoln with so much success that Lincoln's friends feared that he would be embarrassed and overthrown."

"The Clary's Grove boys were present and were restrained with difficulty from 'getting up a fight' in behalf of their favorite (Lincoln), they and all his friends feeling that the attack was ungenerous and unmanly.

"Lincoln, however, stood calm, but his flashing eye and pale cheek indicated his indignation. As soon as Forquer had closed he took the stand, and first answered his opponent's arguments fully and triumphantly. So impressive were his words and manner that a hearer (Joshua F. Speed) believes that he can remember to this day and repeat some of the expressions.

"Among other things he said: 'The gentleman commenced his speech by saying that "this young man," alluding to me, "must be taken down." I am not so young in years as I am in the tricks and the trades of a politician, but,' said he, pointing to Forquer, 'live long or die young, I would rather die now than, like the gentleman, change my politics, and with the change receive an office worth \$3,000 a year, and then,' continued he, 'feel obliged to erect a lightning-rod over my house, to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God!'"

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

You also may join using your Credit Card by going to our website at BRCWRT.org and clicking on "Membership Application."

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

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

PHONE_____ **E-MAIL**_____