



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVIII, Issue 1 FEBRUARY 2021

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR HARRY SMELTZER SPEAKS ON "UNION GEN. IRWIN McDOWELL'S STRATEGY BEFORE THE BATTLE OF FIRST MANASSAS - 1861" AT THE FEBRUARY 11 ZOOM MEETING

"McDowell's Strategy for First Bull Run" examines the expectations and intentions of Brig. Gen. Irwin McDowell for the campaign that culminated in the battle that took place on July 21, 1861. Through the use of existing and easily available primary documents, as well as a look at military theory of the day, Harry Smeltzer argues that the traditional interpretation of McDowell's plan - and the reasons for its failure - is at odds with the evidence and is based in large parts on facts not in evidence. We're so happy to have a friend to many of our Round Table members speaking this month; Harry has annually hosted enjoyable Bull Run battlefield tours in the past.



'The Battle of Bull Run' diorama, built by Don Ray and Paul Henderson, can be viewed at Miniature World in Victoria B.C. (George Devlin/GEORGE DEVLIN/MINIATURE WORLD)

Harry Smeltzer is the host of the Web site *Bull Runnings*, dedicated to the digitization of primary documents associated with the First Battle of Bull Run. He lives just outside Pittsburgh and was born and raised in south-western PA. He earned an undergraduate degree at Pennsylvania State University and a graduate degree at the Katz School of the University of Pittsburgh. He's been published in the journal *Civil War History*, *The Civil War Monitor*, *Civil War Times*, and *America's Civil War*. He was a contributing writer for *America's Civil*

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7 p.m. LIVE via
~ Zoom and Facebook ~
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

GUEST SPEAKER:

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR
HARRY SMELTZER

TOPIC:

**"UNION GEN. IRWIN
McDOWELL'S STRATEGY
BEFORE THE BATTLE OF
FIRST MANASSAS - 1861"**

BRCWRT Meetings Going Forward -- Virtually!

The Round Table's regular meetings will take place... in your house! The meetings will telecast live via **Zoom** and **Facebook**. Viewers will be able to submit questions via a "chat-box."



The meeting will still take place at 7 p.m. - find the instructions for connecting to the meeting posted on the BRCWRT Facebook and Web site pages.

"See" you at the next meeting!

War and is a Digital History Advisor for *The Civil War Monitor*. He sits on the board of the Historic Antietam Foundation, and has served as its vice president and newsletter editor. Harry has presented programs on Bull Run-related topics to organizations in six states and the District of Columbia. He organizes specialized tours through his Web site of the First Bull Run battlefield. He has been hosting "Bull Runnings" since November 2006.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

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

General Membership meetings will resume as soon as responsible under Covid guidelines.

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **March 2021 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, February 22, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **March 2021 issue**, advertisers - please click "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on February 12, 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 2021 MEETINGS (Virtual - until further notice)

March 11: Historian and former NPS Ranger Melissa Weeks - "Jeb Stuart at Laurel Hill, VA"

April 8: Historian/Author Dr. Jen Murray - "The Victor of Gettysburg: George Gordon Meade & the Civil War"

May 13: Historian/Author Scott Mingus - "The Civil War in York County, PA"

June 10: Historian/Author Jonathan Noyalas - "Are We Traitors & Cowards: Dissent in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley"

July 8: Historian/Author Michael Shaffer - "In Memory of Self and Comrades of the 1st Virginia Cavalry"

August 12: Historian/NPS Ranger Patrick Schroeder - "The Battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House: The Final Fury and the Last to Die"

September 9: Historian/Author David Welker - "The Cornfield - Battle of Antietam - September 1862"

October 14: Author/Historian John Quarstein - "Cmdr. Worden and the *USS Montauk* Destroy the CSS *Nashville*"

November 11: Author/Historian Brian McEnany - "Federal Cavalry Early Warning Camps in Northern Virginia in 1864"

December 9: TBA

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The President's Column by Mark Whinton

Fellow BRCWRT members -

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to the days we can again have meetings in person and enjoy tours together. We hope to start tours and meetings as soon as it is safe to do so. Although we have been meeting by Zoom, we have not been able to continue with our tours, which have been a major part of our education mission, as well as excellent opportunities to get to know one another while we learn details about battles and places. In that connection, if anyone is interested in leading or managing a tour this year, you are most welcome to contact me by e-mail at: mark.whinton@gmail.com. If enough of you step forward to manage a single tour, no one person will have to commit to serving as Tour Director managing all of our tours going forward.

A shout out to Past President Mark Trbovich, who continues to schedule terrific monthly speakers for the Round Table. Mark has successfully lined up speakers for every month this year through November. See his list of upcoming attractions on page 2, above. If you have a recommendation of a local speaker -- including a Round Table member -- who might be willing to make a presentation in December (or early 2022), please let Mark know at: civilwarnut@comcast.net. Of course, we hope you will join us by Zoom or Facebook this Thursday evening (February 11 at 7 p.m.) for our monthly meeting, featuring historian and author Harry Smeltzer (from Pittsburgh, PA) on "Gen McDowell's Strategy before 1st Manassas 1861."

Please peruse Preservation Committee Chair Blake Myer's monthly "Preservation Corner," starting on page 11 below. In it, Blake discusses the Round Table's current efforts with respect to saving the Connor House in Manassas Park. On February 3, Executive Committee member John De Pue, who is a member of the Prince William County Historical Commission (as is our Vice President, Kim Brace), submitted a formal request to place the Connor House on Preservation Virginia's 2021 Most Endangered Historic Places List. Nice initiative, John. We all hope such a listing will help Blake and the Preservation Committee's efforts to get Prince William County to save the house, perhaps by moving it to adjacent public property before the developers raise it.

Also in this issue of the *Stone Wall*, please read the Round Table's detailed policy regarding payment of dues deadlines, member termination and reinstatement. The Executive Committee adopted these policies, drafted by Executive Committee member John De Pue, to implement the By-laws amendments adopted at the December 10 members meeting. These policies are printed on page 16. Our Treasurer, Joe Young, informs us that almost half of our 2020 members who have paid their 2021 dues so far have taken advantage of the option of paying for three years at once. Unfortunately, less than half of our 2020 members have paid so far. We all understand that this is a difficult time, but please use our Web site to renew your dues if you have not already done so. It is quite easy to renew by credit card.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy month. While we are waiting for our vaccines, please 'Keep Calm and Mask On.'

Some Virginia History Being Highlighted This Month

BREAKING DOWN THE WALL OF SLAVERY AT CARLYLE HOUSE (VIRTUAL)

Carlyle House Historic Park - Thursday, February 25, 2021 - 7 - 8 p.m.

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 703-549-2997

Join Maddy McCoy of the Slavery Inventory Database for a discussion on how the enslaved individuals and families at Carlyle House were identified. Maddy will also discuss the importance of identifying and telling a historic site's full story. Come with your questions! Tickets can be purchased via our Web site.

\$5 per Zoom link - <https://www.virginia.org/listings/Events/BreakingDowntheWallOfSlaveryatCarlyleHouseVirtual/>

"WHO WERE THEY?" TOUR

Sully Historic Site - Recurring weekly on Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - February 5, 2021 - February 28, 2021

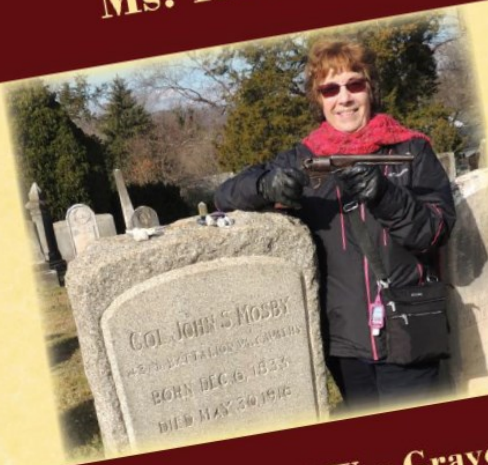
Time: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. - Admission: \$20 for 1-2 people; \$40 for 3-9 people

3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, VA 20151 (703) 437-1794

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2021/z-ir014>

History usually focuses on people of great importance but rarely are the people who were in the background brought to light. Sully Historic Site is currently offering a "Who Were They?" tour, which highlights the lives and stories of the enslaved workers who lived and worked at Sully in the late 18th century.

**Civil War Travels
with
Ms. Rebelle**



**A Guide to Civil War Gravesites
North and South
by
Janet L. Greentree**

**DON'T
MISS
OUT!**

**Our own BRCWRT
Member Janet Greentree's
new book:**

**CIVIL WAR TRAVELS
WITH MS. REBELLE**

**A Guide to Civil War Gravesites
North and South**

This book will be

AVAILABLE NOW!

SEE PURCHASING DETAILS AT: BRCWRT.ORG

Put

will be posted on BRCWRT.org



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Abolitionist Frederick A. Douglass

By Janet Greentree

As you probably all know, Ms. Rebelle loves highlighting connections to (and around) her subjects; she also grew up in Annapolis, MD. Would you believe that Frederick Douglass has a rather loose connection to Annapolis? In the year 1893, after having been (racially) turned away from dining at Bay Ridge Beach in Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay, Douglass' son Charles and his wife Laura



Highland Beach back in the 1890s with Charles Douglass' photo inserted.

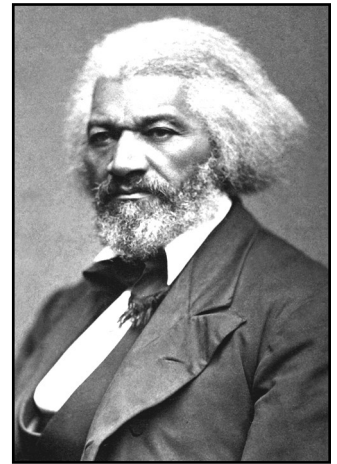


Charles Douglass' home in Highland Beach.

Photo by Janet Greentree

purchased 40 acres of land facing the Chesapeake Bay. The site was not too far from Bay Ridge Beach in Highland Beach. His little purchase turned into a Black beach colony that attracted other Black

visitors, such as Paul Robeson; Judge Robert Terrell and his wife Dr. Mary Church Terrell; Booker T. Washington; W.E.B. Du Bois (profiled in the Feb. 2021 issue of *Civil War Times*); Robert Weaver; Harriet Tubman; and poets Langston Hughes and Paul Dunbar. Later, the colony would include homeowners like Alex Haley, Arthur Ashe and Bill Cosby. There are only a little over 100 residents now living in Highland Beach. A lot of the homes there are still in the family of the original owners. Frederick Douglass died in 1895 before Charles' house, Twin Oaks, was finished - but it had been planned that Frederick would join in the family gatherings at the house. The house was purchased by Anne Arundel County in 1995 and now houses the Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center. The Web site states it is closed at the present time because of Covid-19. It did look deserted when I found it. There is also a statue of Douglass in the Maryland State House on Church Circle in Annapolis. Due to police presence on State Circle, Ms. Rebelle did not try to get into the State House.



Frederick A. Douglass later in life.

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey (who later changed his name to Douglass) was born in 1818 at Holme Hall Farm in Talbot County, MD, on an unknown date to (most likely) Aaron Anthony, a white man, and Harriet Bailey, a black woman. Holme Hill belonged to Aaron Anthony. Frederick's mother had been taught to read and write, highly unusual for that time period. Frederick would pick his birth date later on to be February 14th. Anthony was an overseer at Col. Edward Lloyd, V's plantation at Wye Mills, MD. Lloyd was a U.S. senator from Maryland and later served as gover-

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 5)

nor. Frederick lived with Harriet's parents Isaac (free Black) and Betsey Bailey (owned by Aaron Anthony). Frederick lived with the Baileys until he was old enough to work. Frederick stated: "As I grew larger and older, I learned by degrees the sad fact, that the 'little hut,' and the lot on which it stood, belonged not to my dear old grandparents, but to some person who lived a great distance off, and who was called, by grandmother, 'OLD MASTER.'"

At around 5-6 years of age, 'Captain Anthony' would have the Baileys bring Frederick to Wye Mills and live on the plantation with him. Frederick started working in the fields or helping around the house at that young age. His mother worked on a plantation about 12 miles away. At night, she would walk to Wye Mills to see her son and walk back before morning. Frederick later found out his mother could read. He said that this fact inspired his lifelong joy of reading. When Anthony died in 1826, he became the property of Thomas Auld, who was married to Lucretia Anthony, Aaron's daughter. Lucretia sent young Frederick to Baltimore in 1826 to live with her brother-in-law, Hugh Auld, and his wife Sofia. He lived with them for about 7 years. Sofia was very kind to him, taught him the alphabet, and started teaching him to read. Her husband found out about it, and put a stop to the whole process. Thomas Auld's wife Lucretia died after childbirth and Frederick was then sent back to Talbot County as the property of Thomas. Frederick's comment later in life: "I have had two masters. My first master's name was Anthony. I do not remember his first name. He was generally called Captain Anthony – a title which, I presume, he acquired by sailing a craft on the Chesapeake Bay. He was not considered a rich slaveholder. He owned two or three farms, and about thirty slaves."

Frederick first tried to escape when he was hired out to another farm called Freeland but he was unsuccessful.

In 1837, he met Anna Murray, who was a free Black woman living in Baltimore. She was about 5 years older than Frederick. She encouraged him to try to escape again, and even gave him money to accomplish his freedom. On September 3, 1838, Douglass was able to escape by



Anna Murray Douglass, the woman who was responsible for assisting Douglass out of slavery to sustaining him as a man without a country, and to later accommodate one of the most iconic Americans in U.S. history.

boarding the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore train at the President Street rail station in Baltimore, dressed as a sailor. He had been working at a shipyard in Baltimore, learning how to caulk, and came into possession of a sailor's clothing given to him by a free black seaman. Douglass went as far as Wilmington, where the tracks stopped. He finished his journey on a steamer, landing in Philadelphia and then New York City. The entire journey took

less than 24 hours. Frederick stayed with the abolitionist David Ruggles in New York City. When asked how he felt being free, he said: "A new world has opened upon me. If life is more than breath, and the 'quick round of blood,' I lived more in one day than in a year of my slave life."



President Street Station in Baltimore, MD, where Douglass began his trek to freedom, and fame.

Photo by Janet Greentree

Shortly after arriving in NYC, Frederick sent for Anna. They were married on September 15, 1838, just 11 days after he reached NYC and freedom. The couple then moved to New Bedford, MA, and later to Lynn, MA. At first, the couple stayed with Nathan and Mary Johnson and

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

changed their last name from Bailey to Johnson to avoid detection. Johnson suggested he change his name to something more suitable, and this is when he chose Douglass. While he was living in Lynn in 1841, he and his friend James N. Buffum were thrown off the Eastern Railroad train because Douglass refused to sit in the segregated section. *[Editor's note: Douglass had such a grip on the bench upon which he was seated, that the burly conductors called to remove him succeeded in pulling the bench up from its bolted feet – still attached to Douglass – and heaved them both out of the car. Douglass' supporters in Lynn boycotted the rail line, which was the only way some workers had to get to their jobs in Boston, 10 miles away (and across the Mystic River). The boycott went on for months until the railroad line capitulated and dispensed with segregated seating.]*

The Douglass family would have five children between the years 1839–1849 – Rosetta, Lewis, Frederick, Jr., Charles, and Annie. Lewis was a recruiter (with his father) for free black regiments in Civil War, and also in the 25th U.S. Colored Troop regiments. Frederick, Jr. fought with the 25th Mass USCT at the 2nd Battle of Fort Wagner under Col. Robert Gould Shaw. Charles fought with the 54th Mass and the 5th Mass Cavalry in the Civil War.

In 1841, while attending an anti-slavery meeting in New Bedford, MA, he met William C. Coffin of Nantucket. When Douglass described to Coffin what it was like being a slave, Coffin was so impressed



The Nantucket Atheneum in 1885.

with his oratorical ability, he invited Douglass to Nantucket for the first Anti-Slavery Convention. Douglass spoke at the Nantucket Atheneum in August 1841. He was extremely nervous when he spoke on the second night of the convention. He stated: "The truth was, I felt myself a slave, and the idea of speaking to white people weighed me down." His speech went over quite well, and he was on the road to speaking all over the north about abolition. He was active in just about everything abolitionist related. He was friends with Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and others. In 1843, Douglass' family moved to Rochester, NY.

In 1847, he met the infamous John Brown at Brown's house in Springfield, MA. Brown and Douglass were friends over the years, and Brown stayed at his house when he was in the East. They met again in March 1859, in Detroit, at William Webb's home. Douglass and Brown's last meeting was in August 1859 at a quarry in the Chambersburg, PA, area, where Brown pressed Douglass to join him at Harper's Ferry for the insurrection he planned to stage there. Douglass thought about it but backed out. He stated: "at my discretion or my cowardice, I declined to join



Union soldier Charles Douglass.

(con't on page 8)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

what became the ill-fated raid on October 16, 1859." Almost everyone involved with the raid was either captured or killed, and Brown was hanged on December 2nd.

As a side note, the "Showtime" channel recently had a limited series called *The Good Lord Bird*, about John Brown's life. Douglass was featured in the series as well. It showed Douglass while living in Rochester, NY, when John Brown visited. He was living with his wife and "very close" white friend, Ottile Assing.



Ottile Assing (undated).



Helen Pitts (undated).

Ms. Assing, a German/Jewish journalist and also an abolitionist, did not meet Douglass until 1856 when she knocked on the Douglass door to ask for an interview with Frederick. There was a huge attraction between the two of them, and they would all come to live together in the same house. Douglass and Ottile corresponded for the next 26 years. Douglass' wife Anna died in 1882 while Ottile was in Europe. She thought he would come for her, or that she would go to him and they would marry, but he did not contact her. In 1884, Ottile heard that Frederick had married Helen Pitts (a much younger white woman), and also an abolitionist. In August of that year, Ottile killed herself by swallowing cyanide in a public park in Paris. Ottile did bequeath him the income from a \$13,000 trust fund. She also instructed that their letters be burned. Anna Douglass would say of Ottile: "I shouldn't have hated her. She loved him just like me." Helen Pitts was criticized for marrying a Black man. Even the Douglass' children scorned the marriage. Helen would say: "Love came to me, and I

was not afraid to marry the man I loved because of his color." Douglass would later say: "This proves I am impartial. My first wife was the color of my mother and the second, the color of my father." I would highly recommend watching this series if you happen to have "Showtime." Ethan Hawke was tremendous as John Brown.

Douglass wrote three biographies over the years – in 1845 – *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (written in Lynn, MA); 1855 – *My Bondage and My Freedom*; and in 1881 – *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. After publishing his last autobiography, his friends were afraid his notoriety would perhaps make his former master retake his slave. His friends sent him England and Ireland in 1845. He returned to America in 1847. He said: "I have no love for America, as such; I have no patriotism, I have no country. What country have I? The Institutions of this Country do not know me – do not recognize me as a man." After returning to the U.S., he started publishing an abolitionist newspaper, the *North Star*. He and his wife also participated in the Underground Railroad, providing a place to stay for over 400 escaped slaves. In 1848, Douglass attended the Seneca Falls, NY, Convention for women's rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton proposed the passing of women's suffrage.

On April 14, 1876, Douglass delivered the keynote speech for the unveiling of a new Emancipation Memorial in Washington's Lincoln Park. One of the lines from his speech is as follows: "Though Mr. Lincoln shared the prejudices of his white fellow-countrymen against the Negro, it is hardly necessary to say that in his heart of hearts he loathed and hated slavery..." The crowd loved his speech. Mrs. Lincoln was in attendance and gave Douglass her husband's walking stick in appreciation. This is the statue that some people want

(con't on page 9)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)



The Emancipation monument in Washington, DC, was controversial since the day it was unveiled.

Photo by Janet Greentree

removed from Lincoln Park depicting a freed slave at Lincoln's feet. While the funds for the statue had been raised within the Black community, the design was not brought to them for input or approval. A replica of the statue in Boston, MA, has been moved from Park Square, and stored.

In June 1872, his home in Rochester was burned down and arson was suspected.

He then moved to Washington, D.C., to a house he called Cedar Hill on a hill above the Anacostia River. He and his second



Douglass' home in Washington, DC.

wife would live there until his death on February 20, 1895. Douglass had just spoken at the National Council of Women in Washington. He could barely make it up the steps to his house and died of a massive heart attack in the foyer of the home. His funeral was held in the Metro-

politan Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, where he had a pew named for him. He was transported back to Rochester, NY, and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery with his first wife, Anna. His second wife, Helen, would join them in 1903. There is a statue of Douglass at one of the entrances of the cemetery. His home Cedar Hill is open to the public and is located at 1411 W Street, SE, Washington, D.C.

The Freeman newspaper of March 2, 1895, published his obituary (in part): "Washington, D.C., Feb. 21 – Frederick Douglass died at 7 o'clock last night at his residence in Anacostia, a suburb of this city, of heart failure. His death was unexpected, as he had been enjoying the best of health. During the afternoon he attended the convention of the women of the United States, now in progress in this city, and chatted with Susan B. Anthony and other of the leading members, with whom he has been on intimate terms for many years. When he returned home, he said nothing of any illness, though he expressed himself as being a little exhausted from the climb up the stairs leading from the street to his house, which is on a high terrace. He sat down and chatted with his wife about the women at the convention, telling of various things that had been said and done. Suddenly he gasped, clasped his hand to his heart and fell back unconscious. A doctor was hastily summoned and arrived within a very few moments, but his efforts to revive Mr. Douglass were hopeless from the first. Within twenty minutes after the attack, the faint motion of the heart ceased entirely, and the great ex-slave statesman was dead...." *The New York Tribune* of Feb. 17, 1895, stated in part: "Rochester, NY, Feb. 26.—The train bearing the body of Frederick Douglass arrived here from Washington at 9:40 o'clock this morning. It was met at the station by Mayor Lewis, the members of the Common Council, the Douglass League, the

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 9)



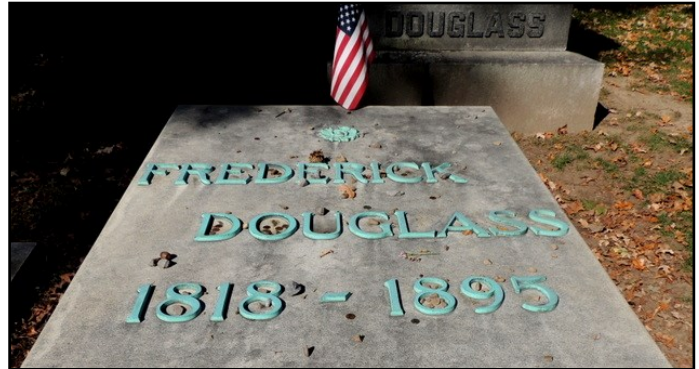
A statue of Frederick A. Douglass at the entrance of Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY, where he is buried.

Photo by Janet Greentree

ter; Stella and Harriett Sprague, granddaughters, and Joseph D. Douglass, a grandson..."

This article could have gone on in much longer, and Ms. Rebelle had to leave out a lot of facts of his life. Hope you like

honorary and active bearers and a cordon of police. The 54th Regiment Band was also present..... Among those accompanying the body from Washington were Mrs. Frederick Douglass, Lewis Douglass, Mr. Douglass; Mrs. Frederick Sprague, his daughter; Stella and Harriett Sprague, granddaughters, and Joseph D. Douglass, a grandson..."



Frederick A. Douglass' grave marker at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY.

Photo by Janet Greentree

the parts I did use. My son Mark took me to Rochester to find Frederick Douglass' grave on my last trip to NY. Susan B. Anthony is also buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

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: jlgtree@erols.com.

Let It Be Known - the Search for the BRCWRT's 2021 Scholarship Contestants is ON!

Do you know a high school senior who is fascinated with American history or the American Civil War? If so, help the BRCWRT find that student, so that it can give away a \$2000 scholarship. In general, the requirements include:

- Graduate in 2021 from a local public or private high school
- Reside in Prince William or Fairfax County
- Prove a strong interest in American history or Civil War history
- Visit a local Civil War historic site and write a short essay about it
- Apply by April 5, 2021



All of the information about how to apply is found on the BRCWRT Web site at <http://bullruncwrt.org>. In addition, students can find information on high school scholarship sites, which are accessed in the schools' career centers, guidance departments, or by home computers.

Let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our Scholarship opportunity! Let it be known!

- Charlie Balch, Chair, Scholarship Committee



PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

Greetings BRCWRT Members - I trust that you and your family and friends are doing well and staying safe and healthy. This edition of Preservation Corner provides a summary of the preservation actions and activities planned for BRCWRT focus during 2021.

Route 28 Bypass Project

www.route28bypass.com

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)'s Route 28 Transportation Study and Project is focused on infrastructure projects that will improve travel times and network reliability on Route 28 through Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

Fairfax County continues the widening of the portion of Route 28 north of the Fairfax County/Prince William County boundary to U.S. Route 29, to three lanes in each direction and making improvements to existing intersections – this project is currently scheduled for completion in 2023.

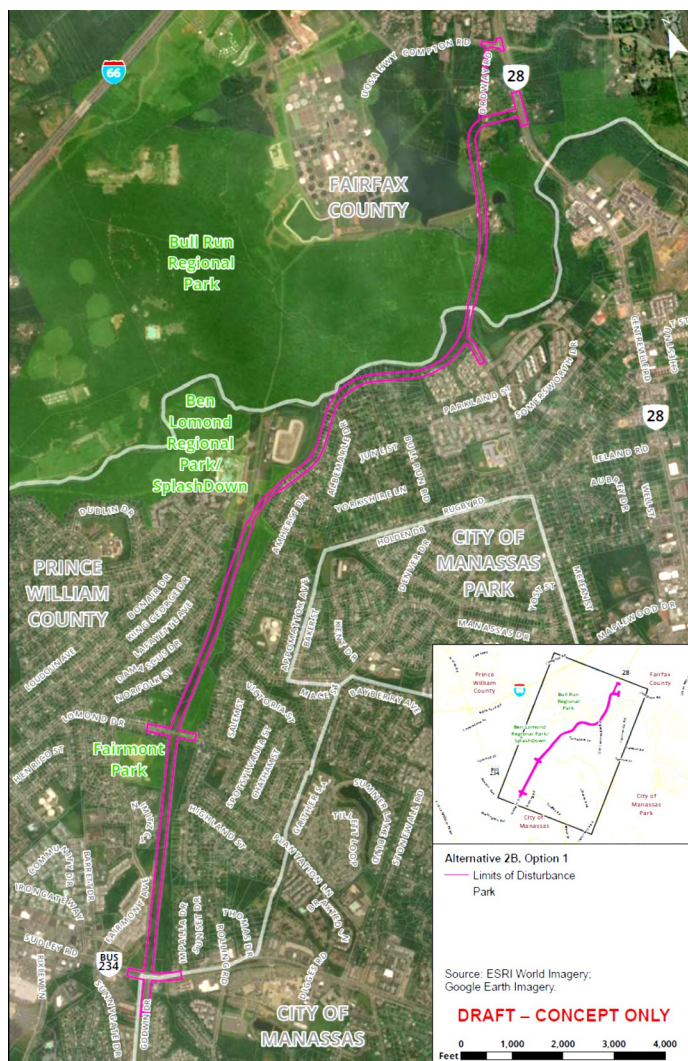
Prince William County is widening Route 28 to a six-lane divided roadway between Linton Hall Road and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The City of Manassas is widening Route 28 to six lanes between Pennsylvania Avenue and Godwin Drive through the Prince William County Parkway (Rte. 234)/Route 28 interchange.

These specific projects collectively leave a section of Route 28 between Godwin Drive and the Bull Run as is - this is the Route 28 section that is the focus of Prince William County's Route 28 Bypass Project.

On September 8, 2020, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors voted to approve the PW Staff recommendation to adopt the Godwin Drive Extension alternative (Alternative 2B) for the Route 28 Bypass. The Board also approved the initiation of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for widening Route 28 as a back-up plan, should the Godwin Drive Extensions encounter significant obstacles that render it non-usable.

Since 2017, the BRCWRT has been working



Route 28 ByPass – Godwin Road Extension (PWC DOT Presentation,



Concept for Route 28 Bypass & Terminus in Fairfax County (PWC DOT Presentation, December 7, 2020)

(con't on page 12)

Preservation Corner – (con't from page 11)

in partnership with Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) and Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNPB) to preserve and mitigate the Bypass impacts on Bull Run Regional Park, the Blackburn's Ford Battlefield and the 1st Manassas (Bull Run) Battlefield.

The current projected timeline for the Route 28 Bypass project is:

- Design and Engineering 2021 - 2023
- Right of Way & Utilities 2023 - 2025
- Construction - 2025 - 2027

The BRCWRT continues to monitor this project and, in collaboration with the NOVA Parks and MNPB, will continue engaging with the Prince William County Department of Transportation (PWC DOT) to ensure potentially threatened cultural and historic sites are protected. Known historic sites within the Bull Run Regional Park at the Ordway Road Crossing of Bull Run include the Mitchell's Ford site and remnants of Civil War earthworks constructed to guard the ford. Additional historic sites north of the Bull Run may be discovered as the ultimate route to, and location of, the Bypass intersection with Route 28 in Fairfax County is determined. PWC DOT plans to host information sessions on the Route 28 Bypass project and address topics specific to Prince William County in the near future.

Historic Conner House (City of Manassas Park)

The City of Manassas Park's plan to redevelop Manassas Park's City Center area in a four-phase project envisions replacing the current City Hall with a new multi-story structure that will include retail stores, a city square public plaza, an apartment complex and a nine-screen movie theater, along with the attendant public parking lots and a multi-story parking garage. Phase 4 of the City Center development concept includes two six-story apartment complexes with a covered parking garage, one of which is to be built on the Historic Conner House site and would include removal, or repurposing, of the Conner House. The Conner House, located in the vicinity of 8220 Conner Drive, is directly threatened by the Center City Development Plan that was approved by the City of Manassas

Park's Governing Body on June 16, 2020.

Subsequent outreach led to a connection with members of the Prince William County School Staff and School Board, members of which are interested in saving and preserving the Conner House. Discussions through July and August 2020 led to a concept for relocating the Conner House to a site on property owned by Prince William Schools, and that is adjacent to the current (original) Conner House site. In discussions with School Board members the proposed concept was positively received; however, a formal presentation to, and consideration by, the School Board is on hold, pending concept consideration and approval by the PWC Board of County Supervisors.

BRCWRT representatives continue, in partnership with the PW Historical Commission, its initiative to meet with PW County Supervisors and discuss the threat to the historic Conner House and the concept for relocating, preserving and interpreting the Conner House. County Supervisors met with to date have been supportive of the concept, but as in all such matters funds to implement the concept promise to be a significant issue. Time is critical as the developer is currently developing the requisite rezoning application(s). Consideration of the zoning application(s), including public hearings, and site planning are anticipated in the Spring of this year, with ground breaking likely in the Summer.

Ox Hill Battlefield Park (Ox Hill and Chantilly Monuments)

Installation of the soldiers' monuments (Ox Hill and Chantilly) at Ox Hill Battlefield Park, and the previously announced dedication ceremony scheduled for September 9, 2017, were "postponed indefinitely" by Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) officials on July 11, 2017. More than three years of BRCWRT efforts to work collaboratively with the FCPA and Park Authority Board to install these monuments, key elements of the interpretive concept within the approved Ox Hill Battlefield Park Master Plan, have been unsuccessful and extremely frustrating.

During its January 23, 2019 Park Authority Board meeting, the Board voted to approve this

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recommendation of the Executive Director: the Park Authority Executive Director recommends to not install the monuments in their current form, and recommends that the Park Authority Board establish a subcommittee to work on the disposition of the monuments, as discussed by the Committee of the Whole on January 9, 2019.

No subsequent action has been taken by FCPA or the Park Authority Board since this vote. During the two-plus year period preceding the Park Authority Board's January 23, 2019, vote the FCPA and the Board publicly stated their intent to work with BRCWRT to identify and resolve issues regarding the monuments but never followed through on this commitment, and consistently misled the BRCWRT with respect to their intentions and actions. Additionally, the FCPA and the Board have neither established nor convened the subcommittee specified in the Board's January 23, 2019, vote, and have not responded to multiple BRCWRT inquiries and offers of assistance.

In January 2020, BRCRT requested, via letters to each County Supervisor and the Chairman, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors direct the Park Authority Board to: 1) clearly identify the specific wording and/or inscriptions on the monuments that it deems inappropriate; 2) fully establish and convene the subcommittee to resolve the specific wording and/or inscriptions deemed inappropriate; and 3) complete the disposition (installation) of the monuments in accordance with the Ox Hill Battlefield Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan that was approved in January 2005.

BRCWRT members Blake Myers and Greg Wilson met with Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity's staff members on March 11, 2020, to discuss BRCWRT's January 2020 letter/request for support from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the history of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park and the monuments. Following this discussion, we provided staff a 3-ring binder with an index and 19 chronologically sequenced documents covering subjects including the histories of the Park, of the soldiers' monuments and of the BRCWRT's interactions with FCPA and the Park Authority Board. Planned follow-up actions, in collaboration with Supervisor Herrity's

office, to engage in discussions with the other District Supervisors and the FCPA, were subsequently deferred due to coronavirus health and safety restrictions and Board of Supervisor higher priorities associated with the 2021 budget and the coronavirus pandemic.

Farr's Fort (Civil War Redoubt on George Mason University Fairfax Campus)

Local historians have long known of the significance of the area surrounding the Ox Road (Route 123)/Braddock Road (Route 620) intersection (a.k.a. Farr's Cross Roads). Several studies, including the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory (2002), have documented the existence of Civil War-era redoubts, earthworks and camps in the area surrounding this intersection. Of particular interest is a redoubt and set of earthworks constructed by Col. Robert Rodes' 5th Alabama (Ewell's Brigade) in July 1861, prior to Battle of 1st Manassas (Bull Run), located on George Mason University's (GMU), Fairfax Campus.

This historic site is a forested knoll in the northeast quadrant of the Ox Road/Braddock Road intersection, including Farr's Crossroads, Civil War earthwork fortifications constructed in 1861 and used by both Confederate and Federal forces throughout the war, and is adjacent to the historic Fairfax Court House - Fairfax Station corduroy road whose remnants were uncovered during road construction along Rt. 123/Ox Road in 2015 and 2016.

The site is documented in the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory completed by John Milner Associates, Inc. for the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) in 2002 and is included (Site 44FX185) in both Fairfax County's and Virginia's historic site databases. Archaeologist Brian Corle, while a student at George Mason University (GMU), completed the Archeological Assessment of Site 44FX185, The Earthwork at Farris Crossroads Fairfax County, Virginia (DHR File Number 2008-1541) in November 2008.

During August and September 2020, the BRCWRT developed, in collaboration with GMU, the Farr's Fort Interim Preservation and Interpretation Project Plan (Revised), published on September 26, 2020. The Project Plan was

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approved by GMU's Vice President of Facilities and forwarded to GMU's Director of Facilities Management to develop a plan to execute the work described in the plan.

On October 6-8, 2020, GMU's Grounds Maintenance Department cleared the redoubt of undergrowth, vegetation and brush, and treated the redoubt with an herbicide. They then cleared, added gravel where necessary to level the ground, and covered with wood chips the redoubt access and interpretive trails.

On September 30, 2020, BRCWRT members Blake Myers, Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany began meeting and working with GMU's Environmental Graphic Designer on the design, development and production of the two historical markers as called for in the Project Plan (Revised) - a two-sided vertical historical marker at the access trail entrance and a horizontal interpretive marker at the redoubt. Design and content development for both markers were completed in November 2020. Fabrication of marker stands and panels is on-going, with the markers' installation anticipated for the spring of 2021.

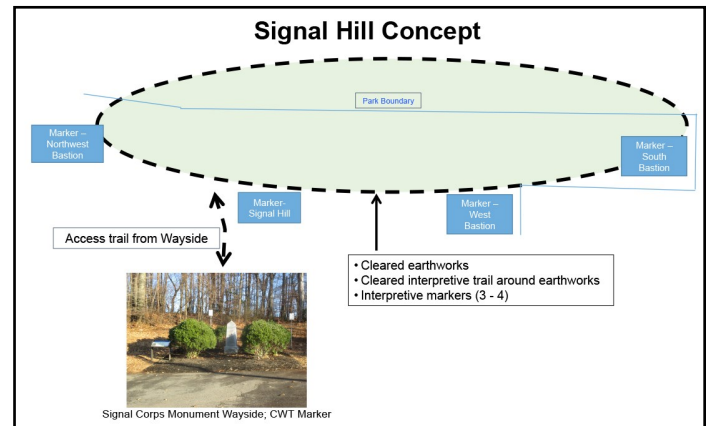
Signal [Willcoxon] Hill

The BRCWRT continues its support of the initiative by the Prince William County Planning Office; the Prince William County Historical Commission; the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division, and the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation, to preserve and interpret Signal (Willcoxon) Hill.

The Prince William County Board of Supervisors received proffer funds from Verizon as part of the use agreement for Signal Hill Park property used for the cellular communications tower that was installed in 2017. The intent is to transfer these funds to the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation to be used, in conjunction with Virginia preservation grant funding, for conducting a preservation study of the Signal (Willcoxon) Hill site.

The initial draft preservation concept, depicted below, includes a Signal Hill interpretive trail with multiple historical/interpretive markers, and a trail linking Signal Hill to the nearby Signal Corps Monument wayside located along Signal View Drive. One challenge in

preserving Signal Hill is that the northern section of Signal Hill is on privately owned property.



During their December 10, 2019, Prince William Board of County Supervisors meeting, the Board approved the transfer of the \$10,000 proffer for the purposes of historic preservation and/or enhancements to Signal Hill to the PWC Historic Preservation Foundation. The Board also approved the Historic Preservation Foundation's Annual Work Plan for 2020, which included a Signal Hill Cultural Resource Identification Study. This study is described in the Annual Work Plan as "The completion of a cultural resource study to identify cultural resources and interpretive themes for the Civil War era site. The project is to be completed in conjunction with the Prince William County Planning Office and the City of Manassas Park, Parks and Recreation Department." As of January 2021, the proffer funds have not been transferred to the PWC Historic Preservation Foundation.

Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) Preservation Projects

A. Transform 66 Outside the Beltway

As part of the I-66 transformation/improvement project, Dynamic Tolling Express Lanes are being extended from the Capital Beltway to Gainesville (<http://outside.transform66.org/>). Threats to the MNBP include negative impacts (primarily lighting and traffic noise) on the visitor experience at historic sites located adjacent to and along I-66 and Vandor Lane, and the viewsheds from historic sites adjacent to and near Vandor Lane.

Since 2017, BRCWRT has been involved as

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a consulting party (National Environmental Protection Act [NEPA], Section 106) working with and in support of MNBP to mitigate the Transform I66 project's impacts on MNBP and the visitor experience to historic sites within MNBP. Through 2020, consulting parties have worked with VDOT and FAM Construction, LLC in reviewing roadway and Elevated Access Ramp design plans and negotiating revisions to those plans to eliminate and/or mitigate identified negative impacts on MNBP. On December 15, 2020, VDOT/EMP/FAM notified consulting parties that FAM had procured MSE sample panels (drystack finish) and had applied staining in accordance with the color palette discussed in the last consulting party meeting (March 4, 2020). Three MSE sample panels with drystack finish and staining under consideration were placed on display at MNBP (Vandor Lane) for review by MNBP and other consulting parties, with comments due no later than January 15, 2021. MNBP was granted an extension for comment submittal due to coronavirus pandemic impacts and the temporary absence of MNBP key personnel. A final design decision on the MSE panels is the final piece in completing the Section 106 process for the Transform I66 project.

B. Limb Pit Discovery at MNBP

During a planned MNBP utility excavation in October 2014, the archeologist monitoring the work recovered bone fragments from the project site, suggesting the presence of human remains consistent with the use of the site as a field hospital, resulting in the recommendation for further archeological testing to confirm the interpretation and to determine the relationship among the archeological feature, artifacts and human remains. In October 2015, National Park Service (NPS) archeologists and contract archeologists conducted further testing at the site and discovered two nearly intact sets of skeletal remains mingled with amputated limbs, and made the decision to conduct a program of data recovery to excavate the remains, which were then transported to the NPS Museum Resource Center. In April 2016, the NPS transferred the two sets of recovered skeletal remains to the National Museum of Natural History

(NMNH) for forensic analysis, resulting in findings that the remains were associated with Union casualties from the Second Battle of Manassas. The skeletal remains were determined to be Union soldiers from the New England area, and likely from upstate NY. These remains were transferred from NPS to the U.S. Army on June 19, 2018, and were subsequently interred as 'unknowns' at Arlington National Cemetery on September 6, 2018, as part of the dedication ceremony for the new Arlington Millennium Section. Disposition and potential historical interpretation of the limb pit and its artifacts remain under discussion between the NPS and Headquarters, Department of the Army.

C. Gainesville Crossing (Across Pageland Lane from MNBP HQ)

This property, an approximately 200-acre tract along Pageland Lane opposite Stuart's Hill & MNBP HQ & Visitor Center, is located on the south side of U.S. Route 29 (Lee Highway) between its intersections with the Heathcote Blvd/I-66 Exit 43B off ramp and Pageland Lane. Threatened sites include historic sites associated with the Battle of 2nd Manassas (Bull Run), the viewshed from Brawner Farm and the Dunklin monument (Timothy Dunklin, 4th TX Inf, killed at the Battle of 2nd Manassas [Bull Run]). On December 10, 2019, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors voted to approve Rezoning Request #REZ2018-00008, Gainesville Crossing (see below), which will include a



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data center complex, an electrical substation and 12 acres of commercial storage and office space. The Gainesville Crossing developer has agreed to donate the parcel of land (Land Bay D) adjacent to Pageland and MNBP to the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and to donate \$25,000 to the ABT for land parcel improvements. The ABT's plan is to donate the land parcel to MNBP.

Preservation plans include a Historical Inter-

pretive Marker covering artillery action during early phases of the Battle of 2nd Manassas (Bull Run) in the donated parcel adjacent to the intersection of Route 29 and Pageland Lane, and restoration of the Dunklin monument.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, BRCWRT's historic preservation actions and activities.

Stay strong, stay safe and stay healthy in 2021!

New Rules Clarify BRCWRT Dues Policies

Rules Implementing Article VII, Section 6 of the BRCWT Bylaws

The following procedural rules governing the collection of annual membership dues and termination of membership privileges for non-payment of dues are promulgated by the Executive Committee pursuant to Article VII, Section 6 of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable Bylaws. These procedures will be disseminated to the membership upon adoption by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

I. Collection of Membership Dues

1. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to ensure the timely collection of dues. During October of each year, the Treasurer will announce that membership dues are being collected for the next calendar year. The announcement will be made verbally at the October membership meeting, as well as via publication on the BRCWRT Web site and in the *Stone Wall*. The announcements will specify the manner in which dues payment may be made and the address to which dues payment checks may be mailed. The notice will also make clear that such dues payment must be submitted no later than March 30 of the following year, and that non-payment may result in termination of membership.
2. No later than January 31 of the following year, the Treasurer will notify the President, Vice President (Membership Chairman), and Webmaster of the names of members who have not paid their annual dues. The Webmaster will transmit, via e-mail message, a reminder, in the name of the Membership Chairman, to those members to pay their dues.
3. No later than February 28th, the Treasurer will notify the foregoing officers of the members whose dues have not been paid. The Membership Chairman, assisted by other members of the Executive Committee, will contact those members for the purpose of determining their continued interest in membership, and to remind them to pay their dues by the deadline set out in the Bylaws.

II. Termination

1. No later than April 15th, the Treasurer will notify the President, Membership Chairman, Webmaster and *Stone Wall* Editor of the names of the members whose annual dues are in arrears.
2. The names of the individuals so identified will be stricken from the membership rolls and steps will be taken to terminate their receipt of the *Stone Wall*. Additionally, such individuals will not be eligible to participate in BRCWRT-sponsored tours or other events. They may, however, attend the annual picnic, an event subsidized by dues-generated funds, upon payment of the fee for non-member guests. The officers of the BRCWRT possess the discretion to determine that membership termination is unwarranted in cases involving illness, hardship, military deployment or other extraordinary circumstances.

III. Reinstatement

Any person whose membership privileges have been terminated under paragraph II, may be reinstated upon payment of membership dues for the current year. Such payment will requalify a lapsed member for full membership privileges.

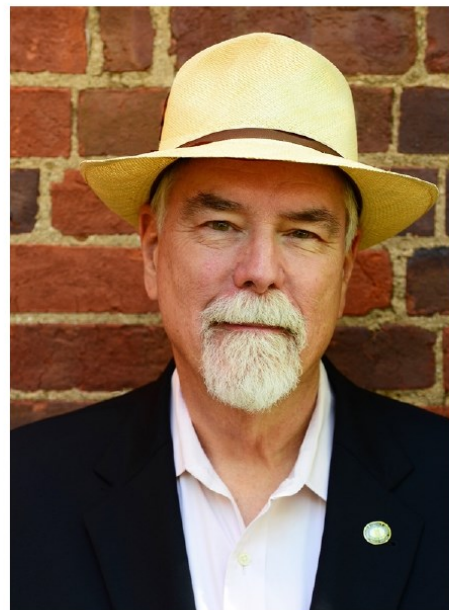
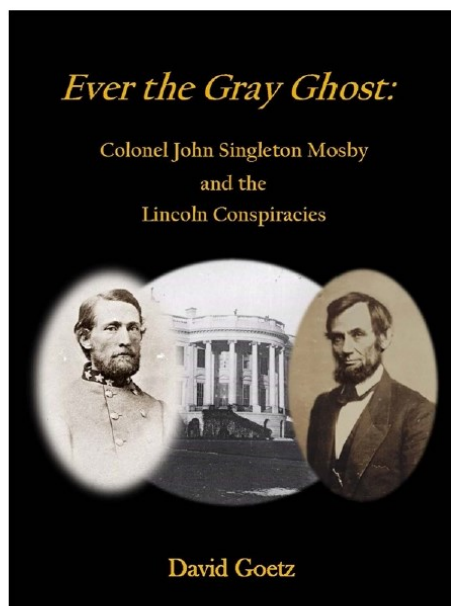
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DAVID GOETZ

March 10, 2021 @ 7 pm EDT

Register @ www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html



Historian David Goetz explores Confederate Col. John S. Mosby's role in the Lincoln Conspiracies and the efforts to capture him and those who wanted Lincoln captured. He explores the broad and deep Confederate underground system of spies and other clandestine operators. He examines Mosby's role and that of his Rangers within the larger context of the operation, Mosby's communications system with Richmond and the importance of cover stories. Goetz then traces how Mosby Ranger Lewis Powell was drawn into clandestine work by the Confederate Secret Service and ultimately introduced to John Wilkes Booth. This fascinating story is not to be missed.



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You also may join using your credit card by going to our Web site at BRCWRT.org and clicking on "Membership Application."

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