



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVIII, Issue 4 MAY 2021

## **HISTORIAN/AUTHOR SCOTT MINGUS SPEAKS ON “THE CIVIL WAR IN YORK COUNTY, PA” AT THE MAY 13th MEETING**

York County, PA, is a very historic locale, especially as regards the Civil War. The good people of this county faced multiple Confederate invasions, especially in 1863. This outstanding lecture will include such York Co. Civil War topics as: early war recruiting; the U.S. Army Hospital in York; Abraham Lincoln and politics in York Co.; the role of local railroads and industry in the War; the fighting at Hanover and Hanover Junction; the surrender of York; and the defense of the world's longest covered bridge. We are honored, via our Zoom and Facebook Live formats, to host a historian well-versed in this county's wealth of history.

Scott Mingus is a retired research scientist and current consultant to the global pulp and paper industry. He holds U. S. patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the Paper Science & Engineering program at Miami University in 1978. While working for Avery Dennison, he was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. He has written 22 books on the Civil War and Underground Railroad. His biography of Gen. William “Extra Billy” Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written several articles for Gettysburg Magazine, as well as for various historical journals. Scott has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PCN, and other TV networks.

Mingus and his wife Debi live in Manchester Township, north of York. For more than a decade, he has written a popular blog on the Civil War history of York County ([www.yorkblog.com/cannonball](http://www.yorkblog.com/cannonball)). He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**7 p.m. LIVE via**

**~ Zoom and Facebook ~**

**THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**HISTORIAN/HISTORIAN  
SCOTT MINGUS**

**TOPIC:**

**“THE CIVIL WAR IN  
YORK COUNTY, PA”**

### **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!

History Center for his many contributions to local Civil War history. He also has written six scenario books for Civil War miniature war gaming. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy and rifleman in the 51st Ohio Infantry (serving in the Western Theater); other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg in the 7th West Virginia Regiment in the Army of the Potomac.

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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 **June/July 2021 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, May 24, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **June/July 2021 issue**, advertisers - please click "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on May 14, to Charlie Balch at: [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com)

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



**If you have ever benefitted from touring a battlefield or historic site with the BRCWRT, consider giving that joy to others by volunteering to lead a tour yourself - contact Pres. Mark Whitenton to sign up to lead a tour**

## UPCOMING 2021 MEETINGS (Virtual - until further notice)

**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:** Authors/Historians Gene Schmiel, Frank Simone and E.L. Dutch Schneider - "Searching for Irvin McDowell, Forgotten Civil War General"

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## The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

### Fellow BRCWRT members -

With the advent of Spring and the increasing pace of immunizations, things are picking up for the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Under the leadership of our Marketing Committee Chair, Stephanie Vale, the BRCWRT held its first public event in over a year on Saturday, May 1. Stephanie organized a book sale and membership drive for the RT at the Prince William County History Symposium. See photo below. Our next book sale and membership drive event will be at Ben Lomond on July 24-25th.

Also, last Friday, May 7, George Mason University installed the Farr's Fort and Farr's Cross Roads historical markers at the remnants of the redoubt at the corner of the George Mason campus at the intersection of Ox Rd. (123) and Braddock Rd (620). The BRCWRT Preservation and Education Committees, headed by Blake Myers and Brian McEnany, and in conjunction with Jim Lewis (who also project-managed the historical marker effort), have been highly involved in working with George Mason to recognize the

significance of the earthworks and the history of Farr's Cross Roads for the past five years. The three of them have conducted an annual class at the site and collaborated in the creation of these historical markers (as you can see from the accreditation given the BRCWRT on the three signs).

Blake has spearheaded the preservation effort to save the redoubt, now recognized by George Mason University as part of its History Trail. This is a major preservation achievement for BRCWRT and one accomplished in partnership with George Mason University. See photos of the new signs, taken by Blake Myers and Jim Lewis, on page 5.

Past President Mark Trbovich has continued to serve the BRCWRT by ensuring we have a full line-up of terrific speakers. This Thursday, the monthly Zoom meeting will feature Scott Mingus to explain "The Civil War in York County, PA." We are still not sure when we will be able to meet in person at the Centreville Library for our monthly meetings, but we do expect to be Zooming for at least the next few months. Please join us by Zoom on Thursday!

## BRCWRT Hold Book Sale/Membership Drive - LIVE!

by Mark Whitenton

On Saturday, May 1, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table held its first public event in over a year! Stephanie Vale, chair of our Marketing Committee, organized a book sale/membership drive during the Prince William County History Symposium event at historic Brentsville. In addition to signing up three new members (and re-enlisting two delinquent members), Stephanie and crew sold over \$150 in books, including four of Janet Greentree's new book, "*Civil War Travels with Ms. Rebelle*." The BRCWRT crew participating are pictured below, left to right: Blake Myers, Stephanie Vale, Drew Pallo, Debbie Whitenton and Mark Whitenton.



# The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Awards Its Ninth Annual Scholarship

by Charlie Balch

This year's \$2,000 Bull Run Civil War Round Table Scholarship is being awarded to Isabelle Anderson, a graduating senior from Thomas Edison High School in Alexandria, VA. Isabelle has demonstrated a passion for American history; has been active in a range of extracurricular activities; has an exceptional grade point average and demonstrates outstanding personal and leadership skills. Isabelle is the daughter of Angus and Melissa Anderson.

Isabelle demonstrated her interest in American and Civil War history with two research projects she conducted for the scholarship - on Cedar Creek and Fairfax Station. She is an avid Civil War reader and has visited several historic sites; she is particularly interested in Sen. Charles Sumner, as well as the Reconstruction period. Isabelle has received A-grades in all her history courses.

Isabelle's chances of succeeding in college at Amherst appear to be particularly good, having been accepted at multiple schools. She has the highest-grade point average of any candidate to date – 4.487. She received an extraordinarily positive recommendation from her history teacher. She plans to major in American Studies or Political Science.

Isabelle has been active in theatre, acapella singing and the INTERACT Service Club, as well as being a winner of science fairs, and an officer of several clubs and societies.

Her essay, written for the scholarship competition, was entitled "Fairfax Station in the Civil War." She covered the action and strategy of both sides regarding the use of the station and railroad. Included in the bibliography are 13 documents, including multiple primary sources. It was a well-written submission.

Isabelle is an effective public speaker, both confident and knowledgeable. She seems quite personable. We believe she is an excellent representative for the Round Table.

This is the ninth year that the Bull Run CWRT has given a scholarship for high school students interested in history. The first winner, in 2012, was Taylor McConnell from West Springfield H.S. Other winners since then are: Caroline Howard from Osbourn Park H.S.; Brook Roberts from Robinson H.S.; Aaron Pirnat from Herndon H.S.; Alexander Hughes from Osbourn H.S.; Joseph LaVigne from Seton H.S.; Jack Tatum from Oakton H.S.; and Jacob Fajer from Westfield H.S.

All applicants submit a grade transcript, description of extra-curricular activities, an essay on Civil War history, a 'selfie' taken at a local historical sign, and an adult recommendation. The top candidates are interviewed before the Scholarship Committee chooses a winner. Members of the Scholarship Committee are Charlie Balch, Chairman; Brian McEnany and Mark Knowles.



BRCWRT 2021 Scholarship recipient Isabelle Anderson.

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

Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for these new (and returning) members of the BRCWRT:

- ◆ Jim Rice                      ◆ Deborah Heyward   ◆ Johnathon Krause   ◆ Paige Gibbons
- ◆ Meaghan Reddick   ◆ Robert Heyward   ◆ Bill Backus



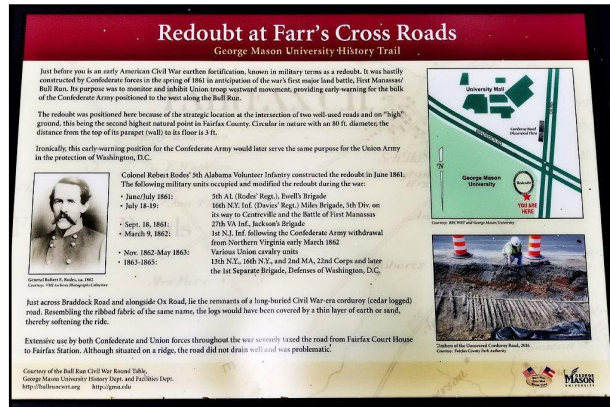
# Historical Markers Installed at Farr's Cross Roads Historical Site

by Blake Myers - photos by Blake Myers and Jim Lewis

On Friday May 7, George Mason University (GMU) installed two historical markers, Farr's Cross Roads and Redoubt at Farr's Cross Roads, on the recently preserved Farr's Cross Roads site at GMU's Fairfax Campus. Installation of these markers was the final step in completing the *Farr's Fort Interim Preservation and Interpretation Plan* (August 2020), an initiative that was initiated in 2016 by BRCWRT's Preservation and Education Committees and led by Blake Myers, Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis. On January 6, 2016, Blake, Brian and Jim had their first of many, many meetings with Dr. Brian Platt, the then-chair of GMU's Department of History and Art History - and the rest, as they say, is history. Watch for the late-May 2021 posting of the

BRCWRT's Preservation Corner (found on the BRCWRT's Web site, or here in the *Stone Wall's* June/July edition) to read the full story behind this significant preservation and interpretation project, and potential future enhancements at, and for, the site. So many thanks are in order to our project partners at GMU – the Department of History and Art History; the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science; the Facilities Department; the Grounds Department; the *Mason Spirit*, and the Green Machine's 8<sup>th</sup> Regimental Band.

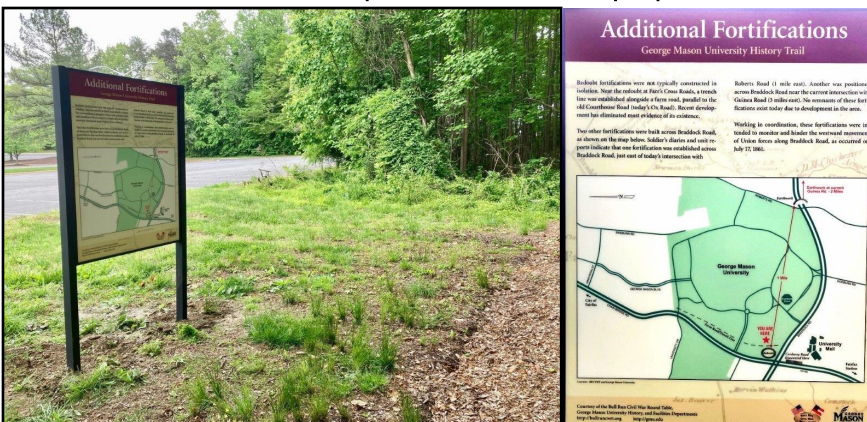
Readers are encouraged to visit the Farr's Cross Roads site at GMU's Fairfax Campus (Parking Lot K) to learn about the history of this site and to view the Civil War redoubt.



This newly installed historical sign at George Mason University property brings back to life the action that took place on the site of their Fairfax County campus.



The historical signs include verbiage provided by the BRCWRT - the discovery of the Farr's Cross Roads redoubt began with the discovery of a corduroy road that was uncovered when GMU did some improvements to their campus perimeter.



The redoubt at GMU's Fairfax County campus is still well-defined, and the history of the site is taught by BRCWRT members to classes at the school. This activity is very popular with the students.





## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE “Crazy Bet” or “Crazy as a Fox” Southern Resident/Northern Sympathizer/Spy Elizabeth Van Lew

By Janet Greentree

This story has been running around in my head since the '90s, due to the amazing story of finding “Crazy Bet’s” grave. I was in Shockhoe Cemetery in Richmond, VA, with a friend, looking for famous graves there. This was even before [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) came into being, or my friendship with Joe Ferrell (who had maps of graves all over the country). After finding one general and other famous people, we were unable to find “Crazy Bet.” We walked around and around the cemetery, to no avail. So, I said, “Crazy Bet, give us a sign.” Oh my God, she did, as a huge branch immediately fell off a tree right next her marker. Had we been in that spot, we most likely would have been extremely hurt, or worse. A huge boulder from New England marks her grave, provided by relatives in Boston of Col. Paul J. Revere – yes, that Revere’s grandson. The inscription



Elizabeth “Crazy Bet” Van Lew



Elizabeth Van Lew’s gravestone in Shockhoe Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

states: “She risked everything that is dear to man—friends—fortune—comfort—health—life itself—all for the one absorbing desire of her heart - that slavery might be abolished and the Union preserved.” There was a rumor going around that she was buried vertically, facing north. Shockhoe Cemetery has not

able to verify that bit of speculation.

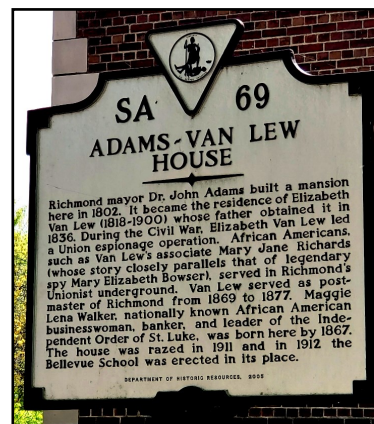
Elizabeth Louise Van Lew was born on October 15, 1818, in New York, the oldest daughter of John Van Lew and Eliza Louise Baker. Her maternal grandfather was abolitionist Hilary Baker. Baker was the mayor of Philadelphia from 1796-1798. Elizabeth was one of three children, including her brother John Newton and sister Anna Paulina. Elizabeth, her parents, and her brother John Newton are all buried in Shockhoe Cemetery in Richmond. Elizabeth is buried in Range 8, Sec. 5, Q.S. 4 – Orin Williams plot. John Van Lew was a prominent and successful businessman in Richmond, owning a hardware store. John died in 1843 and his wife died in 1875. His son, John Newton, ran the business after the death of his father. In 1875, the family was so poor that they could not afford pallbearers for Eliza. She was buried by Reverend Doctors Alexander W. Weddell, Rector of St. John’s Church in Richmond, and Henry S. Kepler.

The Van Lews were a wealthy slave-holding family in Richmond prior to the Civil War. Their house was so large that it encompassed a full city block. The house was located at 2301 East Grace Street. The house



The Van Lew mansion, above, which is no longer standing, and the historical marker (right) that notes the history of the site, now a school building.

Marker photo by  
Melanie Greentree



(con't on page 7)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

was razed by the City of Richmond in 1911. Belleview Elementary School is now located on part of the site. There is a small plaque in front of the school placed by the Women of Virginia Historic Trail group, and there is a historic sign nearby. An article describing a recent artifacts auction in the Washington Times of November 23, 1900, was entitled "No Sentimental Interest, Effects of Miss Van Lew, the Union Spy, Bring Small Prices: The American flag which was raised by Miss Van Lew directly after Richmond was evacuated by the Confederate troops, and which was the first Union flag that met the eyes of the entering troops under General Grant, was sold to Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer for \$75..... The autograph and a book plate of John Randolph brought \$4, and an autograph of Horace Greeley was sold for half as much. Signed letters from President Garfield and Oliver Wendell Holmes were each sold for \$1.15."

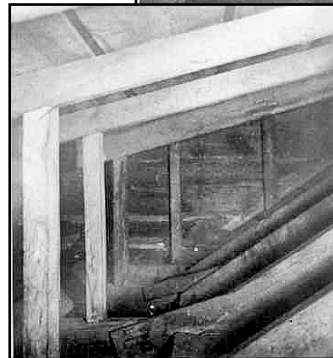
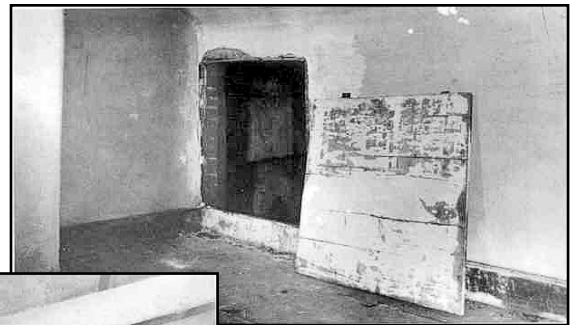
Elizabeth was sent north to a Quaker school in Philadelphia, PA. It is believed she began her abolitionist beliefs at that time. Her grandfather could have influenced her as well. Her family was never fully accepted into Richmond society, as they had originally come from the north. When she returned to Richmond, she was presented to society as a debutante and was quite active in the Richmond social scene. She never married.

When the Civil War began, Elizabeth, at age 43, still lived with her widowed mother. She and her mother abhorred slavery, even though they owned nine slaves. The house was used as part of the Underground Railroad, right under the noses of Richmond society. Elizabeth kept a journal, which she kept buried in her backyard. She only made it public on her deathbed. At some point, Elizabeth came up with the idea to appear crazy to Richmonders, to mask the real intent of her "wanderings." She would mumble, talk crazy, and appear out of it. Even the children of Richmond teased her calling her a witch, or worse. The boys of the town destroyed her fruit trees. She invited all the children to an ice cream party, trying to stop the persecution.

All the while, Elizabeth was gathering information wherever she went, and passing it on Union officers. She would appear at Libby Prison with a basket of eggs. Some of the eggs were empty and had messages inside.

She hid messages in a custard dish with a secret compartment. She also put messages in books for the prisoners at Libby Prison. She bribed the guards to give the prisoners extra food, clothing, and asked that they be transferred to hospitals, so she could gain access to interview them. One of her former slaves used the heel of his shoe to put messages in, while going from the Van Lew home to their farm further out of town. Guards and sentries never checked his shoes.

The prisoners who did escape hid in her home before getting on the road to the north.



Some of the interior spaces in the Van Lew house where escaped prisoners and slaves could hide before starting out on their scary run toward the North. Above, a passage to the secret room (at left).

She gave them information on safe houses on the way north. She even was able to get a Union sympathizer appointed to the prison staff. She worked all four years of the War listening to what was going on, while appearing demented. Her mother freed all their slaves and Elizabeth used her inheritance of \$10,000 to help slaves in the area escape. She operated a spy ring called "Richmond Underground" during the War. She protected her agents so well that many of their names have been lost in history. When all this was found out after the War, she lost her place as a member of Richmond's social elite. William Rasmussen, curator of the Virginia Historical Society said: "She is considered the most successful spy of the War."

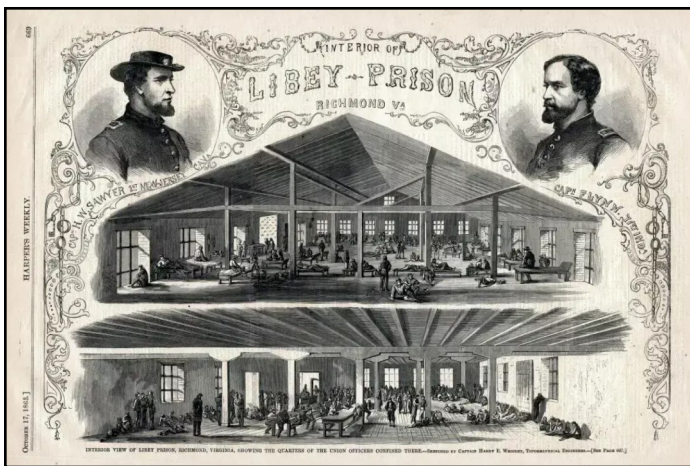
Elizabeth started this work right after the battle of 1st Bull Run/Manassas, when prison-

(con't on page 8)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

ers taken during the battle arrived in Richmond and were kept in an old tobacco warehouse, soon to be known as Libby Prison.



The infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, VA.

She volunteered to be a nurse there, but was rejected by Lt. David H. Todd, the Confederate half-brother of Mary Todd Lincoln. She was able to convince Gen. John H. Winder to allow her and her mother to bring food, books and medicine to the prisoners. The Richmond Enquirer stated: "Two ladies, a mother and a daughter, living on Church Hill, have lately attracted public notice by their assiduous attentions to the Yankee prisoners...these two women have been expending their opulent means in aiding and giving comfort to the miscreants who have invaded our sacred soil." Another article commented: "that if the Van Lews didn't stop their efforts, they would be exposed and dealt with as alien enemies of the country." Elizabeth said "she had men shake their fingers in my face and say terrible things. We had threats of being driven away, threats of fire, and threats of death." Women of the time were not expected to engage in unladylike behavior, to have the mental capacity to do the things she was doing, or to have the endurance for the plans to be successful. Things have come a long way in our country. Her brother would frequent Richmond's Slave

Market, where he would purchase entire families if they were about to be broken up. He would bring them to his home and then issue manumission papers to them.

Elizabeth had a code for her dispatches that she wrote in a colorless liquid. When milk was added to the page, the writing turned to black. In December 1863, two Yankees escaped from Libby Prison. They went back to Gen. Benjamin Butler and told them their story of Elizabeth Van Lew's efforts at spying. Butler immediately sent an officer to Richmond to recruit Elizabeth as a spy. In the beginning, she mailed her information to Federal authorities. She then sent her information directly to Gens. Butler and Ulysses S. Grant. She even sent Grant fresh flowers from her garden that were still fresh when he received them, along with a Richmond newspaper. Intelligence officer for the Army of the Potomac, George H. Sharpe, called her "the greater portion of our intelligence for 1864-65." He also said: "For a long, long time, she represented all that was left of the power of the United States government in Richmond."

She became the head of a spy network of twelve women who helped out with her spying. She recruited Mary Elizabeth Bowser, a Black woman with a photographic memory, and had her placed as a spy in the Confederate White House of Pres. Jefferson Davis. Her main job was dining room service, so she heard all about what was going on in the War. On June 30, 1995, Mary E. Bowser was inducted into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, AZ. Elizabeth had been inducted earlier, in 1993.



Confirmed photo of Mary E. Bowser, circa 1900.

In 1864, after Union Col. Ulric Dahlgren was killed trying to free Union prisoners in Richmond, he was hastily buried where he died. Southerners dug up his body and put it on display at the York River Railroad Depot.

(con't on page 9)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

His wooden leg was taken from his body and displayed in a store window. Dahlgren had been wounded and his leg amputated after the Battle of Gettysburg. His finger was cut off to retrieve a ring from his finger. Orders had been found in his pocket to burn and sack Richmond and kill Pres. Davis and his cabinet. His father, Adm. John Dahlgren, went four times to Fortress Monroe trying to negotiate the release of his son's body. After the public display of his body, he was first reinterred at Oakwood Cemetery. Elizabeth was outraged at the treatment of his body. She was able to have the body dug up and reinterred at a farm about 10 miles from Richmond. It was later disinterred again and moved to its current location in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. His father would later be interred next to him.

As a side note, there is a connection here to the Battle of Ox Hill in Chantilly, VA. The farm of Mosby Ranger John Ballard was part of the land of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. There is a stone monument placed by John Ballard on the site on the left side of the monuments to Gens. Philip Kearny and Isaac Stevens to mark where Stevens fell. Ballard lost his leg at the battle of Ewell's Chapel.



Ballard's white quartz slab marker at the Ox Hill battlefield site in Chantilly, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

Guess who received the recycled leg of Dahlgren? None other than John Ballard. He wore it the rest of his life.



Yup - it's Dahlgren's prosthetic leg, worn by Ballard until his death.

The Weekly Republican of October 18, 1900, relates - in part - the incident: "The one incident with which Miss Van Lew's name is most notably linked is that of the removal of the body of Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren, a son of Admiral Dahlgren, who, while in command of a raiding party, was

killed in King and Queen county. The body was brought to Richmond and was buried in Oakwood cemetery in the section set apart for the burial of Federal soldiers. Admiral Dahlgren, upon learning of the fate of his son, wrote to President Davis from Fort Monroe, begging the return of the body, but when the grave was opened it was found the body had been removed. President Davis had to inform Admiral Dahlgren of the disappearance. The admiral and his people, knowing the intense feeling against his son, did not believe the body had ever been buried, but had been cast into the river. A few weeks later Miss Van Lew wrote him a letter and explained the situation and relieved his anxiety. Miss Van Lew planned the enterprise which resulted in the removal of Dahlgren's body, though it was not known till the close of the War."



Col. Ulrich Dahlgren's gravestone in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

When Richmond fell to Union forces on April 3, 1865, Elizabeth was the first person to fly the United States flag in Richmond. Crowds on the street threatened to burn down her house. Elizabeth stood firm on the balcony and stated: "I know you, and you and you. General Grant will be in this city within the hour; if this house is harmed, your houses shall be burned by noon." Gen. Godfrey Weitzel ordered guards to surround her house. Later, Gen. Grant would have tea on her porch to thank her for her service. She kept his calling card until the end of her life. He commented: "You have sent me the most valuable information received from Richmond during the War." In gratitude for her service, Grant appointed her as postmistress of Richmond, paying her \$4,000/yr., a job she held for 12 years. When Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes was elected, he had her replaced in 1877. She was later allowed to return as a postal clerk, where she served from 1883-1887. An article in the Wisconsin State Journal of July 8,

(con't on page 10)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 9)



A very interesting photo of Elizabeth Van Lew (far right), having tea in her garden with brother John and his children. The year of the photo is not identified, but it appears, by style of dress and probable age she might be here, to be near, or just after, the Civil War.



An elderly Elizabeth Van Lew, one of the most remarkable characters in the history of the Civil War.

1887, entitled "The Case of Miss Van Lew" states as follows: "Washington, July 2—The removal of Miss Elizabeth Van Lew from the position of requisition clerk in the office of the third assistant postmaster general yesterday and her appointment to a \$720 place in the dead letter office has excited as much comment nearly as the president's battle flag episode. Miss Van Lew is a Virginian, who was loyal to the north during the War, and for four years acted as a union spy, furnished Gen. Grant and other union generals information of great value.... Gen. Gresham appointed her to a \$1,200 place in the post office department, which has supported her until the present time. Her record as postmistress was excellent, and as a clerk seemed to be above reproach. The president's attention was called to the matter to-day, and he has promised that it shall be fully investigated." She resigned her position when Pres. Cleveland was inaugurated.

Her finances continually diminished, and Col. Paul J. Revere, who she had helped get released from the Henrico Co. jail in 1862, raised money for her living expenses.

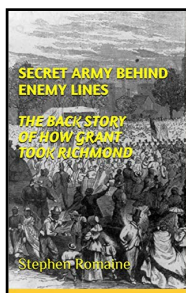
Later in life, she objected to paying taxes without being able to vote. Every year when

her taxes were due, she would send a letter of formal protest, along with the payment.

In her journal, she wrote that she did not consider herself a spy and did not wish to be named as such. "A person cannot be called a spy for serving their country within its recognized borders. Am I now to be branded a spy by my own country for which I was willing to lay down my life...God knows there is no vocation more ennobling, more honorable, and even the disgraceful word cannot stain my record."

Elizabeth died on September 25, 1900, in Richmond, penniless and a social outcast. Most likely she died of congestive heart failure. In her will, she bequeathed her personal papers (including her account of the War) to John P. Reynolds, a nephew of Col. Revere. Reynolds was able to get an article about her published in Harper's Monthly. She did live long enough to see the Lee Monument erected on Monument Avenue on May 29, 1890. She lived in the Church Hill mansion until the end of her life - with 40 cats. Her grave was unmarked until relatives of Col. Revere donated the stone monument to the cemetery for her marker. The marker below the inscription states: "This boulder from the Capitol Hill in Boston is a tribute from Massachusetts friends."

*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](mailto:jlgrtree@erols.com).*



As related in this week's "Travels with Ms. Rebelle," not everyone during the occupation of Richmond supported the Confederacy. This unlikely group included Elizabeth Van Lew, a feisty abolitionist; Mary Bowser, a slave housemaid in the Confederate White House; slaves and former slaves; the Underground Railroad conductors; and several members of Richmond aristocracy, as well individuals from the working classes. Former BRCWRT member Steve Romaine has written "Secret Army Behind Enemy Lines: The Back Story of How Grant Took Richmond," featuring the stories of how effective these folks were in helping Gen. U. S. Grant to take Richmond. To order this interesting book, visit: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07X754TXL/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07X754TXL/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1).





## THE BOOK CORNER



By Dave Button

*“The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee’s Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History,”* written by Jonathan Horn, is a study of the life of Gen. Lee that emphasizes his upbringing, his character, his decisions, how he lived his heritage and how his decisions made a major difference in the history of the United States.

An underlying theme of the book and the reason for the title are the relationship(s) the Lee and Washington families had with each other. To cite one example, Lee’s father served under Washington during the Revolutionary War. John Augustine Washington, III, the last heir to Mount Vernon, served under Lee.

The book is divided into four major components: Antebellum (before the War), Casus Belli (cause of the War), Bellum (the War), and Postbellum (after the War). Mr. Horn very neatly divides the general’s life into these four segments.

- Antebellum focuses on Lee’s birth, heritage, and life before the War, culminating in the return from the war with Mexico.
- Casus Belli picks up with Lee’s return up through his fateful decision to decline the offer of command of the army which led, essentially, to the appointment of Irvin McDowell.
- Bellum is Lee’s life during the War and ends with the surrender at Appomattox. A significant amount of study of this period of Lee’s life is devoted to his interaction with many of the well-known members of the Confederacy and his efforts to keep these egos focused

on the task at hand.

- Postbellum is devoted to his life from April 9, 1865, to his death on October 12, 1870.

The epilogue “The Bridge” deals with Lee’s legacy after the War, primarily in the Washington D.C./Arlington/Alexandria area. “The Bridge” refers to Memorial Bridge that crosses the Potomac from the Lincoln Memorial. To realize how this impacted Lee, you *must* read the book.

Included is an appendix is a family tree showing the connections between the Washington and Lee families – going back to Richard Lee (The Emigrant) down to Robert E. Lee on one branch, and down to Mary Lee Fitzhugh (who married George Washington Parke Custis) and was the mother of Mary Anna Randolph Custis, wife of Robert E. Lee.

Also included as an appendix of nearly 90 pages of notes, bibliography, and map and illustration credits, should one wish to consult in greater detail the information presented. After this is an exhaustive index of approximately 20 pages referencing the significant places and personages in Lee’s life.

The book, originally published in 2015, is available online through Amazon in both hard back and paper back, as well as on the Kindle reader. It is available through Barnes and Noble in paperback, as well as on its Nook reader.

For the reader who is looking for the “definitive” biography of Gen. Lee in great detail, this is not the book to read. For that, I refer you to Douglas S. Freeman’s masterpiece. If, however, one is looking for a look at Gen. Lee without all of the details of battles, this is a good, fast read. The emphasis on Lee, the man, rather than Lee, the general, is the heart of the book. This is also a book whose prologue should be read for a deeper understanding of what is to follow.

### Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Family Fun Weekend

SAT, MAY 15 - SUN, MAY 16 \* 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Museum and Visitor Center on Saturday May 15th or Sunday the 16th for a weekend of family friendly programs and activities hosted by living historians. Costumed living historians will host photography workshops, cooking demonstrations, muster in new recruits and practice drill, talk about the life of the average soldier and their equipment, have Civil War medicine displays, play period games, and tell stories about life as a civilian during the American Civil War. Cavalry troops with their horses will talk about the important roles of horses during the war, and much more! Though there are many family focused activities, everyone is welcome! Visitors are also invited to hike the battlefield trails - pack a picnic to have at the site picnic tables that overlook the Shenandoah Valley!

8437 Valley Pike P.O. Box 229 Middletown, VA 22645

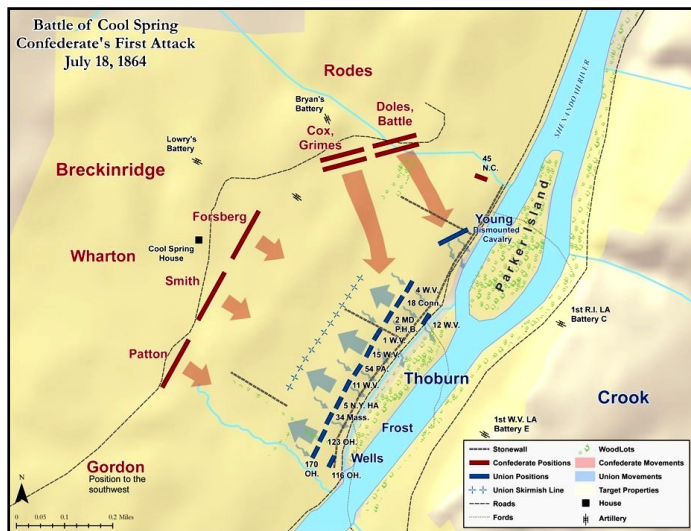


## PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

Greetings Bull Run Civil War Round Table members and friends - I trust you and your family and friends are doing well and remain safe and healthy. This edition of Preservation Corner highlights the preservation and interpretation of Virginia's Cool Spring Battlefield and Shenandoah University's River Campus at the Cool Spring Battlefield, located at 1400 Parker Lane near Bluemont, Virginia.

On July 18, 1864, Federal forces of Gen. Horatio Wright's VI Corps, and, in particular, Col. Joseph Thoburn's Division, battled along the banks of the Shenandoah River with the Confederate forces of Gen. Jubal Early's II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia in the largest and bloodiest Civil War battle fought in Clarke County, VA – the Battle of Cool Spring. This battle followed on the heels of the Battle of Monocacy and Early's incursion into Washington, D.C., and was a precursor to Gen. Phil Sheridan's 1864 Campaign in the Shenandoah Valley.



Map showing the initial Confederate attack and Island Ford (south of Parker Island) where Thoburn's Division crossed the Shenandoah River (Map courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust).

Today, Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute (MCWI) interprets the battle at the University's River Campus at Cool Spring Battlefield. An eight-page, nine-stop, self-guided walking tour is available to site visitors. Special programs, guided tours and access to the exhib-

its and artifacts from the battle in the Lodge at Cool Spring are available on select weekends throughout the summer. Entrance to the River Campus is free, and donations to support the interpretive work of MCWI at the River Campus are greatly appreciated.



Above, left, recent MCWI Guided Tour in vicinity of Island Ford. Above, right, Shenandoah University's River Campus Lodge.



Recently, the American Battlefield Trust and Shenandoah University received the 2020 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award for their partnership in preserving the Cool Spring Battlefield. The following Press Release was distributed by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT):

"The American Battlefield Trust and Shenandoah University were recently honored with the 2020 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award for a partnership that transformed a former golf course into a battlefield park and outdoor university classroom.

"The award from the county Conservation Easement Authority recognizes the preservation and stewardship of the Cool Spring Battlefield. The site along the Shenandoah River is now protected from development and is an enriching learning space for Shenandoah University while the park has become an unparalleled community resource, especially in this past year as residents sought outdoor space for socially distanced recreation.

"Cool Spring is a remarkable landscape, simultaneously significant in both historic and ecological contexts," said Trust President David Duncan. "We often speak of a protected battlefield's landscape to function as an outdoor classroom, but nowhere has this been more fully realized than on the banks of the Shenandoah River in Clarke County."

"The site was protected through a public-private partnership between the Trust and Shenandoah University that began in 2011.

(con't on page 13)



## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 12)

Once home to the Virginia National Golf Club, the Trust secured the 195-acre property using member donations and matching grants from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund to finance the \$2 million purchase price.

"During a 2013 celebration, ownership of the site was turned over to Shenandoah University, which integrated the land's crucial role in the July 18, 1864, Battle of Cool Spring and its 10,000 linear feet of frontage on the Shenandoah River into a hands-on learning venue for students. Thanks to a perpetual conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the site will remain forever pristine and free of inappropriate development.

"Today, the Shenandoah River Campus at Cool Spring Battlefield supports several university departments and activities. Classes in the environmental studies, outdoor leadership, and history programs investigate the property's history and ecology and develop leadership skills, while students, faculty, staff and administrators all visit the River Campus for meetings, recreation, team building, and inspiration. Students pursue both interpretation of the battlefield and research into native habitats and water quality.

"With hiking and biking trails, as well as river access, recreational opportunities are legion — both for both students and the general public, who are welcomed to the site daily. Cool Spring Park is now a local destination for walking, biking, bird-watching and other wildlife observation. Commonly seen creatures include bald eagles, cormorants, red-winged blackbirds, a nesting colony of great blue heron, bats, a dozen species of turtles, red foxes, muskrats, deer and beavers. Notable flora includes large swaths of Virginia bluebells, century-old giant sycamores, silver maples, box elders and the rare bur oak.

Shenandoah University is conscious that we are the stewards of a remarkable resource at Cool Spring and take that responsibility quite seriously," said Jonathan Noyalas, director of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute. "We have the opportunity to build a true heritage tourism destination and train the next generation of historians with real-world

experience using Cool Spring's rich historical landscape." "The permanent stewardship of this property by Shenandoah University was an ideal outcome for the property," said Trust Chief Land Preservation Officer Tom Gilmore, who accepted the award on the organization's behalf. "We frequently cite this partnership as a model we seek to replicate across the country."



Above left, Walking Tour Stop #3 – Well's Brigade leads the crossing. Above right, artillery artifacts from the battlefield.



### "Through Their Eyes"

Under the direction of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute (MCWI) Director, Jonathan Noyalas and, after two years of research, writing, development, filming, editing, collaboration and testing, MCWI recently unveiled "Through Their Eyes" - an app that allows visitors to the Cool Spring Battlefield to explore the July 18, 1864, battle experiences and its consequences for soldiers and their families through the lens of individual soldiers who fought in the battle.

The app's content is based on the primary accounts of soldiers who fought at Cool Spring. The accounts highlight the various ways in which the fighting that occurred along the banks of the Shenandoah River on July 18, 1864, impacted soldiers not only on that day, but in the days, weeks, months, and even years following the battle. The app was created with the assistance of students in Shenandoah University's Civil War Era Studies Program and in the University's Center for Immersive Learning.



The app (which is FREE) is available for download in the App Store and on Google Play (search "Through Their Eyes"). The app contains two components; a 360-degree, 3D "AR Map" video experience that can be used anywhere, and a GPS-

(con't on page 14)

## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 13)

enabled augmented “Soldiers’ Voices Tour” audio experience that can be used only on site at the Cool Spring Battlefield.

Readers are strongly encouraged to visit the Cool Spring Battlefield and Shenandoah University’s River Campus at Cool Spring. It is a wonderful site and setting in which to learn about the

Battle of Cool Spring and the soldiers who fought in that battle; to view battlefield artifacts and to learn about the history of the River Campus in the exhibit located inside the River Campus Lodge; to attend MCWI tours offered during the summer months, and to enjoy the hiking trail and self-guided walking tour.



# PRINCE WILLIAM

## Historic Preservation

**Enjoy these upcoming events in Prince William County:**

**May 15**

### **Brentsville Jail Exhibit Grand Opening**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. - FREE, donations welcome.

In its nearly 200-year existence, the Brentsville Jail has seen a lot of different uses. From a jail in the 19th century to a dormitory, private house and then office space in the 20th century, the building has changed a lot over the years. After years of restoration and research, join us for the grand opening of the Brentsville Jail Exhibit, which tells the story of the town of Brentsville and its inhabitants, and highlights the building's various uses. Join historians and historic interpreters at 10 a.m. for a day of free tours and programming at the site after a Dedication Ceremony at 10 a.m.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Rd. Bristow, VA. 703-365-7895.

**June 2**

### **Wednesday Walk at Bristoe Station Battlefield**

6 p.m. - Free, donations encouraged

Join the staff and volunteers of Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park for monthly hikes to stretch your legs and exercise your minds. Topics, routes, and distances vary by month and will cover a wide variety of the history of Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. The parking lot is located off Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049.

Prince William County Government  
Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism  
Office of Historic Preservation  
17674 Main St, Dumfries, VA 22026



## **The American Civil War: A Collection of Free Online Primary Sources**

**Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association**

### **Newspapers:**

**Chronicling America.** This site offers access to multiple newspapers from both the Confederate and Union states. More than 1,400 newspapers are in the archive, but not all are from the Civil War years. Examples of newspaper titles include: *Memphis Appeal* (1857–1886), *Chattanooga Rebel* (1862–1865), *New York Sun* (1859–1916), and *New York Daily Tribune* (1842–1866). Search across the newspapers for a range of contemporary stories from both sides of the war. From the Library of Congress. Access: [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab\\_newspapers](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab_newspapers).

**Harper's Weekly.** The archive of this popular weekly newspaper highlights only the Civil War years. The site is searchable and is arranged chronologically with thumb-nails of the front pages. All pages from the 1861–1865 Civil War period have been scanned including the engravings and illustrations. From the Lee Foundation. Access: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm>.

**Richmond Daily Dispatch (1860–1865).** This paper was published from the Confederate capital and has a digitized and searchable online archive of 1,384 issues. The site is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Access: <http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>.

**Secession-Era Editorials.** This site from the Furman University history department in South Carolina contains transcribed editorials from contemporary newspapers - all from the 1850s. The specific issues discussed are the Nebraska Bill debates, the caning attack on Senator Charles Sumner by Representative Preston Brooks, John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, and the Dred Scott decision. These events all highlight the varied and inflexible opinions of their time from both sides of the conflict. Access: <http://history.furman.edu/editorials/see.py>.

### **Maps and photographs:**

**Civil War Glass Negatives and Related Prints.** Approximately 7,000 portraits and battleground images are available. The collection is from the glass negatives of Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner, as well as from photographic collections that were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1943. Browse by broad subjects or search by key word. Access: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cwp/>.

**Civil War Maps.** Nearly 3,000 maps are included in this online composite of three collections from the Library of Congress, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Library of Virginia. Search by keyword and narrow with the facets to the left of the results page. Access: <http://www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection/>.

**Pictures of the Civil War.** The new era of photography brought the battles home during the American Civil War. The National Archives has organized the Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner photographs into broad categories for easy browsing. Access: <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/photos/index.html>.

### **Diaries and letters:**

**Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress.** Approximately 20,000 documents, which include correspondence with enclosures of newspaper clippings, drafts of speeches, notes, pamphlets, and other printed material by Lincoln, are available. Most of the material dates from the presidential years. Lincoln had a lively correspondence with many people in his day, so this is a rich resource. Each piece is scanned, with accompanying transcription. Searchable by keyword or just browse the collection. Access: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>.

**American Civil War Collection at the Electronic Text Center.** This site has transcribed letters from the University of Virginia special collections with links to other collections (some links are only accessible by University of Virginia students). Access: <http://etext.virginia.edu/civilwar/>.

**The Civil War Archive: Letters Home from the Civil War.** A collection of letters from both Union and Confederate soldiers, organized by name and regiment. Access: <http://www.civilwararchive.com/LETTERS/letters.htm>.

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

***The Stone Wall***

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

### **2021 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 21 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 Web site at [BRCWRT.org](http://BRCWRT.org) and clicking on "Membership Application."**

**NAME**\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS**\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY**\_\_\_\_\_ **STATE**\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP**\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE**\_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL**\_\_\_\_\_