



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVIII, Issue 8 NOVEMBER 2021

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR BRIAN R. McENANY SPEAKS ON "FEDERAL CAVALRY EARLY WARNING CAMPS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA - 1864" AT THE NOVEMBER 11th MEETING

Union Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman, commander of the (military) Dept. of Washington and the 22nd Army Corps, simplified the term 'early warning' in a directive to one of his commanders, "...push his (Col. Price's) patrols as far out on all the roads as (you) can with safety to give us timely notice of any movement of the enemy."

Those words encompassed the task given to cavalry units assigned that mission. The federal leadership believed the war would only last a short period of time, and the cost of manning, supplying and training cavalry was not a high priority in the growing army. Dedicated cavalry brigades did not exist until late 1862.

BRCWRT member and Executive Board member, Brian McEnany, will describe how these early warning lines were established during the war, with particular emphasis on the line of cavalry camps constructed in its later phases – a line of ghost forts that history has forgotten.

Brian was born in Cornwall, New York. An 'army brat,' he traveled extensively with his family in the U.S. and Japan. By the time he was 13, he had attended 12 different schools, before attending Brooklyn Technical High School in New York City. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Military Academy with the Class of 1962. In January 1984, after various assignments in Germany, Korea, combat service in Vietnam, and multiple tours in the Pentagon, he elected to retire as a lieutenant colonel.

Military history has always fascinated him. He used his skills as an analyst of military operations to write a narrative history of the West Point Class of 1862. Begun as a project for one of his West Point reunions, he expanded an earlier effort into a full-length book entitled *"For Brotherhood and Duty: The Civil War*

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 p.m.

**In-Person at the
Centreville Regional Library -
Streaming via Zoom or Facebook Live**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

GUEST SPEAKER:

**Author/Historian and BRCWRT
Member Brian McEnany**

TOPIC:

**"Federal Cavalry Early Warning
Camps in No. Virginia - 1864"**

History of the West Point Class of 1862," published in April 2015 by University Press of Kentucky. It has received nine reviews in several military history journals, newspapers and magazines, and was given the Best Civil War Study award by professors and historians of the New York Military Affairs Symposium in March 2016.

Brian is a member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and is the head of its Education Committee. He has given presentations about the Class of 1862 and his book to numerous Civil War groups in Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, and South Carolina. He and co-author James Lewis published a tour guide entitled *"Sunstroke and Ankle-Deep Mud"* in 2012 that takes the reader along the Union Army's path across Northern Virginia, moving toward Gettysburg in 1863, prompting numerous tours. His most recent publication is *"History Happened Here: The Warrenton Turnpike and the First Battle of Bull Run"* (2020). He is married to Lillian Martin of Niagara Falls, New York; they currently live in Vienna, Virginia.

Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet and dine with Brian at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA: 703-266-9755.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

President: Mark Whitenton, mark.whitenton@gmail.com, 703-795-8759

Past President: Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net, 703-361-1396

Vice-President: Kim Brace, kbrace@electiondataservices.com

Treasurer: Joe Young, BRCWRTTreasurer@gmail.com, 703-281-7935

Secretary: Debbie Whitenton, debd509@aol.com

At Large: Jim Lewis, John De Pue, Drew Pallo

Marketing: Stephanie Vale, brcwrtmarketing@gmail.com

Membership: Kim Brace, kbrace@electiondataservices.com

Preservation: Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net

Education: Brian McEnany, bmcenany@cox.net; Charlie Balch, cabalch@aol.com (Scholarship)

Field Trips: Open

Webmaster: Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org

Graphic Design: Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor: Nadine Mironchuk, nadine1861@hotmail.com

Newsletter Team: Saundra Cox, Mark Whitenton, Eric Fowler, Janet Greentree, Andy Kapfer and Don Richardson.

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

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2021/January 2022 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, November 29, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2021/January 2022 2021 issue**, advertisers - please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on November 19 to Charlie Balch at: BRCWRTads@gmail.com

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 Carrabba's Italian Grill, located just across Lee Highway from the Centreville Regional Library.



UPCOMING 2021/2022 MEETINGS (Virtual - until further notice)

November 18: Author/Historian and BRCWRT member 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"

January 13: Historian/Author Ryan Quint - "Battle of Dranesville, VA - December 1861"

February 10: Historian/Author Bill Backus - "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight: the Potomac River Blockade of 1861-1862"

March 10: Historian and Civil War Trails Director Drew Gruber "Battle of Eltham's Station, VA - May 1862"

April 14: Historian/Author Greg Mertz - "The Battle of Shiloh - April 1862"

May 12: Historian/Author Scott Patchan - "Federal Col. Joseph Thoburn in the Valley"

June 9: Historian/Author Clark "Bud" Hall - "Battle of Brandy Station, VA - June 1863"

July 9: Historian/Author Kevin Pawlak - "August 27: The Critical Actions of the Second Manassas Campaign"

August 11: Historian/Author Michael Block - "Battle of Cedar Mountain - August 1862"

September 8: Historian/Author Dan Welch - "Battle of Antietam Creek - September 17, 1862"

October 13: Author/Historian Jon-Erik Gilot - "Albert G. Jenkins' Trans-Allegheny Raid"

November 10: Author/Historian John Carter - "Centreville, VA, Civil War Defenses - 1861-1862"

December 8: Author/Historian Dr. Chris Mackowski - "Battle of Fredericksburg - December 13, 1862"

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
Bristoe Station Table Report	Page 3
Cold Springs Tour AAR	Page 4
Ms. Rebelle	Page 6
PWC Civil War Christmas	Page 9
The Book Corner	Page 10
Election of Officers Notice	Page 10
2022 History Lectures	Page 11
Fun With History	Page 12
Thanksgiving Day is Set	Page 13



The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Fellow BRCWRT members -

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table has had a great month as we continue to re-engage in familiar activities. Although the October meeting had to be conducted by Zoom and Facebook Live only, we can thank Kim Brace, Alan Day and Debbie Whitenton for being determined to have November 18th's meeting both live at the Centreville Library and also available by Zoom and Facebook Live – and so, either join us at the library, or link into the meeting Thursday evening. As you know, our general meetings are traditionally on the second Thursday of each month. However, this month, the second Thursday fell on Veteran's Day and the Centreville Library was closed that day.

Thanks to Blake Myers and his ad hoc tour committee, the BRCWRT restarted its field trip programs on October 23, with a pleasant and informative tour of the Cool Springs Battlefield on the shore of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. See page 4 for Blake's after-action report.

Stephanie Vale continues to be a consistent leader in her role as chair of the Marketing Committee. She and her team represented the BRCWRT well at the Battle of Bristoe Station Day on October 9 and 10. Please see her report below.

Also, thanks to Stephanie Vale and Kim Brace's efforts (and their combined memberships with the Manassas Battlefield Trust) for securing Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent, Brandon Bies, to personally lead a special tour of the Dogan House for BRCWRT members on October 30. See photo of Brandon, included here.



Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent Brandon Bies gave a personal tour of the historic - but deteriorated - Dogan House, located on the battlefield grounds. Through donations, a rehabilitation of the Dogan House is taking place now.

After the tour, the BRCWRT presented Brandon with a check for \$1,000 toward completing the current phase of stabilization of the 1870's structure. A portion of the money was raised by sales at the BRCWRT annual picnic and book sales at the Bristoe event. In addition, \$1,175 was collected from BRCWRT members who were present for the tour.

This \$2,175 will be added to the Dogan House restoration grant from the Manassas Battlefield Trust, which will be matched one-for-one by the National Park Service.

Finally, it is wonderful to be getting our personal lives back. I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving full of family and friends, after so many of us had to trim our activities last year.

BRCWRT's Table at the Battle of Bristoe Station Event

by Stephanie Vale

On Oct 9, 2021, the Round Table was represented at the 158th Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station with an event tent staffed by Blake Myers, Drew Pallo, Sam Laundenslager and Stephanie Vale. The event was very successful, connecting with visitors and informing the community about the Round Table's mission. Also:

- Book sales were very successful. One of our student members has started his Civil War library with our books! Book sales totaled \$159, which was added to the funds raised at the annual picnic, going toward the BRCWRT's support for the restoration of the Dogan House.
- We gained two new members to our group. It was a very successful day, and it was good to be out in the history community again, connecting with friends we have not seen in almost two years.

Battle of Cool Spring Tour AAR

BRCWRT's Tour Program Gets a Re-Start

by Sam Laudenslager, Blake Myers and Jim Lewis

On October 23, 2021, a group of 23 Bull Run Civil War Round Table members gathered at Shenandoah University's River Campus at the Cool Spring Battlefield for a walking tour of the July 18, 1863, Battle of Cool Spring. This was the first BRCWRT tour since March 4, 2020, when tours were halted due to health and safety concerns associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The terrific turnout for this tour was definitely an indication that Round Table members are ready, eager and excited to get back to BRCWRT-organized field trips and tours.

Our host for this tour was Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute (MCWI), and our tour leader was Shenandoah University professor and MCWI Director, Jonathan Noyalas, a long-time friend of our Round Table and a speaker at previous BRCWRT programs.

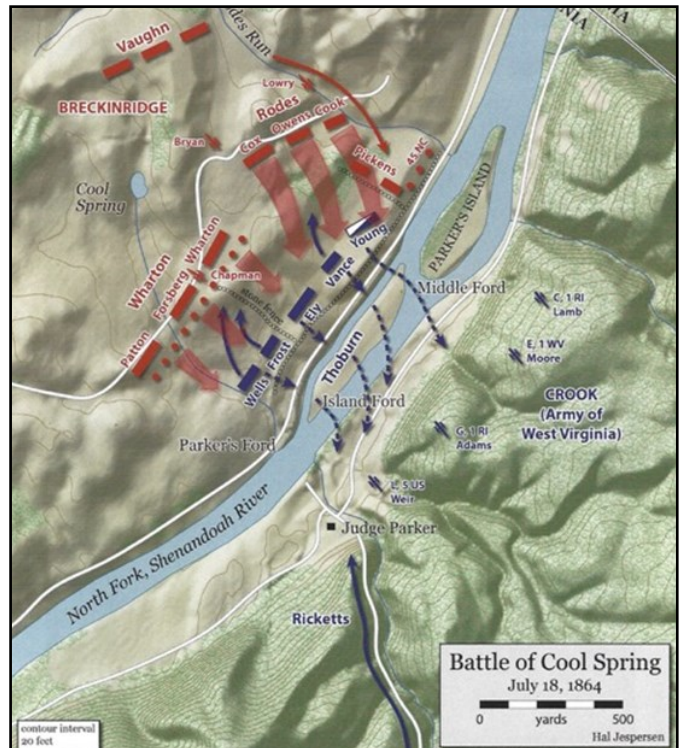


BRCWRT Members and Tour Guide Jonathan Noyalas - Ready for the Battle of Cool Spring Tour.

the environs of Washington City, following the Battle of Monocacy and the engagement at Fort Stevens. This battle took place before the significant actions that were yet to come in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, including multiple and widespread skirmishing in the summer of 1864 and Gen. Phil Sheridan's campaign to degrade the Valley's military value and use in the fall of 1864. A show of hands at the beginning of the tour showed that only about half of the tour participants knew of the battle, and few had ever been to the battlefield.

Gen. Early withdrew from Washington on the night of July 12 and, four days later, crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Snickers Gap, entering the Shenandoah Valley. A Union pursuit force commanded by Gen. Wright followed Early in his withdrawal, but efforts to drive Early's pickets from Castleman's Ferry (where today's U.S. Rte. 7 crosses the Shenandoah River) proved futile. With a frontal assault deemed infeasible, Gen. Wright and Gen. George Crook decided to flank the Confederate position by crossing the Shenandoah River approximately two miles downstream. At about 2 p.m., on July 18, Gen. Crook ordered Col. Joseph Thoburn to take his small division, along with Col. Daniel Frost's brigade (approximately 5,000 men), to cross the river at Island Ford.

The Battle of Cool Spring, the largest Civil War battle fought in Clarke County, Virginia, is a largely forgotten battle between Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's II Corps and divisions from Union Gen. Horatio Wright's VI Corps, following Early's withdrawal from



Battle of Cool Spring - Battle Map.

(con't on page 5)

Cold Springs Battle – (con't from page 4)

Thus began the Battle of Cool Spring.

Jonathan led our Round Table group along the scenic south bank of the Shenandoah River, stopping at several of the nine total stops along the Battle of Cool Spring history trail, to highlight specific actions during the battle. The battle raged across this section of the Shenandoah River during the late afternoon and into the evening of July 18, 1863. Key stops on the tour included: the Prelude to Battle; Island Ford; Gen. James B. Rickett's arrival and refusal to cross the river; the breaking of the Union right flank; and the recrossing the Shenandoah River.

Col. George Wells' brigade led Thoburn's advance to and across Island Ford at about 3:30 p.m. As Thoburn's troops crossed the Shenandoah River, they discovered that Confederate divisions were nearby, and they were soon confronted by the divisions of Gen. Gabriel Wharton and Gen. Robert Rodes.



Above, left, the historical marker at the Island Ford site. Above, right, an overlook at the same location.

An early evening decision (around 6 p.m.) to not reinforce Thoburn's forces on the west bank of the Shenandoah River left Thoburn with few options other than to await darkness and recross the river. Pinned down with their backs to the river, Thoburn's troops were able to escape under cover of darkness but spent a harrowing night recrossing the river at multiple sites, including Middle Ford, adjacent to the dangerous Parker's Hole, where numerous Union soldiers are believed to have been lost.



Parker's Hole (red oval) Middle Ford, a 50-ft. drop-off under the water.

Although the battle casualties may seem "light" - the Union VI Corps with 65 KIA and 422 total casualties (8%); CSA II Corps with 80 KIA and 400 total casualties (5%) - to the soldiers who fought there, it was a violent and significant fight. Many of the Union soldiers who participated in this battle and had previously seen action at Gettysburg and the Wilderness, wrote that this was the most intense and violent battle they ever saw.

At each tour stop, Jonathan highlighted primary source accounts from diaries and letters of soldiers who fought on this ground

and at, or near, that specific location. These vignettes helped make this tour a vivid and memorable one.

After a terrific tour, approximately a dozen Round Table members retrograded to the nearby Hill High Marketplace and Restaurant, enjoying the group comradery and all the BBQ, bratwurst and fixings that one could eat.

For 2022, BRCWRT tours planned - to date - include "Stonewall" Jackson's flank march leading to the battle of 2nd Manassas (June 25, 2022), and the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg (October 2022). All members are encouraged to come and join the fun, the comradery, and the learning.



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Lt. Gen. John McAllister
Schofield, USA**

By Janet Greentree

This is for all you West Point graduates, former ROTC members, U.S. Air Force Academy, Fort Benning's Officer Candidate School, and other military institutions. Most likely, you had to recite the following, verbatim, which are the words of Major Gen. (at that time) John M. Schofield at an address given at West Point on August 11, 1879:

"The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country, reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and to give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or the other of dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them regard for himself, while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his inferiors, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself."



Lt. Gen. John M. Schofield

the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them regard for himself, while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his inferiors, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself."

John McAllister Schofield was born on September 29, 1831, in Gerry, Chautauqua Co., New York, to Rev. James Schofield and Caroline McAllister. Gerry is located in the southwest corner of New York. His father was a Baptist minister in Sinclairville, NY. James married Caroline on January 21, 1827. They were the parents of James Van Pelt; Caroline;

John McAllister; George Wheeler (a brevet brigadier general in the Civil War - the .45 caliber Smith and Wesson Schofield revolver was named for him); Elisha (assessor of the City of Richmond, VA, killed in 1870, when balcony collapsed at the VA Court of Appeals); Margaret Emily; Franklin Potter; Charles Brewster (was his brother's aide de camp), and Lora Jane. Lora Jane died at seven months. His mother died on May 8, 1852. The Rev. James then married Cornelia S. Seely on October 16, 1855. They would have four children, each dying as an infant. When John was 12 years old, the family moved to Freeport, Illinois, which John later described as his place of birth. John was baptized by his father in the Pecatonica River, known as the 'Jordan of Illinois.'

John was educated in public schools and briefly worked as a surveyor and school-teacher in Wisconsin. He was appointed to West Point by U.S. Representative Thomas J. Turner. He reported at age 17 to the "Point" on June 1, 1849, with less than \$2 in his pocket. He was a mathematics teaching assistant in his last year and was accused of letting other classmates make offensive drawings and jokes on the blackboard. Schofield was dismissed from West Point. He met with Sen. Stephen A. Douglas and appealed the decision to the Secretary of War. The matter was then referred back to a Board of Inquiry at West Point. All but two officers voted to allow Schofield back into West Point. One of them who voted no was future Gen. George H. Thomas. Thomas and Schofield did not get along after the incident. Schofield was re-admitted and graduated seventh in his class of 1853 as a brevet second lieutenant in the artillery. Members of the class of 1853, who became Civil War generals, were: James B. McPherson; Joshua Sill; William R. Boggs; William S. Smith; Philip Sheridan; John Bell Hood; John Stevens Bowen; Alexander Chambers; Henry Brevard Davidson; Reuben Ross; James Argyle Smith; Robert Ogden Tyler, and Henry Harrison Walker. He served two years in the artillery. His first assignment was to Fort Moultrie in South Carolina. He served at several places in Florida, contracting dysentery and malaria. He became so ill that the doctor used chloroform on him. Future Gen. A.P. Hill had him evacuated and eventually sent to his home in Culpeper, VA, to recover. He was kept in bed and given a brandy mint julep each morning before he got up.

(con't on page 7)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

Following his recovery, he returned to West Point as assistant professor of natural and experimental philosophy, from 1855-1860. It was here that he met his wife, Harriet Whitehorn Bartlett, the daughter of W.F.C. Bartlett,



A.P. Hill's House, Culpeper, VA – Schofield recuperated there. The house is beige one in back, with the cupola.

Photo by Janet Greentree

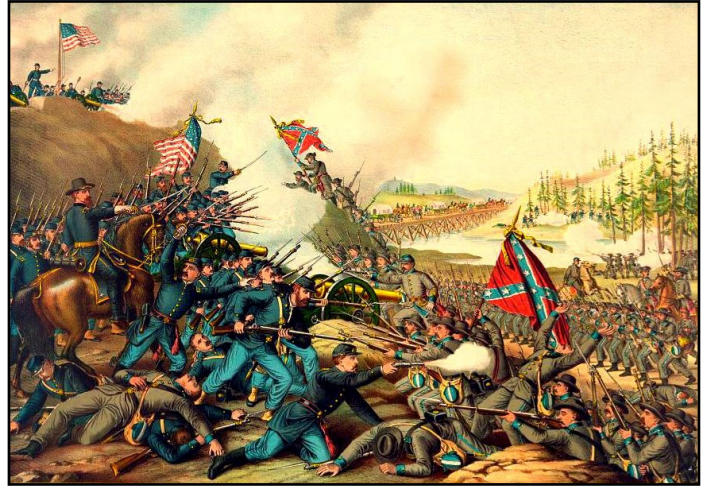
Chairman of West Point's Department of Philosophy. He and Harriet married on June 1, 1857, at West Point. They had four children – John Rathbone; William Bartlett (a major in the Civil War); Henry Halleck; Mary Campbell, and Richmond McAllister (a colonel in the Civil War). Their first-born son died at 10 years of age. He is buried at West Point. Harriet would live until December 24, 1888, dying in Washington, D.C.; she is buried beside her son at West Point. At age 60, Schofield married Georgia Wells Kilbourne on June 18, 1891, in Keokuk, Iowa. They had a daughter, Georgia, born in 1897, who lived until 1950.



Above, Georgia Wells Kilbourne; in 1910, following Gen. Schofield's death, Georgia married John Henry Hewson. At right, Mrs. Donald Fairchild Washburn, formerly Miss Georgia Schofield, seen here when visiting her mother, Mrs. John H. Hewson (The Washington Times - October 18, 1917).



Schofield took a leave of absence from the army to become a professor in physics at Washington University in St. Louis. While



The Battle of Franklin, TN, November 30, 1864.

there, the Civil War broke out, so he rejoined the Army and served under Gen. Nathaniel Lyon. His first battle was at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, near Springfield, Missouri. Schofield wanted the outnumbered Yankees to retreat, but was overruled. Gen. Lyon was killed at the battle. It was here that he was awarded the Medal of Honor, which reads: "Was conspicuously gallant leading a regiment in a successful charge against the enemy." He was one of five soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for actions at Wilson's Creek. He made brigadier general. Schofield was commander of the Army of the Frontier and the District of Southwest Missouri. He fought guerillas in Kansas and Missouri. He was in the Western Theatre for most of the Civil War, fighting at Wilson's Creek; the Atlanta Campaign; Utoy Creek; Franklin; Nashville, and Wyse Fork.

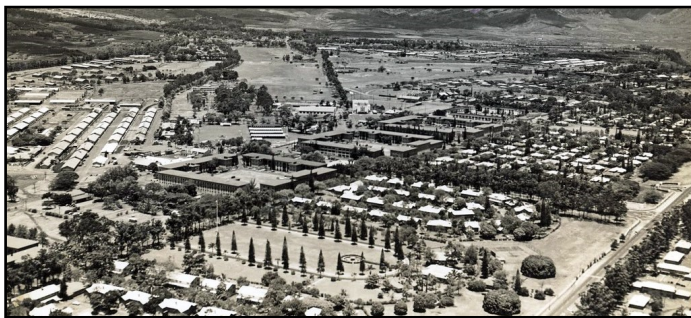
On May 12, 1863, he rose to major general. Pres. Abraham Lincoln nominated him for major general on November 29, 1862, but the Senate would not confirm his promotion. Lincoln nominated him again on March 12, 1863; he was then confirmed. He then commanded the Department of the Army of the Ohio. He was with Gen. William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, and then detached to join Gen. George Thomas in Tennessee (wonder how that went). He fought Gen. Hood at Spring Hill, Nashville and Franklin. He was then ordered to join Sherman in North Carolina. Schofield moved his men by both rail and sea

(con't on page 8)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

in 17 days to Fort Fisher, occupied Wilmington, and fought at Kinston before joining Sherman at Goldsboro, NC, for the meeting with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to arrange the terms of surrender of the Confederates under Johnston's command. He and Johnston became friends after the war and they spent much time sitting on the floor, going over maps of the Civil War.

After the war, Schofield was in charge of the District of Virginia. He was then sent to Paris, France by the State Department. He negotiated the removal of French troops from Mexico. He returned to duty in the U.S. Army in August 1866 and was in charge of the Army of the Potomac. He was the military governor of Virginia during reconstruction. He oversaw the first elections that were open to blacks and whites alike. Pres. Andrew Johnson offered him the cabinet post of Secretary of War. (With shades of what is going on now in our country, Schofield set a military precedent when he served as Secretary of War.) This action consolidated the highest-ranking military person in the country and the Secretary of War. He was credited with recognizing the necessity for civilian control of the military. This precedent remains to this day. He served in that position until Johnson's term ended in 1869. When Pres. Ulysses S. Grant was elected, Schofield returned to the army and served in various positions. Upon the death of Gen. George Thomas, Schofield took his position in command of the Military Division of the Pacific in 1872 and founded the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Schofield Barracks, located at Pearl Harbor, was named for him. He also was Commandant of West Point from 1876-1881. He focused on reducing hazing at West Point, among other things. He re-opened the Gen. Fitz John Porter case; Porter had been court martialed for disobedience at 2nd Bull Run.



Schofield Barracks, Pearl Harbor, HI, in the 1950's.

Porter was found to have been wrongly convicted, due to the bad decisions of Gens. John Pope and Irvin McDowell.

Another interesting incident occurred at West Point during his command. In 1880, an African American student, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker, was found beaten and bruised in his room. Whittaker claimed white cadets inflicted the beating on him. He was court martialed and found to have faked his assault. After a Congressional investigation, Schofield was removed from his post as commandant in 1881. Upon the death of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan in 1888, Schofield became the highest-ranking general in the Army – General in Chief of the Army. He was appointed Lieutenant



Gen. Schofield later in life.

General of the Army on February 5, 1895, and served until his retirement on September 29, 1895, which was his 64th birthday. Retirement was mandatory at age 64. After his retirement, he served as a military advisor to Pres. William McKinley.

He lived to become the last surviving member of Pres. Andrew Johnson's cabinet. His memoirs, *"Forty-Six Years in the Army,"* were published in 1897. Schofield was also chosen to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Order of the Loyal Legion on October 18, 1899. After the Civil War, he was responsible for establishing the U.S. Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Gen. Schofield died of a stroke in St. Augustine, Florida, at age 74, on March 4, 1906. He and several members of his family are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is buried in Section 2, site 1108. The grave is high on a hill to the south of Arlington House. Gen. Schofield was posthumously awarded the Civil War Campaign Medal and Indian Campaign Medal, created in 1907.

The Times in Troy, NY, published an article on February 11, 1886, about Scho-

(con't on page 9)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)



Above, left, Gen. Schofield's Marker at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Above, right, a closeup of the marker.

field's rank as major general: "Gen. Hancock was the senior major general of the army, ranking next to Lieut. Gen. Sheridan. His death makes Gen. John M. Schofield the senior major general, with Gen. John Pope next in line of precedence. There are three major generals in the army as now organized, and the vacancy caused by the advancement of Gens. Schofield and Pope will in the natural order of things be filled by promoting the senior brigadier general. There are five officers holding this rank, in order as follows: Oliver O. Howard; Alfred H. Terry; Christopher C. Augur; George Crook; Nelson A. Miles...."

Upon his death, the Oregonian published his death notice on March 9, 1906, as follows: "The recent death of General John M. Schofield removes from the military horizon

one of the few remaining figures of those who played a heroic part in the great drama of the Civil War. General Schofield was graduated from West Point in the class of 1853. Among his classmates were Generals Sheridan and John B. McPherson, who, with himself, threw the strength and fire of their young manhood in their country's service. Like several other veterans of the Civil War—military and naval—General Schofield married late in life a young woman, who, with a daughter and son by his first marriage, survive him. He was at one time Secretary of War, and was Lieutenant-General of the Army in 1895, retiring from active service during that year. He was 74 years old at the time of his death. As commander of the Department of the Pacific for some years, he won many friends in the great Western world, who will regret his death."

Gen. T.H. Ruger said of Schofield on his death: "The country has lost a great soldier, a great statesman, a great negotiator, a great patriot."

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.

Enjoy these December Civil War Christmas Events!

December 4

Christmas in a Civil War Camp Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park

Tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.; \$5 per person, children 6 and under are free.

Experience how soldiers spent the holidays away from their families. Living history demonstrations and a visit from Civil War Santa Claus will accompany each tour. Nineteenth-century Christmas crafts will be available for children. Please come dressed for the weather. Tours will last approximately one hour.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, corner of Iron Brigade Unit Ave. and Tenth Alabama Way, Bristow, VA. (703) 366-3049.

December 5 - Noon - 4 p.m.

Christmas in Camp Historic Blenheim

Historic Blenheim will be holding Christmas in Camp on Sunday, December 5, Noon - 4 p.m.. The only changes from previous will be that we will not hold the ornament making inside, but will be giving away packets of take-home items.

There will be an opportunity for people to see our last year's program in the large room, however. We will also be having smaller groups for the house tours.

Historic Blenheim, City of Fairfax, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

December 11

Civil War Christmas & Concerts at Brentsville Courthouse

6 - 8 p.m.; Free, donations welcome.

Step back over 150 years to see how soldiers and civilians celebrated Christmas time during the Civil War. Walk through camps by candlelight and interact with soldiers to learn about Christmas customs of the past. Get your picture taken with a Civil War Santa and have some hot cider as you enjoy a musical performance by the Brentsville District High School Choir at 7 p.m. After the concert join them outside around the campfire and sing along!

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 20136.



THE BOOK CORNER



By Don Richardson

DIGGING THEIR WAY TO FREEDOM

"The Greatest Escape: A True American Civil War Adventure" (2021) by Douglas Miller is the kind of book I really like: it tells an exciting, suspenseful tale, but it allows the participants to do most of the talking.

Douglas Miller, an award-winning filmmaker of such documentary series as *The Color of War* has pulled together an impressive array of first-person narratives about the mass escape of Union officers from Libby Prison in February of 1864. Libby, a converted tobacco warehouse in downtown Richmond, VA, was known as the "Rebel Bastille" and was (theoretically) escape-proof. But 109 Union officers proved them wrong by tunneling their way through Libby's foundations and under a street to a secluded area. Even more impressive, more than half of them (61) made a successful run for Union lines east and north of Richmond.

Libby was not intended to be a permanent prison camp at the outset of the Civil War; the plan was to hold officers there until mutual swaps could be arranged for Confederate officers held by the North. However, at some point, the trusting relationship between the adversaries that was essential to making the exchange system work broke down, and more and more prisoners were simply held for the duration of the war. By late 1863, the upper two floors of Libby – which could reasonably hold about 500 men – were bulging with over 1,200 officers. There were no beds or other furniture, and the only creature comforts were those the prisoners could bribe guards to provide.

Federal enlisted men were initially confined on Belle Island in the middle of the James River.

Libby housed the officers, who were generally well educated and more highly motivated to resist their captors and try to escape. Around 50 of the participants eventually published accounts of their experiences after the war, and the extensive excerpts from them are the greatest strength of this book. Their accounts relate the difficulties they had to deal with inside the prison, the agonizing trek post-escape through freezing swamps and woods in bitter cold, with no warm clothing, food, or maps to guide them, and the bitter disappointment of being flushed from their hiding places and (in some cases) recaptured by Confederate searchers. They had to cover about 50 miles to reach the nearest Union outposts - and freedom.

Fans of modern POW escape stories, such as the Great Escape from Stalag Luft 3 in March of 1944 in eastern Germany, will enjoy the parallels between the strategies the prisoners of the 1860s and the prisoners of the 1940s used to find their way out of bondage. And those with an interest in the fields of espionage and intelligence will hear a lot about Richmond socialite Elizabeth Van Lew and her extensive Union spy network, which actively aided the officers in Libby.

Another key part of the story is the role played by enslaved African Americans in and around Richmond. Time after time, they risked serious consequences by feeding, sheltering and guiding the escaped Union officers. The officers were intrigued by the way that the slave families they encountered seemed to have had advance notice that they were coming.

The book is illustrated by many period photographs and engravings, as well as drawings made by prisoners who were gifted artists. Miller ties the first-person accounts together with his own narrative in an engaging, easy-to-read style. While the main subject of the book is the Libby escape, there are a lot of other fascinating things about the Civil War in general that appear in these pages. Definitely worth a read!

~ Notice of Annual Election of Officers ~

This is a reminder to our membership that nominations for our four elected officer positions for 2022 will close at our November 18, 2021, meeting. Our four incumbent officers have agreed to run for reelection. This includes: Mark Whinton – president; Kim Brace – vice president; Debbie Whinton – secretary; and Joe Young – Treasurer. To date, the nominating committee has received no other nominations for these positions.

Should you wish to run for one of these offices or to nominate another member, kindly notify myself or Jim Lewis (antietam1862@verizon.net) prior to the November meeting, or offer such nomination during that meeting. The election will be conducted during our December 2021 membership meeting.

John De Pue, Election Committee Chairman (jdepue@comcast.net)



2022 HISTORY LECTURES

**Free lectures at
Old Manassas Courthouse
from 7 to 8:30 pm**

- January 27** Ross Schwalm, "Hessians in Dumfries"
- February 24** Michael Brantley, "Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate"
- March 24** Jim Piecuch, "Light Horse Harry Lee in the War for Independence"
- April 28** Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson, "John Mosby's Combat Operations in Prince William County"
- May 26** Jon-Erik Gilot, "The Newbys of Prince William County"

PRINCE WILLIAM
— Historic Preservation

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue
Manassas, VA

For more information:
(703) 367-7872
www.pwcgov.org/history
HistoricPreservation@pwcgov.org

Connect with us on social media!
www.facebook.com/pwhistoric
Twitter: @PWHPF
Instagram: PWC History



FUN WITH HISTORY

by Don Richardson

One of the joys of historical research is that you occasionally stumble across something unexpected and fascinating while you were looking for something else.

One of my research interests is a gentleman named George Knapp Collins, who served as a 1st Lieutenant in the 149th NY Volunteers and was present at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Lookout Mountain. He was wounded at Chancellorsville and, after receiving a second wound at Lookout Mountain, he was given a medical discharge and went home to his wife and family in Syracuse, NY. He became a prominent lawyer and local history author following the war. He was the first cousin of my great-great-grandmother, Josephine Hurlbut Richardson, and was her classmate at Syracuse High School.

By chance, I discovered a huge collection of his manuscript letters at the Cornell University library, including a letter to his wife, written on the day after Gettysburg, and one that Josephine wrote to him in early 1863; these will be the subject of future articles.

Following Lookout Mountain, he was in the military hospital in Tennessee for a number of months before receiving his disability discharge in April 1864. In this letter to his wife, he had some choice words about Army bureaucrats and red tape:

Officers Hospital, Nashville Tenn, March 15th, 1864

Dear Kate,

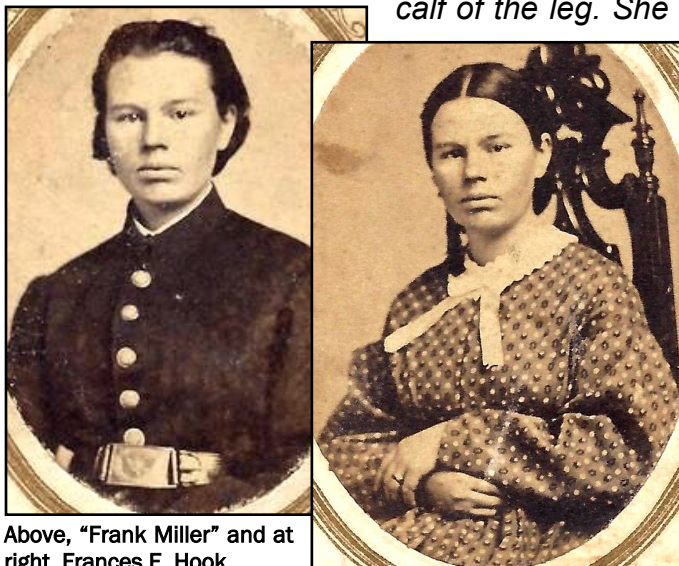
Your letter of the 4th instant came to hand 3 or 4 days ago but I have not answered it for several reasons. One is because I have delayed, hoping to write you good news about my papers. But I have just received a letter from Captain Lindsay that the same have been returned unapproved on the ground of not being forwarded through the proper channel. I still think however that the same were forwarded right as they should be, but some Ass has taken it into his head that he knew more than I did, and has taken this manner of showing it.

George continued on to share camp gossip and other items of interest to his family. Near the end of his letter, he also told her about an unusual fellow hospital patient:

I send you a picture of a female soldier who was wounded and is in this hospital here. She has been out in the 90th Illinois regiment. She has served about 20 months as a common soldier and was taken prisoner, and in trying to escape she was wounded in the calf of the leg. She is from Chicago. Her name is Frances E Hook but she went by the name of Frank Miller in the regiment.

My love to your mother and five hundred bushels of the same to yourself.

Your "Geo"



Above, "Frank Miller" and at right, Frances E. Hook.

The story of Frances Hook is even more colorful than his words imply. I knew a fair amount about women who served incognito in the Civil War, yet I had never heard of this one. Her enlistment in the 90th Illinois in October 1863 was actually her 6th venture of this nature; she was only 18 at the time. Born in Ireland as Frances Elizabeth Quinn, she and her younger brother were orphaned at an early age. She followed her brother into the service, rather than be kept at

(con't on page 13)

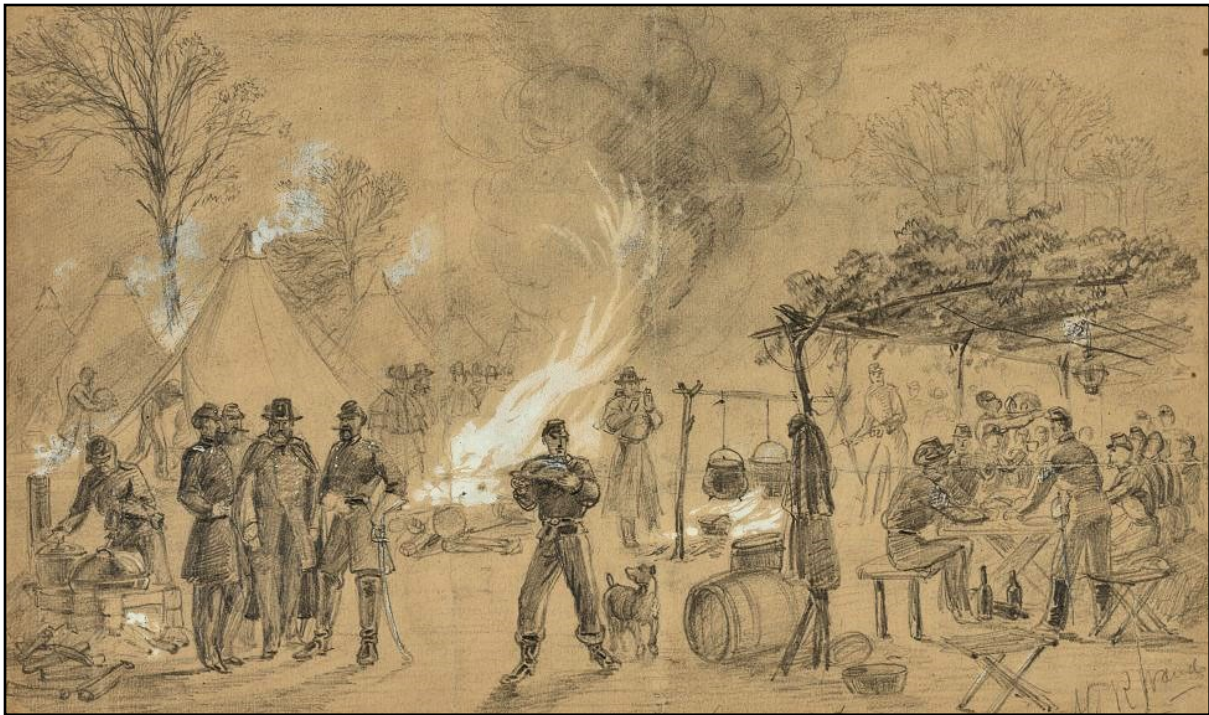
Fun With History – (con't from page 12)

home. A newspaper article from the time, while not capturing her services completely or accurately, does describe in dramatic fashion how she was captured, taken to Atlanta and wounded while trying to escape, before eventually being exchanged back to the Union hospital facility in Tennessee.

Like many male soldiers, she had her portrait taken in uniform, but there also exists one taken when she was dressed as a woman. According to DeAnne Blanton ("They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War"), Gen. Philip Sheridan said she was "coarse and masculine, with large features...She could have easily passed for a man." Following the war, she married and had two daughters; but sadly, she died of edema at the early age of 25.

As Forrest Gump might have said, "history is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you're gonna get."

Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation



Above, Civil War artist Alfred R. Waud sketched this Thanksgiving scene at a Civil War camp in 1861.

- Library of Congress

In July 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in more than 50,000 American casualties. Despite these losses, the United States gained a great victory during these three days. On October 3, 1863, with this victory in mind, as well as its cost, Pres. Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation:

"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, ...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving... And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him ..., they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

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 and clicking on "Membership Application."

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

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

PHONE_____ **E-MAIL**_____