



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIX, Issue 10 DECEMBER 2022

HISTORIAN DR. CHRIS MACKOWSKI SPEAKS ON "THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG - DEC 13, 1862" AT THE DECEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 11-15, 1862, was a bloody engagement of the Civil War fought between Federal forces under Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under Gen. Robert E. Lee. The battle's outcome, a crushing Federal defeat, immeasurably strengthened the Confederate cause. In its 160th Anniversary month, we are happy to welcome back our friend and dynamic speaker Chris Mackowski to tell the rest of this bloody battle's story. Come early to get a seat for this one!

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War, and the editor of the award-winning Emerging Civil War series, published by Savas Beatie. He is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at Stevenson's Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, December 8, 2022

7 P.M. In-person at the Centreville Regional Library & Streaming via Zoom or Facebook Live

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Chris Mackowski

TOPIC:

"The Battle of Fredericksburg - Dec 13, 1862"

four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as the building where Stonewall Jackson died.

Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. He serves as vice president on the board of directors for the CVBT, he serves on the advisory board of the Civil War Round Table Congress and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Roundtable, the largest in the country, and is a member of the Antietam Institute.

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

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

President: Mark Whitenon, mark.whitenon@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

Secretary: Debbie Whitenon, debd509@aol.com

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

Education: David Welker, dawelker1861@gmail.com

Field Trips: Sam Laudenslager; kapel-meister1@hotmail.com

Fundraising: (vacant)

Graphic Design: Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net

Marketing: Stephanie Vale, brcwrmarketing@gmail.com

Membership: Kim Brace, kbrace@electiondataservices.com

Newsletter: Don Richardson, don.richardson@erols.com

Preservation: Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net

Scholarship: John Carter, johnca2@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alan Day, webmaster@bullrunrwrt.org

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

Newsletter Team: Nadine Mironchuk, Sandra Cox, Janet Greentree, Mark Whitenon, Eric Fowler, and Andy Kapfer.

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2023 issue**, e-mail articles by **Monday, January 2nd**, to the editor, Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2023 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullrunrwrt.org> and e-mail ads by **Thursday, January 5th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

JOIN US AT CARRABBA'S

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 8: Dr. Chris Mackowski – "Battle of Fredericksburg - Dec 13, 1862"

January 12: Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson – "John Mosby Takes Command, Dec 1862 – Jan 1863"

February 9: Melissa Weeks - "Authorized Audacity: The Battle of Chancellorsville, Day 1, May 1, 1863"

March 9: Cody Eash - "The Lutheran Seminary in Battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863"

April 13: Steven Phan - "The Camp Nelson KY Story, Founded 1863"

May 11: Frank O'Reilly - "The Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1863"

June 8: Scott Mingus – "The Battle of 2nd Winchester, June 1863"

July 13: Jim Anderson – "The Impact of Intelligence on the Gettysburg Campaign July 1863"

August 10: Dan Vermilya - "The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863"

September 14: Jeffery Hunt - "The Battle at Rappahannock Station, Nov 1863"

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The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

We have just enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday and I suggest that the BRCWRT has a lot to be thankful for this past year, and in particular for this last month.

First, I want to thank Nadine Mironchuk for serving the RT for ten years as Editor of the *Stone Wall*. She always produced highly accurate, picture-filled and complete RT news ten times a year. Janet Greentree has submitted a fitting tribute to Nadine and her decade of work; see page 9 of this newsletter.

We are also thankful to Don Richardson for volunteering to serve as the Editor going forward. Don has been editing the *Stone Wall* since the August issue, following Nadine's hospitalization. We appreciate Don's clear skills as an author and editor. Don is a UVA graduate in History and has finally retired after 40 years as an information technology professional. He is also willing to share his post-retirement free time with his other avocation, acting and producing with the Fauquier Community Theatre at Vint Hill.

In addition, we are thankful for the informative presentation on Women in the Civil War by Dominish Marie Miller. She brought a refreshing other side to the conflict, addressing not only the over 400 women who are documented as having served as soldiers, but also the work and sacrifice of thousands of women who had to run farms, deal with lost husbands or were providing services to the soldiers.

Thank you to John Carter, who has assumed responsibility as Chair of the Scholarship Committee and has sent out 45 letters to advise high schools in Prince William and Fairfax Counties of our \$2,000.00 scholarship for 2023. He notes

that we still need monetary donations to cover our 2023 scholarship fund. Please consider making a year-end donation to this worthy cause.



*Mark Whitenton and Dominish Marie Miller
Photo by Debbie Whitenton*

Finally, we really appreciate the planning of the Fall Tour at Fredericksburg on November 19. Thank you, John Scully and the field trip committee chair, Sam Laudenslager, for organizing the tour and submitting an excellent After-Action Report, which starts on page 5.

A challenge for our organization has been and continues to be increasing live attendance at our monthly General Membership Meetings. This month, we have another interesting and timely talk arranged by Mark Trbovich – Dr. Chris Mackowski on the Battle of Fredericksburg (see page 1). As an added incentive to showing up in person, we will be serving cake thanks to Sandra Cox and the Refreshment Committee!

We are hoping to see you on Thursday!



Bull Run Civil War Round Table Upcoming 2022-23 Program of Events

Date	Event
December 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski – “Battle of Fredericksburg – Dec. 1862” <i>Plan to attend in person for our holiday celebration with cake and refreshments!</i>
January 12	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson – “John Mosby Takes Command, Dec 1862 – Jan 1863”
February 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Weeks – “Authorized Audacity Day 1: The Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1, 1863”
March 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Codie Eash – “The Lutheran Seminary in the Battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863”
April 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Steven Phan – “The Camp Nelson KY Story, Founded 1863”
May 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Frank O’Reilly – “The Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1863” <i>Plan to attend in person for our anniversary celebration with cake and refreshments!</i>
June 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Mingus – “The Battle of 2 nd Winchester, June 1863”
July 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jim Anderson – “The Impact of Intelligence on the Gettysburg Campaign July 1863”
August 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dan Vermilya – “The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863”
September 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jeffery Hunt – “The Battle at Rappahannock Station, November 1863”
October 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kevin Pawlak and Kate Bitely – “The Battle of Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863”
November 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: J. Nathan McDonald - “Battle of Droop Mountain, WV November 6, 1863
December 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Quarstein – “Into the Ring of Fire” Federal Admiral DuPont’s attack on Charleston SC 1863

Note: All events are either sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and are posted on our website: <http://Bullrunwrt.org/BRCWRT/Meetings.html> or they are events in which the Round Table is participating. More logistics, sign-up and contact information will be posted on the website as individual events get closer. Our monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Centreville Library and also by ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Fall Tour After Action Report Fredericksburg, Dec 11 1862 By Sam Laudenslager

"Describe the First Battle of Fredericksburg (Dec. 11-14, 1862) in one word" -- That began our guide Greg Mertz's presentation to our Bull Run CW Roundtable Fall Tour, on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Almost everyone replied "Blunder", or "Bloodbath", or "Debacle", or "Fiasco". One of us (obviously a Veteran) replied "FUBAR". None of our tour group expected Greg's answer: "INNOVATION!"

Throughout the tour, Mertz explained how Day 1 of First Fredericksburg (Dec. 11th) produced "innovations" that anticipated how future warfare might be conducted. These innovations, often called "improvisations", included urban street fighting, combat engineering while under hostile fire, riverine amphibious landings, bombardment of civilian area targets, and coping with numerous civilian refugees.

Our Roundtable Fredericksburg tour stepped off from Chatham Manor, at Falmouth, located on the north bank of the Rappahannock River, opposite the city of Fredericksburg. At the time of the battle, Chatham was headquarters for MG "Bull" Sumner's Grand Division (Federal Army of the Potomac II and IX Corps).



At Chatham Manor: Mark, Debbie & Brian Whitenton, Chris & Mary Straub, Mike Buckley, Sam Laudenslager, John Scully, Gary Haskins, Jim Lewis, Doug & Sandra Cox. Photo by Brian Whitenton.

All of the bridges across the Rappahannock had been destroyed during previous campaigning. Therefore, pontoon bridges had to be built across the river for the Union forces to occupy Fredericksburg. While at Chatham, our tour group viewed a reproduction of a section of one of the pontoon bridges and observed the crossing point from both sides of the river.



Replica of Pontoon Bridge section at Chatham

Photo by Mike Buckley

Our tour group then crossed the Rappahannock via a "real bridge", to the base of Hawke and Sophia Streets, where the 7th Michigan Regiment was "volunteered" to engineer the pontoon bridge and establish a bridgehead on the Fredericksburg riverbank. The Michigan unit and their reinforcements from the 20th Massachusetts were greeted by the Southern Hospitality of Colonel William Barksdale's brigade: 13th, 17th & 18th Mississippi. Our guide, Gregg Mertz, noted that the Federal advance up the Sophia Street riverbank and then up the Hawke Street hill became a grudge match between units (20th Mass vs. 17th/18th Miss.) that had faced each other, in similar river bluff terrain, at Ball's Bluff the year before (Oct. 21, 1861).

(cont on page 6)

Fall Tour After Action Report

The Union command's plan for a "land at daybreak and take them by surprise" operation deteriorated into a day-long under-fire slog up the Hawke Hill slope. By 3:00 pm, the advance had gained only 3 blocks, only to face another Mississippi battle line arrayed on the crest at Princess Anne and Charles Streets.



7th Michigan Infantry monument, Sophia Street

Photo by Mike Buckley



Greg Mertz points to Chatham from the Upper Landing
Photo by Debbie Whitenton

The Confederates also had their own tactical problem - Fredericksburg's grid street pattern precluded aligning in a traditional Napoleonic open field formation. As Mississippian skirmish lines were overrun, their fighters improvised by taking cover in nearby buildings and continuing the fight with sniper tactics. Fredericksburg became Fallujahburg.

One particularly vicious firefight erupted at the dry goods store located at the Hawke and Caroline St. intersection. The Confederates in the building waited until a company of the 20th Mass. had passed through the intersection, then fired a volley into the Yankee's backs. It took some time for that Federal unit to "clear out" the store, and, apparently, "no quarter" was given.



Greg Mertz explains the Dry Goods Store fight
Photo by Mike Buckley



Don Troiani's depiction of the Dry Goods Store fight

(cont on page 7)

Fall Tour After Action Report

A similar situation developed one mile downstream at the other side of the town. The 50th New York Engineers, supported by the 89th NY regiment, crossed from Ferry Farm to create a "Middle Pontoon" beachhead, where Army of the Potomac IX Corps could cross later. Our group visited this site in the afternoon, to conclude our trip to Fredericksburg, Day 1. Today, the site is a city park.

In 1862, this was the location of the City Dock, where Rappahannock River-Chesapeake Bay steamboats could connect with the nearby Richmond - Fredericksburg - Potomac (RFP) Railroad. The Fredericksburg waterfront extended one mile along the river, from City Dock to Hawke St, lined with wharves, warehouses, and businesses.



*Middle Pontoon landing, Ferry Farm opposite
Photo by Debbie Whitenton*

Militarily, the results downstream were similar. The 50th NY, like the 7th Mich., built a pontoon bridge while under enemy fire from the Union position at Ferry Farm to the City Dock area. The 89th NY crossed the "Middle Bridge", soon to find themselves in a worse situation than the Michiganders upstream.

The 89th found themselves in a shallow bowl, below a bluff, facing 3 more of Barksdale's Mississippi regiments (17th, 18th, 21st) in another Balls Bluff situation.



89th New York attacks uphill from Middle Landing...



... while Confederates conduct a fighting retreat (taken during the 2012 Fredericksburg reenactment)

Photos by Brian Whitenton

So what is the Union Army command to do? The Upper Pontoon area advance is stalling; the Middle Pontoon area is boxed in and blocked.

(cont on page 8)

Fall Tour After Action Report

Major Gen. Ambrose Burnside, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, had some 200 cannon deployed along the Union Army lines, on the Falmouth heights side of the Rappahannock, an Artillery line stretching from the rocky fall line just above Fredericksburg to a third pontoon site, about two miles beyond the City Dock area (where Gen. Meade's I Corps would cross successfully). About half of the big guns were directly across from Fredericksburg's riverfront.

It took some time for repeated requests for artillery support, made by officers of the beleaguered 7th Mich/20th Mass, to make it back across the Rappahannock to Gen. Sumner at Chatham and then up the chain of command to Burnside. Burnside's response surprised even his own staff officers, when Burnside approved opening a general bombardment of Fredericksburg by the Federal artillery. Although just two years later, general bombardments of cities and civilians would become the norm at Vicksburg and Petersburg, in 1862 bombardment of civilian targets was another "innovation" at the battle of Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg's waterfront and business districts along Sophia and Caroline streets were virtually obliterated. During our afternoon tour, our guide, Greg Mertz, escorted our group along Princess Anne and Charles Streets, where Fredericksburg homes and residents also faced the bombardment.

Our BRCWRT Tour Guide, Greg Mertz, NPS (Ret), at the Chatham markers.

Photo by Mike Buckley.



Greg quoted from diaries and letters of local civilians describing their experiences during the shelling. One of the most moving accounts was that of Jane Lacey Beale, whose house and schoolhouse basement on Lewis Street would shelter 18 children throughout the bombardment. Beale's cousin would drive her carriage into Fredericksburg that evening to evacuate the children to the Lacey farmhouse outside of town. The Lacey farmhouse would play a prominent role in the battles of Chancellorsville and Wilderness.



The Lacey - Beale House

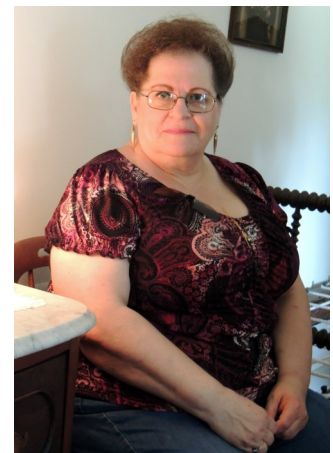
Photo by Mike Buckley

In line with our guide's comments concerning "innovations" at First Day of Fredericksburg, the BRCWRT Fall Tour produced a few "innovations" of its own. Originally set for October 1st, the Fall Tour had to be postponed due to Hurricane Ian's inclement weather. Every remaining Saturday in 2022 presented some scheduling issue. The Field Trips & Tours committee finally opted for November 19th, even though that conflicted with the "Remembrance Day" commemoration of Lincoln's address at Gettysburg. However, although the attendance for this particular tour was reduced, the 2022 Fall Tour proved to be one of our most informative.

A Sad Farewell to our Editor, Nadine Mironchuk My Sister from Another Mother By Janet Greentree

Our Stone Wall Editor, Nadine Mironchuk, has stepped down from doing an amazing job putting our newsletter together every month. Nadine and I met on an early Greater Boston Civil War Roundtable trip, which took place in Gettysburg in either the late 90s or early 2000s. She was even lucky to be able to join us, as she was sideswiped by a car driving down from Boston on Route 95. She and I hit it off immediately. After many years doing fun things together, we decided we were just sisters from another mother.

Nadine's first issue was in February 2013, taking over from our former editor Sandra Cox. Nadine always liked doing my Ms. Rebelle articles and did great captions for my photos. She even found other photos to add to my articles. She revamped the newsletter and always found interesting things to put in them. She spent many, many hours laying out all the articles and pictures. She did one amazing job, and everyone liked her way of doing the newsletter.



*At Wilmer McLean house , Appomattox With Nancy Anwyll , BRCWRT Picnic Booth bedroom at Dr. Mudd's
Picnic photo: John Myers Others: Janet Greentree*

When the Round Table decided to publish a book of my articles, guess who stepped up to do a totally massive amount of work putting it together? My dear friend Nadine. In addition to working full time, living her regular life, and doing the monthly Stone Wall, she and I put together one wonderful book (well, in my opinion) of *Civil War Travels with Ms. Rebelle, a Guide to Civil War Gravesites North and South*, published in November 2020. I fully believe it would not have been as popular as it has been if it weren't for the fabulous layout she accomplished. We went back and forth many, many times proofreading it and making sure the pictures were in there correctly. It was quite an effort and Nadine was just great at making it come alive. I shall always be grateful to her for that.

In the last year or so Nadine has had many medical conditions in which she was treated in the hospital for months at a time. She is still recovering from all of her issues. We will miss her immensely and especially myself. She is a great friend, a great editor, and an all-around wonderful woman. Kudos from the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Ms. Rebelle, and all your other friends here in Northern Virginia.



Preservation Corner by Blake Myers

Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides a summary of the recent approval of the Prince William (PW) Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) and the attendant threat to Manassas National Battlefield Park and other historic lands, and an update on pending industrial development on unprotected land that is part of the Bristoe Station Battlefield.

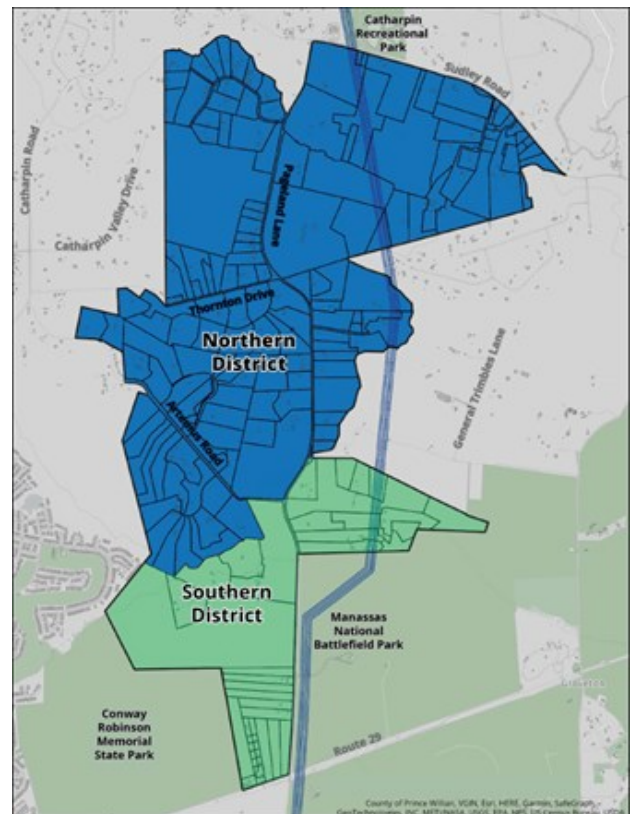
Prince William (PW) Digital Gateway, Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2021-00004 (Manassas National Battlefield Park)

After an all-night Public Hearing conducted November 1-2, 2022, at approximately 9:30 am on November 2, 2022 the PW Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) voted 5-2 to approve the PW Digital Gateway CPA. Supervisors Ann Wheeler (At-Large), Victor Angry (Neabsco), Kenny Boddye (Occoquan), Andrea Bailey (Potomac) and Margaret Franklin (Woodbridge) voted in favor of the CPA. Supervisors Yesli Vega (Coles) and Jeanine Lawson (Brentsville) voted against the CPA. Supervisor Pete Candland (Gainesville) was recused from BOCS discussions and votes on the CPA due to his conflict of interest as a land-owner within the proposed PW Digital Gateway Corridor.

The Public Hearing consisted of a staff presentation on the proposed CPA and a follow-up Supervisor-Staff question and answer session that lasted until approximately 11:00pm, followed by a public comment period from approximately 11:00pm – 8:00am. A total of 254 persons signed up to speak in-person and 137 persons registered to speak virtually during the Public Hearing.

Of these, 178 spoke in-person and 61 spoke virtually during the hearing – the rest presumably did not speak due to the length of the hearing and their inability to participate during the latter parts of the all-night hearing.

The CPA Study Area consisted of 194 land parcels and 2,139 acres between U.S. Route 234 and U.S. Route 29 and was divided into two districts in an effort to better target proposed policies and strategies.

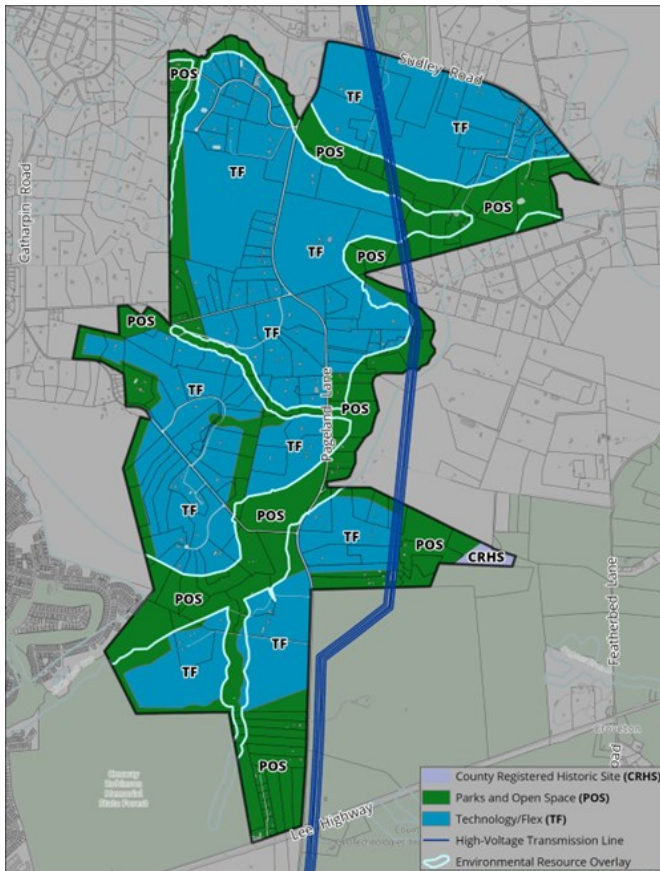


PW Digital Gateway Study Area and Subdistrict Map

While the CPA addressed many concerns initially raised by PWC residents and historic preservation organizations, it was approved without an assessment of the environmental impacts on the Occoquan and Bull Run watershed and on the Occoquan Reservoir, of the traffic and transportation impacts, and of the impacts of the associated significant increase in electrical power demand within the study area.

Preservation Corner (cont)

Based on concerns raised by historic preservation organizations including the American Battlefield Trust, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and the PWC Historical Commission, the CPA does include some measures intended to mitigate the adverse impacts of potential data centers on Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP). These measures include land use designation as Parks and Open Space for land where data centers would present the most direct threat to MNBP (see Land Use Map, below).



PW Digital Gateway Land Use Map

The CPA does not, however, eliminate the threat of adverse impacts of data centers on historic land in the study area or to MNBP. Historic land parcels in the Southern District, including land designated by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) as Manassas

Battlefield Core and Study Areas retain the TF land use designation with the potential for data center development. This is land where American soldiers camped, fought, were treated for battle wounds and disease, died, and were buried before, during and after the 1st and 2nd Battles of Manassas.

The effectiveness of specific measures in the CPA intended to mitigate data center impacts on historic land, sites and viewsheds is questionable. These measures, including setbacks, buffer areas, berms, tree screens and afforestation, and building and lighting restrictions have typically, in practice, failed to effectively mitigate adverse impacts on historic land and property as intended. What may 'look and sound' good on paper has not typically achieved the desired mitigation result.

The existing Dominion Energy transmission line, paralleling Pageland Lane is rated "near or at capacity", and it has finally been acknowledged that any data centers built in the Pageland Land Corridor north of U.S. Route 29 will require new power substations and transmission lines to provide the requisite electrical power. This would significantly increase the electrical power infrastructure in this corridor, with the attendant adverse impacts on MNBP and its historic sites and viewsheds, and on other historic lands in the study area. Likewise, the proposed widening of Pageland Lane as envisioned in the CPA would significantly impact MNBP and other historic lands.

But all is not lost, and while CPA approval changes the respective land use designations for development on land within the study area, it does not change any zoning provisions and it does not approve any data center development. Proposed developments

Preservation Corner (cont)

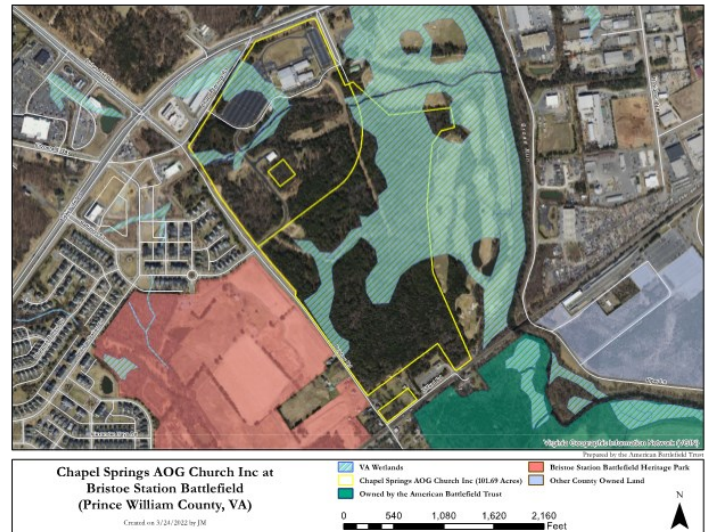
must go through the County’s re-zoning process, development plan submission, negotiation, and approval process, etc. – public processes that include opportunities to oppose respective applications and protect the known, and now recognized, historic land, sites and viewsheds within the study area.

The threat to these historic lands, sites and viewsheds remains real - once lost, the historic viewsheds and settings of these lands cannot be recovered or replicated. I am reminded of the lyrics in a song, *Big Yellow Taxi*, written and first performed by Joni Mitchell and later covered by Counting Crows:

“Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what you’ve got
Til it’s gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot.”

Bristow Industrial Development (Bristoe Station Battlefield)

In August 2022 commercial real estate developer Trammell Crow Company (TCC) and its affiliate Manassas Logistics Land Venture, LLC purchased 85 acres of land from the Chapel Springs Assembly of God Church and its consulting firm Equinox Investments, LLC for a warehousing and logistics development. This currently forested land, located along Bristow Road and adjacent to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park (see map, below), is within the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) designated Core Area of the Battles of Bristoe Station (October 1864) and Kettle Run (August 1862).



Chapel Springs Assembly of God Church Property at Bristoe Station Battlefield

The documented civil war historical significance of this land includes the following:

- Battle of Bristoe Station Battlefield (October 1864)
 - ◊ Includes the Rockbridge Artillery (Poague’s Battery) key position from which the Battery shelled federal forces positioned along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad
 - ◊ The land over which Brigadier General William Kirkland’s NC Brigade (formerly Pettigrew’s Brigade) attacked federal forces positioned along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad
- Includes remnants of hut sites indicating the location of a military encampment
- Includes a confirmed site containing military graves/burials
- Ferrero’s Division of the U.S. 9th Corps, including two brigades composed of the 19th, 23rd, 27th, 30th, 31st, 39th, and 43rd USCTs, and the 30th Connecticut Colored Infantry camped on this land while guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and the bridge across Broad Run from April to early May, 1864. The division and its USCT brigades departed in early May, 1864 to join the Army of the Potomac near Spotsylvania Courthouse, from where they would participate and fight in the Overland Campaign and in the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg on July 30, 1864.

Preservation Corner (cont)

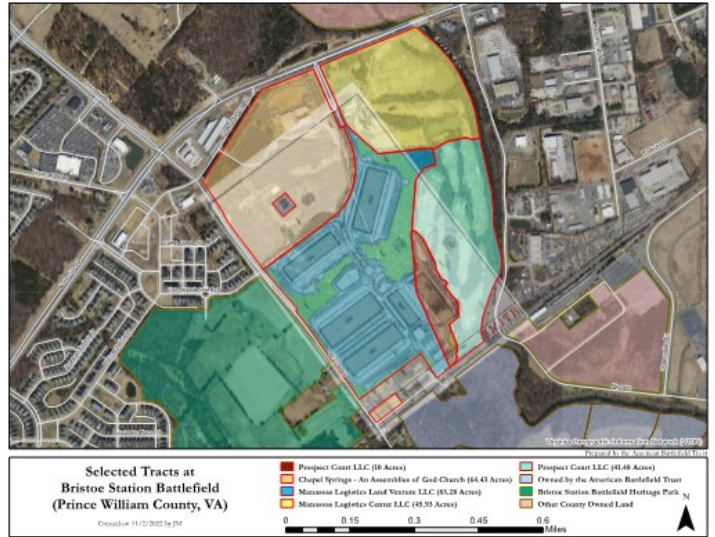
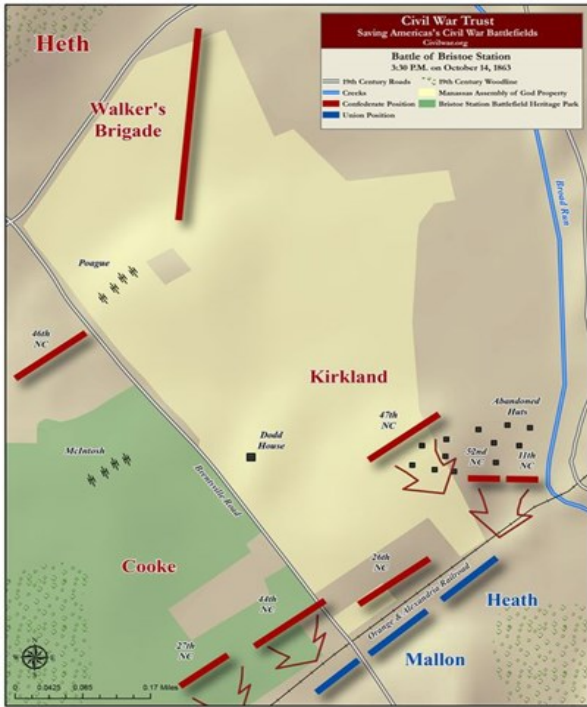


Figure 2 – Initial Development Concept Overlaid on Property Map

Civil War Trust (now American Battlefield Trust) Map – Battle of Bristoe Station

The subject land is zoned M-2, Light Industrial which allows warehousing operations. The developer’s initial development concept, which has not been submitted to Prince William County (PWC), envisions the construction of up to six large warehouse and distribution buildings (some 200,000 square feet) and associated parking areas (see Figures 1 & 2, below).

While a warehouse and distribution operations development consistent with this initial concept would likely be approved as it is consistent with current zoning requirements, the BRCWRT is working in concert with the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and PWC to convince the developer to “carve out” sections of land where some of the historic sites are located, and either donate the land to PWC or sell the land to ABT. The ultimate objective is to incorporate these sites into, or link them with, Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

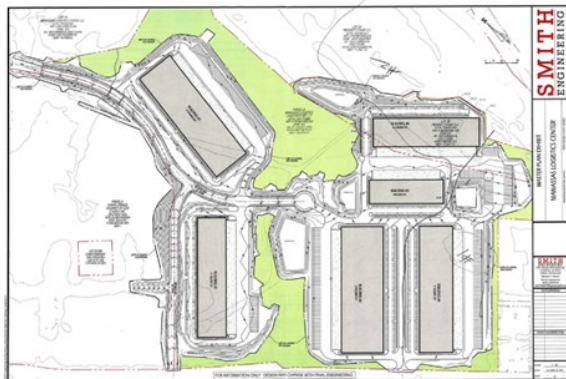


Figure 1 – Initial Development Concept

In an October 31, 2022, meeting between the developer and new property owner, Manassas Logistics Land Venture, LLC and Trammel Crow Company, and ABT the developer expressed little interest in parting with any of the land for historic preservation purposes. The developer’s initial concept depicts the military graves/burials site as the sole historic site to be “saved” and is envisioned to be “preserved” in the middle of a parking lot. The developer expressed no interest in selling any of the historic land parcels to ABT.

Preservation Corner (cont)

Much of the land included in the planned development is designated wetlands and will require Army Corps of Engineer permits for the development to proceed as planned. The Corps' permitting process will trigger the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 review process which seeks to accommodate historic preservation concerns of consulting parties with the respective undertaking. PWC, ABT and BRCWRT plan to apply for designation as consulting parties in this pending Section 106 review managed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. While the review process can be lengthy, it provides a forum and opportunity for negotiations between the developer and concerned parties that can save and preserve historic land and property.

Proposed Amazon Data Center Development (Bristoe Station Battlefield)

Amazon Data Services, Inc. is under contract to purchase six land parcels (approximately 60 acres) along VA Route 28 / Nokesville Road between the Stadler Nurseries and Broad Run and has submitted to PWC a rezoning request and a special use permit request to build a data center complex on this land. The data center plan includes two 110-foot-tall buildings (450,000 square feet each) and an electrical substation covering 3.9 acres, with a 50-foot landscape buffer along the property line and a forested open space area near Broad Run (see figure below).

This land lies within the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) designated Core Area of the Bristoe Station Battlefield and was included in Prince William County's 2016 Bristoe Station and Kettle Run Battlefields Preservation



Proposed Amazon Data Services, Inc. Data Center Complex, VA Rt 28 / Nokesville Road

Study. While not directly impacting Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, approval of rezoning from M-2 (light industrial) and of a special use permit for the data center complex, combined with the warehouse and logistics centers under and planned for construction on the adjacent properties formerly owned by the Broad Run Golf Academy and Chapel Springs Assembly of God Church, would result in significant adverse impact on the viewsheds to and from historic sites in the Battlefield Park. The BRCWRT continues to work with PWC and ABT to minimize industrial development on this land and to mitigate the adverse impacts of such development on Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

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

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair

Christmas in 1862 at Historic Stone House

By Stephanie Vale

On December 3, 2022, the Manassas Battlefield Trust was able to hold what would have been their 7th annual event (if Covid had not caused it to be cancelled the last three years). This event depicts the winter of 1862 around this part of Prince William County and the Stone House that is a part of Manassas National Battlefield Park. The area was under the control of the Union army that winter.

The morning rain held off some visitors, but the steady stream of visitors entering into 1862 began at 11 a.m. As visitors approached the house, they witnessed Union soldiers huddled around a campfire as it was in 1862. Historically, the soldiers had a cut tree in their encampment, as did our living historians. Round Table members (and Park Volunteers) Jeff Joyce and Anthony Trusso were among the four soldiers outside the house. As the sun came out, it sent a bit of winter warmth to the soldiers. The soldiers offered the visitors a cup of warm apple cider as they began their journey back to 1862.



*Union troops at the Stone House included BRCWRT members Anthony Trusso (corporal on the left) and Jeff Joyce (second from right)
Photo by Jeff Joyce*

Entering the house on the first floor, visitors were greeted by a park volunteer sharing the history of the 1827 home. The parlor was historically decorated with a small table tree draped with cranberries. In the Tavern Room visitors were greeted with Ginger Cookies, made from a recipe from Mary Custis Lee, and could string some cranberries for the trees. Living Historian civilians shared the practice of writing letters to soldiers off at war. Visitors were invited to write a letter; these letters will be sent to our modern day soldiers in foreign lands. The Battlefield Trust had a room explaining their support to Manassas Battlefield in the preservation of our shared heritage. Our VP Kim Brace is one of the board members, and also was the official photographer for the event.



*Trust Membership Coordinator Christy Forman assists Gwen Wyttensch's grandsons, Ben (left) and Aiden (right), as they string cranberries for the Christmas tree
(Photo provided by Gwen Wyttensch)*

Visitors were invited to go upstairs, where a Park Volunteer shared the story of the vacant chair. This poem was written in 1861 for a soldier who was killed at the Battle of Balls Bluff. It is very moving, and shares the grief of those that have lost a loved one during war. The vacant chair is used to this day by our military as part of many events.

(cont on page 16)

Christmas at Stone House

In another room, 1862 period ornaments were made by children and adults. The historical significance of these ornaments was explained as they were made by two Park volunteers (one of the volunteers is also our RT Marketing Chair, Stephanie Vale). In addition, the practice at Christmas time of sharing candy and homemade goods was tied to the time period.



Park volunteer Angie Lyon & BRCWRT members Stephanie Vale and Gwen Wytenbach share the making of period Christmas ornaments (Photo by Gwen Wytenbach)

Across the hall visitors found period carolers who shared Christmas songs that were sung during the war. There was also a display with toys that would have been given as gifts in 1862. Children were invited to play with these toys. A Christmas tree cut from the park was set in the corner, decorated with period ornaments.

The free event was well attended with over 200 guests. Many Round Table members were spotted among our visitors. At 4:00 when the doors closed, the volunteers and the Round Table members that helped with the event were happy they had shared the 1862 story of the war in the area.

BRCWRT Supports Historic Blenheim's Christmas in Camp

By Mark Whitenton

On Sunday, December 4, Historic Blenheim in Fairfax City held its annual "Christmas in Camp and Making Do at Home" (which used to be called "A Civil War Christmas"). BRCWRT member Andrea Loewenwarter is a Fairfax City Historic Resources Specialist and the manager at the Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center. The event, which had over 75 visitors, had soldier drills for youngsters, guided tours of the Blenheim House and its Union graffiti, meeting a Nast Santa and Mrs. Claus, and making Victorian ornaments and fragrant sachets. Of course, most visitors came by the Union and Confederate campsites to chat with the living historians. Several BRCWRT members came out in period attire to support this event.

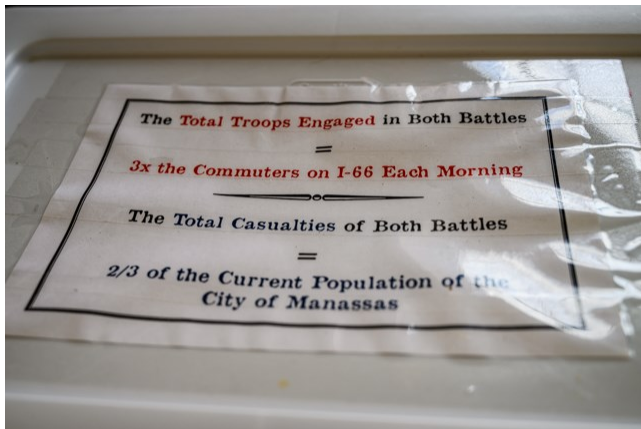


From left to right: Jeff Joyce (private, 7th Maryland), Jon Vrana (landowner of Blenheim House), Debbie Whitenton (wife of Lt. Col. Grayson Tyler), Andrea Loewenwarter (manager of Blenheim site), Mark Whitenton (Lt. Col. Grayson Tylor of the 17th VA Inf) and John Thomas (private, Fairfax Rifles).

Photo provided by Mark Whitenton

Christmas at Stone House

Please enjoy these additional pictures of Christmas at the Stone House, 1862, courtesy of Kim Brace.



Notice: Annual Officer Election

Under our Bylaws, our four officers -- President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer -- are elected for a one-year term commencing on January 1st. The nomination process for these offices opened in October and closed at the November general membership meeting. Officer elections are conducted during our December meeting, when all attendees who are members in good standing (including remote participants) are eligible to vote.

The four incumbent officers are the only ones with their names in nomination.

Respectfully,
John F. De Pue
Nominating Committee





THE BOOK CORNER



By Dave Button

Burn the Town and Sack the Bank: Confederates Attack Vermont by Cathryn J. Prince is a detailed study of the St. Alban's raid of October 19, 1864. The book goes into great detail about many of the units from Vermont that served in the Union Army during the Civil War; how many of the towns were, essentially, empty of men of military age; how the Civil War, being so far away from New England, impacted them only when a member of the community either wrote or was brought back to recuperate or be buried; and how this raid by about 20 Confederate raiders impacted the town.

As background, Ms. Prince discusses how so many of the Confederate raiders came to gather in Canada and the planning that went into the raid. Major characters from history are also mentioned with respect to their involvement or suspected involvement in the raid. Some of these include Clement Vallandigham, James Seddon, and Clement C. Clay, all of whom were at least tangentially involved, either in the planning of the raid or as members of the Copperhead Movement.

The leader of the raid, Bennett Hiram Young, is discussed from his birth in Kentucky to the trial in Canada. That the raid had been initiated from Canada, which was neutral, and the raiders fled back to Canada caused an international incident when efforts were made to retrieve the raiders – either by force or by extradition.

Since the raid did not take long in terms of conflict, much of the book is devoted to the planning and historical background of the causes, characters, and consequences of the raid. The rationale for the raid could be considered to be Sheridan's and Hunter's depredations in the Shenandoah Valley. Early's raid into Pennsylvania and the burning of Chambersburg might be considered to be analogous to this raid's events.

The book is an easy read on a topic that is not usually covered. The raid is frequently considered at best to be a small, out-of-the-way incident of no great consequence to the war effort; however, it brought the war home to the population of Vermont in general and St. Albans in particular.

A quick Internet search for the book by title shows that it is readily available from about \$5, depending on the site, up to about \$15. The author has her own website which can be accessed by typing in her name.

This author found the book to be a quick and easy read, full of dashing soldiers on their knightly quest to reverse the war, as well as those same soldiers on a quest to extract an "eye for an eye" for what Sherman, Sheridan, Hunter and others had done to their country.

BRCWRT BOOK SALES

The Round Table holds regular sales of donated books to raise money for the \$2000 Annual Scholarship Fund; these books increase our members' understanding of the Civil War. Members are also encouraged to make tax-deductible monetary donations to the Fund. Thank you!



BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2022 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:

BRCWRT, 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."

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