



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIX, Issue 1 FEBRUARY 2022

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

Following the Confederate victory at 1st Manassas/Bull Run in July 1861, the Federals began to build their defenses around Washington City, and the Confederates began to establish strategic river blockade positions along the western side of the Potomac River. Confederate batteries across from Washington were numerous; their function was to stop Federal shipping up the Potomac, designed to deliver a tremendous Federal army, growing there day-by-day. We are so happy to have one of our members share with you at this next meeting the rest of the story of this memorable 160th anniversary of the blockade.

Bill Backus works for the Prince William Historic Preservation Division (alongside his wife, Paige). Bill is now the Head of Preservation within the organization; he was formally the Historic Site Manager at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, as well as the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. Bill also has worked for the National Park Service at both Vicksburg National Military Park and the Petersburg National Battlefield.

A native of Connecticut, Bill graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a Bache-

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

GUEST SPEAKER:

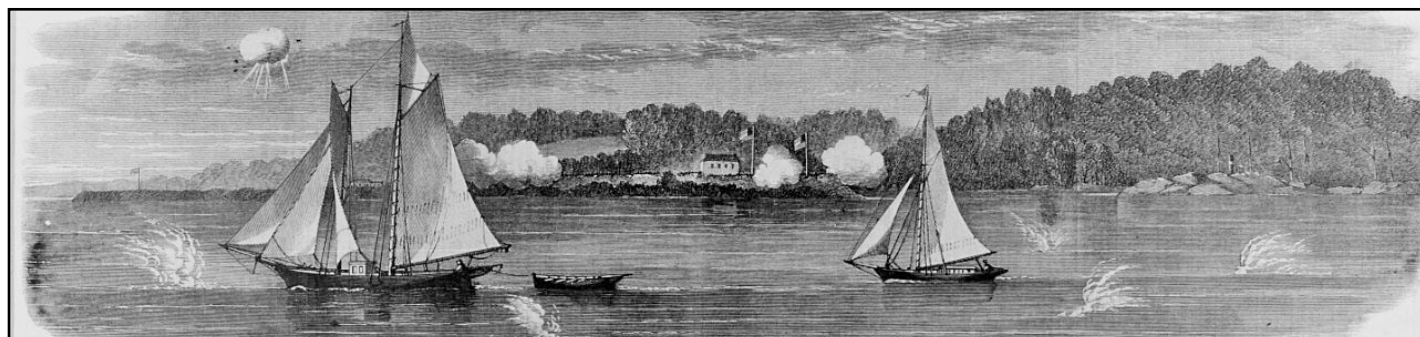
Historian/Author Bill Backus

TOPIC:

**"All Quiet Along the Potomac
Tonight: the Potomac River
Blockade of 1861-1862"**

lor's Degree in Historic Preservation. In 2015, Bill and Robert Orrison co-authored "*A Want of Vigilance: Bristoe Station Campaign*." The book traces the campaign from the armies' camps around Orange and Culpeper, VA, northwest through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the vital railroad route (to Centreville and back). He and Rob Orrison co-authored War on the Potomac, 1861-1862, an article published in the *Blue and Grey Magazine* in 2016.

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



Confederate batteries near Quantico, Virginia, firing on U.S. Government supply vessels (a schooner to the left and a sloop in the right center), in mid-1861. The steamer *George Page*, captured by the Confederates from the U.S. Army in May 1861, is partially visible in the right background, along with the schooner *Fairfax*. Courtesy of the U.S. Navy Art Collection, Washington, D.C. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.

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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 **March 2022 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, February 21, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **March 2022 issue**, advertisers - please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on February 11 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

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 14: 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"

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The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Fellow BRCWRT members -

As the weather very slowly improves, we hope you will join us this Thursday (February 10) for our monthly meeting – this time it will be live in the Centreville Regional Library, as well as on Zoom and Facebook.

It will be great to see people in person again, particularly to share the evening to hear one of our own, Bill Backus, give us his insights on the Confederate's short-lived blockade of the Potomac. Bill will treat us to many interesting facts, including how the Confederates put to use the 30-pound Parrott gun that Gen. Irvin McDowell used as his signal gun to start the attacks at First Manassas.

Thank you for your support in reelecting the officers of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. We are grateful, especially knowing how difficult and frustrating the past two years have been for social organizations. We, in addition, are very grateful for the strong and experienced team of committee chairs and at-large members who have been carrying on the work of the round table and providing invaluable guidance during this trying time.

Even though the weather has been inhospitable, the BRCWRT's Scholarship team has been

busy alerting almost 50 local high schools of our \$2,000 award available this spring to a deserving high school senior. See the story below on page 4.

Also, please see Preservation Chair Blake Myers' update on what is going on in our area with regard to the BRCWRT's attempts to preserve local Civil War history. See page 13.

As mentioned before, two of our most experienced members, Brian McEnany and Charlie Balch, are retiring this summer from their positions and also from the Executive Committee. They have been heading the academic outreach and scholarship programs of the BRCWRT. Moreover, the Tour Committee has been without a formal chair for many months. Fortunately, thanks to Blake Myers, an ad-hoc Tour Committee has been functioning. So far, the ad-hoc Tour Committee is planning two tours this year, one in the summer and one in the early fall. However, I hope that we can have more frequent tours as we move forward, perhaps afternoon visits to easily accessed local sites.

All three important functions: the tours, the scholarship and the academic outreach programs, need volunteers to continue the great work of the BRCWRT. If you are interested in contributing to the future successes of this organization, please do not hesitate to offer your services to Brian, Charlie, Blake or me!

7th Annual Prince William County/Manassas History Symposium

March 26

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; \$10 per person

Courage and Perseverance are no strangers to Prince William County during its long history. Whether it was courage shown by soldiers in battle, perseverance in the political arena during the founding of America, to the courage shown by the first four African American teachers to integrate schools in the county. There has been no shortage of courageous deeds in our county. Done in partnership with the Prince William County Historic Commission, Historic Prince William, and the City of Manassas.

**Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue
Manassas, VA 20110**

Selection of the 2022 BRCWRT Scholarship Begins

by Charlie Balch

Since 2013, a highly qualified high school graduate has been selected to receive the Bull Run Civil War Round Table's annual scholarship, which has now grown to \$2,000!

Charlie Balch and his team of Mark Knowles, Brian McEnany and new members Tom Doran and John Carter, have initiated the 2022 scholarship process by mailing no less than 48 letters to each of the public and private high schools in Prince William and Fairfax Counties. They have also contacted three local newspapers.

The letters include the BRCWRT's requirements that high school seniors need to complete in order to be considered for our single \$2,000 grant to the college they will be attending. As always, our requirements still include a "locally based Civil War essay." Other requirements include: applicants must submit a transcript demonstrating grades and courses, a written description of extra-curricular activities, a picture of themselves taken at a local historical sign related to the Civil War and a written recommendation from a history teacher at their high school.

These submissions will be evaluated, with top candidates being interviewed by the Round Table Scholarship Committee for the final selection of a winner.

If you know of a high school senior who is interested in Civil War history, please contact Charlie or have the senior submit their application and attachments via e-mail to: BRCWRT Scholarship@gmail.com, or mail it to: BRCWRT Scholarship Team, P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122.

Also, please contact Charlie if you are interested in serving on his Scholarship Committee. This summer, Charlie will be retiring from both the Scholarship Committee and the Executive Committee.

Previous recipients of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table Scholarship include: Taylor McConnell - West Springfield High School; Caroline Howard - Osbourn Park High School; Brook Robert - Robinson High School; Aaron Pirnat - Herndon High School; Alexander Hughes - Osbourn High School; Joseph LaVigne - Seton High School; Jack Tatum - Oakton High School; Jacob Fajer - Westfield High School; Isabelle Anderson - Thomas Edison High School.

Struggle and Triumph: African American History at Brentsville

***Tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., & 3 p.m.
\$5 per person, free for children under six***

Stop by Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre for a day of special tours focused on the stories of the county's African American residents from 1822 to 1893. Brentsville was the site of tragedy and joy for the county's African American community. Hear some of the stories from the area about the enslaved people in central Prince William County, free blacks, African American Civil War veterans, the joy of emancipation, lingering legacy of Reconstruction, and the beginning of the Jim Crow era.

Tours are approximately 45 to 60 minutes and include the new Brentsville Jail Museum exhibits.

**Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre
12229 Bristow Road
Bristow, VA 20136
703-365-7895**



Bull Run Civil War Round Table 2022 Program of Events



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
February 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Bill Backus - "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight"
March 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Drew Gruber - "Battle of Eltham's Station, VA-May 1862"
March 26	7th Annual Prince William/Manassas Symposium - 8:30-4:30 at Old PW Courthouse
April 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gregg Mertz - "The Battle of Shiloh - April 1862"
May 9	Happy 31st Anniversay to our Bull Run Civil War Round Table!
May 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - "Federal Col. Joseph Thoburn in the Valley"
June 9	Annual Scholarship Presentation and Monthly Meeting Speaker: Clark "Bud" Hall - "Battle of Brandy Station, VA - June 1862"
June 25	Spring Tour: "Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Flank March," Tour Guide - Hank Elliott
July 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kevin Pawlak - "August 27: The Critical Actions of Second Manassas"
July 22-23	Civil War Weekend at Ben Lomond Historic Site (Sudley Manor Dr.). Membership Drive & Book Sales
August 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Michael Block- "Battle of Cedar Mountain - August 1862"
August 26-27	160th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Run - Bristoe Station Battlefield, Bristow, VA. Membership Drive & Book Sales
September 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dan Welch - "Battle of Antietam Creek - September 17, 1862"
October 1	Fall Tour: "December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg," Tour Guide - Gregg Mertz
October 12-15	159th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station, Bristoe Station Battlefield. Membership Drive & Book Sales
November 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Carter - "Centreville, VA Civil War Defenses, 1861-1862"
December 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski - "Battle of Fredericksburg - December 1862"

Note: All events are either sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and are posted on our Web site: <http://Bullruncwrt.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 Web site as individual events get closer.



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Maj. Gen. George
Sears Greene, USA
a/k/a "Pap" Greene**

By Janet Greentree

Once research begins on my generals, you just never know what you are going to find. We all know they fought in the Civil War, but what about their private life before and after the Civil War? You probably knew Greene was old, but did you know there were 17 other general officers older than him? Did you know he had an illustrious list of ancestors? Did you know his sons were equally as interesting as he was? He was also the oldest surviving Union general and the oldest living graduate of West Point when he died in 1899. This article was done at the request of our resident Civil War Round Table astronaut, Tom Jones. Hope you enjoy, Tom.



Maj. Gen. George Sears
Greene

see if it was open. Just as I got up to the first step, who should open the door but Gen. George Washington. Quite a shock to both the general and me. As a tribute to Gen. Nathanael Greene, a statue stands near the Valley Forge Chapel.

George Sears Greene was born on May 6, 1801, in Apponaug, Rhode Island. Greene's father was Caleb Greene, Jr., who married Sarah Robinson. George's grandfather was Caleb Greene, who married Mary T. Tibbits. His great-great grandfather was Samuel Greene, who was a captain of a militia in the Revolutionary War; justice of peace; and a founder of the town of Apponaug, Rhode Island. Caleb Greene's house still stands at 15 Centerville Road in Apponaug. George



Gen. George Washington, at his headquarters at Valley Forge, PA, greets Ms. Rebelle during her visit to the battlefield.

Photo by Janet Greentree



Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene

His most famous ancestor was Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene of Revolutionary War fame. He was George Washington's quartermaster at Valley Forge, among other things. Nancy Anwyll and I took a trip to Valley Forge in 2007. Well, to really be fair to Nancy, we visited almost all of the cemeteries in the Philadelphia area looking for generals on an overnight trip. Ms. Rebelle walked up to the door of Washington's HQ to



Caleb Greene's house in Apponaug, RI.

was born there. George's sons had the house dedicated to honor their father after his death. His third great-grandfather was

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

Dr. Richard Greene, who was born in England in 1597. Nathanael Greene was Pap's 2nd cousin. In addition to ancestors, Greene has a whole list of famous people who can claim lineage from him. Some of those people are: Commodore Matthew Perry; Lizzie Borden; Marilyn Monroe; the Wright brothers; Warren G. Harding; Bing Crosby, and Lisa Marie Presley. Pap was born into a wealthy family. The family's roots went back to the founding of the state of Rhode Island. Rhode Island was a colony until May 29, 1790, when it was admitted to the Union. George's father was a ship owner and merchant who came upon hard times with the Embargo Act of 1807. The Act prohibited U.S. vessels from carrying goods to foreign countries, which seriously affected Caleb Greene's business. Then, the War of 1812 put an additional financial strain on Caleb. Caleb sent his son, George, to Wrentham Academy in Massachusetts and a Latin grammar school in Providence, RI. George wanted to attend Brown University, but his father could not come up with the money for him to go. George moved to New York City and was working in a dry goods store when his fortunes changed. One of his customers was Maj. Sylvanus Thayer, who happened to be the superintendent of West Point. Thayer took a liking to young Greene and recommended him to the Secretary of War for an appointment at West Point. Thayer has a hall and a hotel named for him at West Point, and is also buried there. Greene entered West Point

at age 18 and graduated second in his class out of 35 cadets, in the class of 1823. His classmate, Lorenzo Thomas, was also a general in the Civil War. Green decided to serve in the artillery and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery Regiment. Rather than stay with the Artillery, though Greene stayed at West Point as an assistant professor of engineering until 1827. One of his students was Cadet Robert E. Lee.

In 1828, he married the sister of his best friend at West Point, David Vinton. Elizabeth Vinton and George Greene were married on July 14, 1828, in Pomfret, CT. They would have three children in quick succession – Mary Vinton, George Sears, Jr. and Francis Vinton. He was assigned to Fort Sullivan in Eastport, Maine, during which time all three of their children and his wife died within a seven-month period, in 1832. George was so distraught that he started studying medicine, law and civil engineering. He did not become certified in the medical or law professions. He resigned his commission in 1836, and became a civil engineer.

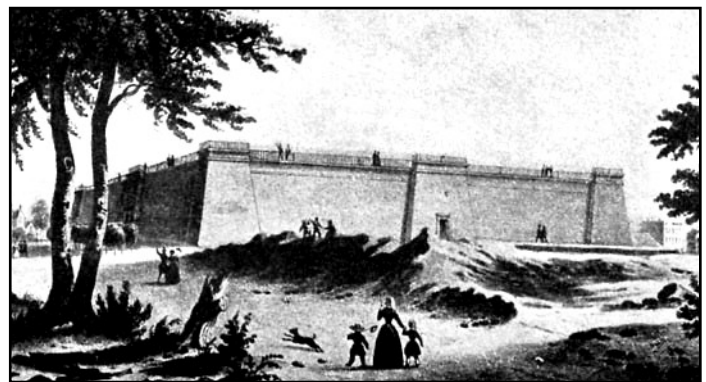


Illustration of Greene's Croton Aqueduct.



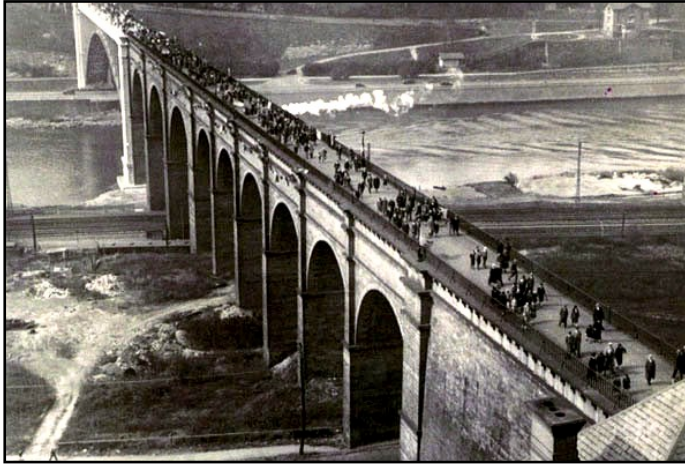
Thayer Hall (above) and the Thayer Hotel (right) at West Point's USMA, NY.
Photos by Janet Greentree

Greene accomplished much in his civil engineering phase. He built railroads in six states; designed water systems and sewage systems in Washington, D.C. and Detroit, as well as other cities in the U.S. In New York City, he designed

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

the Croton Aqueduct reservoir in Central Park and had the Harlem River High Bridge enlarged in 1836. He was also one



The Harlem River Bridge

of the 12 founders of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Architects. Good fortune interceded for him again when he was sent to Maine for railroad surveying. There he met his future wife, Martha Barrett Dana. They were married on February 21, 1837, in Charlestown, MA. They would have six children – five sons and one daughter. As was the custom at that time, they named two of their sons George Sears, III and Francis Vinton, for his sons who had died earlier. The other children were: Samuel Dana, Charles Thurston, Anna Mary, and James John (died at 1 year). Samuel Dana was in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War and commanded the *U.S.S. Monitor* after Capt. John Worden was wounded at the battle of Hampton Roads against the *U.S.S. Merrimack* (*C.S.S. Virginia*). He would later become a mathematics professor at the U.S. Naval Academy. Charles Thurston was a major in the Civil War and aide-de-camp to his father. He was present with his father at Culp's Hill in Gettysburg. He also fought at the battle of Ringgold, GA, and lost his right leg from a cannon ball. Francis Vinton graduated from West Point at the top of his class. He was a U.S. military attaché to Russia and fought in the Spanish American War. George, Jr. was a West Point graduate and civil engineer, like his father. His daughter

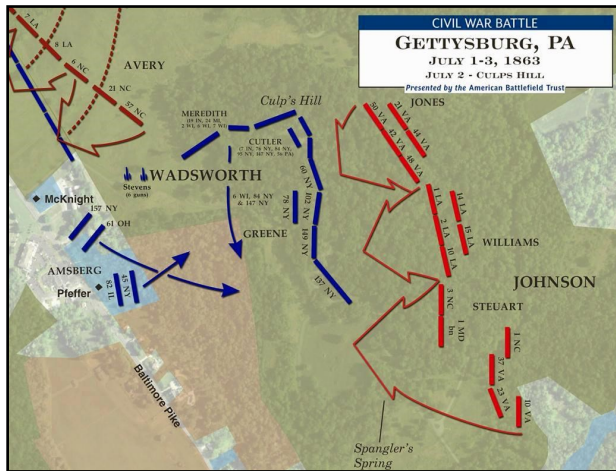
Anna Mary married Lt. Murray S. Day, the son of his classmate Hannibal Day, at West Point.

After being out of the army for 25 years, and over 60 years old, Greene wanted to help the Union in the Civil War and was appointed colonel of the 60th NY Volunteer Infantry on January 18, 1862. His men - out of respect for him - called him "Pap." On April 28, 1862, he was appointed a brigadier general and served on the staff of Gen. Nathaniel Banks in the Shenandoah Valley campaign against Stonewall Jackson. He was one of the most aggressive commanders in the Army. He fought and commanded the 3rd Brigade, II Corps, under Gen. John Geary, at Cedar Mountain, when he was attacked by Confederates three times the size of his brigade. Geary was wounded and Greene took temporary command of the division. At Antietam, he was with the XII Corps. Greene led an attack at Dunker Church. His men were able to penetrate further into Jackson's lines than any other unit. He fought at Chancellorsville, where his brigade was at the center of the line. There, 2,032 troops were engaged, and the brigade lost 528 men. Greene retreated to Harpers Ferry, where he took a three-week leave of absence. When he returned to duty, Gen. Geary was appointed the new division commander, to Greene's chagrin. He fought in minor skirmishes in Northern Virginia. When Gen. Geary was wounded again, Greene re-took command his division.

Now comes Gettysburg – Greene's greatest achievement. Greene - under Gen. George Meade's orders on July 2, 1864 - took his 1,350 60th New York Volunteers to defend a half-mile line on the top of Culp's Hill, against an entire Confederate Division. Greene's first inclination as an engineer was to construct breastworks. Geary was against the idea, but Greene disobeyed his orders and built the fortifications. The earthworks were built to conceal his men from sight of the

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At left, this map shows the challenge facing Greene's troops in their defense of Culp's Hill; above, two plaques at the base of the Greene statue note his service both during the Civil War and at Culp's Hill,

Photos by Lisa Greentree Tully

Confederates. His men fought until darkness and held off multiple attacks by the Confederates. Greene never had more than 1,350 troops, facing 4,000-5,000 Confederates. Gen. Alpheus Williams, acting Corps commander, commended Greene for his skill and judgment in his defense of Culp's Hill. As dusk set in, Greene ordered the men from the 60th, 78th, 102nd, 137th, and 149th NY to spread out in a line with one foot between them. The fight resumed the next morning, and the Union held the ground. Two of the Civil War's oldest generals were present at Culp's Hill – Confederate Gen. "Extra" Billy Smith and Union Gen. Greene. It has been reported that if the breastworks had not been built, the line would have been



Ms. Rebelle's witty daughter, Lisa (Greentree) Tully, co-opts the GREENE statue in the pic she sent Mom for the article.

swept away and the Confederates would have taken the hill. Gen. Greene has a large, life-sized statue on top of Culp's Hill, which depicts him pointing in the direction of those oncoming Confederates. My daughter, Lisa Tully, took an interesting picture (see photo at left) of the



statue for me (my family are a crazy bunch). The statue was dedicated in September 1907, with the Greene family attending (see photo above).

After Gettysburg, the XII Corps was transferred to the west, fighting at Chattanooga and Wauhatchie, TN. On October 29, 1863, at Wauhatchie, Greene sustained a terrible wound in the face. His jaw was crushed, and he lost all of his top teeth; the projectile shot into him cut into his jaw and cut into his right salivary duct. The bullet entered just beneath his nose on his left side and exited on his right side. Due to the large loss of blood and

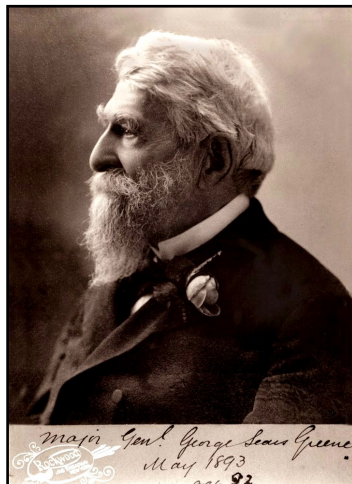
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being unable to speak, he was sent to a field hospital, and then to Nashville, for treatment and recuperation. He did not return to the army until December 1864. He then was assigned to court martial duty. He did not return to field duty until 1865. His wound would cause him trouble the rest of his life. He had surgery on his jaw for a salivary fistula by a top doctor in New York. At times, he was unable to eat, or the food was impacted in his mouth and became infected. Greene must have had a very strong constitution and a large tolerance for pain, as he lived with this for the rest of his life, dying at age 98.

When he did recuperate enough to rejoin the army, he was sent to join Gen. Phil Sherman's army in North Carolina. Before joining Sherman, he was on the staff of Gen. Jacob Cox at Kinston, where he had a horse shot from under him. Near the end of the war, in 1865, he commanded the 3rd Brigade under Gen. Absalom Baird, and was at the capture of Raleigh, NC, and engaged in the pursuit of Gen. Joseph Johnston's army before they surrendered.

Gen. Greene stayed another year with the army on court martial duty. He was breveted as a major general of volunteers and marched in the Grand Review of the Union Armies in Washington, D.C. He then resigned, and from 1867-1871, he was the chief engineer of the Croton Aqueduct Department in NY. At the age of 86, he inspected the entire 30-mile length of the Croton Aqueduct on foot!!! A man after my own heart, and my addiction to genealogy, Greene was president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He was also appointed to West Point's Board



of Visitors in 1881. As noted in an article by the *New York Tribune* dated February 18, 1899, after his death, entitled: "General Green's Will, His Property Bequeathed to his Daughter—He Asks his Children to Finish the Greene Genealogy." It goes on to report: "The General expresses in his will an earnest desire that his children should carry to completion as best they can the Greene genealogy, which he had begun, and that all manuscripts and genealogy and biographical books bearing upon the subject should be kept together until the completion of the work. He suggests that, if in the judgment of the executors it should be wise to do so, such manuscripts and books should be deposited with the Rhode Island Historical Society, at Providence."

In 1892, he was the oldest surviving Union general and the oldest living graduate of West Point. He petitioned Congress for an engineer captain's pension, so his family would have some income after his death. He was not awarded a captain's pension, but Gen. Daniel Sickles was instrumental in Greene receiving a 1st lieutenant's pension. He took the oath of office as a 1st lieutenant on August 18, 1894. That just doesn't seem fair, based on his service to the United States.

The beloved "Pap" Greene died at his daughter Anna Mary's home in Morristown, New Jersey, on January 28, 1899. What a life he had. He is buried in the Greene Family Cemetery in the Major General George Sears Greene lot off Tanner Avenue in Warwick, Rhode Island. Ms. Rebelle did not find his grave, but came close to Warwick on my New England trip in 2011. A large boulder from Culp's Hill was taken to Warwick and placed in front of Greene's grave.

He was described by Lt. George K. Collins of the 149th NY Infantry as follows: "He was a West Point graduate, about 60 years old, thick set, five feet ten inches high, dark complexioned, iron gray hair,

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 10)



Maj. Gen. George S. Greene's grave in Warwick, RI. The large rock in back was transported to the gravesite from Culp's Hill at the time of his interment in 1899.

full gray beard and mustache, gruff in manner and stern in appearance, but with all an excellent officer and under a rough exterior possessing a kind heart. In the end the men learned to love and respect him as much as in the beginning they feared him, and this was saying a good deal on the subject. He knew how to drill, how to command, and in the hour of peril how to care for his command, and the men respected him accordingly." His son, Francis Vinton Greene, described him "as a very strict disciplinarian who demanded unquestioning obedience to his orders."

At a monument dedication in 1888 for the 3rd Brigade, Gen. James Longstreet gave Greene and his New Yorkers "the credit of having successfully prevented the Confederates from turning Meade's right flank." Longstreet was a friend of Greene after the war. Longstreet also said of Greene: "There was no better officer in either army."

The *Evening Bulletin* of Providence, RI, on January 28, 1899, published his obituary: "Gen. George S. Greene died of old age at Morristown, N.J. at 1 o'clock this morning. He leaves three sons, Gen. Francis V. Greene, G.S. Greene, Jr., both now at Morristown, and Maj. Charles T. Greene, U.S.A., retired of Brookfield, Conn. George Sears Greene was born in

Apponaug, Warwick, R.I., May 6, 1801. He was descended from John Greene, Deputy Governor of Rhode Island. He was graduated at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1823. He served in various garrisons and as instructor at West Point until 1836, when he left the army and became a civil engineer, building many railroads in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Maryland, and Virginia."

The *New York Tribune* of January 31, 1899, listed his funeral services: "Greene—On Saturday morning, January 28, Major General George Sears Greene, in the 98th year of his age. Funeral services at St. Peter's Church, Morristown, N.J., on Tuesday, January 31, at 2 p.m. A special train will leave Hoboken at 12:10 p.m., and returning leave Morristown at 3:10 p.m."

The *Daily Advocate* of Stamford, CT on May 24, 1899 wrote: "Father of Heroes. General George Sears Greene, born 1801; Obit 1899. Oldest graduate of West Point—Venerated Comrade of Veterans of Three Wars—His Son Samuel Dana, a Naval Hero... Every now and then the obituary columns record the passing of some veteran whose very existence has long been forgotten by the closest contemporaries of his days of activity. Again and again at veterans reunions have the men of the old brigade who fought under General George Sears Greene at Antietam, at Gettysburg, at Wauhatchee, asked after their venerable commander, seldom wondering if he was alive, but wondering when told that he actually survived, a cheerful octogenarian, then a nonagenarian, then a patriarch crowding a century of life.... Born in 1810, General Greene well remembered the war of 1812, and in fact, trained in the boy companies which emulated their seniors in the excitement of that faraway conflict..."

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.



2022 HISTORY LECTURES

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

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 Newby Family's Fight for Freedom"

PRINCE WILLIAM
Historic Preservation

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue
Manassas, VA

For more information:
(703) 367-7872
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PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - this edition of *Preservation Corner* provides information on the recent announcement of National Park Service grant awards to preserve 536 acres of American Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields.

On December 9, 2021, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) awarded \$3,378,437 in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants to the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. These awards will protect more than 536 acres in Tennessee and Virginia associated with an American Revolutionary War and four Civil War battlefields.

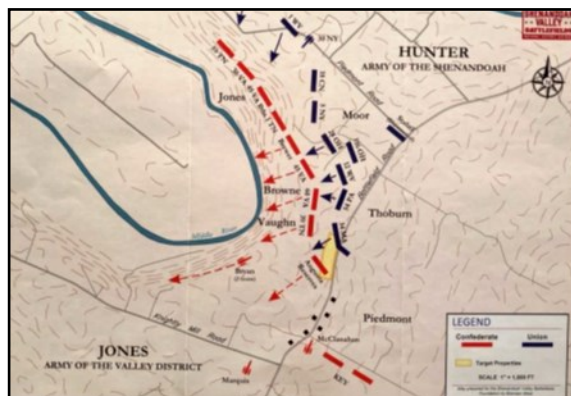
ABPP's Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants empower preservation partners nationwide to acquire and preserve threatened battlefields on American soil. In addition, the program administers three other grants: Preservation Planning, Battlefield Interpretation and Battlefield Restoration Grants. This financial assistance generates the community-driven stewardship of historic resources at state, tribal and local levels.

Recipient	Battlefield and Tract of Land	Acreage	Award
City of Chattanooga	Chattanooga Battlefield Reflection Riding	301.64	\$1,910,220.00
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Great Bridge Battlefield Mair	0.66	\$278,134.88
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Piedmont Battlefield Cline	3.25	\$65,123.10
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Port Republic Battlefield Edwards	107.35	\$816,318.23
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Tom's Brook Battlefield Morris	123.66	\$308,641.72
	Total:	536.56	\$3,378,437.93

"Hallowed Ground" at the Battle of Piedmont
Recipient: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Award Amount: \$65,123.10 - **Acreage:** 3.25 acres

Following the May 15, 1864, Battle of New Market, Maj. Gen. John C. Breckenridge and his division were recalled to rejoin Gen. R. E. Lee and his operations to protect Richmond and Petersburg from Federal forces threatening Virginia's capital and railroad network (Grant's Overland Campaign). This left CSA Brig. Gen. John Imboden with two brigades of cavalry, to be reinforced with reserve forces from SW Virginia, under the command of Brig. Gen. William E. "Grumble" Jones, to oppose Maj. Gen. David (Black Dave) Hunter, who had replaced Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel and his Army of the Shenandoah for control of the Upper Shenandoah Valley.

The Battle of Piedmont, fought on June 5, 1864, resulted from Hunter's attempt to flank Confederate forces blocking the Federal route to Staunton, Virginia, and its supply depot and key railroad assets. On June 4, General Hunter marched his army southeast from New Market to Port Republic. Gen. Jones established a defensive line west of Port Republic, near the Village of Piedmont, and confidently proclaimed, "I can whip Hunter anywhere." Gen. Hunter dispatched the brigades of Col. Augustus Moor and Col. Joseph Thoburn to flank the Confederate position and, after fierce hand-to-hand fighting, the Confederate line crumbled. Gen. Jones was mortally wounded when he rushed to the front line, urging his men to hold their ground. Despite his last words, the Confederate defense collapsed, and the subsequent retreat became a rout. Hunter's forces entered Staunton the next day.



Battle of Piedmont Battle Map (courtesy of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation).

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Preservation Corner – (con't from page 13)

A three-acre cornfield in the heart of the Piedmont Battlefield (see map, above) was the stage for the stand-up battle fought between the 60th Virginia and 34th Massachusetts Infantry Regiments, and is the land preserved through the awarded grant. The ABPP grant awarded to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR) will result in the preservation of the three acres of the Piedmont Battlefield through a conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. VA DCR, with its partner, the Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation, plan to install interpretative signage and establish walking trails to enable public access.

Port Republic Battlefield “Coaling” Property Recipient: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Award Amount: \$816,318.23 - Acreage: 107.35

The “Coaling,” a 70-foot-high prominence northeast of the town of Port Republic and near the South Fork of the Shenandoah River in Rockingham County, Virginia, was once cleared for a charcoaling operation. It was the site of fierce fighting during the June 9, 1862, Battle of Port Republic. Union Gen. Erastus Tyler positioned artillery pieces atop the Coaling, allowing him to tear into Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s men. Shielded by dense woods, the 2nd VA and 4th VA INF regiments advanced upon the Union guns’ position at the Coaling and fought for the high ground in an intense hand-to-hand fight.



Late 1800's view of the Coaling (Blue and Gray Magazine Photo).

After initially being repulsed, Confederate reinforcements from Taylor's Louisiana Brigade charged the Coaling again, this time taking it. With the Federal artillery position firmly in

Confederate hands, Tyler's line collapsed and withdrew. The Confederate victory at Port Republic capped “Stonewall” Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign, enabling Jackson and his army to move east in support of Robert E. Lee's defense of Richmond.



The Coaling viewed from near the South Fork of the Shenandoah River (photo courtesy of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation).

With the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant from the ABPP, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), will acquire the Coaling's 107 acres, which had, until now, been planned for residential development. Subdivided into 12 residential parcels, the integrity of this historic landscape would have been destroyed, had it not been saved from the proposed development. SVBF plans to construct walking trails with interpretive signage for public access. The property will be protected with a perpetual conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources.

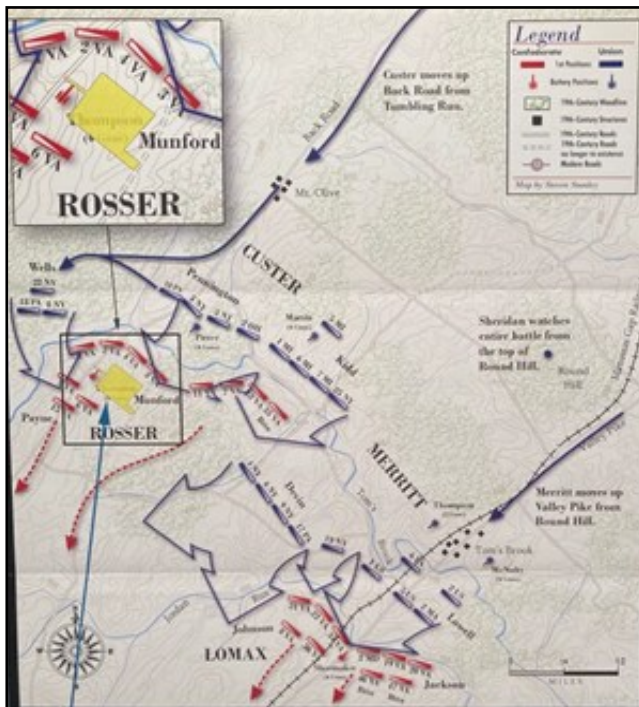
Tom's Brook Battlefield Property Recipient: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Award Amount: \$308,641.72 - Acreage: 123.66

Following Federal victories at Winchester (September 19, 1864) and Fishers Hill (September 22, 1864), Gen. Phil Sheridan initiated the phase of his 1864 Valley Campaign to destroy, burn and collect material resources (a.k.a. “The Burning”) as he retrograded down the Shenandoah Valley toward Winchester. As this phase of Sheridan's campaign began, led primarily by the cavalry divisions of George

(con't on page 15)

Preservation Corner – (con't from page 14)

Custer and Wesley Merritt, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early ordered his cavalry “to pursue the enemy, to harass him, and to ascertain his purposes.” Early’s cavalry forces consisted of Maj. Gen. Lunsford Lomax’s Division (two brigades and a horse artillery battery) and Fitzhugh Lee’s division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Thomas Rosser (three brigades and three horse artillery batteries), including Rosser’s own Laurel Brigade, composed of units and men from the Shenandoah Valley.



Battle of Tom's Brook Map (courtesy of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation)

On October 9, 1864, the rolling and hilly terrain along Tom's Brook in Shenandoah County was the backdrop for a decisive cavalry battle between the divisions of Lomax and Merritt along the Valley Turnpike, and the divisions of Rosser and Custer, along the Back Road. The Battle of Tom's Brook resulted in the complete rout of the Confederate cavalry. Both Rosser and Lomax were flanked by federal cavalry, and their resultant rapid retreat became known as the "Woodstock Races." Looking to deliver a knockout blow, Custer and Merritt pursued the Confederates south for almost 20 miles to Mount Jackson.

Now a cattle farm, this 123-acre tract (see map, below) was Rosser's main defensive line during the battle and provides the perfect vantage point to interpret the battle.

Thanks to the ABPP Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and its partner, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, this property will be protected with a perpetual conservation easement. Their plan is to work with the landowner to install a parking area, interpretive signage and walking trails, to allow for public access.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of battlefield preservation and of BRCWRT's preservation actions and activities. Stay strong, stay safe and stay healthy in 2022!

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

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

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ◆ David Peterson | ◆ Chris Rasmussen | ◆ Donald Delaney |
| ◆ Kay Peterson | ◆ Maston Gray | ◆ Ruth Delaney |
| | ◆ Michael Kirschner | |

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:

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."

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ADDRESS_____

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