



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIX, Issue 5 JUNE/JULY 2022

## **HISTORIAN/AUTHOR JOHN CARTER SPEAKS ON "CENTREVILLE, VA, CIVIL WAR DEFENSES: 1861-1862" AT THE JUNE 9th MEETING**

After the 1st Battle of Manassas, Centreville, VA, became a very fortified town, occupied by Confederate forces until March 1862. The redoubts, cannon positions, along with hundreds of huts and rifle pits, were a fortress against any Federal attack. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table has been working to preserve the Centreville defenses since our organization was established, and we will continue that fight to preserve it for future generations. We played a big part in instituting the Centreville Historic District a few years' back. We are so happy to have a BRCWRT member come and speak to us on our hometown Civil War legacy.

John Carter was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in Arlington, Virginia, where he graduated from Washington-Lee High School. He has an Associate Degree in History from Ferrum College (VA); a BA in History from the University of Tennessee; an MA in History from George Mason University (VA); and an MA in Psychology from George Mason University. He has over 40 years in college and university Admissions, including Ferrum College, George Mason University and Christopher Newport University.

John has lectured on the Civil War and a variety of other historical topics; led tours to Civil War battlefields and historical sites, and taught classes at George Mason University's Learning in Retirement Institute. The University of Alabama Press published his book, "Welcome the Hour of Conflict - William Cowan McClellan and the 9th Alabama," in 2007. He has papers published in the Southern Cavalry Review and in the Centreville Millrace. John worked at the Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum in Centreville for 10 years, until its recent closure. He is on the Board of Directors of the Historic Centreville Society, on the Board for Centreville Day, and is a member of the Bull Run Civil War

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**7 p.m.**

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

**THURSDAY, June 9, 2022**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Historian/Author John Carter**

**TOPIC:**

**"Centreville, VA, Civil Defenses:  
1861-1862"**

**THURSDAY, July 14, 2022**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Historian/Author Kevin Pawlak**

**TOPIC:**

**"August 27, 1862: The Critical  
Actions of the Second Manassas  
Campaign"**

Round Table. John now lives in Oakton, Virginia, and is married with two children and three grandchildren. Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet and dine with John at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA: (703) 266-9755.

**HISTORIAN/AUTHOR KEVIN PAWLAK  
SPEAKS ON "AUGUST 27th, 1862: THE CRITICAL  
ACTIONS OF THE SECOND MANASSAS  
CAMPAIGN" AT THE JULY 14 MEETING**

August 27th, 1862, was the day that the Civil War landed on the Manassas Station arena, with two battles fought during that 24-hour period. The Battle of the Bull Run Bridge, the Battle of Kettle Run and Confederate Gen. Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson's Raid on the station were all major actions that occurred within that time

(Con't on page 3)

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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 **August 2022** issue, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, **July 25**, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August 2022** issue, advertisers - please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on **July 15** to Charlie Balch at: [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**TO ARMS! TO ARMS!**

Do not wait to be Drafted, but Volunteer!!

WE WILL ATTEND THE

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Attend All Meetings of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table!!**

## UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS

**June 9:** Historian/Author John Carter – "Centreville, VA, Civil Defenses: 1861-1862"

**July 14:** Historian/Author Kevin Pawlak - "August 27: The Critical Actions of the Second Manassas Campaign"

**August 16 (Tuesday):** 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:** TBD

**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 -**

June looks like the month that the BRCWRT is BACK!

As everyone knows, since March of 2020, COVID has taken a toll on our ability to get together to share our common interests in the Civil War. Although we maintained our monthly meetings using Zoom and later, a hybrid of Zoom with live meetings at the Centreville Library, it is the personal interactions that have suffered. I hope that this month's activities will be a significant turn-around to a return to our pre-COVID personal fellowship.

At this Thursday's general meeting, our Scholarship Committee Chair, Charlie Balch, will present this year's BRCWRT \$2,000 scholarship to Aaryan Karan Rawal of Westfield High School. Scholarship Committee member, John Carter – who is our speaker on Thursday – placed a nice write-up of Aaryan in last month's Stone Wall. Aaryan was accepted by many colleges and has chosen to go to Harvard. Please come to the meeting and help us congratulate this exceptional young man.

On June 18, there will be a significant event at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park to commemorate "The Life of the Soldier." Stephanie Vale, our Marketing Committee Chair, has again worked with the Bristoe Station Battlefield

Park manager, Kevin Pawlak, to allow the BRCWRT to have a tent to recruit new members that come for the event and to sell our now large cache of used Civil War-related books. All book sales are going to help build the 2023 Scholarship fund, so please contact Stephanie if you are able to help out on the 18th.

We are extremely proud to finally have our first field trip finalized under our new chair, Sam Laudenslager. This field trip has been organized by Jim Lewis and is scheduled for June 25. It will be in the form of a car caravan tracing the route of Gen. Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson's famous 1862 "Flank March" from Warrenton through Salem (now Marshall), and Thoroughfare Gap to Manassas. The full "marching orders" are printed on our Web site, as is a final opportunity to sign up. Note: that the final day to sign up is Saturday, June 11.

In addition to our general meeting on July 14 featuring Kevin Pawlak speaking on the Battle of Second Manassas, there is a significant Civil War event at Ben Lomond Historic Site in Manassas on July 22 and 23. Once again, Stephanie Vale has worked with the Ben Lomond staff to provide an opportunity for us to place a tent at the entrance and try to recruit new members and to sell used books for the 2023 Scholarship fund. Please contact Stephanie directly if you are able to help out.

Please be part of this summer's BRCWRT revival and join us in person for these events that offer us opportunities to get together again.

## Upcoming Speakers – (con't from page 1)

frame. We are happy to have a BRCWRT member and honored historian come to speak on the actions that made this day so important to our area before the Battle of 2nd Manassas.

Kevin Pawlak was born and raised in western New York and became interested in the Civil War following a trip to Gettysburg at age nine. He graduated in 2014 from Shepherd University with a major in Civil War and 19th Century America and a minor in Historic Preservation.

Kevin has worked at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and serves as a licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam. He held internships with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Illinois, and at the Missouri Civil War Museum. Kevin wrote his first book, "Shepherdstown in the Civil

War: One Vast Confederate Hospital," which was released in September 2015. He also authored "The Heaviest Blow Yet Given the Confederacy: The Emancipation Proclamation Changes the Civil War." He is now the Director of Education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association; sits on the boards of directors of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. He is also on the advisory board of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, his alma mater. He currently works for Prince William County Historic Preservation as a site manager. Come on out at 5 p.m. to meet and dine with Kevin at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA: (703) 266-9755.





## Bull Run Civil War Round Table 2022 Program of Events



Date	Event
June 9	Annual Scholarship Presentation and Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Carter - "Centreville, VA Civil War Defenses 1861-1862." <u>Please note speaker change!</u>
June 18	<b>BIG BOOK SALE!</b> We will have hundreds of books for sale at Bristoe Station from 11:00 – 4:00. Join us at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park for the book sale and their program "The Life of the Soldier." <i>Please contact Stephanie Vale at BRCWRTmarketing@gmail.com if you are able to help at this event.</i>
June 25	<b>Spring Tour:</b> "Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Flank March," Tour Guide – Hank Elliott <i>Please note that June 11<sup>th</sup> is the last day to sign up for this tour!</i>
July 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kevin Pawlak – "August 27, 1862: The Critical Actions of Second Manassas"
July 22-23	Civil War Weekend at Ben Lomond Historic Site (Sudley Manor Drive). Membership Drive & Book Sales
<u>Please note this date change to Tuesday!</u>	
August 16	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Michael Block – "Battle of Cedar Mountain – August 1862"
August 26-27	160 <sup>th</sup> 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 – Sept. 17, 1862"
October 1	<b>Fall Tour:</b> "December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg," Tour Guide – Gregg Mertz
October 7	Civil War Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads Dedication Ceremony - (10 am – 12 pm) This will also include a site tour!
October 13	Author/Historian Jon-Erik Gilot - "Albert G. Jenkins' Trans-Allegheny Raid"
October 15-16	159 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station, Bristoe Station Battlefield. Membership Drive & Book Sales
November 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: TBD
December 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski – "Battle of Fredericksburg – Dec. 1862"

Note: All events are either sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and are posted on our website: <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 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.

**ATTENTION!!**

**BIG BOOK SALE**

*at the*

**BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD  
HERITAGE PARK**

**AND THE PROGRAM**

**LIFE OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER**

*on*

**June 18, 2022**

*from*

**11:00 AM to 4:00PM**



**TO BENEFIT**

**The BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
Scholarship Program**

**AND**

**BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE PARK**

**HUNDREDS and HUNDREDS of BOOKS!**



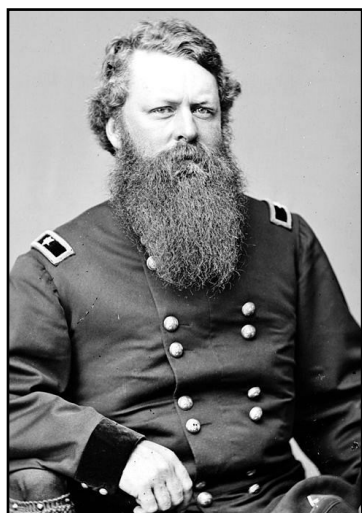


## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Gen. William Worth Belknap, USA

By Janet Greentree

This man did well in the Civil War – he was successful after the War, but he reminds me of Generals Sickles and Kilpatrick, as there were quite a few controversies/scandals attached to him – wife problems, and even an impeachment on March 2, 1876, (which was just mentioned in the 2021 impeachment trial of



Gen. William Worth Belknap

President Donald J. Trump). He was also married three times. To be fair though, his first two wives died. His third wife was the second wife's sister. He was in the pay-back business too. His descendant, Andra Belknap, said of him: "William Worth Belknap was by many accounts a hero of the Civil War. He served the Union Army and at the Battle of Shiloh, he was injured and had his horse shot down under him. And still, he continued in battle. His Civil War heroism, however, has been largely forgotten by history – even forgotten by his own family. His impeachment is what remains in



William Goldsmith Belknap

the history books." So here we go!!

William Worth Belknap was born in Newburgh, NY, not too far north of West Point on the Hudson River, on September 22, 1829, to William Goldsmith Belknap and Anne Clark. His father was a U.S. Army career officer, fighting in the War of 1812, where he was wounded at the battle Fort Erie, Ontario. He also fought in the Second Seminole War in Florida, the Mexican-American War (under Gen. Zachary Taylor), fighting at Monterrey and Buena Vista, where he was brevetted a brigadier general. He commanded a regiment at Fort Gibson, OK. He was on his way from Fort Belknap (named for him), Texas, to Fort Washita, Oklahoma, when he died of typhoid. The Belknap family goes back to Abraham Belknap from England. Here is a little Massachusetts connection – Abraham was married in Lynn, MA. Young William Worth was the middle child between his older sister Anna Mary and younger sister Clara. At maturity, Belknap was over six feet tall; burly, rugged, loud voice, red-bearded, blue eyes, and a natural leader. He was very well suited to being a soldier.

After first attending local schools in Newburgh, Belknap graduated from Princeton College in 1848 and then studied law at Georgetown University under Hugh E. Caperton. He was admitted to the bar in 1851. He first practiced in Washington, DC, and then moved to Keokuk, Iowa, to practice law. He and Ralph P. Lowe started a partnership there. He brought his mother and two sisters to Iowa to live with him. The house where he lived in Keokuk was built in 1854 and is still standing at 511 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street but is not in very good condition. In 1856, he was elected to the Iowa State Legislature in Lee County as a Democrat, serving a two-year term. He later became a Republican.

In 1854, he married his first wife Cora LeRoy (who was the sister of Gen. Hugh T. Reid – see paragraph 5 below – on March 23, 1854, in Lee Co., Iowa.

(con't on page 7)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)



The Belknap home in Keokuk, Iowa.

They had two children – William Goldsmith, II. (died at 19) and Hugh Reid. Hugh became a U.S. Congressman in the 54<sup>th</sup> Congress. Belknap married his second wife Caroline “Carita” Tomlinson on January 25, 1869, in Cook Co., IL. Carita died shortly after childbirth of tuberculosis, in 1870. Belknap married Carita’s sister Amanda (or Puss) on December 18, 1873, in Harrodsburg, KY. They had one daughter, Alice, who was one of Washington City’s most sought after belles.



Mrs. Alice Belknap Henry-Van Kaathoven, the general's daughter.

On December 7, 1861, while still living in Iowa, he became a major in the Fifteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War and was appointed by Gov. Samuel Jordan Kirkwood. Col. Hugh T. Reid commanded the unit. Belknap would later name his son after Col. Reid. Belknap led the

15<sup>th</sup> at the battle of Vicksburg. He was given command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Di-



The Battle of Shiloh, TN, April 6 - 7, 1862.

vision, XVII Corps. He traveled on a steamer from St. Louis to the battle of Shiloh. He and his men were sent to the front at the Hornet’s Nest under Gen. Benjamin M. Prentiss. On the first day, April 6, 1862, Belknap had his horse shot and killed from under him. He continued the fight on foot. He fought at the Battle of Corinth on October 3-4, 1862, where his friend then, Col. Hugh T. Reid, was shot in the neck and severely wounded. Grant promoted Reid to general after Corinth. Gen. Reid said of Belknap “he was always in the right place at the right time, directing and encouraging officers and men as coolly as a veteran.” He was recognized for his “conspicuous gallantry” at Corinth.

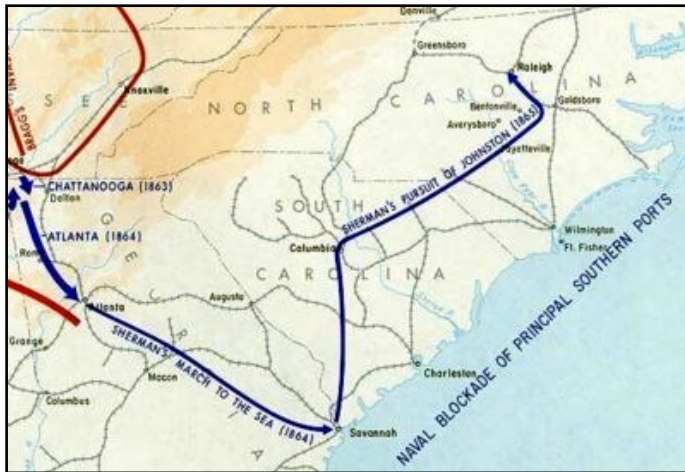


The siege of Vicksburg, MS, May 18 - July 4, 1863.

In July 1864, he was made brigadier general of volunteers. At the Siege of Vicks-

(con't on page 8)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)



Sherman's "March to the Sea," from Atlanta to Savannah, GA, November 15 until December 21, 1864.

burg in 1864, he was under Gen. John McArthur as part of the Third Brigade of the Sixth Division. He fought in the Atlanta Campaign with Gen. William T. Sherman and accompanied him on the march to the sea and through the Carolinas Campaign. During this period, he was a brevet major general.

During the Battle of Atlanta, where his division had set up earthworks and a parapet around Bald Hill, Belknap came in contact with Confederate Col. Harris D. Lampley, who had been shot. Belknap grabbed Lampley by the collar, turned him around to face his men, and yelled at him: "Look at your men! They are dead! What are you cursing them for?" Belknap took him prisoner and he later died on August 24, 1864. Belknap captured quite a few Confederates that day by pulling them over the earthworks. After accompanying Gen. Sherman to North Carolina, he was promoted to brevet major general on March 13, 1865. He declined a Regular Army promotion and was mustered out of the Army on August 24, 1865.

Belknap was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue by Pres. Andrew Johnson in 1865. His job was to collect millions of dollars in federal taxes, and as standard in the job, he was paid a percentage of the revenue he brought in. The books he kept were accurate to within

four cents. He served in this capacity for four years when Pres. Ulysses S. Grant appointed him as his Secretary of War in 1869. Gen. Sherman had recommended Gen. Belknap for the job. He made several innovations to the War Department, including adding the date of May 1<sup>st</sup> as the start of the fiscal year, and made post commanders prepare reports for the preservation of history. He also made suggestions to preserve Yellowstone National Park.

In 1870, Gen. Belknap lobbied Congress to grant him the sole power to appoint and license agents, known as sutlers, with ownership rights to very lucrative "traderships" at U.S. military forts in the West. He ordered soldiers at the forts to buy supplies only from his approved sutlers. This meant the men had to buy supplies at exorbitant rates, leaving them in debt. The price of whiskey was 25 cents a glass when soldiers were only being paid a few dollars a month. Hostile American Indians were allowed to buy supplies and high-quality guns at the forts. Yet the guns requisitioned for U.S. troops were inferior and jammed frequently.

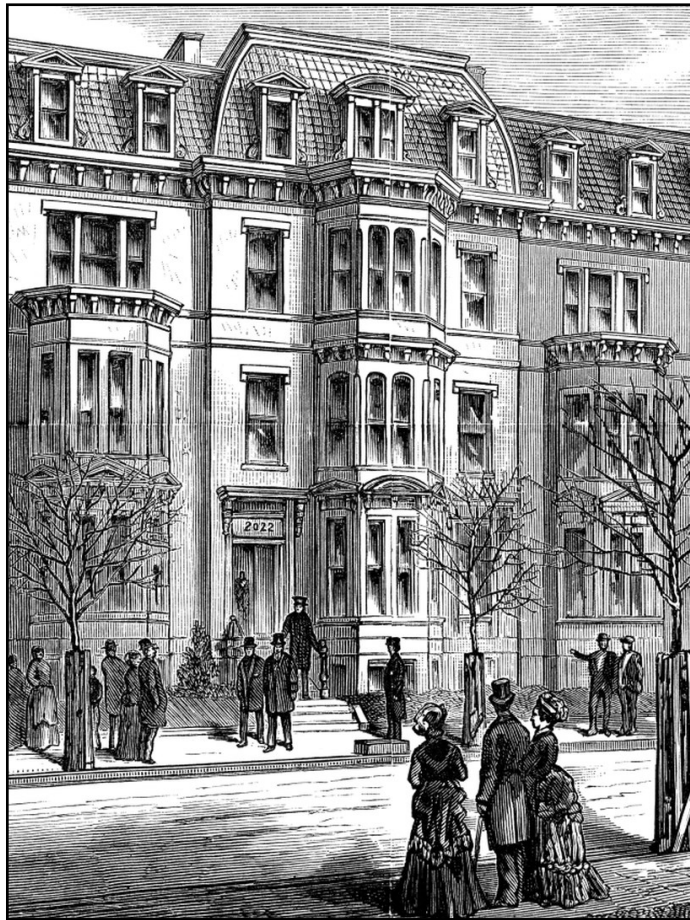
Now comes the "wife" problem. Belknap's second wife, Carita, was socially ambitious and did not want to live in Washington, D.C., as she preferred Keokuk. However, they did move to Washington in 1869. The couple rented a large house where Secretary of State William Seward had recently lived. Carita loved to throw extravagantly large parties; 1,200 people showed up at one of them! The house was trashed, and since Belknap's salary was only \$8,000/year, they had no way to pay for the repairs. Carita came up with the idea to have her husband appoint a New York contractor, Caleb P. Marsh, to the Fort Sill tradership. John Evans, who had only acquired the job recently, did not want to give it up. Marsh drew up a partnership that allowed Evans

(con't on page 9)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

to keep his job, but he had to pay Marsh \$12,000 per year in quarterly installments. However, Marsh had to pay \$6,000 to Carita. Unfortunately, Carita died after only receiving one payment. After Carita's death, Marsh paid the sum to Carita's younger sister Amanda, who was living with the Belknaps. This arrangement was done with Belknap's full knowledge and consent. William and Carita's child died in 1871, and Amanda took the money to tour Europe. When Amanda returned, she and Belknap were married, but only before having Gen. Belknap sign a pre-nuptial agreement so she could keep money inherited from her



The Belknap home in Washington, D.C. - the arrest of Gen. W. W. Belknap at his residence, 2022 G Street, N.W. - from a photograph by Rice Bros.

family. They rented a large house on G Street, N.W., which had been built by Grant's personal secretary Orville Babcock. Like her older sister, Amanda loved

high society and spent the "kickback" money freely. She was known as the "spendthrift belle."

In October 1871, the infamous Chicago fire destroyed the city, killing hundreds of people, and causing \$200,000,000 in damages. There were more than 100,000 destitute and homeless people left in Chicago. Gen. Belknap



The Great Chicago Fire - October 8 -10, 1871 .

ordered food to be sent from St. Louis, tents from Jefferson Barracks, and troops from Fort Omaha to keep the peace. He also ordered military officers around the country to send supplies - lots of them - promptly.

In 1872, Civil War photographer Matthew Brady was in dire financial straits. His glass plate photographs were sold to creditors. In 1874, the owner of a NYC warehouse offered a set of 2,000 negatives for sale. Gen. Belknap authorized their purchase for the sum of \$2,500. The negatives were sent to the War Department without careful packaging, and about 1/3 were damaged or destroyed. Hearing that his negatives were sold, and he received no profit, Brady offered to sell a second set. His price was \$25,000 and Gen. Belknap authorized payment to Mr. Brady. Thankfully, the National Archives is now in possession of the negatives, and we can all enjoy them. Ms. Rebelle uses many in her articles.

(con't on page 10)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 9)

In 1873, the country's first steel arched bridge named after James B. Eads was constructed in St. Louis. Gen. Belknap was opposed to its construction and wanted the bridge torn down so steamers would not have to lower their smokestacks to go under the bridge. Belknap even submitted a report to Congress requesting

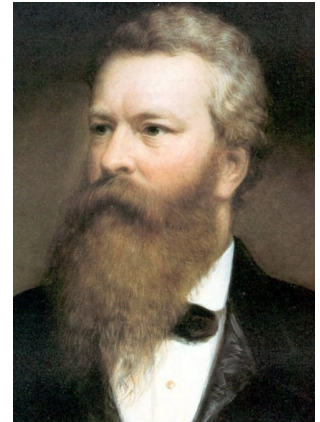


The controversial Eads Bridge in St Louis, MO.

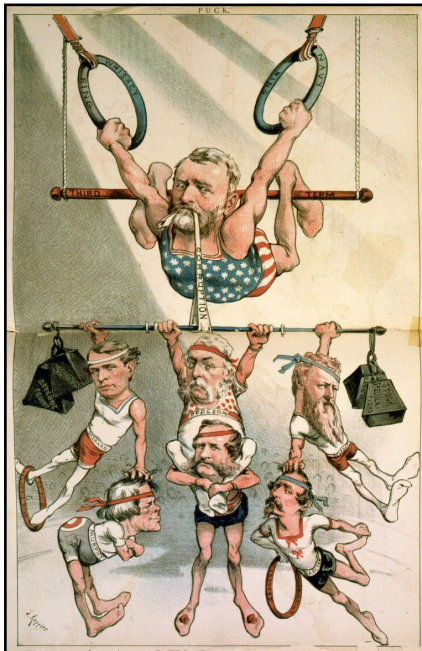
Pres. Grant to tear down the bridge. Grant told Belknap: "You certainly cannot destroy this structure on your own authority...General, you had better drop this case." Belknap blushed and was embarrassed, but the case was dropped. The Eads Bridge was completed in 1874 and is still used today. However, Ms. Rebelle has a funny story about this bridge when she and her family drove through St. Louis in 1979. As we approached this really dilapidated bridge and crossed over it, the whole family was commenting on the really bad condition of the bridge. When we got to the end, a toll collector asked us for a toll. We all burst out laughing that anyone would ask for a toll to go over that bridge.

In February, 1876, the Belknap's

kickback scheme became public knowledge, and the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives began an investigation. The investigation was chaired by Representative Hiestor Clymer, chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of War. Clymer and Belknap had been college roommates. Belknap refused to testify. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Pres. Grant was informed of Belknap's pending impeachment. It was concluded that Belknap had received approximately \$20,000 in bribes from Caleb Marsh. Belknap and Secretary of Interior Zachariah Chandler came to the White House to speak with Grant. Belknap was extremely anxious, openly wept, and confessed to Grant. Belknap handed Grant a one-sentence resignation letter. He resigned before five articles of impeachment could be served on him. Belknap was arrested at his home at 2022 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. On April 5, 1876, Belknap was tried, but since he had resigned before impeachment papers could be served, he was acquitted. Belknap held the office of Secretary of War for six years, four months, and seven days.



Belknap in 1874, while serving as secretary of state.



He and his family moved to Philadelphia after the impeachment incident. Amanda and the children travelled, so Belknap only saw them periodically. The general moved back to Keokuk, returning to the practice of law representing railroads. He came back to Washington frequently and kept a house there. Even in 1880, during the presidential election, he was lampooned in a Puck magazine cartoon (at left) – Grant the Acrobat - which opposed Pres. Grant running for a third term.

(con't on page 11)



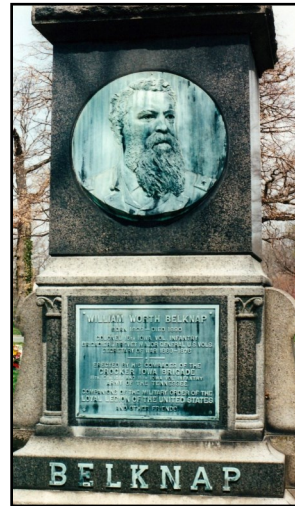
## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 10)

According to my book *"Medical Histories of Union Generals,"* Gen. Belknap, in the summer of 1862, had chronic diarrhea (lasting off and on the rest of his life), an ulceration of the bowels complicated by malaria. In June 1863, he suffered from gout. With Sherman's March to the Sea, his feet swelled so much he was unable to wear boots, and had pain in his shoulders and knees. In 1886, he was treated for severe gout in both feet. His feet became so swollen that his boots had to be cut off of him. He later had arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Gen. Belknap died on October 12, 1890, in Washington, D.C. His death certificate stated he died from fatty degeneration of the heart, which came upon him quickly (heart attack). The New York Times stated "that his death occurred on Sunday between 1:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and that he died alone in his residence in the Evans building on New York Avenue. Prior to his death, Belknap played cards with his friends on Saturday night, then retired upstairs for the evening. Belknap's wife, Amanda, was in New York City at the time. At 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning, Belknap's business associate, John W. Cameron, picked up Belknap's mail on the first floor of the Belknap's home, where he maintained his law office, and proceeded to the second floor where Belknap lived. Cameron and a maid found that all the rooms had been locked. A janitor was summoned to open the doors, and a step ladder was used to peer into Belknap's bedroom (through the

transom). Belknap had placed his hat and coat on a chair and his lifeless body was found in his bed. His left arm had been raised toward his head with his left hand tightly clenched. The bed clothes were disheveled, and he appeared to have struggled for breath...."

The funeral was conducted at St. John's Episcopal Church. He is buried Arlington National Cemetery in Section 1, Grave 132. A plaque on his marker is inscribed:



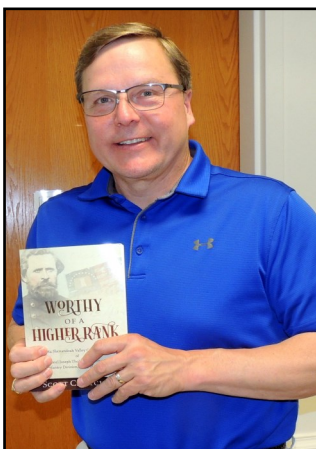
Belknap's grave marker at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

"Prior to Belknap's 1876 shocking resignation, Belknap's reputation was one of a war hero who honorably served the Union Army. There were no rumors of corruption while he served under Johnson as a Treasury collector. Even up to 1876, Belknap, under Grant, was believed to be a faithful judicious Secretary of War, publicly recognized for aiding and protecting 100,000 homeless

Chicago fire victims."

*NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is traveling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far, she has located and photographed 426 - 169 Confederate and 257 Union. You may contact her at [jlgrtree@erols.com](mailto:jlgrtree@erols.com).*



### The May meeting of the BRCWRT Was an Occasion to Celebrate!!

Not only did the speaker, Scott Patchan (left), tell the interesting story of a man he says is *"Worthy of a Higher Rank,"* (his new book's title), referring to Federal Col. Joseph Thoburn in the Valley, but it was the occasion of the BRCWRT's 31st anniversary! Imagine how this wonderful group enjoyed each's month's lessons together, and shared some fine memories of trips and events of the past—but think of the NEXT 32 years ahead!! Thanks to all who have served as officers of the Round Table, as well those who volunteer, and those who attend meetings and events. Saundra Cox (at right), encouraged by her husband Doug Cox, produced quite the colorful cake for the occasion!





[www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)

**The Society for Women and the Civil War  
is pleased to announce the  
22nd Conference on Women  
and the Civil War -  
The Women of the Shenandoah Valley  
in Harrisonburg, Virginia,  
July 22-24, 2022**

**Conference Highlights:**

**Living History and Reenacting Workshop**

**First-Person Impressions of Rose O'Neal Greenhow and Margaret Junkin Preston**

**Dr. Jonathan Berkey, speaking on the "Women of the Shenandoah During the Civil War"**

**A visit to the world-class Frontier Culture Museum**

**Juanita Leisch Jensen displaying a rare Confederate homespun dress  
from the Shenandoah Valley**

**Jess Pritchard-Ritter speaking on "Belle Grove's Free and Enslaved Populations  
During the Civil War"**

**Ashley Sonntag and Susan Wall speaking about reenacting, living  
history, and docenting**

**Farm to Table Dining**

**Friday night Welcome Party**

**Saturday night Banquet**

**Silent Auction**

**Space is limited! Register now!**

**[EmailMe Form - SWCW 2022 Conference Registration Form](#)**

**Registration Deadline: July 15, 2022**

**The venue is the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center  
in Harrisonburg, Virginia.**

**Our special conference rate for rooms is \$119 + tax per night,  
plus \$5 parking per day.**

**To reserve your room, call the hotel at 540-564-0200,  
or go online to Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Ctr. ([travelclick.com](http://travelclick.com))**

**To ensure the special conference rate, reserve your room by June 17, 2022**





## THE BOOK CORNER



By Dave Button

*“Like A Meteor Blazing Brightly: The Short but Controversial Life of Colonel Ulric Dahlgren”* by Eric Wittenberg traces the short life of Ulric Dahlgren from first his Swedish heritage through his many adventures in the Civil War, to his death just short of his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday - as the youngest full colonel in the Union Army - on his raid in the Richmond area.

The controversy about this raid is well known in Civil War circles. Depending on whose version of the story one believes, the raid may or may not have been to assassinate the heads of the Confederacy; may or may not have been to liberate the prisoners from Libby prison and Belle Isle; may or may not have been to burn Richmond or may or may not have been a combination of any of the above. Whatever the true purpose of the raid was, we will never know, because the secret died with Dahlgren, outside the city.

The book opens with a discussion of Dahlgren’s Swedish heritage, going back to the *paterfamilias* Borje Ericsson, who was born in 1593, but assumed the name Dahlgren based on the area, Dahlen, of the town, Norrkoping, where he lived, and the word “gren” which means branch or bough (page 7). From these beginnings, the Dahlgren family had a long and illustrious career in public service in Sweden until, in 1804, ancestor Bernhard Dahlgren was passing out literature advocating republican principles and was forced to flee to America where the notion of public service to the United States culminated in Admiral John Dahlgren who, among other things, was the inventor of the Dahlgren gun of Civil War fame.

The substance of Ulric’s somewhat privileged life led to his being admitted to some of the highest circles of Washington D.C. society, where, despite his lack of higher education in general (and military science in particular) he received a commission in the U. S. Army. This was essentially following in his father’s footsteps, who (to

great fanfare), received a midshipman’s warrant at the age of 16.

Having gotten himself assigned as his father’s aide, he moved in the highest circles of the military – he was comfortably set in Washington, where his father was a major player in the military establishment. With the secession, he was in the right place at the right time, with the right connections.

At the beginning the conflict, he was in the artillery, and accompanied artillery to Harper’s Ferry. He found himself attached to Sigel’s force and wound up at Second Manassas in Pope’s army. Eventually getting himself attached to the cavalry, as a brash young officer, he was sure to make his mark. Attaching himself to Judson Kilpatrick provided him with a leader of his own way of thinking. The wound he received at Gettysburg which resulted in the loss of a leg did not inhibit his military career.

From his (at best) partial recovery, he was anxious for action, which soon culminated in the raid on Richmond - but there was more to his saga. The book concludes with the burial, exhumation, reburial, and re-exhumation of his body, and all of the mystery and intrigue that this involved, including the participation of federal agent Elizabeth Van Lew in Richmond.

The book devotes two chapters, *An Untimely End to a Promising Life and An Unending Controversy Spawned, Ulric Dahlgren’s Final Adventure*, to the raid, the death and the controversy that the burial(s) generated. The last chapter assesses the overall life of Dahlgren. Finally, there is an appendix *Were the Dahlgren Papers Authentic?*, and a second appendix of current maps of Richmond and the sites of points of interest related to the Dahlgren raid.

The book is an easy read because of Wittenberg’s style. That, coupled with an exciting, but brief, life that Dahlgren lived, makes it well worth read. This is the first biography devoted to Ulric Dahlgren’s life itself. It’s a “must read” for anyone interested in the one of the lesser known but important actions of the Civil War. Although the raid failed in its purpose, whatever it may have or may not have been, it is a story filled with ‘daring-do’ of the first magnitude.



# Save the Date!

**Friday, Oct. 7, 10:00 AM**

**George Mason University, Fairfax Campus  
West tree line (back-end) of Parking Lot K  
(Near Braddock & Ox Road Intersection)**

## **Dedication and Tour of a Preserved & Interpreted Civil War Redoubt At Farr's Cross Roads**

**Welcome & Opening Remarks**

**Blake Myers, Moderator & Speaker**

### **Speakers**

**State Senator Chap Petersen**

**Dr. Brian Platt, GMU History Department**

**Jim Lewis, Bull Run Civil War Roundtable**

**Brian McEnany, Bull Run Civil War Roundtable**

### **Music By**

**8<sup>th</sup> Green Machine Regiment Band**

#### **Directions:**

**From Braddock Rd.:** Turn onto Roanoke River Rd., 1<sup>st</sup> left into Lot K  
**From Chain Bridge Rd.:** Turn onto University Dr., 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Aquia Creek Ln., (rt) onto Patriot Circle, travel through circle, (rt) into Lot K



**Co-Sponsors  
George Mason University &  
Bull Run Civil War Roundtable**





## Join The National Park Service for its Annual Fort Stevens Day

**Saturday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

There will be Civil War reenactors, a program of speakers on the battle that took place there, as well as a panel on Women in the Civil War, with a specific focus on women in Washington, DC. Vice-Chairperson of the Fairfax County History Commission and member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, will be providing a historic re-enactment of the legendary Angelina Grimké, “One Woman Against a Nation” and share how she is related to the Grimké family in Washington, DC, Civil War history.

A humanities truck will provide a stage and microphone for periodic presentations and exhibits.

Food will be sold, and the Alliance will have t-shirts available for a donation.

Fort Stevens was an important part of our history, and we hope to see many new visitors and participants.

For information contact Melanie La Force at [mjlaforce1758@gmail.com](mailto:mjlaforce1758@gmail.com).

BRCWRT member Lynne Garvey-Hodge, portraying the amazing Angelina Grimke, abolitionist, feminist, and scourge of the South.

Photo courtesy of Lynne Garvey-Hodge



## “Flagstaff Finials, Toppers and Ferrules of the Civil War” is New Insight on Messaging During the Civil War

by Nadine H. Mironchuk

Del Thomasson of Ringgold, Georgia, has brought to our attention that the 12th West Virginia Infantry was the military home of the ancestor of members Karen Lyddane and Jim Lewis - a regiment that was presented with a conspicuous flag finial by Gen. John Gibbon, who had the finial inscribed with the following: “Presented to the Twelfth Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, By their Corp Commander, General John Gibbon, for gallant conduct in the assault upon Fort Gregg, near Petersburg, VA, April 2, 1865.”

Fourteen Union soldiers received the Medal of Honor for their bravery on this day. Such finials and flag toppers were a form of decoration for the regiment for gallantry in battle, letting the soldiers, their foes and their community know what level of soldiering their men had accomplished during the war. This long-overlooked battle, known as “The Confederate Alamo,” was a major factor in Confederate President Jefferson Davis abandoning the capitol that very night for a train ride headed for Danville. Meanwhile, Richmond burned fiercely.

After 38 years as a law enforcement officer, retiring from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in 2013, Thomasson penned the book, “Flagstaff Finials, Toppers and Ferrules of the Civil War,” which became a personal project to produce. It is found on eBay.



The flag finial given to the 12th West Virginia for bravery shown in the assault on Ft. Gregg, near Petersburg, VA, at the close of the Civil War.

Photo courtesy of  
Del Thomasson

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## **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](http://BRCWRT.org) and clicking on "Membership Application."**

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

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

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

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