



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIX, Issue 9 NOVEMBER 2022

**HISTORIAN AND RE-ENACTOR  
DOMINISH MARIE MILLER  
SPEAKS ON "WOMEN AT WAR:  
THE FEMALE SOLDIERS OF THE  
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND  
THOSE WHO WISHED THEY  
WERE" AT THE NOVEMBER 10,  
2022 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

Contrary to popular belief, women did fight in the American Civil War. They also infiltrated the United States Army in earlier wars. Deborah Sampson served for 17 months in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War as Robert Shurtliff, and Lucy Brewer served with the Marines aboard Old Ironsides as George Baker during the War of 1812. Once a taboo topic, modern historians are finally shedding light on the role that female soldiers played in the Civil War and the women who made a living off of lying about their military service. We are so happy to have a native of Harrisburg PA come down to speak with us on this interesting subject at the November 10th General Membership meeting.

Dominish Marie Miller is the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Librarian for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the founder of Preserving the History of Newberrytown. She is the author of two cookbooks, *Preserving the History of Newberrytown: A Community Cookbook From the Cooks of Newberrytown, Pennsylvania* (2021), volumes 1 and 2. Dominish is also a reenactor with the 87th Regiment PVI, portraying a private in Company C.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY, November 10,  
2022**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Dominish Marie Miller**

**TOPIC:**

**"Women at War: The Female Soldiers of the American Civil War and Those Who Wished They Were"**

She has been a local historian for a few years now and conducts lectures at local restaurants. She just completed a lecture on the history of the 87th PA, in September 2022, at the York PA Civil War Round Table. Come on out at 5 p.m. and meet and dine with Dominish 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

**Graphic Design:** Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net

**Marketing:** Stephanie Vale, brcwrtmarketing@gmail.com

**Membership:** Kim Brace, kbrace@electiondataservices.com

**Newsletter:** Nadine Mironchuk, nadine1861@hotmail.com

**Preservation:** Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net

**Scholarship:** John Carter, johnca2@yahoo.com

**Webmaster:** Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org

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

**Newsletter Team:** Don Richardson, Sandra Cox, Janet Greentree, Mark Whitenon, Eric Fowler, and Andy Kapfer.

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

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2022 issue**, e-mail articles by **Monday, November 28th**, to Nadine Mironchuk at:

[Nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:Nadine1861@hotmail.com), and to Don Richardson at: [don.richardson@erols.com](mailto:don.richardson@erols.com)

### ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2022 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at:

<http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by **Thursday, December 1st** to Nadine Mironchuk at: [Nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:Nadine1861@hotmail.com), and to Don Richardson at: [don.richardson@erols.com](mailto: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

**November 10:** Dominish Marie Miller - "Women at War"

**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 the 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Winchester, June 1863"

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

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## The President's Column by Mark Whinton

First, I must thank those of you who came to the Centreville Library for our October 13 general membership meeting, only to find our regular room occupied by the Library set up for a book sale! Thank you for hanging in there and meeting in the hallway. Thank you, Kim Brace, for managing the meeting in the hallway while hosting the Zoom and Facebook Live streams. Good Job!

Our appreciation goes out to Blake Myers, Chair of the Preservation Committee, for going all-out to represent the BRCWRT in our opposition to the Prince William Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2021-0004, which includes land use designations that will allow data centers along the Pageland Lane Corridor on historic land and adjacent to the Manassas Battlefield National Park. Blake's involvement in this CPA process began in May 2021 and over time included representing BRCWRT at the initial stakeholders conference, attending two citizen information sessions, submitting four letters & inputs to the County Planning Staff and the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS), and speaking at 3 BOCS meetings to highlight BRCWRT's concerns with and opposition to the PW Digital Gateway CPA. BRCWRT's most recent letter, dated October 17, 2022, in opposition to the proposed CPA is provided below on page 14. Blake tried to deliver the BRCWRT's statement opposing the CPA during the BOCS public hearing on November 1-2, but had to depart the hearing at 3 am, prior to his turn to speak. Kim Brace, speaking on behalf of the Prince William County Historical Commission, was able to speak in opposition to the CPA and its impact on historic sites, including the Battle-

field. Nevertheless, around 10:00 on the morning of November 2, the Board voted 5-2 to approve the CPA. We all hope this is not over yet.

Of course, a major shout out to our speaker, Jon-Erik Gilot, for his presentation on General Albert Jenkins' "Trans-Allegheny Raid".



Our Speaker, Jon-Erik Gilot

Photo by Janet Greentree

On October 7, the BRCWRT orchestrated a dedication of the redoubt at Farr's Crossroads. Congratulations to Blake Myers, Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany for working so many years with George Mason University to preserve this local Civil War redoubt. Please see their full report starting on page 5.

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 a beautiful day dawned for the 159<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station. Members Drew Pallo and Sam Laudenslager, along with Marketing Chair Stephanie Vale, attended our final Membership and Book Sale event of the year. Bristoe Station Heritage Park site Manager Kevin Pawlak (and BRCWRT member) provided a canopy for the BRCWRT in a wonderful area just behind where the battle took place. Despite a slow morning, there were more visitors in the afternoon. The team effort sold \$60 worth of books, along with one of the BRCWRT hats. As you know, these sales are used for our annual Scholarship fund.

(cont on page 22)



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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
November 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dominish Marie Miller – “Women at War”
November 19	<b>Rescheduled Fall Tour:</b> “December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg” Tour Guide – Gregg Mertz
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 Mings – “The Battle of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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”

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.

## Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads (GMU Fairfax Campus) Dedication Ceremony - October 7, 2022

Brian McEnany, Jim Lewis, Blake Myers

On Friday, October 7, 2022, at 10:00 AM the long-delayed dedication ceremony for the Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads on George Mason University's (GMU) Fairfax Campus was conducted. The preservation and interpretation of this historic site was the result of a six-year project jointly undertaken by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) and GMU in a strong and unique partnership. Though twice delayed due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the early Fall of 2022 offered a respite from the pandemic and good weather for this ceremony to celebrate and commemorate the site's preservation and the BRCWRT-GMU partnership that made it happen.



The morning of October 7<sup>th</sup> dawned sunny and cool, and there was no wind. Early that morning, equipment for the ceremony was provided by GMU's Events Management and Audio/Visual Departments - chairs, a podium, speakers, power cables, a generator and a canopy for our VIP seating area – were delivered to the ceremony site. In short time the equipment was set, with chairs for ceremony attendees facing the entrance to the redoubt access trail at the west end of Parking Lot K. In the weeks prior to the ceremony, GMU's Grounds Program team had enlarged the redoubt's viewing area and added a new layer of wood chips on the access trail and on the redoubt's interpretive trail – the site looked spectacular. The self-acclaimed three amigos, BRCWRT members Blake Myers, Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany arrived early as well and, after coordinating final equipment placement, set up displays for use during the ceremony and unpacked Ceremony Programs for distribution to ceremony attendees.



The focal point of the day's ceremony, the Civil War Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads, is an 80-foot in diameter, circular earthwork fortification that is in remarkably good condition. In the roughly 160 years since it was last used, tree and leaf cover have served to protect the redoubt. An access trail leads from Parking Lot K to the crest of the ridgeline and the redoubt. The site has two historical markers with interpretive panels that provide historical information on the site and the redoubt, a vertical two-sided marker at the access trail entrance and a horizontal marker at the redoubt.

Some background information: As previously indicated BRCWRT worked to preserve this site for more than six years. But as far back as the 1990s and early 2000s, past BRCWRT President and Preservation Chair John McAnaw pushed hard to gain recognition of the site's historical significance and to preserve the site. John's efforts garnered little support due to the focus at that time was on the University's growth and

revenue generating activities. Unperturbed, John continued to educate BRCWRT members on the site and its history. In 2015 Blake, Brian and Jim took another look at what could be done to preserve the site.

By 9 AM, ceremony participants in period clothing began arriving. BRCWRT member Lynne Garvey-Hodge arrived and began circulating in the growing crowd, talking with attendees and passing out Ceremony Programs. Others soon arrived, including BRCWRT members John Vrana, Dan Patterson, John Murphy and Kevin Garrahan, some in Union or Confederate military uniforms and some in period civilian clothing. A total of nine period-dressed participants supported the event and their presence truly provided an appropriate mid-nineteenth century atmosphere for the ceremony.



Attendees began arriving and the crowd soon swelled to 80-90 people, including some 25 BRCWRT members. Multiple organizations were represented, including the Fairfax County History Commission by members Mary Lipsey and Lynne Garvey-Hodge (also BRCWRT members), and Sue Kovach-Schuman, Historic Fairfax, Inc. by members Jenee Lindner (also a BRCWRT member) and Jon Gentile, and Manassas National Battlefield Park by MNBPA personnel Anthony Trusso and NPS Ranger Greg Wolfe. GMU's 8<sup>th</sup> Green Machine Regiment Band, under the direction of Chris Troiano, provided period civil war band music prior to and after the ceremony.



Three local media outlets covered the commemoration and the dedication ceremony - the *Sun Gazette* (Brian Trompeter), the *Connection* (Bonnie Hobbs) and the *Fairfax County Times* (Heather Zwicker). BRCWRT's very own Chuck Mauro was our official photographer, and Green Machine Media Director Joshua Cruse shared his photographs as well.

We were fortunate to have Virginia Senator Chap Petersen (Virginia 34<sup>th</sup> Senate District) in attendance, and he was joined by a number of dignitaries and key contributors from GMU, including Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Chief of Staff Ken Walsh (Office of the President), Vice President of Facilities Frank Strike, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Ann Ardis, Former Chair of the Department of History and Art History Dr. Brian Platt, Grounds Program Manager Erich Miller, and Environmental Graphic Designer John Forgy.



Just after 10 AM, Master of Ceremonies, Blake Myers stepped up to the microphone and announced that the ceremony would begin shortly - and the rows of chairs began to fill. Blake opened the ceremony by reviewing the ceremony's two-fold purpose - to commemorate the preservation and interpretation of an historic site, the Civil War Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads, and to recognize the BRCWRT and GMU partner team that made it all happen. He thanked the many people and organizations for their attendance and their support, and acknowledged the beautiful weather with which we had been blessed.



Blake then introduced Senator Chap Petersen to share his thoughts on the ceremony. Senator Peterson's very appropriate remarks focused on the importance of learning and knowing our history and of preserving historic sites like the redoubt. His message was simple, yet profound, *"the history of the civil war is the history of America writ large, the good, the bad, and the ugly. And making sure we remember the civil war and recognize it and honor it, is so important to our identity as Americans. The civil war had an enormous impact on this community, whether it was the folks that fought for the south, the folks that fought for the north, or the folks that won their freedom. It impacted everyone."*

Next to address the crowd was former History Department Chair, and BRCWRT's principal University contact for much of this project, Dr. Brian Platt. He recalled being elated when learning about the redoubt's existence in his initial meeting with Blake, Jim and Brian. He noted that while eager to incorporate the site into the Department's phenomenally popular Civil War and Reconstruction course, he quickly realized that preserving the site would require the university moving beyond a scholarly interest in preserving historic and cultural heritage and into actual preservation. So began the ultimately successful effort to inform and educate the GMU community about the site and to build support for preserving the site within and among the University's many departments. *"There are campus planners who must balance competing priorities and work within fixed boundaries. There are administrators who must work within tight budgets and don't necessarily want to take on unexpected and non-essential projects."* However, interest grew as did recognition of the site's historical significance, and ultimately support from the GMU's Senior Vice President and its Facilities Department paved the way for preserving and interpreting the site. Dr. Platt emphasized that the project and its success was largely due to BRCWRT's initiative, expertise, advocacy, and persistence.



Jim Lewis followed Dr. Platt and provided a brief history of Farr's Crossroads, emphasizing that the intersection of the current Braddock and Ox Roads dates to colonial times, albeit under different road names. *"Braddock Road was originally known as Mountain Road, built for the transport of goods to and from the burgeoning seaport of Alexandria and the Shenandoah Valley. This section of today's Ox Road was a spur off the original Ox Road, and known as Courthouse Road, that provided citizens in the southern portion of Fairfax County a route to the County's first courthouse that was located near today's Tyson's Corner."*

Jim then noted the Farr family's long-time ownership of the land in the immediate area surrounding the intersection; hence the intersection became known as Farr's Crossroads. He explained how the last remnants of the vast Farr tract eventually were sold to the Town of Fairfax in the late 1950s and in the 1960s became the permanent site for, what was then, George Mason College of the University of Virginia.

Brian McEnany then took to the podium and described the Civil War events that led to construction of the redoubt and the various units that used and occupied the redoubt during the war. Brian explained how the redoubt was constructed by Confederate forces in 1861 as part of an early warning line to detect and hinder any Union advance west from Washington City or Alexandria while the Confederate Army was forming near Manassas Junction and establishing a defensive line along the Bull Run. He explained the redoubt's strategic location at the intersection of two well-travelled roads, and how it was constructed in June 1861 by the 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment. As Union forces began their western advance on July 16 and 17 the early warning line and redoubt served their purpose, detecting and reporting the movement, with some





skirmishing along the line and near the redoubt. Confederate forces withdrew to their main defensive line along Bull Run on July 17, and the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment camped around Farr’s Crossroads overnight. Three days later on July 21, 1861, the first major land battle of the war (Battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas [Bull Run]) was fought. Brian highlighted the fact that during the war various Confederate and Union units used the redoubt when occupying the area and guarding Farr’s Crossroads, and that the redoubt and supporting earthworks in the area were reoriented accordingly. Ironically, the redoubt was used by Union forces as part of the Union’s early warning line in Eastern Fairfax County from 1863 until the end of the war.

Blake returned to the podium and provided a summary of the site’s preservation and interpretation - highlighting key persons and their roles in the project. He began by noting that education and preservation are the core missions of BRCWRT, and “central to its purpose - *to learn about and to learn from America’s civil war history*”, and that the preservation and interpretation of this site was a great example of these two missions in action. Blake emphasized that what has been done to date was envisioned, planned, and implemented as an interim step and that “*much more can and will be done in terms of historical research, archaeological surveys, and ultimately additional preservation and interpretation as an integral part of the Mason Master Plan.*”



He recalled his 2015 discussions with Brian and Jim and their realization that the site’s preservation would only be achieved through advocacy from within GMU. Accordingly, their initial focus became education – starting with the University’s History Department, led by Dr. Platt, and annual on-site classes as part of Professor Christopher Hamner’s Civil War and Reconstruction History course. Blake noted that these well-received classes, conducted from 2016 to 2019 (2017 class shown on the left) when pandemic restrictions suspended in-person classes and activities, generated significant interest in and awareness of the site and its history within GMU.

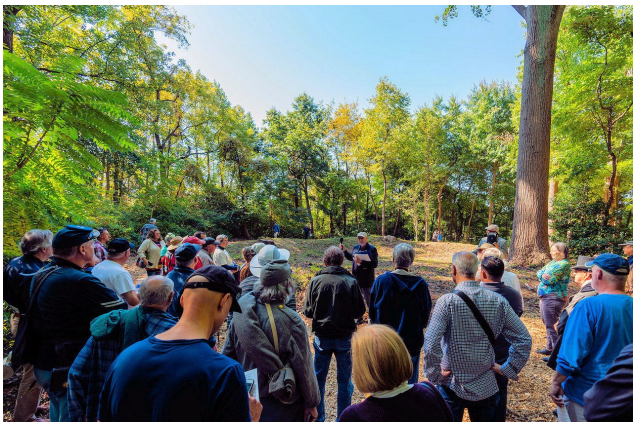


As awareness and interest grew, the seed of advocacy for preserving the site took root. In summarizing key preservation actions Blake noted the 2018 establishment of a preservation team to begin thinking about and planning the site’s preservation, and the February 2019 removal of four large trees and vegetative undergrowth that threatened the structural integrity of the redoubt – resulting in the entire redoubt being completely visible for the first time in more than 75 years. He highlighted the key decision in 2019 by Senior Vice President Carol Kissal and Vice President of Facilities Frank Strike to preserve the site in two components – a short term component focused on the redoubt, and a long-term component, as part of the Mason Master Plan and focused on historical and cultural aspects of the site in a broader context – which led to the development in 2020 of a plan to preserve and interpret the redoubt.

By October 2020, Erich Miller and his Grounds Program team established the access trail and the interpretive trail around the redoubt, cleared the redoubt and the trails of vegetation and trees, and covered the trails with wood chips – the redoubt was now accessible and viewable. Jim, Blake and Brian worked with GMU’s Graphics Artist John Forgy to develop two historical markers for the site, a two-sided vertical marker at the access trail entrance and a horizontal marker at the redoubt. Both were completed in April 2021 and installed in May, thus completing the plan.

Blake concluded the ceremony by thanking everyone for their attendance and their support, and by highlighting the recently released video, *The Redoubt at Farr’s Crossroads*, produced by Green Machine Media and directed by Joshua Cruse. Blake then reminded attendees of the tour of the site and the redoubt which would begin shortly.

Following a short break, approximately 50 attendees gathered at the access trail’s historical marker for the tour. Jim began the tour by using a poster-sized copy of the redoubt sketch aid in visualizing how this area likely appeared when the redoubt was constructed in June 1861. The Redoubt at Farr’s Cross Roads sketch was commission by BRCWRT and executed by GMU graduate alumnus, Nathan Loda.



Brian then led the tour group up the access trail to the redoubt. At the top of the ridge, Brian described the redoubt as roughly 80 feet in diameter with the western parapet (wall) at 2½ feet high and eastern parapet at 2 feet, though the original height of the parapets would have been 5-6 feet. Befitting its purpose, the redoubt was constructed on the second highest natural elevation in Fairfax County, at approximately 470 ft. It was primarily used as a command post and by cavalry units. There are no indications that there were ever any embrasures for artillery pieces within the redoubt. The redoubt’s historical marker includes a description of the redoubt and lists the military units known to have occupied the redoubt during the war.

Also noted on the historical marker are the 2014 and 2015 discoveries of a corduroy road paralleling the current Ox Road near the University Mall Shopping Center. Prior to the Civil War this road (Courthouse Road) was in such bad shape that Virginia’s legislature authorized “corduroying” of the road. Due to its importance to Union forces during the war, military units maintained the corduroy road and extended it all the way to their camp at Wolf Run Shoals. Jim Lewis showed one of the logs recovered in 2014 to the tour attendees, explaining its purpose and characteristics.



After answering several questions at the redoubt, Brian and Jim led the group back down the access trail to the parking lot, halting partway down the trail to identify remnants of a long-forgotten farm road that had been incorporated into the defense of the redoubt and now crossed the access trail.



The day ended with a photo of BRCWRT members who attended and supported the dedication ceremony.

This preservation and interpretation of the Redoubt at Farr's Crossroads is an excellent example of BRCWRT implementing and integrating its core missions of Education and Preservation on projects and initiatives of significant impact and benefit. This project also leveraged the collective experience of Blake, Jim and Brian in working and coordinating with multiple organizations on projects designed to achieve measurable results, add value and be long-lasting. As nationally recognized preservationist Brian Pohanka responded when asked why he was so passionate about preserving Civil War battlefields and sites, *"some kid a hundred years from now is going to get interested in the Civil War and want to see these places. He's going to go down there and be standing in a parking lot. I'm fighting for that kid!"*

Since the conduct of the dedication ceremony, we have received numerous commendations lauding BRCWRT for its determined efforts in preserving the site and in planning, coordinating and conducting the dedication ceremony. We are grateful for the recognition of the value of this site and our efforts and plan to continue to collaborate and work with GMU to incorporate additional enhancements to the preservation and interpretation of this historic site.

Photos: Courtesy of Chuck Mauro, Joshua Cruse and Blake Myers



## “Off The Beaten Path” at George Mason University

By Sam Laudenslager

Prior to the dedication of the "Farr's Crossroads" Redoubt Trail, Bull Run Roundtable members Brian McEnany, Jim Lewis, and Blake Myers led 2 classes from George Mason's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on walking tours of the historic location on the Mason campus.

Mason's OLLI offers non-credit mini-courses, lectures, concerts, and other events for Seniors ("Senior" citizens, rather than Collegiate seniors). The initial Spring term walking tour class "The Civil War: Off the Beaten Path" (held on June 24th) generated so much interest that a second tour was added to the OLLI Fall term schedule; it took place on Sept. 30th.

As at the Dedication event, Jim Lewis explained the history of the Farr's Crossroads area that is today's Braddock Road - Ox Road intersection adjoining the GMU main campus in Fairfax. Brian McEnany discussed the Civil War fortification that was built on the northeast corner of that intersection, on what is now GMU's campus.

Blake Myers joined the teaching team for the Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> tour and described the joint GMU-BRCWRT effort to restore and preserve awareness of this historic site. Roundtable and OLLI member Sam Laudenslager served as course coordinator for this OLLI class.

The Bull Run Roundtable also would like to acknowledge the GMU-OLLI program for providing the easels used to display the maps and visual exhibits during the Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Dedication ceremony.



OLLI easels display visual exhibits at the Dedication ceremony on Oct. 7, 2022.



Jim Lewis (top) and Brian McEnany (below) speaking to the OLLI class at the GMU Civil War redoubt on Sept. 30, 2022.



Brian McEnany using an OLLI easel at the Dedication Ceremony.

Photos by Sam Laudenslager

## **BRCWRT Fall Tour: Saturday, Nov. 19**

### **Battle of Fredericksburg River Crossings & Fighting in the Streets (Dec. 1862)**



**Tour Guide:** Gregg Mertz – retired Fredericksburg Nat'l Bfld. Park Ranger

**BRCWRT Contact:** John Scully - [scullycivilwar@gmail.com](mailto:scullycivilwar@gmail.com) / 703 869-4036

**Subject matter:** The Army of the Potomac's crossing of the Rappahannock River and the street fighting that occurred in Fredericksburg, Dec. 1862

- 8 tour stops

**Assembly Time/Location:** 10:00 AM (Chatham opens at 9:00 AM) Chatham, Fredericksburg National Battlefield Park (FNBP)

**Directions:** From I-95, take exit 133BUS-17BUS S/Warrenton to Chatham Heights Rd. to Chatham Lane

**Departure Time:** 10:30 AM

**Lunch:** Targeted for around 12:00 PM (several nearby sub shops – everyone is on their own to bring or purchase their lunch)

**Tour Duration:** Terminating approx. 3 PM in downtown Fredericksburg

**Mode of Transportation:** Carpooling – consolidation at Chatham

- Individuals may arrange carpool transportation from NVA to Chatham on their own

**Uniform of the Day:** Dress for fall weather, wear comfortable shoes

- The tour will entail a little over 2 miles total walking

**The tour is FREE! If interested in attending, please sign up via BRCWRT's website or at the October or November Membership meetings**



**Bull Run Civil War Round Table**  
P.O. Box 2147  
Centreville, Virginia 20120

October 17, 2022

The Honorable Ann B. Wheeler  
Chair, Prince William Board of County Supervisors  
1 County Complex Court  
Prince William, VA 22192

Subject: Prince William Digital Gateway, Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA 2021-00004

Dear Chair Wheeler,

On behalf of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) and its 308 members, more than half of whom are Prince William County residents, I am writing to convey our significant concerns with the Prince William (PW) Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment, #CPA 2021-00004, and to strongly recommend that the Board of County Supervisors disapprove the CPA.

BRCWRT's mission and purpose is to stimulate member and the general public's interest in, and understanding of, Civil War era military, political, economic, and social history. We accomplish this through public outreach, education and preservation activities, programs and projects that enhance understanding of our Civil War history and appreciation of Civil War battlefields, memorials and historic sites as learning venues and outdoor classrooms.

Our concerns with the CPA continue to be the adverse impacts (visual, noise, lighting, etc.) that data centers would have on historic land, sites and viewsheds in the Southern District of the PW Digital Gateway Study Area. This historic land includes land designated by the American Battlefield Protection Program as Battlefield Core Area, land which is eligible for incorporation into Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP), and land designated as Battlefield Study Area - land where American soldiers camped, fought, were treated for battle wounds and disease, died, and were buried before, during and after the Battles of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas. Much of this historic land is adjacent to MNBP, a national asset and treasure that includes some of the most historic land in Prince William County and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to experience the historic landscape much as it would have appeared during the Civil War. Data centers, or any development, on this adjacent land will have direct adverse impacts on the Park's historic sites and on the viewsheds from those sites and put at risk the Park's historic tourism attractiveness and the attendant local economic benefits.

The CPA includes measures intended to mitigate the adverse impacts of proposed data centers on MNBP, including land use designations of County Registered Historic Site (CRHS) and Parks and Open Space (POS) for some of the most threatened parcels. The challenge would most certainly be in implementation, as there is little incentive for landowners or data center developers to develop parks or open space areas on these land tracts and to effectively maintain them. Mitigation measures included in the CPA (setbacks, buffer areas, berms, tree screens and afforestation, building and lighting restrictions, etc.) have proven, in practice, to be ineffective. What may 'look and sound good' in a planning or policy document does not typically achieve the desired mitigation in application. In most cases it is not one adverse impact, but rather a combination of impacts, including visual and noise factors, associated with an industrial site that render such mitigation measures ineffective.

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**Bull Run Civil War Round Table**  
P.O. Box 2147  
Centreville, Virginia 20120

The existing Dominion Energy transmission line along and paralleling Pageland Lane is “near or at capacity”. Any data centers, or other industrial facilities, built in the Pageland Lane corridor north of U.S. Route 29 will require new power sub-stations and/or transmission lines to provide the required electrical power – a situation that would greatly magnify the adverse impacts of data centers on MNBP and its historic sites and viewsheds. Likewise, the proposed widening of Pageland Lane, including associated VDOT Rights of Way, would serve to intensify and magnify the adverse impacts of data centers on MNBP.

Avoiding adverse impacts by not allowing data centers, or any other industrial development, on or adjacent to this historic land is the preferred policy. Changing the land use designation of this historic land to Technology/Flex (TF) will result in the exact adverse impacts that are of such great concern. The threat of these impacts is real – once lost, the historic integrity and the viewsheds of and from this land cannot be recovered or recreated.

For these reasons we strongly recommend you disapprove the Prince William Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA 2021-00004. Data Centers may be viable economic assets for Prince William County and there are certainly appropriate locations for them within the County; however, many of the land parcels in the PW Digital Gateway Study Area are not appropriate data center locations based on the historic nature of the land and the associated adverse impacts that data centers would have on this historic land and on the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and recommendation,

Mark Whitenton  
President  
Bull Run Civil War Round Table

cc: The Honorable Victor S. Angry  
The Honorable Jeanine M. Lawson  
The Honorable Yeslie Vega  
The Honorable Pete K. Candland  
The Honorable Kenny A. Boddye  
The Honorable Andrea O. Bailey  
The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin

**THEY ALSO SERVED****Israel B. Richardson and his Ladies****By Don Richardson**

When I saw that our November speaker would be telling us about “Women At War”, it occurred to me that the women who supported their menfolk on the home front also deserved recognition. All of the soldiers had families who worried about them, sent them clothing and food parcels, and eagerly read their letters home. But many of these women had interesting stories of their own. Such was the case with the women in the family of Major General Israel B. Richardson, the battle-hardened veteran of the Mexican War who was mortally wounded after smashing open the Confederate Line along the Bloody Lane, at Antietam, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Beginning with his time at the military academy at West Point, Israel Richardson alternately addressed his letters home to his father, his mother, and his three younger sisters. The elder Richardson, a Dartmouth-educated lawyer, made sure that all three girls received the same quality education that their brother got. The Richardson letters are long and detailed, and were written with his educated audience in mind. All three sisters showed a spirit of adventure at various points in their lives.



Maj. Gen. Israel B. Richardson, circa 1861

(Library of Congress)

Susan Helen Richardson, just three years younger than Israel, was the first to leave the family nest in Vermont – in 1844, she married a farmer named Joseph Anning Peck and moved with him to Pontiac, Michigan, where they raised four children. In 1861, Joseph Peck obtained a license to operate as a sutler with the Army of the Potomac, and Susan and several of the children accompanied him to Virginia. When Peck decided to get out of that business and return to Michigan, Israel advised him on how much money to ask of anyone who would buy out his sutler’s license and stock.

Marcella Mary Richardson, 11 years younger than her brother, was perhaps the most adventurous of the three girls. In the spring of 1851, as Israel was departing after a home leave in Vermont, she went along with the detachment of recruits that he was ordered to march to El Paso, Texas. She kept a detailed journal of the wagon trek west from Fort Leavenworth in Kansas over the Santa Fe Trail. It was not a comfortable trip, but there were light moments:

*“Early Sunday morning, brother I. B. & Lt. Moore started in search of deserters, ten men having gone since we came to the Kansas River. Last night found a nest of tarantulas in my tent. Three were killed, they are black and hairy, resembling a large spider, the bite is very poisonous. This camp is full of bugs & insects of different kinds. Several centipedes also have been found. This is the eighth Sabbath since we left home.”*

*“... This morning a laughable scene occurred outside Col. Sumner’s tent. A tub of water had been put out last night to cool and settle for the days use, the cook was preparing to put it in the canteen, when unfortunately at that moment our cow went along, her thirst not fully satisfied, put her nose in and drunk part of it, of course leaving the remainder unfit for use. The Col. commenced swearing, giving her at the same time a hearty kick with his foot.”*

(cont on page 17)



## Richardson's Ladies

Col. Edwin V. Sumner would eventually be Richardson's Corps Commander during the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

Marcella would spend almost a year in El Paso, teaching school at the army post that later became Fort Bliss, before relocating to join Susan in Michigan.

The youngest sister, Marcia Maria Richardson, was two years junior to Marcella, but saw quite a bit of the United States, working as a teacher in a half a dozen states before finally rejoining her sisters in Michigan. She and Marcella never married, and both at times held Government jobs in Washington DC, when they were not caring for their aging parents in Michigan.

Israel Richardson would marry twice, on both occasions to women only half his age. Before that, however, he had expressed an interest in a young woman named Ellen back in Vermont. In September of 1848, writing to Marcia from Pascagoula, Mississippi (temporary duty station of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry following the Mexican War), he said *"tell Ellen I am going to make a dead set at her, when I go to the North."* We cannot be certain of her identity, but in October of 1851 his father, writing to Susan in Michigan, mentioned the recent wedding of an "Ellen Enos", who can be found using genealogical records. If she is the same Ellen, she was only 16 when Israel was expressing interest in her; he was 35 years old.

Israel, in the meantime, had found love in El Paso with Margarita, the 19-year-old daughter of Hugh Stephenson, an American merchant who was one of the founders of the city, and his wife Juana, daughter of a prominent Mexican family. Israel received baptism as a Catholic, married Margarita in the summer of 1850, and obtained a furlough to take her to visit family in Michigan and Vermont.

Rita, too, had a youthful sense of adventure, for she travelled with Marcella with the wagon train to El Paso in the summer of 1851, a trip made more remarkable by the fact that she was in the final two months of her pregnancy, and gave birth as soon as they reached home.



Margarita Stephenson  
Richardson

(Image: Stephenson-Flores  
Family Papers, Univ. of Texas-El Paso)

Their baby boy, Theodore, sadly died the following January, while Israel was deployed to a remote fort in New Mexico. The loss of a young child, along with the strains on a relationship that prolonged deployments often cause, probably explains why she did not accompany Israel to Michigan when he retired from the Army in September of 1855. In later years the Richardson sisters would try to protect his good name by explaining that Rita had died in childbirth, but Stephenson family archives and other genealogical records show that Rita remarried in 1858, raised 6 children, and lived until 1914.

Shortly before departing Detroit in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in May of 1861 Israel proposed marriage to Frances Traver, who was only 20 (he was 45) but very much ready to go off to war with him; his previous girlfriend declined to make a commitment to a man going away for three years or more.

(cont on page 18)

## Richardson's Ladies

Fannie Traver was a bit of a rolling stone; born in upstate New York to a railroad engineer and surveyor named Simon Traver, she had been brought to Kalamazoo, Michigan in the late 1840's with her two younger brothers. Both of her parents died while she was still in her teens and she had no reason to stay in Detroit.



Frances Traver Richardson  
(Photo: Bruce Harrison)

The men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan approved of the marriage, because it appeared to have a mellowing effect on their stern taskmaster of a Colonel. Once Richardson had been promoted to Brigadier General, the men believed she was the dominant force in the relationship and called her "Mrs. General".

Among other items, she travelled with a beehive so she would always have fresh honey, and a soldier who dared to tamper with it was sent home in disgrace. Fannie was present at Blackburn's Ford and First Bull Run in July of 1861, and visited Israel on the Virginia Peninsula in June of 1862, shortly before the commencement of the Seven Days battles. She appended a note to Marcella at the end of Israel's letter to his father:

*"Dear Marcella, Israel was just called away in haste and wished me to finish the letter for him. You will be surprised to hear from me here, but I think the move was the best one I could make. I was quite sick and everyone seemed to think the journey would do me more good than anything else, so I obtained your brother's permission to come, and have been better ever since I commenced the journey. I received your most kind letter and should have answered it before, but that all was hurry. Fannie"*

Fannie's illness is not known, but she had given birth to their son Israel Philip three months before, so it is reasonable to suppose she was dealing with post-partum depression. Either way, she was not content to wait at home.

Upon hearing the news of Israel's wounding at Antietam, Fannie and Marcella hurried from Washington to Sharpsburg. They stayed by his side at the Pry House and cared for him as best they could until his passing on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each of them wrote letters home to Marcia in Michigan, describing the medical treatment he was receiving and expressing optimism that he would recover. Fannie wrote in early October:

*"Gen. McClellan sent the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, Dr. Letterman, and one of the surgeons, Dr. Howard, to examine the case ..."*

(cont on page 19)

## Richardson's Ladies

She continued:

*"Dr. Taylor, the Med. Director of Israel's Division, was too much occupied with the wounded under his charge, to be with I.B. as constantly as he wished and these other Surgeons made up their minds I.B. would not live. They insisted that Dr. Taylor should tell Israel he could not live. He said he would not, he did not think so, and it would kill Israel if he did. Since then he has been under Dr. T's care and has been constantly improving. Drs. L and H come occasionally to see him, and are now obliged to acknowledge that Dr. T. was right ... that this attack of pleuro-pneumonia was not occasioned by the wound .... The others insisted that the projectile had entered the lung and now find themselves mistaken. ... Israel was so much better a day or two since that Marcella and I went to visit the battle ground. I have pieces of shell, some bullets and shot from there for you, so do not say again that no one has ever brought you anything. I am very glad the baby is so good, and cannot tell you how much I want to see him again."*

A week later, Marcella updated her sister with the latest news:

*"His wound is nearly well; gives him no pain or uneasiness now. Fannie and I take care of him, have two good men to do all the hardest. Last night I watched until one o'clock, Fannie till four, and Fother till breakfast time ... We have watched with him with the exception of three nights since we came. He is very patient and easy to take care of, but is very nervous and trifles trouble him very much. Mrs. Pry is quite sick; we buy and Fannie cooks our food now. ... The country is drained of provisions; the few left command high prices. Israel is very anxious to be at home, wishes to see you all."*

Two weeks later, Israel Richardson passed away at the Pry House. Infection, and his depressed state, finally wore him down. Dr. Taylor and several other officers escorted Fannie and Marcella as they took the General home for burial in Michigan.

There was one more woman who travelled to war with Israel Richardson. One of the recruits who joined the Flint Union Grays (a militia unit that became Company F of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry) was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who enlisted as Private Franklin Thompson. One of the best-known figures to serve incognito in the Civil War, Edmonds served as a nurse and later as the brigade's mail courier. Her postwar memoir claimed she had performed many daring deeds of espionage behind Confederate lines, but none of them have been documented. When she fell ill with malaria, she left the army rather than report to a field hospital, where an exam would have revealed her secret.



Sarah Emma Edmonds  
(Photo: Michigan State Archives)

(cont on page 20)

## Richardson's Ladies

Sarah Edmonds and Fannie Traver were born in the same year (1841) and were kindred spirits in search of adventure. While Israel Richardson likely did not realize who "Franklin Thompson" really was, it is entirely possible that Fannie saw through the disguise. If she did, one thinks that she would have gladly kept her secret, and may have wished she could have done the same.

Postscript: Fannie continued her adventurous ways after the death of her husband. She returned to Washington and supplemented her widow's pension with a job as a Copyist at the Treasury Department. In 1874 she took young Philip to Paris "for his education" and enjoyed life there for a time, but money was always a problem. Returning to Washington in 1877, she took a job at the Department of Agriculture.

In the fall of 1883, she took advantage of her right as a soldier's widow to make a "homestead" entry in Devil's Lake, in what is now North Dakota. Philip had been appointed Chief Clerk at the local land office there. In 1885, having made the required improvements to the property, she received her final patent and promptly subdivided it and sold off the various parcels, clearing a profit of about \$2000. She moved to New York, where Philip was given a position in the brokerage firm of her first cousin.

Fannie, sadly, lived no longer than her husband, dying at 46 in 1887, of what was probably cancer. Philip, a chip off the old block where the ladies were concerned, waited until he was in his 50s before marrying a woman half his age. Bruce Harrison remembers that his Grandmother Ethel was a character; she married into a Republican family, but her Voter Registration shows she was a Socialist. Philip died at 77, six months before Pearl Harbor.

The quotes from Frances and Marcella Richardson come from the D. Duffy Lane Collection, held by Thomas Lane of Summerville, SC. The photo of Frances was provided by the general's great-grandson, Bruce Harrison.

And for those who are curious... yes, Israel Richardson and I are related, but you have to go back to 1635 in Massachusetts to find the branch in the family tree where we link up - he descends from Thomas Richardson, while I come from Thomas's older brother Samuel. Both arrived in Massachusetts that year from Hertfordshire in England.

## NOTICE OF 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 closes 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.

Any member in good standing is eligible to throw his or her hat in the ring for an elected office. In addition, any member in good standing can nominate another member in good standing for an office with his or her consent. Should you wish to run for office or nominate another member for an elected position, kindly notify the undersigned at [jfdepue@comcast.net](mailto:jfdepue@comcast.net), or phone at (703) 994-9023.

Respectfully,  
John F. De Pue  
Nominating Committee



## THE BOOK CORNER



By Dave Button

*Two Great Rebel Armies* by Richard M. McMurry is an interesting comparison of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee. The book delves deeply into the factors that distinguished between the armies. The focus is not only on the leadership but also on the sociology of the areas that had troops in these armies.

The book's background is interesting in and of itself. Originally, the author was (having just completed a book on John Bell Hood) going to write a history of the Atlanta campaign. In his preface he writes, "After several months' work on the project, I found myself completely bogged down in what was rapidly becoming a three-hundred-page introduction to chapter one of a history of the Atlanta Campaign." He goes on to discuss how several starts that followed along the above line drew him to write the book that resulted.

He starts off by pointing out that while the Confederate government probably fielded twenty-five armies, essentially the war came down to the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee. Many of the smaller armies were absorbed into these two large armies. A quote by a Northern officer reads, "You must remember the Confederacy, its government, its territory, its every thing is concentrated in these two armies."

The comparisons between the two armies are many in number. One of the first to be considered was the size of the territory that each army was operating over. He makes the point several times that the Army of Northern Virginia essentially operated only in Virginia and north into Maryland and Pennsylvania for the Sharpsburg and Gettysburg battles, whereas the Army of Tennessee operated over all the south from the Appalachians to the Mississippi. He does mention the Trans-Mississippi, but it does not enter his discussion.

Another factor which he discusses is the quality of the armies that each of these two Confederate armies faced. He postulates that had the quality of the northern armies been reversed (Grant/Sherman/Halleck in the east against Lee/Jackson/Stuart) the success of the Army of Northern Virginia would not have been as great as it was. Similarly, if the armies that did face Lee in the east had fought in the west, then the Army of Tennessee might have been more successful in its efforts.

A third factor that he spends a great deal of time on is the quality and characteristics of the leadership in both armies. While it is true that the Army of Northern Virginia was closer to Richmond, so communication was easier with the capital, he points out that Lee did communicate whereas many, Johnston in particular, did not make an effort to communicate. Additionally, since there was almost a revolving door (my thought) in the command structure in the Army of Tennessee while the command structure in the Army of Northern Virginia was relatively stable, that factor played greatly in the success/failure of the two armies.

(cont on page 22)

## THE BOOK CORNER (from page 21)

Overall, while the book is not an “easy” read, it is not boring to the person who is interested in such a comparison. All too often, it seems, people treat the entire Confederate military as a monolith, while it was by no means that way. Each army had its characteristics; this book explores them.

The book was published in 1989 by the University of North Carolina Press. Should one wish to purchase it, a quick search by title turns up many responses on Amazon, eBay, etc. The cost varies from less than \$5 for used up to about \$30 for a new, hardback copy. The ISBN is 0-8078-1819-4.

## President’s Column (from page 3)

Most importantly, the Marketing team was able to share with many attendees an understanding of the Civil War, and our role in the education shared by our members. Thank you, Stephanie Vale, for leading the Marketing Committee so well this year!

Please join us for the BRCWRT’s Fall Tour in Fredericksburg on November 19. Thank you, John Scully, for organizing this interesting tour of the early stages of the Fredericksburg battle, led by tour guide Greg Mertz. See the tour details on page 13.

Let’s remember to thank our Past President, Mark Trbovich, for continuing to schedule speakers throughout 2023. Also, thank you, Don Richardson, for stepping up to edit the *Stone Wall* since July, following Nadine Mironchuk’s serious accident and subsequent operations.

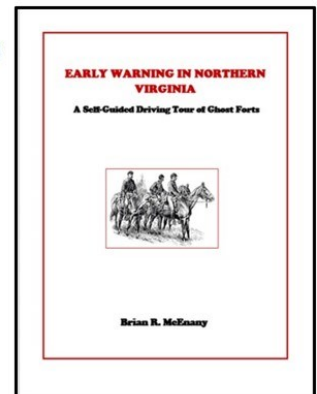
## The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Welcomes Our Newest Recruit!

**Samuel Sorrells**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Early Warning in Northern Virginia: A Tour of Ghost Forts Brian McEnany

A self - guided tour takes the reader along a 20-mile segment of Chain Bridge Road (VA 123) to find the location of long forgotten camps/ fortifications on an 1864 Early Warning Line. It is a tour of Ghost Forts!



- Two years of research and investigation
- Illustrated with photos and current maps
- 22-pages long

*If interested, contact Brian McEnany at [mcbrian1862@gmail.com](mailto:mcbrian1862@gmail.com). Booklets are available for \$15 plus mailing (\$2.50) check or cash.*

## 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!



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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:**

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

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