



Stone Wall

The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXX, Issue 8, AUGUST 2023

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR CORY PFARR SPEAKS ON HIS BOOK "LONGSTREET AT GETTYSBURG: A CRITICAL REASSESSMENT" AT THE AUGUST 10th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first book-length critical analysis of Lieutenant General James Longstreet's actions at the Battle of Gettysburg will be presented to our Round Table on August 10th. The author argues that Longstreet's record has been discredited unfairly, beginning with character assassination by his contemporaries after the war and, persistently, by historians in the decades since. By closely studying the three-day battle, and conducting an incisive historic, graphical inquiry into Longstreet's treatment by scholars, this book presents an alternative view of Longstreet as an effective military leader, and refutes over a century of negative evaluations of his performance. We are happy to have the author present his views at our August membership meeting.

Cory M. Pfarr is employed by the Department of Defense. He's the award-winning author of *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment* (2019) and *Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion* (2023). He is an associate editor for North & South Magazine, has written articles for North & South Magazine and Gettysburg Magazine, and has appeared on the Pennsylvania Cable Network and C-SPAN American History TV. He lives in Fallston, Maryland with his wife and four children.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, August 10, 2023
6 P.M. Social Hour
7 P.M. In-person at the
Centreville Regional Library &
Streamed on Zoom & Facebook
Live

GUEST SPEAKER:

Cory Pfarr

TOPIC:

**"Longstreet at Gettysburg: A
Critical Reassessment"**

Come join us early at our August 10th Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Cory and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

**Coming soon! The Bull
Run Civil War Round
Table's Annual Picnic
and Art Auction. Sept
17th at the Winery at
Bull Run - see pages 6
through 8 for details.**

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

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

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

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

Treasurer: Joe Young,
BRCWRRTreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Debbie Whitenton, debd509@aol.com

At Large: Jim Lewis, Drew Pallo

Education: (vacant)

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

Fundraising: (vacant)

Graphic Design: Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net

Marketing: Stephanie Vale,
brcwrtmarketing@gmail.com

Membership: Kim Brace, kbrace@aol.com

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

Preservation: Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net

Scholarship: John Carter, johnca2@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org

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

Newsletter Team: Sandra Cox, Janet Green-tree, and Mark Whitenton.

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **September 2023 issue**, e-mail articles by **September 4th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **September 2023 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org>

and e-mail ads by **September 4th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 10: Cory Pfarr - "Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment"

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

October 12 Kevin Pawlak & Kate Bitely - "The Battle of Bristoe Station, Oct 1863"

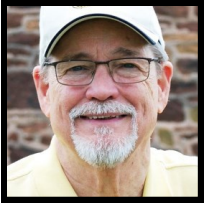
November 9 J. Nathan McDonald - "The Battle of Droop Mountain WV, Nov 1863"

December 14 John Quarstein - "Into The Ring of Fire, Federal Admiral DuPont's attack on Charleston SC, 1863"

January 11 Harry Smeltzer - "The 69th NY Militia at the Battle of 1st Bull Run/Manassas"

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
BRCWRT Calendar of Events	Page 5
Auction of Civil War Prints	Page 6
BRCWRT Annual Picnic	Page 8
Battle of Aldie Event	Page 9
Bibliography: Civil War Intelligence Resources	Page 10
Welcome New Members!	Page 10
Ms. Rebelle	Page 11
September Caravan Tour Marching Orders	Page 18
Book Corner	Page 19
PWHP Wednesday Walks	Page 20



The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

First, all of us owe our thanks to Past -President Mark Trbovich, who has volunteered to continue finding excellent monthly speakers through 2024. He has already almost completed the scheduling for next year. Upcoming speakers (through April 2024) are noted on page 2 and in the Program of Events on page 5.

At last month's General Membership meeting, we were fortunate to have Jim Anderson speak to us about how the Union's intelligence operations were significantly superior to General R. E. Lee's in the lead-up to Gettysburg. Not only was Lee missing his chief source of intelligence, General J. E. B. Stuart and his cavalry, but the Confederate army was also now in Union territory, where the population was providing information to General Meade's forces, rather than the Confederates.

Jim Anderson was also the person who informed Jim Lewis of the availability (for free) of eight quality, framed Civil War prints that a round table could sell to raise money for preservation activities. Jim

Lewis picked up the prints, and we have made the decision to auction six of them at the September 17 BRCWRT picnic. See page 8 for more information about our annual picnic and pages 6-7 for photos of the six framed prints that will be auctioned. Each print has a base or starting price for the silent auction. Bids will be accepted in \$25 increments. All proceeds from the auction will be directed to the BRCWRT's Civil War preservation efforts, including our support for local Civil War Trails markers. Thank you, Drew Pallo, for creating the flyer for the print auction on pages 6 and 7. Please be on the lookout for the picnic sign-up sheet on our website at BRCWRT.org.



Mark Whitenton, Jim Anderson, & Jim Lewis
Photo: Janet Greentree



Ben Lomond Hospital
Weekend - BRCWRT
tent (gray) at left
Photo: Sam
Laudenslager

(cont on page 4)

President's Column

On Saturday, July 22, Ben Lomond held its annual Civil War Hospital Weekend and the BRCWRT team was there to sell books and recruit new members. As always, BRCWRT member Kevin Pawlak (who is the Prince William County Site Manager for both Ben Lomond and Bristoe Station historical sites), provided us with a tent to show off our display items and books.



Photo: Kevin Pawlak

From left to right: thank you, Blake Myers, for bringing all the books and display items and, along with Drew Pallo, for manning the tent all day; Debbie and Mark Whitenton for helping from noon to the end; and also Mike Buckley and Sam Laudenslager for supporting all morning. At least two other BRCWRT members were present - Dan Lundeen attended in the afternoon, and John Myers helped out the evening program by portraying a wounded Union officer.

We hope to see you live and in person on Thursday, August 10 to hear Cory Pfarr on *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment*.

Hospital Weekend (more)

For those unable to attend on July 22nd, ***Inside Nova*** has an article focused on two ladies who provided insights on the role of nurses in the Civil War, centered at the Pringle House hospital at Ben Lomond. The BRCWRT is considering having them present to one of our upcoming meetings; in the meantime, this is a timely article to read:

https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/inside-the-heads-and-hearts-of-barrier-breaking-civil-war-nurses/article_94809490-2a6a-11ee-bf4a-fb48c136db79.html



BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS

The Round Table conducts sales of donated Civil War history books to raise money for the \$2,000 Annual Scholarship; these books increase our members' understanding of the Civil War.

If you wish to donate Civil War history books, please contact our Marketing Committee Chair, Stephanie Vale (brcwrmarketing@gmail.com) or our Preservation Committee Chair, Blake Myers (jb11thva@cox.net) to coordinate your book donation. Please do NOT bring books for donation to a Membership Meeting without prior coordination. Thank you!

Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Upcoming 2023-2024 Program of Events

Date	Event
August 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Cory Pfarr – “Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment”
August 26	161st Commemoration of Battle of Kettle Run : Bristoe Station – BRCWRT book sales
September 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jeffery Hunt – “The Battle at Rappahannock Station, November 1863”
September 16	Ben Lomond History Day : Ben Lomond – BRCWRT book sales
September 17	BRCWRT Annual Picnic : The Winery at Bull Run - 11:30 to 2:30
September 23	Sept. Field Trip : “Bristoe Campaign Oct 13-19, 1863” – Guided by Bill Backus
October 12	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Kevin Pawlak and Kate Bitely – “The Battle of Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863”
October 14	160th Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station : BRCWRT book sales
October 21	October Field Trip : “Postscript to Gettysburg: The Mine Run Campaign” – Guided by Mike Block
November 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: J. Nathan McDonald - “Battle of Droop Mountain WV, November 6, 1863”
November 11	November Field Trip : “Centreville Military Railroad (CMRR) Sites” - Guided by Blake Myers and Jim Lewis
December 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Quarstein - “Into The Ring of Fire, Federal Admiral DuPont’s attack on Charleston SC, 1863”
January 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Harry Smeltzer - “The 69th NY Militia at the Battle of 1st Bull Run/Manassas”
February 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kevin Pawlak - “The Emancipation Proclamation”
March 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: David Goetz - “Colonel John Singleton Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracy”
April 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: James Anderson - “Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew And the Bureau of Military Information”

Monthly Meetings in “Black” [Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in “Red”](#) [County or outside sponsored events in “Green”](#)

CIVIL WAR PRINTS TO BE AUCTIONED AT THE PICNIC!

Six Civil War prints will be auctioned on September 17 at the BRCWRT's Annual Picnic at the Winery at Bull Run.

There will be a silent auction at the BRCWRT to auction off these six Civil War prints. These framed prints include two Kunstlers, three Troianis, and a portrait of Robert E. Lee by Michael Gnatek. Please be generous in your bids. Since these prints were donated to the BRCWRT, all the sales receipts are directly dedicated to the BRCWRT's Preservation efforts. See suggested starting bids with each print. All subsequent bids should be in \$25 increments.



High Water Mark by Troiani

Suggested starting bid: \$250

Little Round Top by Troiani

Suggested starting bid: \$150



First at Manassas by Troiani

Suggest starting bid: \$150



More prints on the following page...

Auction prints, continued...



I Will Be Moving Within the Hour by Kunstler

Suggested starting bid: \$150

Distant Thunder by Kunstler

Suggested starting bid: \$100



Robert E. Lee Portrait by Michael Gnatek

Suggested starting bid: \$100



If you are unable to attend the Picnic on September 17, please send your bid in to debd509@aol.com. Please include a starting bid and a maximum bid.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

7th Annual Picnic

Sunday September 17, 2023

The Winery @ Bull Run

New Museum Tour 10 am – 11 am

BBQ Served 12-2 pm

Food Provided by...

THE BONE

hand-shredded pulled pork platter

(OR)

certified angus beef brisket platter

platter includes

*Sandwich + two homemade sides: cole slaw, potato salad, ranch beans
A drink (coke, diet coke, sprite, water)*

Individual Members @ No Cost

**Family Memberships (husband & wife or equivalents) plus children
@ No Cost**

All others will be considered as “guests”

Guests: Pork (or) Beef brisket platter @ \$16.00



*Locations in Gainesville
& Manassas, VA*

www.thebonebbq.com



The Aldie Ruritan Club Presents

“Civil War History Where it Happened”

Hear historians and authors Don Hakenson and Carl Sell describe Mosby’s Flour Mill raid, Captain George Custer’s fall into the Little River and the Battle of Aldie right where it all happened.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

Presentation at 1:00 p.m.

Outside Mercer Tavern Antiques

39359 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, VA 20105

Visit the historic Aldie Mill and the Little River



Carl tells the story

Don makes you “feel it!”

Parking available in designated area west of Aldie Mill

Free event -- Rain date is Sunday, August 13

Books on sale benefit Aldie Ruritan Club and Clinton Hatcher Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Author autographed copies available!

Contact Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com or 703-971-4716 or Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984

Bibliography: Civil War Intelligence

By Don Richardson

Following our well-received and informative July presentation on the impact of intelligence gathering on the Gettysburg Campaign, our presenter, Jim Anderson, provided a long bibliography of related sources that, for folks like me who have a special interest in espionage and military intelligence, is a gold mine. Some of these are undoubtedly familiar to many of us; I've got a copy of Fishel on my "espionage" bookshelf. But there are books here that many of us have not heard of. Enjoy!

Military Intelligence

Allan Pinkerton: The First Private Eye, by James Mackey (useful Pinkerton biography; much better than Pinkerton's self-serving autobiography)

Grant's Secret Service: The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox, by William B. Feis, University of Nebraska, 2002 (includes good detail on Grenville Dodge & Western Theater 1861-63)

M.G. George H. Sharpe and the Creation of American Military Intelligence in the Civil War, by Peter G. Tsouras, Casemate Publishers, 2018 (comprehensive – 580 pages – study of Sharpe & BMI throughout the war; well sourced and footnoted. Very readable)

Mosby's Rangers, by Jeffrey D. Wert, Simon & Schuster, 1990. Best of many on Mosby.

Spies, Scouts and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign, by Thomas Ryan, Savas Beatie LLC, 2015 (Gettysburg focus; summarizes from Fishel but more readable)

The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War, by Edwin C. Fishel, Houghton Mifflin, 1996 (most comprehensive, scholarly work, excellent bibliography of sources. Go-to for serious research)

Civilian Espionage

A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia, The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliff, by Charles Mauro, The History Press, 2009 (best biography on local spy)

Death to Traitors: The Story of General Lafayette C. Baker, Lincoln's Forgotten Secret Service Chief, by Jacob Mogelevner, Doubleday, 1960 (dated but solid biography of that "Scoundrel" Baker.)

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War, by Karen Abbott, Harper Perennial, 2015 (popular page turner; gets basic facts right)

Lincoln's Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation, by Douglas Waller, Simon & Schuster, 2019 (excellent, readable coverage of Pinkerton, Van Lew, Sharpe and Baker; 580 pages & a good bibliography)

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy, by Elizabeth R. Varon, Oxford U. Press, 2003. (Best Van Lew biography)

Gettysburg

Gettysburg, by Stephen Sears, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2003. (Of the many overviews of Gettysburg, the one that does the best job of incorporating the intelligence picture).

**The Bull Run Civil War
Round Table Welcomes
New Member**

Jon Strickland



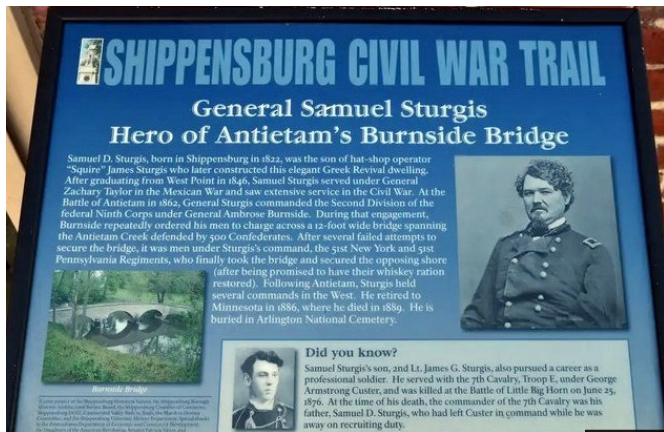
**CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH
MS. REBELLE**

By Janet Greentree

**Major General Samuel
Davis Sturgis, USA**

General Sturgis was born and grew up in Shippensburg PA, about 25 miles northwest of Gettysburg. However, he did not fight at Gettysburg, but spent his time mostly in the Western Theater. His Shippensburg townhouse (built by his father in the 1830's) is still standing at 20 West King Street. The house was turned into a showcase house in 2017 by stripping the more dated décor. The bottom floor is now Jane's Art of the Pie Café. There is a historical marker in front of the house. Also in Shippensburg, Gen. Albert G. Jenkins, CSA (see Aug.-Sep. 2018 *Stone Wall*) stormed down King Street in pursuit of Captain William Boyd's 1st NY Cavalry on June 24, 1863. The Confederates took possession of the town for three days and occupied it with 15,000-20,000 soldiers. Jenkins asked for \$1,800 in ransom to ensure the safety of the local residents. He rescinded his order in exchange for the residents providing food for his horses and men. Jenkins' men also stole medicine and supplies from the J.C. Altick Drugstore and paid the owner \$250 in Confederate money.

Samuel Davis Sturgis was born on June 11, 1822 to James and Mary Brandenburg Sturgis. His middle name came from his mother's cousin John W. Davis, a Representative from Indiana and also Speaker of the House. James was a hatter with a shop on King Street. He was also a Justice of the Peace. Samuel was one of five children, including Andrew (hatter), William, Elizabeth, and Henry Bascom (Captain & Aide-de-Camp, 2nd Division U.S. Volunteers, and a cabinet maker). The Sturgis family was from England; the first Sturgis to come to America was Edward Sturgis in 1634, who settled in Sandwich MA. The first Sturgis to live in Pennsylvania was John Sturgis, who settled in Fayette County. In October of 1775, John enlisted in Captain Josiah Harmer's company of the 1st PA Battalion in the Revolutionary War, and he was with General George Washington at Valley Forge. John's brother Amos was Samuel Sturgis' grandfather. Amos was a watchmaker in Shippensburg and also served in the Revolutionary War.



Shippensburg
Marker and
Sturgis Town-
house

(cont on page 12)

MS. REBELLE

Samuel was appointed to West Point at the age of 20 in the illustrious class of 1846 through the influence of Gen. Winfield Scott. The class included 20 Civil War generals. Nine were Confederates: John Adams, Wm. Montgomery Gardner, Thomas J. Jackson, David R. Jones, Samuel Maxey, Dabney Maury, George Pickett, Wm. Duncan Smith, and Cadmus Wilcox. The Union generals were: Darius Couch, John Gray Foster, Alfred Gibbs, Charles Gilbert, George Gordon, George McClellan, James Oakes (refused commission), Innis Newton Palmer, Jesse Reno, Truman Seymour, and George Stoneman. Samuel graduated 32nd in his class of 59 cadets. He was assigned to the 2nd Dragoons with the rank of Brevet 2nd Lt. and sent to join the Mexican War after graduation. In 1847, he was captured near Buena Vista and held as a prisoner of war for eight days. After the war ended, he was sent west, where he was stationed first in California and then at many different posts fighting the Indians. He was then sent to West Ely MO, near St. Louis, where he met his wife.

Samuel married Jerusha Wilcox on July 5, 1850 in Hannibal MO. They had eight children: Nina Linn, James Garland (killed at Little Big Horn), William Brandenburg (Asst. Surgeon in the Army), Ella Marie, Samuel Jr., Harry Cullen, Mary Agnes (Catholic Mother at Academy of Sacred Heart in St. Charles MO), and Thomas Glenn. His children were born all over the country at Army posts, as Sturgis was a career officer. His son Samuel, Jr. also graduated from West Point in the class of 1884. He became a major general and served in WWI. The son of Samuel, Jr., Samuel III, graduated in the West Point class of 1918, was a career army officer with the Engineers, and became a Lt. General and Army Chief Engineer.



Sturgis Family: Samuel, Jerusha, James, Nina , Ella



Samuel Sr. taught his daughter Ella Marie to play chess as a child. She became so proficient that she was able to play blindfolded and beat any adult who challenged her. In 1873 she married H.L. Dousman in St. Paul MN. One of the groomsmen was Myles Keogh of the 7th Cavalry. Sallie Sibley was a bridesmaid, the daughter of Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley. Ella Marie's daughter Eleanor married John S. Pillsbury, who founded the Pillsbury Company.



(cont on page 13)

MS. REBELLE

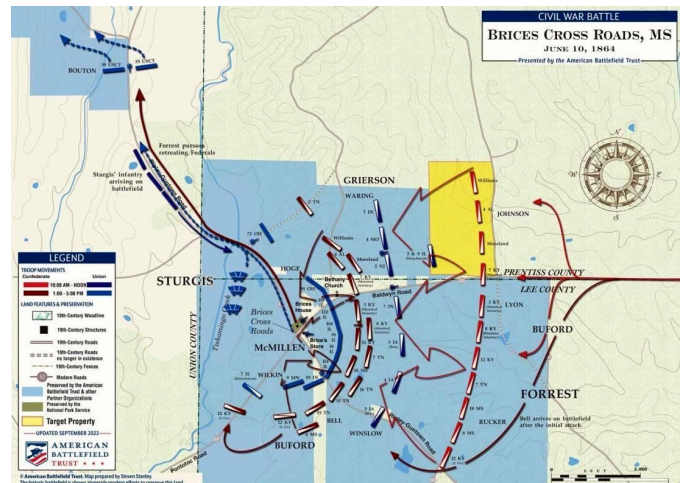
Sturgis' last post before the Civil War was at Fort Smith, AR. When the Civil War began he served with the 1st Dragoons, which later became the 1st Cavalry Regiment. He achieved the rank of major in May, 1861 and was transferred to the 4th Cavalry Regiment. During 1861 he served in an expedition to southwest Missouri, fought at Dug Springs MO, commanded at the battle of Wilson's Creek MO after the death of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, and was Chief of Staff to Major Gen. David Hunter. In 1862 he served as the Union commander of the District of Kansas, commander of the defenses of Washington, 2nd Battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, where he was brevetted colonel for gallantry. In 1863 he fought in central Kentucky, was Chief of Cavalry for the Union Army and Department of the Ohio, was with the 6th Cavalry Regiment, the organizer of militia in Cincinnati OH, and the Union commander at the Battle of Mossy Creek. In 1864 he was the Union commander at the battle of Dandridge TN, captured Gen. Robert Vance and his command, led in the destruction of Qualla Town NC, fought at Bolivar TN, served in the pursuit of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest to Ripley MS, and at the battle of Brice's Cross Roads. He was mustered out on August 24, 1865 and reverted to the rank of Lt. Colonel of the 6th Cavalry and then the 7th Cavalry.

While serving in the defenses of Washington, D.C., he was ordered to support Gen. John Pope's army before the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. When Sturgis attempted to get priority for Gen. Herman Haupt to move his troops, Gen. Pope told Sturgis that he would have to wait his turn, as other troops and supplies were supporting Pope. Sturgis' reaction: "I don't care for John Pope one pinch of owl dung."



Sturgis Position at Burnside's Bridge, Antietam

Sturgis was not well liked in the ranks, especially by the Army of the Ohio at Brice's Cross Roads. Sturgis was said to be a drunkard and a traitor. A story went around that the survivors of Brice's Cross Roads said Sturgis had sold them out and stated that he sat under a



Sturgis Position at Brice's Crossroads

(cont on page 14)

MS. REBELLE

tree with Gen. Forrest the day before the battle to plan how he would hand over the wagon train to the Rebels. The story was not true, but it circulated for years. The 72nd Ohio, who fought at Guntown, said that Sturgis was not only drunk and a coward but that he was a traitor and purposefully sacrificed his command. Surgeon John Rice of the 72nd Ohio wrote to his wife that "Sturgis was crazy drunk the night before the expedition left. He went about the city going like a mad man. He broke half the chandeliers at the Gayoso House and conducted himself like the beast generally...." A private in the 120th Illinois witnessed what happened when Sturgis got off the cars [train] at Colliersville, TN. "I saw orderlies take the commander [Sturgis] out of the car hopelessly drunk, put him on his horse, and one [orderly] rode on each side to keep him from falling off his horse." Later, in 1867, Sturgis planned to spend the summer at Put-in-Bay near Port Clinton, OH. When he heard there were men from the 72nd Ohio there, Sturgis left out of fear that one of them would kill him. He never attended a reunion of the 72nd Ohio. He even asked Gen. Sherman to conduct a board of inquiry to clear his name, but Sherman declined.

The Morris Tribune in Morris, MN said of Sturgis on March 16, 1882: "General Samuel D. Sturgis, colonel of the Seventh Cavalry and brevet major general, U.S.A., has addressed a request to the adjutant general of the army for a court of inquiry to investigate and report on the merits of the accusations against him, which has been revived in the form of a petition to the senate and house of representatives by one Dr. Gessner of Fremont, Ohio, who wishes to have him relieved as governor of the Soldiers' Home, to which position he was appointed by Garfield last year through the influence of Judge Advocate

General Swaim. Gen. Sturgis commanded an expedition in May 1864, organized at Lafayette, Tennessee, for the purpose of operating against the rebel forces under Forrest in northeast Mississippi, with a view of creating a diversion in favor of Sherman's army, then engaged in a campaign against Atlanta. The expedition was a disastrous failure. Gen. Sturgis' command was routed, lost all its artillery and wagons, and several thousands killed, wounded and prisoners. He was accused of drunkenness, cowardice and incompetency. There was a board of investigation, but no court of inquiry. Recently there seems to be a widespread movement in the west to revive the charges against Gen. Sturgis. In his request for a court of inquiry he cites many officers who exonerate him from these charges. His appeal is printed, and closes with a letter from Gen. Grant, written in 1865, recommending Gen. Sturgis for the brevet rank of brigadier general."

After the Civil War Sturgis was stationed in Texas at Austin, Fort Belknap, and Camp Wilson. He was also the commander at Fort Leavenworth, KS, Louisville, KY, Superintendent of the Mounted Recruiting Service, commander of the Cavalry Depot in St. Louis and Fort Lincoln in the Dakota Territory, and commander of the Yellowstone Expedition.

On May 6, 1869 he was appointed Colonel of the 7th Cavalry and commanded the unit until his retirement at age 65 on June 11, 1886 at Fort Meade in the Dakota Territory. Sturgis was the first commander of Fort Meade, which is near Sturgis SD (named for the general). There is a large monument of Sturgis on his horse at the eastern entrance to town, on Highways 34/89 near Lions Club Park on Lazelle Street. Sturgis Road and Custer Avenue intersect each other in town.

(cont on page 15)

MS. REBELLE

Sturgis, SD is also known for the huge motorcycle rallies held in the town, which Ms. Rebelle witnessed on a trip through the West in 1979. In 1881 he was assigned as governor of the Soldier's Home in Washington, DC by President Garfield.



Soldier's Home/Lincoln Cottage
Photo: Janet Greentree

His son Lt. James Garland Sturgis graduated from West Point in 1875, ranking 29th of 43 graduates. He was appointed to the 7th Cavalry on June 16, 1875. He arrived at his duty station of Fort Lincoln, Dakota Territory, on October 29, 1875, under his father's command. He was part of Company E, the Gray Horse Troop, under George Armstrong Custer fighting the Sioux in 1876. His father was not present at Little Big Horn when the ferocious battle occurred on June 25, 1876, as he was in St. Louis on recruitment duty. Young James was killed at the battle and his body was never found. He was killed either at the Deep Ravine (where a marker is located with his name on it) or with Custer on Last Stand Hill a short distance away. Some of his clothes were found across the Little Big Horn River in an abandoned Lakota/Cheyenne village. His bloody underwear, his buckskin coat with two bullet holes in it, and two gold collar buttons with his initials JGS were found.



(cont on page 16)



Fort Meade, Dakota Territory, 1888



Sturgis Statue, Sturgis South Dakota



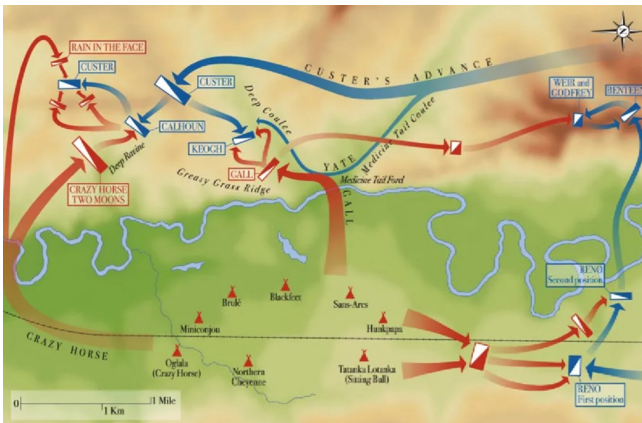
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

MS. REBELLE

A Private Goldin reported finding 2-3 skulls burned beyond recognition. He also found a blue flannel shirt near the fire, also embroidered with the initials JGS. The men had been tortured on June 25th and their heads cut off, secured with rawhide strings and beads, and dragged around in a circle while the Indians did their war dance and victory celebration.



Last Stand Hill and Deep Ravine



Battle of the Little Big Horn

In 1877 all the bodies of the soldiers were put in a mass grave at Last Stand Hill. His mother Jerusha was very distraught that her son's body was not found. She came to the Little Big Horn in 1878 to see "where" her son had died. A group of troopers erected a burial site of bricks, boulders and sod, and showed it to her.

That spot is where his marker in the Deep Ravine is today. Sturgis never forgave Custer for his son's death. Custer was second in command under Col. Sturgis.



Lt. Sturgis Marker (left)

Gravesite for his mother's 1878 visit (below)



Custer Monument on Last Stand Hill (Photo: Ramona Richardson)



MS. REBELLE

Sturgis retired to St. Paul, MN and died there on September 28, 1889 at the age of 67 of diabetes, in his home at 611 Ashland Ave. His final interment two years later was in Arlington National Cemetery on November 18, 1891 in Section 2, Grave 1042. His wife Jerusha is also buried with him in Arlington as well as Sturgis, Jr. and Sturgis, III.



The *Mitchell Capital* of Mitchell, SD published his obituary on October 4, 1889: "A Soldier Sleeps. Unexpected Death of Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis. St. Paul News: The community at large and the many friends of Gen. S.D. Sturgis throughout the country will regret to hear of his death, which occurred at the family residence, 611 Ashland Avenue, in this city, at 1 o'clock this morning. The deceased was a retired army officer, sixty-seven years of age, and he leaves a wife and several children, his son-in-law being the Hon. John Lawler, formerly the treasurer of Dakota. Gen. Sturgis was taken ill with diabetes a few days ago, but no serious consequences were expected, as he

had hitherto enjoyed the best of health. He took an active part in the late war and earned great distinction for his coolness and bravery, being honorably retired a few years ago, after having served long and faithfully for his country... He was also the nephew of Gen. Scott, the hero of Lundy's Lane [War of 1812] whose influence secured for him an appointment to West Point in July, 1845... The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful, testifying to the esteem in which the deceased was held. The pall bearers were as follows: John H. Sanborn, Gen. R.W. Johnson, John S. Prince, A.H. Wilder, H.M. Smith, Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, and Col. A.F. Rockwell. After the service the funeral proceeded to Calvary Cemetery, and his remains were deposited in a vault for removal to Arlington Heights, Washington, D.C."

Even though it was said he was unpopular with his men, he spent his entire life in the military. He must have been doing something right. A World War II troop transport ship was named in honor of him – the USS General S.D. Sturgis (AP-137).



NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is travelling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far she has located and photographed 427 - 169 Confederate and 258 Union. You may contact her at jlgtree@erols.com.

Bristoe Station Campaign October 13 – 19, 1863
(BRCWRT Caravan Tour) +
Lunch @ Bristow Center
Saturday, September 23, 2023



Subject matter: Final week of the Bristoe Station Campaign, including the clash at Auburn, troop movements leading to the battle, the Battle of Bristoe Station and the Battle of Buckland Mills. 5 tour stops.

Tour Guide: Bill Backus – Preservationist/Prince William Office of Historic Preservation.

Assembly Time/Location: 8:30 AM parking lot at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park (Iron Brigade Unit Ave, Bristow, VA)

Tour Start Time: 9:00 AM **Tour Duration:** Approx. 6 1/2 Hrs

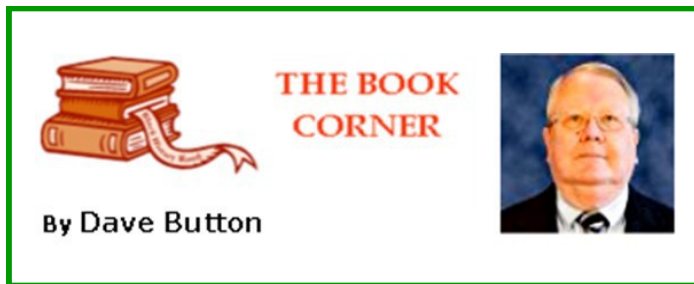
Lunch: 12:30 PM Bristow Center Shopping Center: Choice of restaurant, Individual tabs

Mode of Transportation: Carpool caravan. We need to minimize number of cars due to limited parking at a couple of stops.

Uniform of the Day: Appropriate dress for local weather conditions. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Water & insect repellent advised. Walking stick if desired.

BRCWRT Contact: Gary Haskins – haskins_gary@yahoo.com / 703 850-2108

The tour is FREE! If interested in attending, please sign up via BRCWRT's website or at the August or September BRCWRT Membership meeting.



Astride Two Worlds: Technology and the American Civil War is edited by Barton C. Hacker. The book is a collection of essays from a symposium held during the Veterans Day weekend in November 2012. The symposium topic was “causes and consequences of technological change for the course and outcome of the Civil War”.

The book opens with an essay by Barton Hacker on “How Technology Shaped the Conduct of War.” The essay’s thrust is to give an overview of the subsequent essays in the collection.

Part One: Technological Realities deals with Yankee Armorers and the Union War Machine (chapter 2), Heavy Artillery Transformed (chapter 3), Information Flows and Field Armies (chapter 4), and Veterinary Care in the Union Cavalry (chapter 5).

Part Two: Technological Dreams deals with Confederate Spar-Torpedo Boats (chapter 6), Armor, Manhood, and the Politics of Mortality (chapter 7), Quaker Gun vs. Observation Balloon (chapter 8), and Dreams of Aerial Navigation (chapter 9).

Each of the chapters, with the possible exception of Chapter 1, can be read independently of the others. As can be seen from the titles, each deals with a specific topic of interest during the Civil War. To cite two examples:

Chapter 5 discusses the development of the medical care of the Union Army’s horses and mules, paying particular attention to the almost total lack of qualified veterinarians associated with the army. It also discusses the notion that the farriers in the army were sufficiently well-versed about the animals that they could handle any medical issues. This was proven to be false.

Chapter 7 discusses the conundrum of the use of body armor by the soldiers on both sides. The issue was whether the wearing of body armor reflected negatively on the “manhood” of anyone who wore it. Also, as a major component of the chapter, the quality or perhaps the lack of quality of the armor was a major concern.

For someone who wants to “get into the details” this is an excellent, albeit not fast, read. Since these are essays written by scholars on the topic (all of whom have PhD or the equivalent after their name) the detail is deep and the discussion extremely academic. That being said, the essays show how the American Civil War was truly “*Astride Two Worlds*”: the world of Napoleonic Warfare (stand in ranks and files and shoot at the enemy who is also standing in ranks and files) and the world of World War I (much more mechanized and definitely trench warfare).

The book is published by the Smithsonian Institution and has an ISBN of 9781935623922. It is available at both the Smithsonian and Barnes & Noble for \$37.95 in hardcase. B&N also has it available in e-book format for \$36.99.

WEDNESDAY WALKS AT BRISTOE

May 3 The 2nd New York Infantry at
the Battle of Kettle Run

June 7 Stories from the 10th Alabama Cemetery

July 5 Civil War Battles along the O&A

August 2 The Federals' Response to
Jackson's Raid on Bristoe Station

September 6 The Spanish-American War at
Bristoe Station

October 4 Confederate Artillery at the
Battle of Bristoe Station

All tours are free and begin in the parking lot of
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park at 7 pm

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park
Corner of Iron Brigade Unit Ave. and Tenth Alabama Way
Bristow, VA 20136
(703) 366-3049

PRINCE WILLIAM
Historic Preservation

Connect with us on social media!

www.facebook.com/pwhistoric

Instagram: PWC History

www.pwcva.gov/history

Twitter: @PWHPF

HistoricPreservation@pwcgov.org



**THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122**

<http://www.bullruncwrt.org>

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Thank you for your continued interest in the BRCWRT!

Here are your payment options:

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$25.00

Student (21 & under): FREE!

Three-Year Option:

\$55.00

\$65.00

You may use PayPal by going to http://brcwrt.org/?page_id=962 and then emailing this form to BRCWRTtreasurer@gmail.com. Note that \$1 is added to cover the PayPal fee.

-OR-

You may pay by check, made payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table) and give the form and check to the President or Treasurer at a General Membership meeting.

-OR-

You may mail this form and the check to:

**BRCWRT Treasurer
P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, VA 20122**

NAME(S)_____

NAME(S) FOR BADGE (if different)_____

If there are any changes:

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE_____ EMAIL_____

Are there any BRCWRT activities you would like to help with (tours, selling used books, member recruitment, newsletter articles, annual picnic)?

Do you have any suggestions for additional BRCWRT activities? _____