



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXX, Issue 12, DECEMBER 2023

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR JOHN QUARSTEIN SPEAKS ON "INTO THE RING OF FIRE: FEDERAL ADMIRAL DU PONT'S ATTACK ON CHARLESTON SC, 1863" AT THE DEC. 14th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On April 7, 1863, Federal Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont led an attack on Charleston, South Carolina with an all-ironclad fleet of nine ships. Du Pont had his own personal reservations about the attack and thought that Charleston could only be taken with a combination of naval and ground forces. Despite his disagreement with the plan, Du Pont continued with the attack on Forts Sumter and Moultrie and the Cummings Point Batteries in possession of the Confederates. In this 160th Anniversary year of this naval battle, we are happy to have back one of our favorite authors at the December 14th General Membership meeting.

John Quarstein is a historian for the city of Hampton's 400th anniversary, and previously worked for 30 years as the director of the Virginia War Museum and as consultant to The Mariners' Museum MONITOR Center. He currently serves as the chief development officer for the USS MONITOR Foundation at The Mariners' Museum. John is actively involved in a variety of historic preservation initiatives, including the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like Redoubt Park in Williamsburg and Lee's Mill Park in Newport News, adding to his participation in historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, December 14, 2023

6 P.M. Social Hour

7 P.M. In-person at the Centreville Regional Library & Streamed on Zoom & Facebook Live

GUEST SPEAKER:

John Quarstein

TOPIC:

"Into The Ring of Fire, Federal Admiral Du Pont's attack on Charleston SC, 1863"

(Christmas Celebration with cake)

His current preservation endeavors feature the Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, Causey's Mill, Big Bethel Battlefield and Fort Monroe. He also serves on boards and commissions, including Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council and the Newport News Sesquicentennial Commission. The author of 15 books, his volume *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of The Union's First Ironclad* received the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. He also has produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries. John's latest film, *Hampton: From the Sea to the Stars* is a Bronze Telly winner.

Come join us early to chat with John and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM!

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, 571-359-1937

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, Melissa Winn, Debbie and Mark Whitenton.

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2024 issue**, e-mail articles by **December 30th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2024 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

and e-mail ads by **December 30th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

February 8 Kevin Pawlak - "The Emancipation Proclamation"

March 14 David Goetz - "Col. John Singleton Mosby & The Lincoln Conspiracy"

April 11 James Anderson - "Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew and the Bureau of Military Information"

May 9 Chris Mackowski - "The Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864"

June 13 Brad Gottfried - "The Maps of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 1864"

July 11 Jonathan Noyalas - "The Battle of Cool Springs, July 1864"

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
BRCWRT Calendar of Events	Page 5
Preservation Corner	Page 6
Image of the Month	Page 9
Ms. Rebelle	Page 10
Civil War Genealogy	Page 18
Welcome New Members!	Page 18
Nadine Mironchuk Awarded	Page 19
BRCWRT Scholarship Program Recognized	Page 21



The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Let me start by thanking you for the opportunity to serve as the BRCWRT President for the past four years. I do think that it is necessary for the organization to refresh itself with new leadership every so often. Kim Brace – who is running unopposed as President – is a dynamic leader who has established strong credentials on the boards of two local Civil War organizations (the Prince William County Historical Commission and the Manassas Battlefield Trust), as well as on the board of the Civil War Round Table Congress. As President, Kim will increase the profile and influence of our organization both locally and nationally. I am happy to note that Kim also shares my desire to keep working to perfect our use of Zoom at our Library meetings for those members who are unable to attend our monthly meetings in person.

I am proud of the fact that despite the COVID shutdowns in 2020, we have regained membership levels, now 332. We have also re-started tours every month except the coldest and hottest months – thank you, Sam Laudenslager, Chair of the Tour Committee, for heading this effort. Blake Myers, esteemed Chair of the Preservation Committee, continues to tirelessly lead the BRCWRT's involvement in all preservation issues in our area. It looks as though his diligent work – along with that of many other parties – may actually stop the Prince William County Board of Supervisors from approving the data centers that have been threatening the Manassas Battlefield. Thank you, Blake.

We have been very lucky to have our Ten-Year Past President Mark Trbovich continue to find fabulous speakers for us

every month. Fortunately, Mark Trbovich is willing to start filling the 2025 dance card as well. Thanks also to Stephanie Vale, Chair of the Marketing Committee, for her work to develop our Facebook page and to increase our presence. Stephanie has also kept the BRCWRT involved in all the local events or opportunities to interest new members and sell our large reserve of used Civil War books. A special thanks to Don Richardson, Newsletter Committee Chair, who has done a terrific job after taking over the monthly *Stone Wall* newsletter after Nadine Mironchuk – our editor for a decade – relinquished the task. Don has been creating several new columns while managing many traditional entries. We have been fortunate that Alan Day has been continuing to work to improve the BRCWRT website. Finally, thanks to Debbie Whitenton for managing our 2023 Picnic. Good job.

Although a bout with the most recent version of Covid prevented me (and Debbie and Blake) from attending, by all accounts Nathan McDonald gave a very well-received discourse on the Battle of Droop Mountain WV (Nov. 6, 1863).



Nathan
McDonald
(Photo: Janet
Greentree)

Thanks to those of you who made contributions to the BRCWRT Scholarship Program by writing a check. Our invaluable Treasurer, Joe Young, reports that we have enough in the bank to fund another \$2,000 scholarship for 2024. I'm sure our Scholarship Committee Chair, John Carter, will again provide the BRCWRT

(cont on page 4)

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

with an outstanding selection for our scholarship this next year.

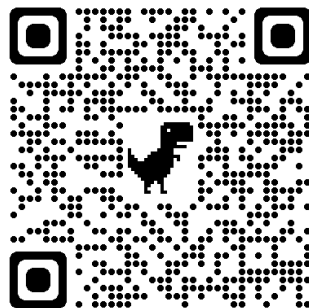
In that connection, it would help us do more (while not raising our incredibly modest dues) if you would consider a charitable donation to the BRCWRT, a 501 (c)(3) organization, in cash or by check to Joe next week or by mail, or by donating via credit card using the “Donate” button on our website. If you scan the QR Code below, you will jump to our “Donate” site.

Thank you, John DePue, for again conducting this year’s election of officers. The final vote on the candidates will occur at Thursday’s (December 14) General Membership meeting. The candidates for officers of the BRCWRT are Kim Brace for President, Mark Whitenton for Vice President, Joe Young for Treasurer and Debbie Whitenton for Secretary.

This Thursday, we are very pleased to have John Quarstein, a favored speaker, come to our round table. His topic will be “Into the Ring of Fire: Federal Admiral Du Pont’s attack on Charleston, SC in 1863”.

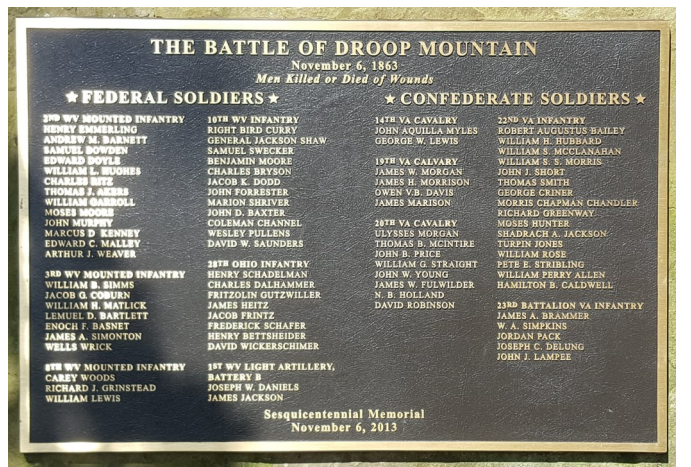
Sandra Cox, for the last time, will be bringing everyone’s name badges and our annual Christmas cake. Thank you, Sandra! After many years, including many years as the editor of the *Stone Wall*, Sandra has had to call it quits. We are looking for someone to volunteer to take over management of the BRCWRT name tags and/or her role as Chair of the

Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to make a donation or pay your dues.



Refreshments Committee. We have 332 members, so PLEASE stand up.

Finally, please go to page 19 to read Janet Greentree's excellent article on BRCWRT's distinguished member Nadine Mironchuk's receipt of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fairfax County History Commission last month.



Droop Mountain (Photos: Jim Lewis)

Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Upcoming 2023-2024 Program of Events

Date	Event
December 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Quarstein - "Into The Ring of Fire, Federal Admiral Du Pont's attack on Charleston SC, 1863" Christmas Celebration - CAKE!
January 11, 2024	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 9	Spring Field Trip: "Centreville Military Railroad" - Tour leaders Blake Myers and Jim Lewis (rain date March 16th)
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"
May 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski - "The Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864" Anniversary Celebration - CAKE!
June 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Brad Gottfried - "The Maps of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 1864"
June 22	Spring Tour: "Battle of Spotsylvania" - Tour Guide Greg Mertz. (rain date June 29th)
July 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Noyalas - "The Battle of Cool Springs, July 1864"
August 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Doug Crenshaw - "Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, 1864"
September 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Weeks - "Rendezvous With Destiny: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse, 1864"
October 5	Fall Field Trip: "Battle of Cedar Creek" - Tour leaders Blake Myers and Jim Lewis (rain date October 26th)
October 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"
November 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, November 1864"
December 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"



PRESERVATION CORNER by Blake Myers

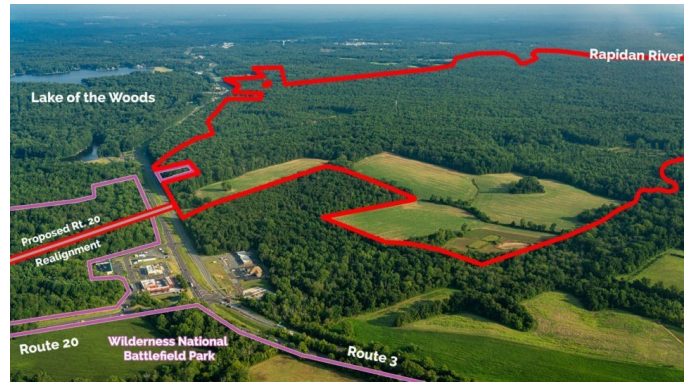


Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* includes updates on the Wilderness Crossing development threat to the Wilderness and Chancellorsville Battlefields, the rezoning applications for the Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) data centers, and information regarding the recent Virginia Battlefield Protection Fund Grant Awards.

Wilderness Crossing Development (Wilderness & Chancellorsville Battlefield)

On May 24, 2023, the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) filed a legal challenge in Orange County, Virginia against a mega-development that would blanket a historic landscape with more than 2,600 acres of residential, commercial, and industrial development, including data centers and distribution warehouses. The filing, made in Orange County Circuit Court, identifies a host of substantive and procedural flaws with the development project and with the County Board of Supervisors' approval - flaws that clearly justify approval invalidation.

Orange County has filed a request for injunction based on its assertion that the preservation organizations and private citizens who filed the lawsuit have no standing to do so, that the Board's authority is unlimited, and no entity has the legal standing to question its decisions, and that only the land inside the National Park qualifies as "battlefield."



Aerial image of the Wilderness Crossing site across from the Sheetz and McDonald's at the Rt. 3/Rt. 20 intersection in Orange County (Photo: Hugh Kenny, PEC)

Based on concerns about the proposed development and the desire to learn more details, in September the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) submitted a Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) request to Orange County for records pertaining to the Wilderness Crossing rezoning application. In its initial responses, Orange County redacted sender and recipient names and random words in emails without explanation, disregarding Virginia Code § 2.2-3704 that requires that a VFOIA response withholding any part of a requested record "*identify with reasonable particularity the subject matter of withheld portions, and cite, as to each category of withheld records, the specific code section that authorizes the withholding of the records.*" In subsequent responses, the County asserted attorney-client privilege and exemption of proprietary information as justification for continued redactions. Similarly, Orange County refused to provide nondisclosure agreements, even redacted ones, signed by numerous county officials.

On November 9, 2023, PEC filed a lawsuit against Orange County for improperly denying public access to

(cont on page 7)

PRESERVATION CORNER

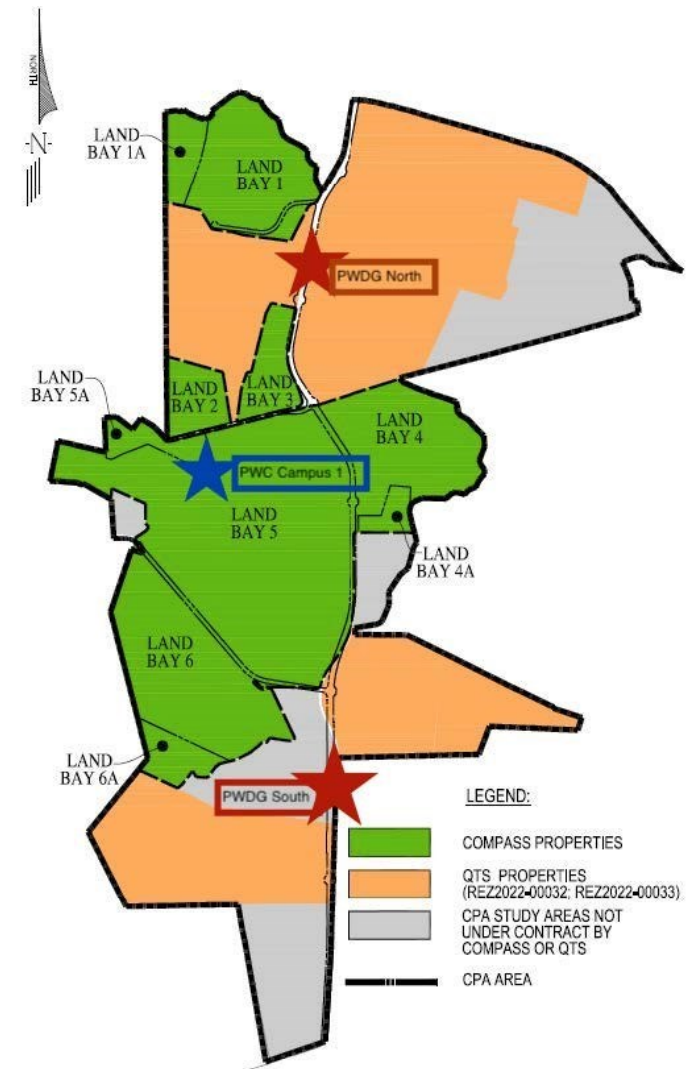
documents pertaining to a local rezoning application, in violation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The lawsuit came after Orange County officials were unresponsive to PEC’s October 26 petition for a Writ of Mandamus, which provided county officials several days to correct their VFOIA deficiencies and reflected PEC’s growing concern about the lack of public access to information about land use decisions in Orange County and across the Commonwealth of Virginia. PEC’s lawsuit asks that Orange County be required to produce the nondisclosure agreements and identify any additional documents withheld per Virginia Code § 2.2-3705.6(3) or on the basis of privilege. A court hearing was scheduled for Friday, November 17.

On Thursday, November 16, Orange County provided [copies of nondisclosure agreements \(NDAs\)](#) that were previously withheld. Ten local officials, including elected members of the Board of Supervisors, signed NDAs “for the benefit of Amazon.com, Inc. and its affiliates.” In addition, the County agreed to re-review other requested documents referenced in PEC’s complaint and to provide PEC, by December 8, a privilege log that lists those withheld documents. As a result of these developments, the hearing scheduled for Friday, November 17 in County Circuit Court was deferred.

Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) Data Centers (Manassas National Battlefield Park and Manassas National Battlefield Historic District)

After a 23-hour public hearing that began on November 8, 2023, the Prince William County Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of all three rezoning applications for the proposed Prince William Digital Gateway data centers. The 6-2 vote on each rezoning application came after

three attempts by Commissioner Richard Berry (Gainesville) to defer a planning commission vote until after the county’s planning office had sufficient time to review the 5th Submissions of the PWDG rezoning applications submitted on November 1 by QTS Data Centers and Compass Datacenters. (The Digital Gateway North 5th Submission is 1,705 pages, the Digital Gateway South 5th Submission is 1,718 pages, and the PWC Campus One 5th Submission is 1,326 pages.)



Land Parcels Proposed for PWDG Data Centers

(cont on page 8)

PRESERVATION CORNER

After Berry could not get a majority to agree to any of three dates for a postponed meeting — Jan. 24, 2024, or Dec. 20 or Dec. 13, 2023 — he moved to recommend denial of all three applications. The county planning staff had recommended denial for all three applications on October 27, prior to receiving each applicant's respective 5th Submissions.

Voting against the recommendations for denial were Commissioners Tom Gordy (Brentsville) and Joseph Fontanella (Coles). Both had said before the vote that they preferred that the staff spend time reviewing the developers' recent submissions with changes to their applications.

The three applications, the County Planning Staff's recommendations for denial, and the Planning Commission's recommendations for denial now go to the Board of County Supervisors, which is currently scheduled to consider the rezoning applications during its December 12 (10:00 AM) Regular Meeting.

The rendering, at right, from the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) depicts the proposed data centers' site schematics in relation to adjacent historic sites within the historic district, Manassas Battlefield National Park (MNBPN) and Manassas Battlefield Core Area land owned by ABT and planned for eventual incorporation into MNBPN.

Virginia Battlefield Protection Fund Grant Awards

In October, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) awarded more than 1.3 million dollars in grant funding through the Virginia Battlefield Protection Fund (VBPF) to 8 projects, protecting over 211 acres of battlefields across Virginia.



A rendering of what would be the largest data center campus proposal in the world – including its relationship to Trust-protected land! [Click here to enlarge](#)

Rendering of Proposed PWDG Data Centers (courtesy of American Battlefield Trust)

The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) received 7 awards, preserving a total of 209 acres across multiple battlefields. ABT received 2 grants totaling \$507,350 to preserve 2 tracts at Chancellorsville. They also received \$96,000 towards preserving 42.8 acres of the Cumberland Church Battlefield in Farmville. Other ABT awards include, \$80,000 for an 11.37-acre parcel in Henrico County related to the Battles of Glendale, Malvern Hill, Deep Bottom I, and Deep Bottom II; \$300,000 for 98.7 acres at Trevilian Station; \$25,500 to preserve 8 acres at Dinwiddie Courthouse; and \$133,750 for 3 acres at Ream's Station.

(cont on page 9)

PRESERVATION CORNER

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust received a grant of \$164,071 for the preservation of 2 acres on the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

The Virginia General Assembly established the VBPF in 2010, authorizing the Department of Historic Resources to administer grants to nonprofit organizations to protect, in perpetuity, battlefield lands associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, Civil War historic preservation in general and BRCWRT's preservation projects, actions, and activities.

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

By Melissa Winn

After the Battle of Manassas, when Confederate General Joseph Johnston moved a major part of his army to Centreville, VA, he took up headquarters here, in the house of Alexander Spotswood Grigsby, one of Centreville's leading businessmen. It was often referred to as the "Four Chimney House." You can see why (below). It's also significant as the spot where famed Partisan Ranger John S. Mosby met General J.E.B. Stuart for the first time. By 1901 it was abandoned and by 1921, it had collapsed, with only three of the four famous chimneys still standing. The foundation stones were moved for other purposes when Route 28 was widened in the 1940s and some of the stones were used to construct the building that until recently housed the Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum in historic Centreville.





CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

By Janet Greentree

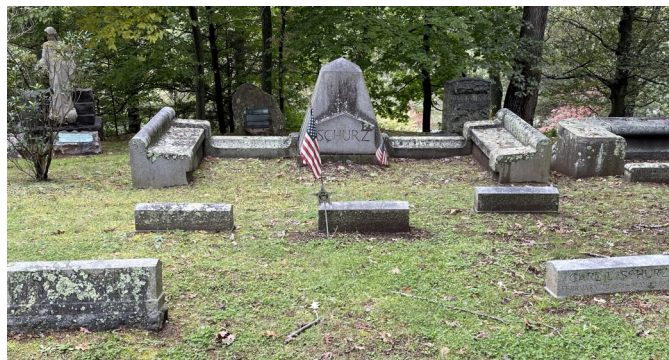
Major General Carl Christian Schurz, USA

After talking with Mark Knowles, a longtime friend and BRCWRT member, about genealogy and my Van Tassel family buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, NY, Mark told me he was going there and asked if I wanted him to find any graves for me. I first talked to Mark and his wife Yvonne when we did a tour of Arlington National Cemetery in 1998. He and his wife were carrying both of their girls in a sling on their backs for the entire tour. Now his girls are all grown up. He kindly found two of my Mom's ancestors, Catriena & Petrus Van Tassel. Petrus was in the Revolutionary War. I have many Van Tassel relatives buried in that cemetery. He also found Major General Carl Christian Schurz in a very nice plot. Mark found him easily as some graves on www.findagrave.com have the GPS coordinates. Schurz's coordinates are Latitude: 41.0988154, Longitude: 73.8599426. The grave is on the east side of Sylvan Road. I wish that feature had been available early on in my quests to find graves. Sleepy Hollow has always been on my list of places to go.



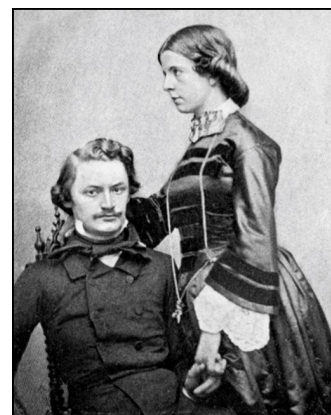
Van Tassel Graves (Mark Knowles)

Carl Christian Schurz was born on March 2, 1829 in Liblar, Rhein-Erft-Kreis, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. His parents were Christian Schurz and Marianna Jussen. His father was a school teacher and his mother was a journalist and public speaker. He was the oldest of four. His brother was Heribert, his sisters were Anna Maria and Antoinette. Their lineage goes back to 1580 to Anton Schurz in Germany. Carl studied at a Jesuit Gymnasium in Cologne and learned to play the piano there. His parents had little money and Carl left the Gymnasium a year early and didn't graduate. He later took a special exam, graduated, and entered the University of Bonn.



Carl Schurz Family Plot (Mark Knowles)

Carl was one of the German 48ers who came to this country after the German and European Revolutions of 1848. In July, 1852 he married Margaretha Meyer in Marylebone, in the West End of London, England. Their children were: Agathe, Mariann, Carl Lincoln, Herbert, and Emma Savannah. Since he was in the Army, the children were born in different places in the U.S.

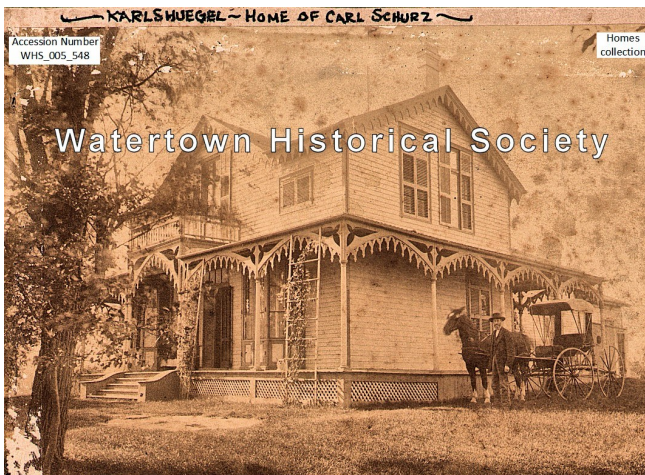


(cont on page 11)

MS. REBELLE

Most of the children are buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. Margaretha was instrumental in establishing the kindergarten system in the U.S. On his December 2, 1867 passport application, he was listed as 6'1", high forehead, brown eyes, prominent nose, small mouth, broad chin, brown hair, fair complexion, and an oval face. In the 1880 census, he lived at 1719 H St., N.W., Washington, D.C., was Secretary of the Interior, and a widower. He also lived at 175 W. 58th St., NYC, in 1890. He died at 24 E. 91st St., between Madison & 5th Ave. in the Tribeca section of NYC in 1906. He also lived in Pocantico Hills in Sleepy Hollow, NY. No pictures seem to exist of the homes he lived in.

After he became a "48er" he fled to Switzerland, France, and London, where he taught the German language. In July, 1852 he and Margaretha came to America, first living in Philadelphia for 3 years and eventually moving to Watertown, WI to a farm. I did find a house he lived in there. He was a political activist and joined the Republican Party. He was an early supporter of Abraham Lincoln and spoke to his fellow 48ers about Lincoln. He was admitted to the Wisconsin bar but was more of a public speaker than an attorney. He did begin a law practice in Milwaukee. He was a staunch abolitionist as well.

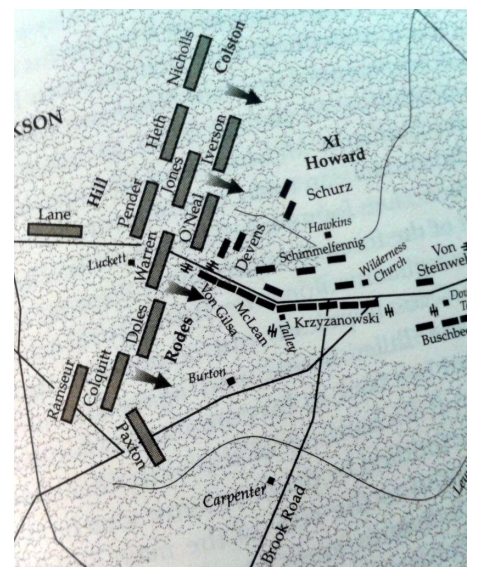


Carl Schurz Home
Destroyed by 1912 fire

Schurz was elected as a delegate to the 1860 Republican National Convention and supported future Secretary of State William Seward. He then pledged his loyalty to Abraham Lincoln when he won the nomination. After winning the election, Lincoln appointed Schurz as Minister to Spain in 1861. When he returned to the U.S. he was granted a commission as a brigadier general by Lincoln himself. He was at first part of Generals John C. Fremont and Franz Sigel's corps. He fought at 2nd Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Nashville, in North Carolina with Sherman, and was Chief of Staff to Henry Slocum with the Army of Georgia.

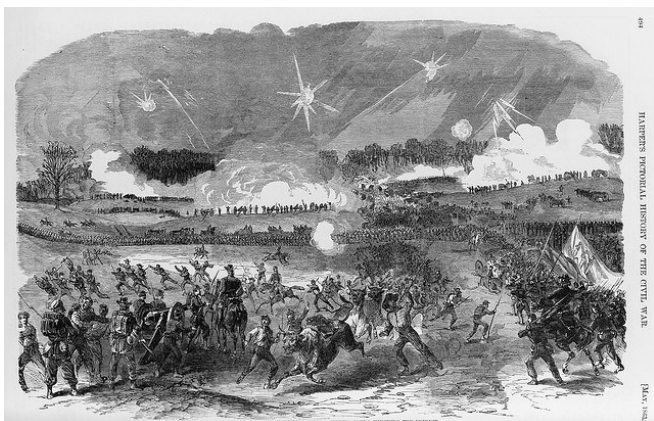
Schurz was with Gen. Howard with the XI Corps at the battle of Chancellorsville in May, 1863, camped out on the Orange Turnpike. They held back Gen. Stonewall Jackson for about 20 minutes and then had to withdraw. The XI Corps was made up of several German units and were criticized by Northern newspapers noting ethnic prejudice and blaming them for losing the battle of Chancellorsville.

Schurz at
Chancellors-
ville



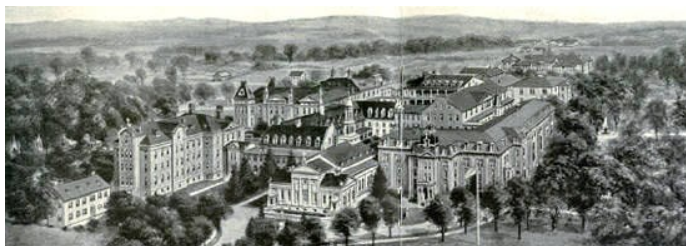
(cont on page 12)

MS. REBELLE



XI Corps at Chancellorsville

In his own words, Schurz describes his way to Gettysburg: "On the 30th of June, on our march through Maryland, I had the good fortune of finding shelter in a nunnery, the St. Joseph's College [now known as Mount St. Mary's College] at Emmitsburg, in Maryland, a young ladies' school, carried on by a religious order. I waited upon the Lady Superior to ask her for permission to use one of her buildings as my headquarters for a night, suggesting, and with perfect sincerity, that her buildings and grounds would be better protected by our presence within than by any guards stationed without. The Lady Superior received me very graciously, and at once put one of the houses within the enclosure at my disposal. She even sent for the chaplain of the institution, Father Borlando, to conduct us through the main edifice, and permitted one of my officers, a good musician, to play on the organ in the chapel, which he did to the edification of all who heard him. The conduct of my troops camped around the institution was exemplary, and we enjoyed there a still and restful a night as if the outside of the nunnery had been as peaceful as daily life was ordinarily within it. I mention this as one of the strange contrasts of our existence, for at daybreak the next morning I was waked up by a marching order, directing me to take the road to Gettysburg."



St. Joseph's College

Schurz left Emmitsburg at 7:00 a.m. with Gen. John Reynolds and the 1st Corps. Upon getting closer to Gettysburg, Gen. Howard issued an order that fighting was occurring north of Gettysburg and the Union were being fired on by cannons of Rodes' Division, Ewell's Corps.



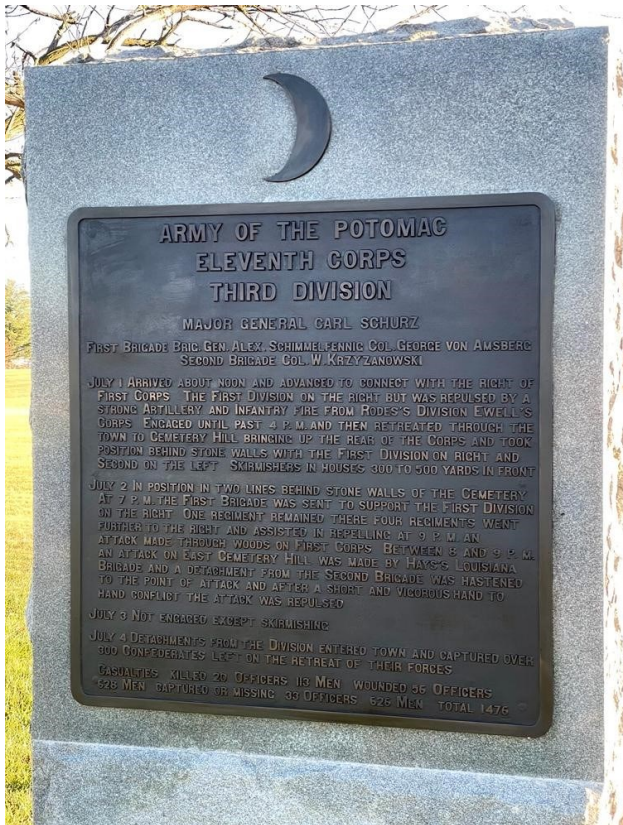
Carl Schurz, from a wartime photograph

In present day Gettysburg, Rt. 34 (Carlisle St./Biglerville Rd.) across from the new Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum, Howard Avenue goes west and east. On West Howard Avenue, there are two monuments to Schurz: one called the Army of the Potomac, Eleventh Corps, Major General Oliver O. Howard,

(cont on page 13)

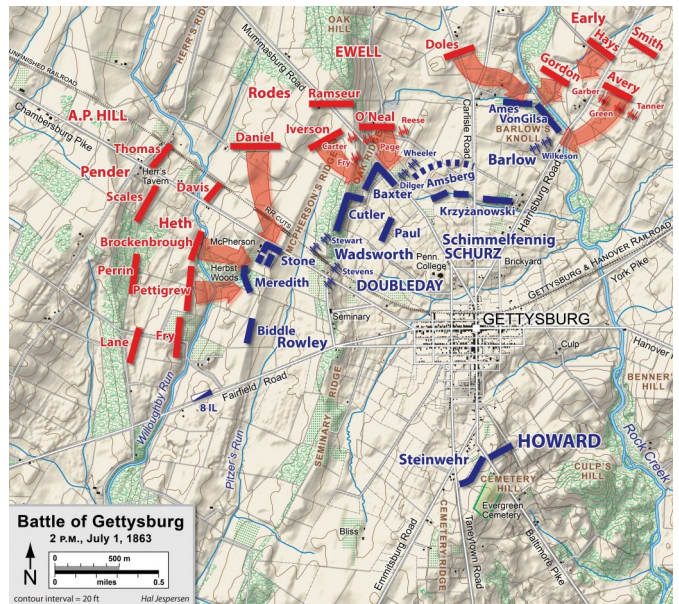
MS. REBELLE

also listing the other generals and “Third Division Major General Carl Schurz.” The second monument is called the Army of the Potomac, Eleventh Corps, Third Division, Major General Carl Schurz. I believe this is the first time I have seen two monuments close together in honor of one man.



Schurz Monument at Gettysburg (Lisa Greentree Tully)

Schurz witnessed the body of Gen. Reynolds being carried off the field. He also captured many Confederates, including Gen. James J. Archer. He was then ordered by Gen. Howard to proceed to Cemetery Hill with the First & Third Divisions of the 11th Corps and place them with Gen. Steinwehr. He had 6,000 men with him. On the second day his men were positioned behind the stone walls of the cemetery. The fight began at 7:00 p.m. and went on past 9:00 p.m. The men were not engaged on July 3rd other than in skirmishes. On July 4th they entered town and captured around 300 Confederates.



Gettysburg, 2 PM, July 1st 1863

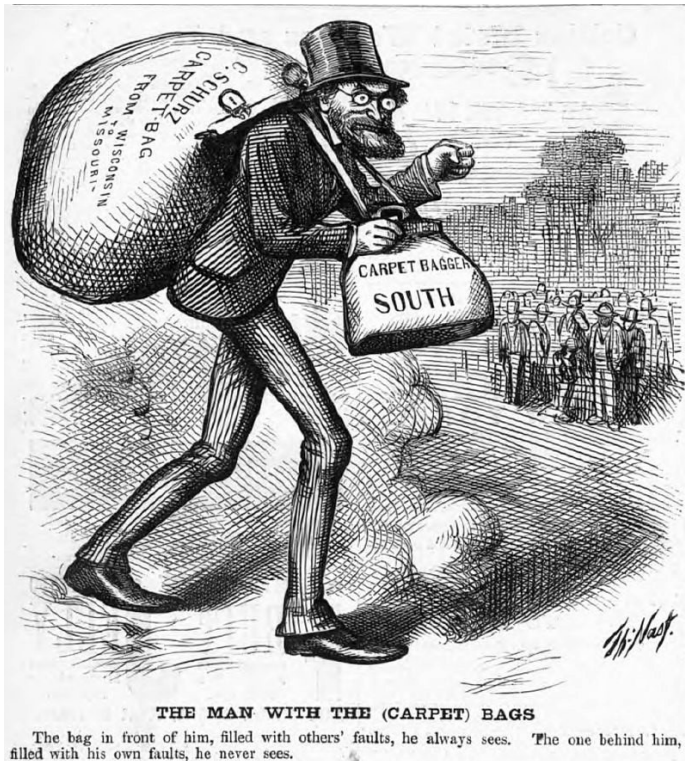


O.O. Howard Monument (Janet Greentree)

Schurz was able to campaign for the reelection of President Lincoln in 1864 and returned to active duty in 1865 with Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman’s army in North Carolina. After the war and the death of President Lincoln, President Andrew Johnson appointed Schurz to report on the Reconstruction of the South. Reflecting the political climate of the times, political cartoonist Thomas Nast depicted Schurz as a “carpetbagger”.

(cont on page 14)

MS. REBELLE



Schurz as drawn by Thomas Nast (above and right)

In 1868, after leaving the Army, he was elected as the first German American U.S. Senator, representing Missouri during the Grant administration. He disagreed with Grant about the use of military force against the Ku Klux Klan. He was also elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1868. He and others helped found the Liberal Republican Party in 1870 advocating sound money, low tariffs, civil service reform, low taxes, and an end of railroad grants, etc. On April 6, 1872, Nast published another cartoon of Schurz as Don Quixote in Harper's Weekly.

In 1877 President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed Schurz as 13th Secretary of the Interior. Schurz made efforts to improve relations with the Indians. He was only partially successful. The Indians were forced to move to low quality reservations. Promises made to the Indians were often broken. He unsuccessfully opposed a movement to transfer the Office of Indian Affairs to the



THE ONLY "EMERGENCIES" WE NEED FEAR (3).
DON CARLOS QUIXOTE AND SANCHO TIPTOE PANZA ON "THE PATH OF DUTY."

Q. By Mr. ABERNETHY.—My object in asking the question I put was to show that the military man is not at all concerned, so far as the safety of the country is an issue, with reference to the small-arms! A. By Col. BEXTER.—Not in the slightest degree.
Q. By Mr. SCHURZ.—You give it as your professional opinion as a military man, that the supply of small-arms in this country at the present moment is sufficient for all emergencies? A. By Col. BEXTER.—I think so, emphatically.

War Department. At the time, the Indian Affairs Office was the most corrupt office in the Interior Department. Jobs were based on political views and the reservations were used for self-enrichment. Schurz dismissed several high ranking officials, cleansed the office of corruption, and made promotions based on merit and not political patronage. When he left office in 1881, Schurz moved to New York City and edited and helped found the New York Evening Post and The Nation. He was also an editorial writer for Harper's Weekly. He left the Post in 1883 over differences on editorial policies regarding corporations and their employees. It seems as if Schurz was very forward thinking for the times.

(cont on page 15)

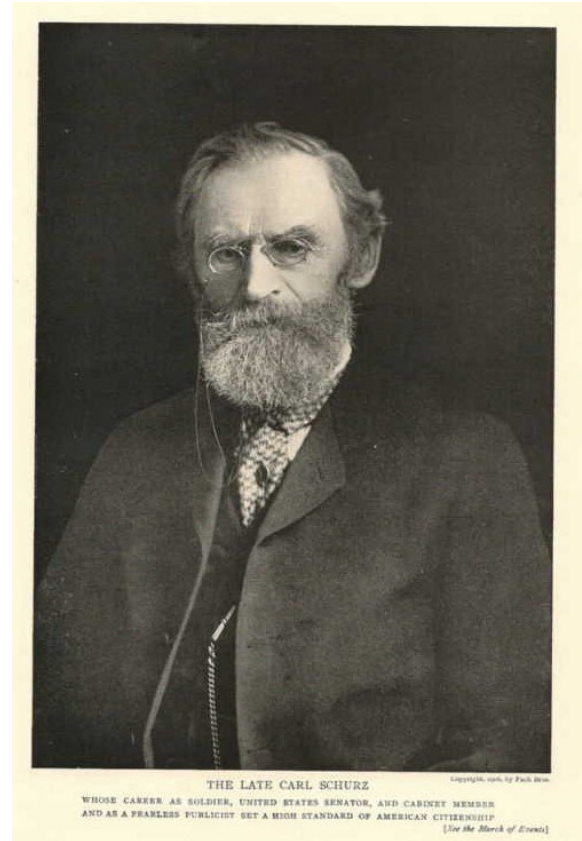
MS. REBELLE

In 1880 Schurz met with a delegation of Ute Indians in Washington, D.C. He led the National Civil Service Reform League from 1892-1901. In 1884 he was a leader of the Mugwump movement against the nomination of James Blaine for President and backed Grover Cleveland. In 1892 he was president of the National Civil Service Reform League. Taking after his mother, he was a writer as well. He published a two volume biography of Henry Clay in 1887, essays on Abraham Lincoln in 1899, and Charles Sumner (posthumously) in 1951. He also wrote but only partially finished his memoirs, called *Reminiscences*. He was a member of the Literary Society of Washington from 1879-1880.



Indian Delegation : Chief Ignatio of the Southern Utes, Schurz (Secy of Interior), Chief Ouray and his wife Chipeta.
Back row: Woretsiz, Gen. Charles Adams (Indian Agent)

Schurz has been memorialized with several monuments. Where he lived in New York City, on 91st Street on the Upper East Side, a Carl Schurz Park was erected with a statue of him. The park was dedicated in 1910. On the grounds of the park is Gracie Mansion, the residence of New York's mayor



Schurz in later life

since 1942. He has another monument in Morningside Park at Morningside Drive and 116th Street. The park was dedicated in 1913. He has a monument in Oshkosh, WI in Menominee Park called "Our Greatest German American." Another park in Bolton Landing, NY is named for him, as well as Schurz, Nevada.



Gracie Mansion, New York City

(cont on page 16)

MS. REBELLE



Schurz Monument,
Morningside Park, NYC



Compton Hill Reservoir Park, St. Louis



Carl Schurz Drive in Watertown, WI is also named for him. Mount Schurz in eastern Yellowstone Park near Eagle Peak was named for him 1885, honoring Schurz's protection of Yellowstone National Park. A liberty ship in WWII was named after him, the USS Carl Schurz. There is a nice monument to him at Compton Hill Reservoir Park in St. Louis as well.

Several quotes have been attributed to him: "Our ideals resemble the stars, which illuminate the night. No one will ever be able to touch them. But the men who, like the sailors on the ocean, take them for guides, will undoubtedly reach their goal." "My Country! When right keep it right; when wrong, set it right!"

Carl Schurz died in New York at his home on May 14, 1906. The cause of death per his death certificate states: "Bilateral septic pneumonia, lower lobes, resulting from chronic suppurative pericholangitis" [a chronic cholestatic liver disease characterized by inflammation and fibrosis of microscopically identifiable (interlobular and septal) bile ducts].

The Morning News in Wilmington, DE noted his death as follows: "Carl Schurz Dead, Noted German-American Passes Away in New York, Aged 77 Years. New York, May 14. Carl Schurz, former Secretary of the Interior, died at 4:35 o'clock this morning at his home, 24 East Ninety-first street. He was 77 years old. For a year Mr. Schurz had been ailing. In the last week he suffered from pulmonary edema and his life was despaired of because of his advanced age. On Saturday Mr. Schurz rallied some and hope was entertained of his recovery, but the rally was followed yesterday by a relapse and a second attack of edema of the lungs, which the physician in attendance knew must prove fatal in the patient's weakened condition. About 2 o'clock this morning Mr. Schurz became unconscious and so remained until the end, which was peaceful."

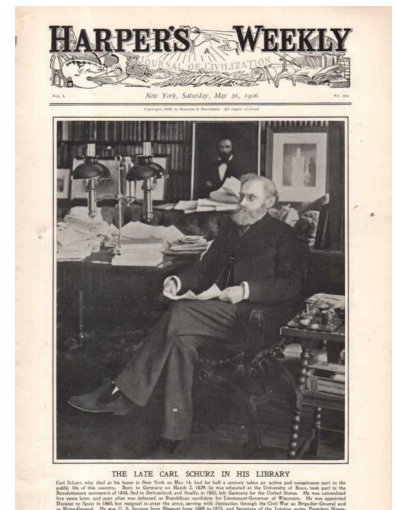
(cont on page 17)

MS. REBELLE

The New York Daily Tribune of May 18, 1906 stated: "Carl Schurz Buried, Well Known Men Assemble Around Grave at Tarrytown. In a pouring rain the body of Carl Schurz was buried yesterday afternoon in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at Tarrytown, N.Y. The scene was a most impressive one. Men prominent in all walks of life were assembled about the grave. The pallbearers were Andrew Carnegie, Charles Francis Adams of Boston, Joseph H. Choate, ex-Ambassador to England, Dr. A. Jacobi, Horace White, Karl Buens, Consul General of Germany, John B. Henderson of Washington, John Bigelow, president of the Century Association, Charles Steward Smith, Colonel Silas W. Burt, of the Civil Service Reform League; Hubert Gillis, president of the Diederkrans, Gustav Lindenthal, president of the Arion Society, Richard Watson Gilder, Oscar S. Strauss, Edward M Shepard, Max Wesendonck, Simon Wolf, of Washington, Dr. Hans Kudich, Gustav H. Schwab, Major General Julius Stahel, Edward L. Pretorius of St. Louis, Isaac N. Seligman, Udo Brachvogel and Horace E. Benning... Many persons gathered around the grave had known Mr. Schurz when he lived at Pocantico Hills about nine years ago. While the funeral procession passed from the railroad station to the cemetery all the stores were closed and flags were kept at half mast. John D. Rockefeller passed the funeral party in an automobile. He bared his head and ordered the chauffeur to drive slowly. Andrew Carnegie and Joseph Choate stood side by side at the grave, and their grief was evident."

I must say that Carl Schurz had some high-ranking friends. Mark Twain wrote an obituary for his friend: "We all realize that the release of Carl Schurz is a heavy loss to the country; some of us realize that it is a heavy loss to us individually and personally. As a rule, I have had a sufficiency of confidence - perhaps over-confidence - in my

ability to hunt out the right and sure political channel for myself and follow it to the deep water beyond the reef without getting aground; but there have been times in the past thirty years, when I lacked that confidence - then I dropped into Carl Schurz' wake. I had the same confidence in Carl Schurz as a political channel-finder. I believed he could read the political surfaces as accurately as Horace Bixby (a Mississippi River pilot) could read the faint and fleeting signs upon the Mississippi's face. I have held him in the sincerest affection and admiration for more than a generation. I have not always sailed with him politically, but whenever I have doubted my own competency to choose the right course, I have struck my two-taps-and-one ("get out the port and starboard leads"), and followed him through without doubt or hesitancy. By and by I shall wish to talk of Carl Schurz the man and friend, but not now, at this time I desire only to offer this brief word of homage and reverence to him, as from grateful pupil in citizenship to the master who is no more." It is interesting how Twain wove his river pilot nuances into his writing.



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 jlgrtree@erols.com.

CIVIL WAR GENEALOGY – RESOURCES CLOSE TO HOME

By Don Richardson

Many of us are interested in genealogy, both to establish our family trees and to help us in researching various topics of interest related to the Civil War. There are a surprising number of resources available, both locally and online. One great resource that is accessible to most of us is the RELIC (Virginia History) Room at the Prince William County Central Library in Manassas.

From the County's website:

"**The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC)** is a special collection devoted to genealogy and local history with a focus on Virginia and Prince William County. The staff are trained to help customers locate information needed to trace their family history and to research persons, places and events associated with local history. The American Revolution and the Civil War as they relate to Virginia are of special interest.

"RELIC houses a wide variety of materials related to its mission, including published and manuscript materials, indexes and research guides, photographs, maps, microforms, and computer (CD-ROM) databases.

"Staff maintain ties with local historical and genealogical societies and with other libraries and agencies with common interests, such as the National Archives, the LDS Family History Library, and other related organizations."

BRCWRT members should check out RELIC's Genealogy page at this link:



<https://www.pwcva.gov/department/library/RELIC-genealogy-tips>

While there, be sure to explore the links for **Digital Archives** and **Genealogy Programs**. There is a huge trove of resources available in the archives, and there is an extensive list of past programs recorded with YouTube and other media – many of which will be of interest to those researching their ancestors or the Civil War in general.

Members of the Round Table who would like to attend a class focused specifically on genealogy as it relates to the Civil War period should email me. If we have enough interest, I will explore setting one up with the Library.



AWARD TO NADINE MIRONCHUK

By Janet Greentree

Photos by Janet Greentree

Nadine Mironchuk, our *Stone Wall* editor-in-chief from 2013 to 2022, was given the Fairfax County History Commission's Lifetime Achievement award on November 4, 2023. Her certificate reads as follows:

The Fairfax County History Commission's 19th Annual History Conference "WE Are Fairfax County Part III: 'A County of Nations' Celebrating Our Muslim, Asian and Latino Citizens!"

"Nadine has served as a Sister historian and long-time member of Fairfax County's Bull Run Civil War Round Table. She has been a long-time champion and devotee of both Civil War history and the details therein involving Fairfax County. In the 2007-2008 time frame, Nadine used her intimate knowledge of the Garden Cemetery in Chelsea, Massachusetts and discovered several of those laid to rest therein had indeed fought in the Battle of Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861 as part of the Manassas Campaign of the Civil War. They were serving in the 1st Massachusetts Infantry. Through information based on buttons, garments, placement and timing, Nadine was able to establish the names of these lost soldiers. Nadine provided a thorough and compelling Power Point presentation on the topic to the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in the summer of 2008. In May of 2019, a robustly attended ceremony, including the playing of "Taps" honoring these boys, was conducted on the parking lot of what is now a McDonald's franchise in Centreville; there the outlines of their burial locations have been preserved upon the asphalt parking lot with a nearby plaque documenting the same.

Nadine took on the responsibilities of editing what became the award-winning Bull Run Civil War Round Table newsletter in 2013. Being one of the most important positions in any organization, Nadine's laborious work, dedication, long hours (typically 25 hours a month), attention to detail, editing skills, diplomacy

with teammates and abundant enthusiasm contributed mightily for nearly 10 years. It was said "Nadine made the newsletter beautiful." She supported the good work, in particular, of member Janet Greentree's monthly column *Civil War Travels with Ms. Rebelle*. Nadine wrote clever captions, provided historic context and took the writing she was given to the highest level of quality. Each



newsletter was between 20-30 pages in length. Even with serious health difficulties, Nadine rose to the task of completing the monthly newsletter, only once needing to combine two months into one. In addition to the newsletter, Nadine took on the tasks of organizing, editing and preparing the BRCWRT's 25th Anniversary book in 2014. The book was written by BRCWRT members and was comprised of summaries, charts, maps and photographs of what the organization had accomplished since its founding in 1991. Nadine worked on the layout, ensured font consistency, and conducted the final editing. Nadine also assisted Janet Greentree with the publication of her book *Civil War Travels with Ms. Rebelle*. The book contained 30 stories and numerous pictures.

(cont on page 20)

NADINE MIRONCHUK

Nadine’s passion for history, having attended at least 10 Fairfax County History Conferences through the years, her devotion to documenting the history of the Civil War, specifically within Fairfax County, her ability to accomplish a task even at the eleventh hour and her infectious joy in doing so, makes her a most appropriate recipient of the Fairfax County History Commission’s 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been first and foremost a life-long promoter of the history and preservation of Fairfax County’s vast and rich history in the United States of America.”

Nadine’s award was presented to her by Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Catherine S. Read, Mayor of the City of Fairfax. U.S. Representative Gerry E. Connelly made it possible for Nadine’s achievement to be entered into the 118th U.S. Congress’ Congressional Record.

Nadine’s friends, “the History Ladies”, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Gwen Wyttenbach, Nancy Anwyll, and Janet Green-tree spent the weekend on a trip to Annapolis, MD to (hopefully) get inside the Frederick Douglass House in Highland Beach. We were unable to get into the house but had a nice day with Dr. John Roxborough, who was seated on the porch of the house when we visited. He is interested in Frederick Douglass and lives in Highland Beach. We had a wonderful lunch together at J. Alexander’s Restaurant in the Annapolis Town Center.



OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS— AN INVESTMENT IN HISTORY'S FUTURE

By Carol VanOrnum

The national trend of ignoring or avoiding the study of American history is very disturbing to Civil War enthusiasts. How do you find ways to keep an interest of history alive, engage youth, and reverse that trend?

The Bull Run CWRT has developed a scholarship program to accomplish just that. Commencing in 2002, the BRCWRT of Centreville, Virginia, has awarded \$1,000 (recently raised to \$2,000) to one deserving senior high school student each year. As stated on the Instruction sheet within the [Scholarship portal](#) of the BRCWRT's website, "The goal of our scholarship is to increase interest and knowledge of American history with special emphasis on the Civil War as it happened in the local area and how it affected armies and civilians for both sides of the war." The program is administered by John Carter, a BRCWRT member with over 40 years' experience in college and university admissions, including managing academic scholarship programs and conducting student interviews. He and three other members comprise the scholarship review committee. The committee uses a decision matrix plus a series of interview questions as the selection criteria.

John explained the process. "I

have a list of 51 public and private high schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties. We concentrate only on those counties. We do not go to the schools, nor contact the counselors directly. We mail scholarship notices in November consisting of a letter and a poster to the Guidance offices and Career Centers to inform them of the scholarship program and the application process for it. In the last two years we have received 12 scholarship applications, all of the highest academic quality. Most everyone has a high-A average and AP/IB courses in their junior and senior years."

"The entire scholarship application process is run through the scholarship portal on the BRCWRT website. Students must submit an application, have their high school transcripts sent to the portal, along with an essay and a recommendation. The deadline for submitting the documents will be April 3, 2024. All students are required to submit an essay on a local

historical site of their choosing, and use at least one primary resource (e.g., Civil War Official Records, letters or materials from archives).

"We meet when all of the applications are received after the deadline. We have written criteria for reviewing the applicants, and we select between two to four as finalists, who will be contacted for a Zoom interview. We utilize a set of standard questions, which we divide up among the committee members to present to the applicants during the interview. The interview is just as important as the essay. The Committee members seek to gauge the student's level of interest, learn more about the student, and ascertain how the student presents himself or herself in person. We also utilize a matrix which we use for making decisions on all of the applicants. The winner is notified by mid-April and invited with their parents to attend the next Round Table meeting in June for the award presentation."

President Mark Whinton is proud of the work the Committee has performed. "Our offer of a \$2,000 scholarship has been important in order to attract top-flight applicants. Under John's leadership, we have been fortunate to be able to award our annual scholarships to really outstanding students.

"In the last two years we have received 12 scholarship applications."

"Our scholarship program has become much more successful in attracting top candidates when we began not only to increase the breadth of high schools contacted, but, perhaps more importantly, to increase the dollar amount of the award from \$1,000 to \$2,000. That increase seems to have made a notable difference for many potential applicants. As a Round Table with low dues, we have been successful in providing adequate funds for the scholarship each year through individual donations. Fortunately, those donations are tax deductible, since we are a qualified 501(c)(3) organization."

The scholarship program that the Bull Run Civil War Round Table created and developed is an incredible accomplishment and can be found [HERE](#). Should your Round Table have the financial means, there is no need for anyone to reinvent the wheel when the BRCWRT has developed the format and created the template. They are happy to share their knowledge. Thank you, BRCWRT!



**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? _____
