



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXX, Issue 1, JANUARY 2023

**AUTHORS CHUCK MAURO AND
DON HAKENSON SPEAK ON
"THE EMERGENCE OF JOHN S.
MOSBY AND HIS ASSOCIATION
WITH MISS LAURA RATCLIFFE"
AT THE JAN. 12, 2023 GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

We are fortunate to have two of our own Bull Run Civil War Round Table members and acclaimed John Singleton Mosby authors speaking at the January 12th, 2023 meeting. Col. Mosby's initial command actions beginning in Fairfax and Fauquier County VA during the winter of 1862/63 will be the focus of the presentation. We're happy to have these two renowned Mosby authors and friends come to start the 2023/1863 160th Anniversary speaker season. You don't want to miss these two outstanding speakers at the Centreville Library at 7 pm.

Don Hakenson was born in Washington, DC, but lived practically his entire life in Fairfax County, VA. He is a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran and retired from the federal government in 2008 after 37 years of service as a civilian with the Department of the Army. Don has spent countless years researching the Civil War in Fairfax and Fauquier counties, especially regarding Colonel John S. Mosby and his rangers. For over two decades, Don has conducted Mosby and Fairfax County Civil War bus tours for the Stuart/Mosby Historical Society, the Franconia Museum and other Civil War-related organizations inside and outside of Virginia. Don served as a History Commissioner for Lee District in Fairfax County for over five years.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, January 12, 2023

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

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Don Hakenson & Chuck Mauro

TOPIC:

"The Emergence of John S. Mosby and his Association with Miss Laura Ratcliffe"

Don is also a founder and member of the board of directors for the Franconia Museum and is a Civil War advisor for the Mosby Foundation in Warrenton, VA, as well as for the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe in Herndon, VA. Don was a member of the sesquicentennial committees for Fairfax City and Fairfax County. With many prior award-winning books on Civil War history, he has published four other books about Mosby and his men and co-authored the newly released "A Tour Guide and History of Col. John S. Mosby's Operations in Fauquier County, Virginia." Don had two great-grandfathers who served in the Confederate Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia. Don also had various ancestral cousins and uncles who served in Mosby's Rangers.

(cont on page 5)

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, BRCWRTTreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Debbie Whitenton, 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

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

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

Newsletter Team: Nadine Mironchuk, Saundra Cox, Janet Greentree, Mark Whitenton, 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 **February 2023 issue**, e-mail articles by **Monday, January 30th**, to the editor, Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **February 2023 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by **Monday, January 30th** to Don Richardson at: 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

January 12: Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson – "The Emergence of John S. Mosby and his Association with Miss Laura Ratcliffe"

February 9: Melissa Weeks - "Authorized Audacity: The Battle of Chancellorsville, Day 1, May 1, 1863"

March 9: Cody Eash - "The Lutheran Seminary in 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 2nd Winchester, June 1863"

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

August 10: Dan Vermilya - "The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863"

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

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The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year's Day (which had to be better than the Commanders' game on that day). The new year for the BRCWRT appears bright. I think that, despite the continuously morphing COVID, we are returning to normality. In fact, our December 8 General Membership meeting at the Centreville Library was attended live by a record (since early 2020) number of members = 52!

We had one of our favorite speakers, Dr. Chris Mackowski, give us a talk about the Battle of Fredericksburg. This was his fourth talk to the BRCWRT. A key takeaway was his fresh and engaging look at Gen. Burnside's plans for the battle, leading us to understand that Burnside was not as much of a moron as has been his reputation. Thanks to Mark Trbovich for landing Chris.

In addition, we served cake, thanks to Sandra Cox and her Refreshment Committee! At right, please see Chris receiving our traditional gift of the Farr's Crossroads Redoubt sketch (thank you Blake Myers and Drew Pallo). Having more robust attendance at our meetings is certainly appreciated by our speakers!



Another feature of the BRCWRT moving forward is the renewal of our field trips and local tours. Sam Laudenslager has completely rejuvenated the tour program by adding many more local, short "pop up" tours. The next offering is on March 18, a local walking tour of John Mosby's raid on Fairfax Court House led by Don Hakenson. See page 7 for details.

Also, Stephanie Vale, Chair of our Marketing Committee, is managing the BRCWRT's participation in the Prince William County Symposium "Historic Communities of Change" at the Old Manassas Court House on March 25. If you have time to help us sell used books for the Scholarship Fund and engage prospective members, please contact Stephanie at brcwrtmarketing@gmail.com.

At our General Membership meeting on Thursday, January 12, our Treasurer, Joe Young will present the 2023 BRCWRT Budget for your approval. He will also ask all members who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so. He will be personally contacting those members who have three-year memberships that have run out.

We are hoping to see you on Thursday to hear our fellow BRCWRT members Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson's talk on "The Emergence of John Mosby and his Association with Miss Laura Ratcliffe." Even without cake, wouldn't it be great if we could have more than 50 of our 310 members join together at the Centreville Library to help start this New Year right?

On behalf of the officers of the BRCWRT (VP Kim Brace, Treasurer Joe Young, Secretary Debbie Whitenton and myself), thank you for supporting our desire to serve as part of the leadership of this magnificent organization for another year. We all are looking forward to an increasing number of activities and opportunities for us to get together in person.





Bull Run Civil War Round Table Upcoming 2023 Program of Events

Date	Event
January 12	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson – “The Emergence of John S. Mosby and his Association with Miss Laura Ratcliffe”
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”
March 18	Spring Tour: Colonel John Singleton Mosby’s March 9, 1863 daring raid far inside Union lines near the Fairfax Courthouse - Led by Don Hakenson. See website for signup
March 25	Membership Drive/Book Sales – Prince William Symposium, Old Manassas Courthouse
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 Mingus – “The Battle of 2 nd 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 Speakers: Kevin Pawlak and Kate Bitely – “The Battle of Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863”
November 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: J. Nathan McDonald - “Battle of Droop Mountain, WV November 6, 1863
December 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Quarstein – “Into the Ring of Fire” Federal Admiral DuPont’s attack on Charleston SC 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.

January Speakers (from page 1)

Chuck Mauro is the author of and photographer for "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe", "The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers", "Herndon: A Town and Its History", and "Herndon: A History in Images". Chuck received the Nan Netherton Heritage Award for his historical research and writing of, and photography for "The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill), A Monumental Storm." Chuck has also co-written with Don "A Tour Guide and History of Col. John S. Mosby's Operations in Fairfax County, Virginia."

He is also the writer and co-producer of the independent film, "The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)," based on his book. In addition to the BRCWRT, Chuck is a member of the Civil War Trust, the National Center for Civil War Photography, the Louisiana Historical Association Memorial Hall Foundation, Inc., the Bull Run and Capitol Hill Civil War Round Tables, the Stuart - Mosby Society, the Friends of Fort Ward, Historic Centreville Society, Ltd., Historic Fairfax City Inc., and the Historical Society of Fairfax County. Chuck is a member and past president of the Herndon Historical Society and Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club. Chuck has won numerous prizes for his photography.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in Business Administration from Temple University. He is currently a manager at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and lives with his wife, Nancy, in Herndon, Virginia.

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

A Note from the Editor

It is a humbling experience to take the reins on an enterprise that has a long record of excellence. The BRCWRT can be justly proud of the *Stone Wall* that Nadine Mironchuk and her predecessors created. I am a firm believer in "ain't broke, don't fix" so you won't be seeing any drastic changes in the format of the newsletter.

However, I do want to invite you all to submit ideas for articles that YOU would like to see in the *Stone Wall*. This is YOUR newsletter. Whether it is something you would like to write yourself, or just a suggestion for me to research, all ideas are welcome. The only real requirement is that there be a nexus to the Civil War and that it be educational, not advocacy.

Specifically, I would like to do short features - perhaps only one page - about the people that you have in your family tree and their experiences in the war. I can lend research support if you don't know much about them. See page 10 for my example story.

My email address is on page 2. Contact me anytime!



Don Richardson, *Stone Wall* editor

Photo by Debbie Whitenton

It's time to re-enlist! Renew your BRCWRT membership TODAY!

Fall in for your company's parade at the Membership Meetings - rations may include cake!

Preview of 2023 Activities by Sam Laudenslager

The 2023 BRCWRT Field Trips calendar includes not only the traditional Spring Tour and Fall Tour, but also a schedule of MONTHLY carpool field trips or walking tours of local Civil War sites. The first "local walking tour" will be Saturday, March 18th, led by our January meeting speaker, Don Hakenson (see page 7 for details). Another "walking tour" will take place in July - more about that in the next issue of the *Stone Wall*.

The Field Trips/Tours committee (Sam Laudenslager, Jim Lewis, John Scully, Blake Myers, Gary Haskins) has prepared a slate of "road trip" carpool tours that tracks the 1863 Eastern Theatre campaigns, and which also complements subjects to be discussed by our BRCWRT monthly meeting speakers. For example, Melissa Weeks (February 9th) and Frank O'Reilly's (May 11th) meeting presentations cover the battle of Chancellorsville.

The May field trip "Prelude to Gettysburg I" (May 6th, led by Kevin Pawlak) will visit the engagements at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, that occurred in the interval between Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. The June tour "Prelude to Gettysburg II" (June 17th, in cooperation with the Friends of Brandy Station & Graffiti House) will visit Brandy Station, site of the largest cavalry battle during the Civil War.

BRCWRT monthly speakers Cody Eash (March 9th) and Jim Anderson (July 13th) will focus on aspects of the battle of Gettysburg. No field trip is planned for April, but Roundtable members may want to attend the opening of the new Adams County History Center and "Gettysburg: Beyond the Battle" museum on April 15th. Roundtable members are also welcome to make their own "walking tour" at the Blenheim historic site during "Fairfax Civil War Day" the following Saturday, April 22nd.

BRCWRT's field trips resume with a September "Postscript to Gettysburg I" visit to the Bristoe Station battlefield near Manassas, led by Roundtable members Bill Backus and Kevin Pawlak. This date will be announced later, pending the date to be set. The series of road trips devoted to the Eastern Theatre 1863 campaigns concludes (Oct. 21st) with a tour of the Payne's Farm battlefield and Mine Run campaign sites, led by Mike Block.

After an August "summer heat and humidity" pause, BRCWRT's field trips will resume in September with a "Postscript to Gettysburg I" visit to the Bristoe Station battlefield, near Manassas. This walking tour will be led by BRCWRT members Bill Backus and Kevin Pawlak. The September tour date will be announced once the date for the Roundtable annual picnic has been set. The series of four "Prelude/Postscript to Gettysburg" themed field trips winds up (Oct. 21st) with "Postscript to Gettysburg II" featuring Mine Run Campaign sites and the Payne's Farm battleground, guided by Mike Block.

The final 2023 tour (Nov. 4) will be a "train trip" on the Confederate Military Railroad, with Blake Myers (Engineer) and Jim Lewis (Conductor). However, we have been forewarned that Yankee cavalry patrols have been active along the rail line. So be ready to leave your rail car and hike between some stops.

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

Melinda Rice

**Mosby's March 1863 Raid at Fairfax Courthouse
(BRCWRT Walking Tour) +
Lunch @ The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub
Saturday, March 18**



Subject matter: Colonel John Singleton Mosby's daring raid far inside Union lines in the early morning hours of March 9, 1863

- 5 tour stops (incl. Dr. William Presley Gunnell's house, where Mosby captured Union BG Edwin Stoughton) + 1 optional stop

Tour Guide: Don Hakenson – Author / Renowned Mosby Authority

Assembly Time/Location: 10:00 AM / Truro Anglican Church parking lot (10520 Main St., Fairfax) – abuts North & Main Streets

Tour Start Time: 10:15 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM (The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub) – easy walking distance

- Individual tabs

Tour Duration: Approx. 1-1/2 Hrs.

Mode of Transportation: Walking around/near Historic Fairfax Courthouse

- The tour is targeted for less than 1/2 mile total walking

Uniform of the Day: Appropriate dress for local weather conditions, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a walking stick, as necessary

BRCWRT Contact: Jim Lewis – antietam1862@verizon.net / 703 620-2956

The tour is FREE! If interested in attending, please sign up via BRCWRT's website or at the February or March BRCWRT Membership meeting (and if you can't attend, as a courtesy, please cancel online or notify Field Trip Chair Sam Laudenslager).

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Facilitates Large Book Donation to BRCWRT

by Blake Myers

(Photos courtesy of Blake Myers)

On December 29, 2023, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), led by Virginia State Regent Laurie Parker Nesbitt and State Vice Regent Jennifer Kuhlmann Inskeep, donated one hundred eight (108) Civil War books to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT). The books, provided from the estate of Walt DeGroot through Walt's wife, Merle, and daughter Jill Burrer, and the NSDAR Falls Church Chapter, were transferred to BRCWRT at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. The books will be incorporated into BRCWRT's used book sales program that directly supports the Round Table's scholarship program. The personal connections behind this donation truly reflect that "it's a small world after all". Walt and Merle DeGroot were former co-workers of NSDAR Virginia State Room and Falls Church Chapter member Pat Wartell and BRCWRT member Mike Shannon; and Jill and Pat are close friends - all leading to the NSDAR Falls Church Chapter planning and coordinating the donation and BRCWRT accepting the donation. The donation itself and the donation event were organized, planned and coordinated by NSDAR Virginia State Room and Falls Church Chapter member Pat Wartell, working with the various NSDAR organizations and with BRCWRT's Mike Shannon and Blake Myers.

At mid-morning on December 29th donation event participants arrived at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park's staff building and battlefield research center (eventually to be the Park's Visitor Center), where they were welcomed by

Prince William County's Office of Historic Preservation's David Born and BRCWRT's Blake Myers. Following introductions and a quick tour of the facility by David, it was noted how appropriate it was that the DeGroot Civil War books donation was being conducted on the Bristoe Station Battlefield (October 14, 1863), one of the largest Civil War battles fought in Prince William County.



Virginia State Regent Laurie Nesbitt presents the Civil War Book Collection from Mr. DeGroot's Estate to the BRCWRT.

At approximately 11:00 am, Laurie Nesbitt began the donation event with remarks thanking the BRCWRT for hosting the NSDAR representatives, for accepting the Civil War books donation, and for helping achieve the three main goals of DAR – historical preservation, education, and promotion of patriotism. Laurie noted the cross-chapter commitment to these goals, recognizing the work on this donation by the NSDAR Falls Church and Fauquier County Chapters with Virginia State DAR and with the DAR ladies' husbands – all military and intelligence community veterans with a strong interest in history and

(cont on page 9)

NSDAR Facilitates Large Book Donation to BRCWRT (cont)

patriotism. This donation was the largest donation of books ever coordinated and conducted by the NSDAR Falls Church Chapter. Laurie also noted how this event was a good example of NSDAR's teaming with other lineage and historical organizations, such as the Round Table and the Bristoe Station Battlefield Research Center, and how they welcomed the opportunity to donate the books to the Round Table to support its programs and educational efforts.

BRCWRT's representative Blake Myers thanked Laurie and all the NSDAR representatives for the generous donation of the books, noting that through the Round Table's used book sales program, each book will find an appreciative and welcome home. He noted that the funds generated through their sale will directly support the Round Table's scholarship program, which annually awards a \$2,000.00 scholarship to a deserving high school senior from Northern Virginia who demonstrates a passion for American history and is selected through an essay competition on a Civil War-related topic. BRCWRT's Mike Shannon spoke next, thanking all involved for making

this event possible, and thanking Pat Wartell in particular for all her work in coordinating and planning the event and the NSDAR's participation, and for working with Blake and Dave to plan and conduct the donation event. In recognition of her work on the book donation and the donation event, Mike presented Pat with her own BRCWRT cap, which she proudly wears in the accompanying photographs.



Book Donation Collaborators: Falls Church Chapter Librarian Julie Stuff, BRCWRT's Blake Myers, Virginia State Vice Regent Jennifer Inskeep, Falls Church Chapter Regent Helen Stewart, Virginia State Room's Patricia Wartell, Virginia State Regent Laurie Nesbitt, Fauquier Court House Chapter Registrar Gail Watson, BRCWRT's Mike Shannon and PWC Office of Historic Preservation's David Born.



NSDAR Representatives and their husbands with the donated book collection.

The event ended with many more "thank yous" and exchanges of best wishes for a Happy New Year. This was a fun, interesting and rewarding morning spent with new friends and a few old friends, offering the BRCWRT the opportunity to recognize and to thank a like-minded organization focused on historical education and preservations for their generous donation. We will definitely work to strengthen these new friendships and hopefully see some of our new friends at Round Table events and meetings. Our sincere thanks to PWC's Kevin Pawlak and David Born for hosting us at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and making this event a reality.

Happy New Year, 1863

By Don Richardson

If you shake your family tree hard enough, interesting items fall out. A visit to Cornell University's Rare and Manuscript Collection produced a veritable shower of acorns – a huge trove of letters from Lt. George Knapp Collins to his wife, Kate, back in Syracuse NY. George was the first cousin and high school classmate of my great-great-grandmother, Josephine Hurlbut Richardson, who sent him the following letter early in January 1863.

The first page is undated, but it must have been Dec 28, 1862, because she mentions going to church and on Jan 4, 1863, she says "a week has gone by". "Mr. Strieby" is the Rev. Michael Strieby, the first pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Syracuse, serving from 1853 to 1864. The church was a stop on the Underground Railroad and took its name from the Brooklyn church of the same name pastored by Henry Ward Beecher. (If the last few sentences of the first paragraph sound a bit snarky to you – you're right. Josephine was quite a character.)

Dear Coz George,

It is a beautiful moonlight night and I have been thinking of you very often, today especially so, when I glanced above the mantle and beheld my warlike looking cousin George, sword in hand, "ready for the onset", etc. And I thought I would pen you a few passing thoughts, hoping they will interest you, if for no other reason than that they are some belonging to one that holds you in her estimation as one of the first on the list of favorite cousins. I have been to hear Mr. Strieby tonight with brother Charlie for an escort. His sermon was on the closing of the old year and the beginning of the new. He had a crowded house which will somewhat speak for the interest which his hearers experienced and your humble correspondent among the number. I really wish you could have heard it; he says "in giving account of our stewardship, at least three important things will be considered – wealth, talents and influence. We all have one or the other, some all", and then

gave instances where wealth had been placed in hands that had used it rightly in the cause of God and to bless mankind. But there, my husband says he thinks I had better take a visit to the land of Nod, so I suppose I had better do right what my Lord and Master commands. Ahem. Good night for the present.



My great-great-grandparents

Josephine continued her letter a week later, not knowing where George was. The 149th NY Volunteers were in winter quarters at Falmouth VA, across the river from Fredericksburg. They mustered in Syracuse a week after Antietam, were stationed at Bolivar Heights (Harper's Ferry) until early December, then spent a week marching to Fredericksburg. They were part of a reconnaissance in force to Rippon WV in November and an expedition to Winchester VA in December, during which they skirmished at Charlestown with two companies of the 12th VA Cavalry.

Sunday, Jan 4 1863

A week has passed since the commencement of this letter, who would have thought it! It is now Sunday again, so I can wish you a Happy New Year fervently and from my heart. I wonder where you are tonight. The wind is blowing quite a gale, and such warm weather for January I never saw. I don't know that you are such valient soldiers down there in the Old Dominion that by the force of your arms you have driven Old Virginia's warm or moderate winters [to] visiting the Empire State.

(cont on page 11)

Happy New Year, 1863 (cont)

I have just returned from church again tonight. Mr. Strieby preached on dancing, a sermon that I think was greatly needed. He thinks it leads to evil tendencies and therefore ought not to be indulged in. What think you of it? I wonder where you are tonight. If you ever go to Fredericksburg you must think of my living there in a two story brick house facing the river and when you see an island in the river covered with large trees that right opposite it is a frame house [where] I went to school to a Yankee school teacher. That if you see the Mary Washington [at] the wharf that I once took a ride on it down the Rappahannock to its mouth, up the Chesapeake and landed at Baltimore. And in fact I want you generally to look around and see if things look natural – now don't forget will you?

While the Levi Hurlbut family was firmly rooted in upstate New York, one of Josephine's brothers was born at Richmond. Levi was a merchant and apparently came south for an unknown period of time in search of business.

I suppose you are kept well posted in regard to home, so I hardly know what to write that will interest you. I am almost afraid I should not have attempted this letter at all if Aunt Mary hadn't said that George....

Part of the letter is unreadable because the photo I took was out of focus. "Spencer" is her husband, Spencer Dillis Richardson, my great-great-grandfather. "Chirography" is a 19th Century way of saying "handwriting".

... I hope you are enjoying better health and if you [did have] that is truly fortunate and will enable you to [withstand] much greater hardship than you would otherwise. Oh, how I pity the poor soldier, especially cold and windy nights with perhaps nothing to shelter him save God's blue canopy of heaven thickly studded with stars, useful perhaps to let the cold through – but George, do you think Spencer would have liked it if he had gone with you? Do you think he would have stood it – as the common expression is – if he had gone with you? For my part, I don't think the soldier's life is to be envied or his lot to be desired, for I believe in having enough to (at least) eat, drink, and to wear. But I must

close my letter. After saying that, I am not very proud of my chirography just now, for I have had a sore around on my finger, the first one of my right hand, and I have just begun to use it for the last two days and it bothers me considerable on whatever I attempt to do, but I know your goodness will excuse and overlook all imperfections. And so Cousin dearest, Good night, and God take care of you and bring you safely home again – is the wish of your

Cousin Joe

She added a postscript, not all of it legible, at an angle across the page:

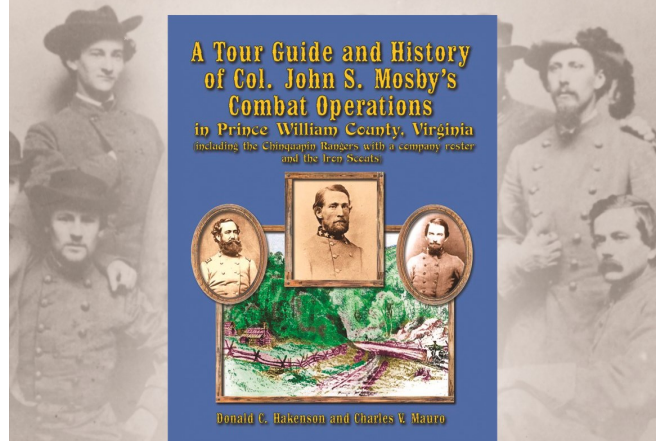
... use your bayonet and say "there's one thrust for me and there's one for Joe – be thou a dead man" J



George Collins went on to a career as a prominent lawyer and the author of numerous local histories and genealogies.

George Collins in later life

Civil War History In Northern Virginia



This book is the definitive study of Confederate guerilla warfare in Prince William County, Virginia, where the "Grey Ghost," Colonel John Singleton Mosby conducted some of his most famous raids during the Civil War. It includes a map and the history of all the locations associated with Colonel Mosby.

Please visit us for this and more books on Colonel John S. Mosby

hmshistory.com



Hanged! Mary Surratt and the Plot to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln by Sarah Miller (published in 2022) is an examination of the military tribunal's actions to convict Mary Surratt as a conspirator in the assassination of President Lincoln. Since the outcome of this trial is well known, this book goes into great detail about not only the trial but also the background leading up to the trial and some of its consequences. Enough information about her co-conspirators is given, both before and after the assassination, so that the story can be more completely told.

While many of the chapters deal with the actual trial, there is also a lot of information about how the evidence against Mary Surratt was obtained. Additionally, the notion that she was illegally tried before a military tribunal receives close scrutiny. According to a later legal opinion (too late for Mrs. Surratt), since the civil courts were functioning at the time, she should have been given "due process" and allowed to have her case tried there. It seems that she was given only a few days to both get representation and to have a defense prepared, while the government had months to get their case.

Furthermore, by virtue of her being tried by a military tribunal, she had most of her rights (4th, 5th, and 6th amendments) overridden. Although Andrew Johnson had the power to postpone the execution or even to override it, despite appeals to him to do so, he would not. It seems, to quote old cowboy movies, the notion was "We're going to give you a fair trial, and then take you and hang you."

While the book contains 342 pages, nearly 25% is devoted to bibliography and notes. Although the table of contents indicates 30 chapters, some are three or four pages long. The book is NOT a fast read, but it gives to this author an insight into the frenzy that was played out after the assassination, the government's desire to solve the crime as quickly as possible, and an overwhelming zeal to get the perpetrators punished.

The book, in hardback, is available for \$18.99 on the Barnes and Noble website. According to the website, it is not available at the B&N store in Manassas. I downloaded it on my Nook for \$11.99. The ISBN is 9780593181560 for the hardcover.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: After reading this book, I am more convinced than ever that Mary Surratt's hanging was a travesty. It appears to me that she was convicted more because some of the people who roomed at her rooming house were guilty. Guilt by association is justice denied.

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!



Prince William Historic Preservation Lecture Series:

Ages 10+ • Thursdays • 7–8:30 pm • FREE

Old Manassas Courthouse 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA

**Prince William County's
"Boy Major," Joseph Latimer**
Jan 26

Brentsville native Joseph Latimer was a 19-year-old artillery major when he received a mortal wound at the Battle of Gettysburg. Find out how this young man rose to prominence and rank during the Civil War from Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide William Griffith.

**The Preserve: Reconstructing
An African American
Neighborhood In The
Bull Run Mountains**
Feb 23

Historian and archaeologist Patrick O'Neill will share his research on local African American communities in the Bull Run Mountains.

**Rise Of A Region:
A Developmental History
Of Northern Virginia**
Mar 23

Learn how the built environment of Northern Virginia developed into the places we live, work, and entertain in today. Andrew Painter has researched and written articles examining the region's land development history.

**Mosby's War On The Orange &
Alexandria Railroad**
Apr 27

Mosby's Rangers constantly targeted the Orange & Alexandria Railroad during the Civil War and attempted to damage the Federal war effort. Historian Eric Buckland will share Mosby's attempts to disrupt the railroad and the measures taken to stop him.

Nazis On The Potomac
May 25

Historian and author Robert Sutton presents the first full account of the crucial work done at Fort Hunt, Virginia during World War II, where the highest-level German prisoners were interrogated, and captured documents analyzed.

PRINCE WILLIAM
Historic Preservation

For more information:
(703) 367-7872
www.pwcgov.org/history
HistoricPreservation@pwcgov.org

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BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The *Stone Wall*

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2023 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 and clicking on "Membership Application."

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ **STATE**_____ **ZIP**_____

PHONE_____ **EMAIL**_____