



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXX, Issue 3, MARCH 2023

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR CODIE EASH SPEAKS ON "THE LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, JULY 1863" AT THE MARCH 9th, 2023 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Lutheran Theological Seminary is on the west side of Gettysburg. It was founded in 1826 and is the oldest continuing Lutheran seminary in North America, with an enrollment of around 200 students. Its founder, Samuel Simon Schmucker, was a staunch abolitionist and supporter of the Underground Railway, hiding fugitive slaves in his home and barn. When the two armies headed to Gettysburg for their ultimate clash in July 1863, the seminary would be right in the midst of the greatest battle of the Civil War. We are happy to have a resident of Gettysburg come and tell us the rest of the story.

Codie Eash serves as Director of Education and Museum Operations at Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center in Gettysburg. Eash is a 2014 graduate of Shippensburg University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications/journalism and had a minor in history. In addition to museum tours and interpretation, he lectures for National Park Service sites, historical societies, Civil War round tables, educational groups and other organizations. He has published articles and essays in local newspapers, regional magazines and national history journals.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, March 9, 2023

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Codie Eash

TOPIC:

**"The Lutheran Seminary in the
Battle of Gettysburg,
July 1863"**

Eash is a founding contributor to the collaborative project *Pennsylvania in the Civil War*; writes book reviews for *Civil War Monitor*; and maintains the Facebook blog "Codie Eash – Writer and Historian," which primarily focusses on the Civil War era.



NEW! Social Hour from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Please come early to the Centreville Library to socialize with your fellow members, introduce yourself to our newest members, browse the used books, and enjoy cookies and other delights. The Membership Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, with the Speaker's presentation starting between 7:20 and 7:30. See you there!

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

Newsletter Team: Nadine Mironchuk, Sandra Cox, Janet Greentree, and Mark Whitenton.

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **April 2023 issue**, e-mail articles by **Monday, April 3rd**, to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **April 2023 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

and e-mail ads by **April 3rd** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 9: Codie Eash - "The Lutheran Seminary in the Battle of Gettysburg"

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"

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"

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The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

Photos: McCabe - Janet Greentree

DePue - Blake Myers

Myers & Carter - Debbie Whitenton

Thank you all for continuing to increase in-person attendance at our monthly General Membership meetings! We counted 57 members attending our February 9 meeting live and another 20-plus on

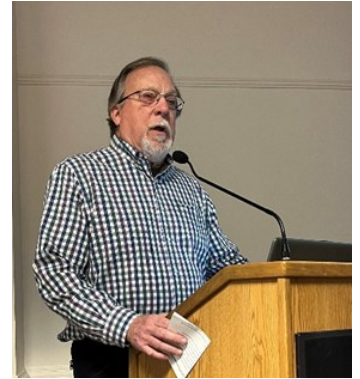
Zoom. That meeting featured Janet McCabe on the subject of "Removing Confederate Dead from Gettysburg." Among the many interesting facts that Janet shared with us was

that in 1871, Southern ladies memorial associations contracted with Rufus Weaver – the son of Samuel Weaver, who had supervised the collection and reburial of Union dead at the National Cemetery - to send Confederate dead back to Richmond. He ended up shipping the remains of 3,320 Confederate soldiers to the South, but was never fully paid.

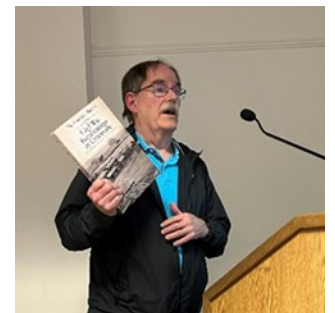
You should know that a quarter-century member of the Executive Committee, John DePue, has resigned in order to devote more time to his substantial preservation responsibilities as a member of the Prince William County Historical Commission. Fortunately, John will continue as a member of the BRCWRT and continue his passion for Civil War preservation with the Commission and other preservation activities. Please read the tribute to John and his superb service to the BRCWRT on page 13.



The Executive Committee has been working on ways to improve the way the organization provides quality experiences for all of us. The current focus has been on the recent suggestions of the Ad Hoc Committee to develop recommendations on how to improve in-person attendance at the monthly meetings. This Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Preservation Committee Chair Blake Myers and including ten-year president Mark Trbovich and new Scholarship Committee Chair John Carter, made an extensive number of recommendations that the Executive Committee is continuing to plan for additional implementations.



At last month's General Membership meeting, our record attendance (since early 2020) demonstrated that formally opening the doors earlier and providing modest refreshments allowed members more social time. Accordingly, the Executive Committee has decided to create a regular "social hour" before each monthly General Membership meeting. Starting this Thursday (March 9), the room at Centreville Library will be open starting at 6:00 pm. This Thursday, water and cookies will be provided and John Carter (right) will set up a display promoting his new book, *Civil War Fortifications at Centreville*. Come early for this social time to catch up with friends and take a closer look at his books and our display of used books.



(continued on page 7)

Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Upcoming 2023 Program of Events

Date	Event
March 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Codie Eash – “The Lutheran Seminary in the Battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863” - Social Hour from 6:00-7:00 (water and cookies provided)
March 18	Walking 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	PWC Symposium: Old Manassas Courthouse, 8:30-4:30 - BRCWRT Book Sales
April 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Steven Phan – “The Camp Nelson KY Story, Founded 1863”
May 6	May Field Trip: “Prelude to Gettysburg I” – Guided by Kevin Pawlak
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”
June 17	June Field Trip: “Prelude to Gettysburg II” – A visit to Brandy Station
July 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jim Anderson – “The Impact of Intelligence on the Gettysburg Campaign July 1863”
July 22	Civil War Hospital Weekend: Ben Lomond – BRCWRT book sales
August 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dan Vermilya – “The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863”
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”
To Be Announced	Sept. Walking Tour: “Postscript to Gettysburg I” – Led by Bill Backus & Kevin Pawlak
September 30	Ben Lomond History Day: Ben Lomond – BRCWRT book sales
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 II” – Guided by Mike Block
November 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: J. Nathan McDonald - “Battle of Droop Mountain WV, November 6, 1863”



Please greet our new members at the General Membership Meeting and find out what interests them about the Civil War!

Jerry Watson comes from a military background. His father Dale was an NCO technician in WW2 fine-tuning the cockpit sights of wing mounted machine guns, and would be recalled for the Korean War and ultimately served 23 years in USAF EOD. Three uncles on his mother's side of the family also served: Uncle Gust, a paratrooper who was captured after the Normandy invasion and incarcerated for 9 months in Stalag 7B; Uncle Jim, who was in ground support on Saipan and Tinian; and Uncle Roy, who was in the Navy on a survey ship mapping island beach approaches for amphibious landings.

Jerry has two Civil War relatives. His paternal grandmother is descended from Private Jasper H. Lawrence, who mustered into Company I, 35th Wisconsin Infantry in February 1864 and mustered out in Brownsville TX in March of 1866. He lived to be 87 years old. Ira B. Chase, a 26-year-old farmer, mustered in as a private in August 1861 with Battery A, 2nd Light Artillery (Illinois) and mustered out in July 1865. His pension file indicates he left the service as a Corporal.

Jerry graduated from Gonzaga University with a BA in Political Science. He began sport parachuting with the Spokane Sport Parachute Club early in his sophomore year. After being commissioned as a 2nd LT he served for 19 months in Vietnam as a platoon leader in the 4th Infantry Division and then as a company commander in the 101st Airborne. He returned in January 1972 to attend Special Forces qualification and other courses associated with unconventional warfare. After the Infantry Officers' Advance Course, he obtained an MA in international relations from the Munich campus of USC while serving in Bamberg, Germany. He still regards Fort Bragg (Liberty) as the center of the Army universe. He is proud of nearly 1500 Sport parachute jumps and 200 Army static line jumps. He had two battalion level commands: an Airborne battalion at Ft Bragg and a Ranger Training battalion in Dugway, UT, which was the desert phase of Ranger School. Jerry retired in 1999 as a Colonel, with his last assignment being the Army Chair at the USMC War College, Quantico.

After his military retirement, he spent over 12 years overseas as a contractor developing foreign military capabilities in the Balkans, Latvia, Afghanistan and Iraq. His last assignment was an attempt to introduce counter-corruption measures within the Afghan Ministry of Interior. He met his future wife Gail while at Camp Casey, Korea and they were married at Fort Bragg. They have 3 grown children and 2 grandkids. Gail is a registrar for the Fauquier Chapter of the DAR and volunteers at the local PWC animal shelter.

[New to BRCWRT? Our members would like to meet you! Please email the editor if you would like to be introduced in the Stone Wall.]

**Mosby's March 1863 Raid at Fairfax Courthouse
(BRCWRT Walking Tour) +
Lunch @ Ornery Beer Co. Public House
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 (Ornery Beer Co. Public House) – 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 ½ 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

Bull Run Civil War Round Table 2023 Scholarship

By John Carter

Once again we will be awarding a \$2,000 scholarship to a high school senior attending school in Fairfax or Prince William counties (or Fairfax City, Manassas, and Manassas Park). The scholarship committee will be reviewing applications and transcripts sent to us through the online application portal during late March and April, and we will select several students to be interviewed by ZOOM conference. The deadline to apply is April 3, 2023, and we hope to select the winner in time to present them with their scholarship at the Round Table meeting in June.

We look forward to working with this year’s applicants and getting to know more about them. Last year’s finalists were exceptional in both their academic achievements and their commitments to service in the community.

If you know of any students who would be good candidates, please contact them and have them go to the Round Table website and the link to the scholarship application.

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

Fall in for your company’s parade at the Membership Meetings - come early for the Social Hour , meet new members, and enjoy various treats!

The President’s Column (cont)

I am particularly excited that the Field Trip and Tour Committee, under the leadership of Sam Laudenslager, will be holding monthly tours from now through the summer! Please join us at our March 18 local tour of Mosby’s raid on Fairfax Court House (see page 6, and photos below). We will also work to have a 13th General Membership meeting this year on a weekend day so that more members can attend, particularly those who are often challenged to attend Thursday evening meetings at Centreville Library.



BG Edwin Stoughton (L), CO Sir Percy Wyndham (R)
(Library of Congress)

We will be sending out a survey to members soon to find out your preferences for BRCWRT activities. Stay tuned to your email and please fill out the questionnaire when it comes.

Finally, we hope that everyone can attend our General Membership meeting on March 9 in person and enjoy our new social hour to meet our speaker and have a chance to chat with colleagues about our common interests.

Looking forward to another General Membership meeting with great attendance!

Mark

“HISTORIC COMMUNITY OF CHANGE”

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL PRINCE WILLIAM/MANASSAS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 25, 2023

Old Manassas Courthouse, Manassas, VA

Prince William County has many different layers to its history, and many individuals have shaped the County's complex past. Their contributions have also made Prince William the diverse and inclusive community we enjoy today. Come learn about some of the early pioneers in County history and how we still see their impact on modern Prince William County at the Eighth Annual Prince William/Manassas History Symposium.

Topics Include:

- Parson Weems and his Washington Anecdotes
- Jim Robinson of Manassas
- George Carr Round
- Railroads of Prince William County
- The Community of Thoroughfare

\$10 for all day symposium (8:30-4:00) Spaces are limited, reservations required.

Release of the Fifth issue of the Journal of Prince William History, which will be on sale for the special one-day price of \$5.

Symposium will take place inside the Old Manassas Courthouse Building 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110

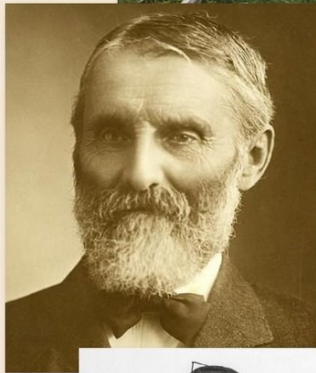
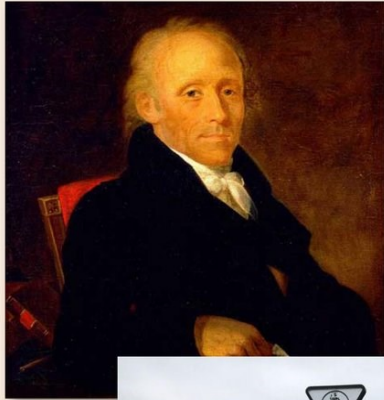
PRINCE WILLIAM
Historic Preservation



Co-sponsored by the Manassas Museum, Prince William County Historic Commission, and Historic Prince William. For more information contact 703-792-4754 or register at www.pwcv.gov/departments/historic-preservation/events

Connect with us on social media:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pwhistoric
- Twitter: @PWHPF
- Instagram: PWC History



The Sad End of Dixon S. Miles

By Don Richardson

One of the sadder stories to come out of the Civil War concerns the final days of a career soldier, Col. Dixon S. Miles, USA. Accused of being drunk during the First Battle of Bull Run, he was sidelined while a Court of Inquiry investigated the case. He was then left idle until March 1862, when he was given command of a brigade protecting the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, before being assigned as garrison commander at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. While in the process of surrendering Harper's Ferry to Stonewall Jackson in September 1862, he was mortally wounded by an exploding shell and died the next day.

Dixon Stansbury Miles was born in Baltimore in 1804. An 1824 graduate of West Point, he saw extensive service against the Seminoles in Florida, in the war with Mexico, and on the Southwestern frontier, as part of the 7th US Infantry. His personal courage was undoubted; he was breveted Major for his actions in the siege of Fort Brown, Texas, and breveted Lieutenant Colonel for his bravery at the battle of Monterrey. For the remainder of the war with Mexico, he commanded the garrison at Veracruz. His only combat command came when he led 1200 troops escorting 500 supply wagons to the Army near Mexico City; Mexican bandits ambushed the supply train, drove off more than half of the wagons, and forced Miles to call for 400 more troops and artillery to complete his mission. It was not a good omen for his future command assignments.

In September 1851, Miles, by now a Lieutenant Colonel, took command of the US 3rd Infantry in New Mexico, and had his first encounter with the officer who would eventually be his nemesis at

First Bull Run. Brevet Major Israel B. Richardson, an 1841 West Point graduate, had served with the 3rd Infantry since then in Florida, Mexico and in Texas and New Mexico. Though 11 years junior to Miles, he had far more combat leadership experience, having been in the thick of the fighting at every major Mexican War battle except Buena Vista. After leading his company in a bayonet charge up the hill of Cerro Gordo, he would be breveted twice for his bravery at Contreras and Chapultepec. With his leadership skills, it is no wonder that he chafed under the command of ineffective, erratic officers such as Dixon Miles.



Col. Dixon S. Miles, USA
(Library of Congress)

The incident at First Bull Run was presaged by other events of the 1850's. Jack Mason, Israel Richardson's biographer, documented that one officer of the 3rd resigned his commission shortly after Miles arrived, and another officer was arrested and dismissed from the service. Lieutenant William Averill described

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The Sad End of Dixon S. Miles

Miles as “a great talker who gave his vivid imagination a loose rein” but whose eccentricities required the steadying hand of his Adjutant, who had good relations with the rest of the officers. Mason also records the memories of a former subordinate of Miles, stating that at Fort Thorn, New Mexico, Miles was “so beastly drunk that he fell from his horse” and was placed under arrest by one of the company commanders and tried by court-martial, although he was acquitted on a technicality.

By the outbreak of the Civil War, Dixon Miles was a full colonel, having been given the command of the 2nd Infantry in 1859. Initially he commanded a brigade under Robert Patterson in the Shenandoah Valley, before coming east to assume command of the 5th Division under Irvin McDowell. After Blackburn’s Ford (July 18th), Israel Richardson’s brigade was temporarily reassigned from Daniel Tyler’s division to the one commanded by Dixon Miles, joining two brigades under Col. Louis Blenker and Col. Thomas Davies to form McDowell’s reserve and covering force on the Union left at Centreville. Richardson no doubt thought “this cannot turn out well”.



Col. Israel B.
Richardson, USA
(Library of Congress)

On July 21st, as fighting raged on the other side of Bull Run, Richardson was keeping an eye on a Confederate brigade under Jubal Early, which appeared to be preparing to attack across Blackburn’s Ford. Nearby, Col. Davies was coming under pressure from troops under David R. “Neighbor” Jones. The two colonels were coordinating to form a solid defensive line, but kept seeing their arrangements interfered with by Col. Miles, their commander. Miles sent orders to Richardson to retreat on Centreville, but did not inform Davies, who soon found himself alone and unsupported. Fortunately, Davies was able to disengage and join the retreat to Centreville.

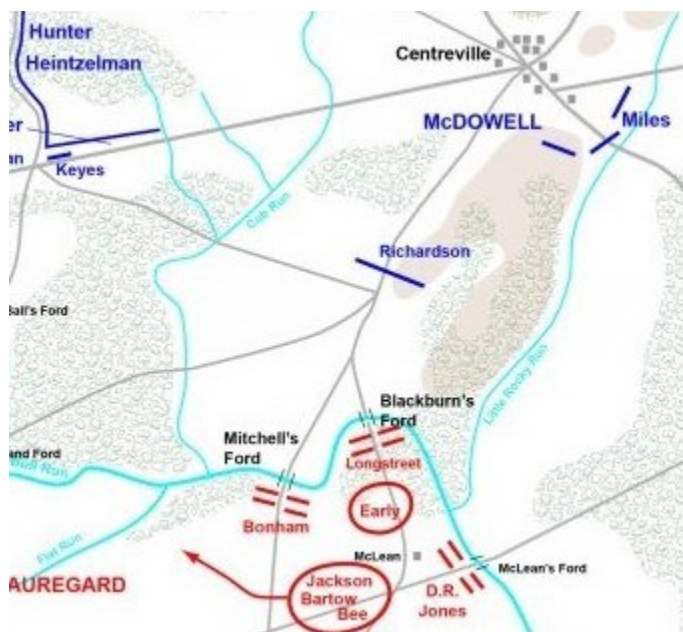
Reportedly, Dixon Miles was suffering from diarrhea that day, and had been prescribed small doses of brandy by the doctor. By the evening, though, it was obvious to all who encountered him that he and the doctor had different definitions for “small”. Richardson’s subordinates came to him to complain of Miles’ interference and stated “we have no confidence in Col. Miles”. When Richardson asked why, they replied “because Col. Miles is drunk!”.

One of Gen. McDowell’s staff officers, upon hearing what was going on, directed Richardson in McDowell’s name to take command of the troops on that portion of the field and dispose of them for defense. Miles rode up, swaying in the saddle, and challenged Richardson. When Richardson refused to accept orders, Miles threatened to put him in arrest. Richardson replied “Col. Miles, you can try that on if you have a mind to.” Miles backed down and rode away.

(cont on page 11)

The Sad End of Dixon S. Miles

Later that evening, McDowell rode up to Richardson to ask why he had not stayed in the defensive position originally designated. Richardson said "Col. Miles ordered us to retreat, and I obeyed my superior's orders." McDowell confirmed Richardson's command authority, indicating that he already knew about Miles being drunk and had removed him from command. Richardson's brigade covered the retreat of the Union Army that night, and was the last unit to leave the field.



Left wing (Union reserves), morning of July 21st 1861

Israel Richardson had a history of standing up to incompetent or overbearing superiors, so it is not surprising that when he submitted his official report of the day's actions four days after the battle, he explicitly accused Dixon Miles of being drunk and unfit for command during the battle. Miles immediately requested a Court of Inquiry to try to clear his name. Richardson represented himself, assisted by Lt. Col. Sylvester Larned, an officer in his brigade who was an attorney in Michigan before the

war. Miles had the services of Reverdy Johnson, a former Maryland Senator and US Attorney General who also was the lead counsel on the winning side of the Dred Scott case before the Supreme Court. The Inquiry heard from more than 50 witnesses during thirteen days of testimony spread out over two months. Witness testimony overwhelmingly supported Richardson; Miles tried to deflect the charges by suggesting that they were motivated by Richardson in retaliation for the bad relations between them in the Southwest before the Civil War. The verdict: "that Col. I. B. Richardson was justified in applying the term 'drunkenness' to Col. D. S. Miles' condition ... on the 21st of July last."

Richardson had written to his family that "I wish merely to prove my own report, and beyond that, have no wish to crowd Col. Miles." He was satisfied at the outcome of the case. In other times, the result would have led to a court-martial for Miles, but in the middle of a war the Army could not afford to tie up large numbers of officers for months for such an event, and did not want the spectacle of a high-ranking officer who came from a Border state being on trial, so for the good of the service, Miles was given a leave of absence and sent home to await orders. His career was effectively over; most of his peers would eventually achieve promotion to general rank, but he never did. He never drank again.

In March 1862, Miles was recalled to duty and given command of a brigade assigned to protect the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, a vital Union rail link between East and West theaters of war. He then took command of the Union garrison at Harper's Ferry. In September, with Stonewall Jackson moving to capture the vital

(cont on page 12)

The Sad End of Dixon S. Miles

point, Miles was ordered to defend the post at all costs. He failed to properly fortify Maryland Heights and other high ground, making it possible for Jackson to surround him completely and bombard him from on high. A relieving force was on the way, and had he held up Jackson for even a single day the result of the battle of Antietam would have been much different, but Miles surrendered his approximately 12,500 men on Sept 15th. As the white flag was being hoisted, one final Confederate shell exploded behind Miles, shredding his lower left leg. He died the next day. It was the largest surrender of US troops in history, until the Battle of Bataan in 1942.



Harper's Ferry in 1865

An after-action investigation by a military commission under MG David Hunter found plenty of blame to go around, but assigned the primary responsibility for the disaster to Dixon Miles, writing that "Col. Miles' incapacity, amounting to almost imbecility, lead to the shameful surrender of this important post." It was a sad end to a career that reflected devotion to duty and country, in spite of all his weaknesses. Dixon S. Miles is buried in Monkton MD.

Sources:

"Until Antietam: The Life and Letters of MG Israel B. Richardson", by Jack C. Mason, 2009, Southern Illinois University Press.

"Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry in the case of Col. D. S. Miles, 2nd Infantry", Executive Documents, Senate of the United States, Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress 1861-62, pp. 365-419.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Harpers_Ferry

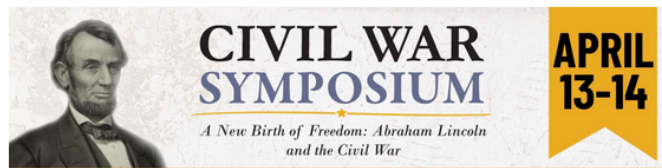


Mark Your Calendars: **A Civil War Experience You Won't Want to Miss!**

The National Museum of the United States Army will host "[Civil War Days](#)," April 13 – 15. During this special three-day event, visitors will have access to expert-led programs and hands-on experiences that will explore one of the most consequential military conflicts in America's history.

All events are **FREE** and open to the public, though some require advance registration. Many programs will be available virtually.

Schedule of Events



Thursday, April 13, 2023 | 7:00pm - 8:00pm

That the Nation Might Live: Lincoln and the Civil War, a panel discussion with speakers from historic sites and museums. Learn more and begin [free registration here](#).

Friday, April 14, 2023 | 9:00am - 4:00pm

Civil War Symposium: President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
[In-Person Registration](#) | [Virtual Registration](#)



Saturday, April 15, 2023 | 9:00am - 5:00pm

Civil War Living History and Hands-On Education Activities
Historical interpreters share stories about the Civil War Soldier experience and invite visitors to take a closer look at their uniforms, equipment and weapons. [Reserve free Museum tickets here](#).

Thank You For Your Service, John DePue

By Mark Whitenon

Many BRCWRT members who have been with the Roundtable a dozen years or less, like me, do not appreciate the full range of contributions John DePue has made to this organization since he joined in the mid-1990's.

Newer members have seen John chair the Nominating Committee every year and lead us through two rounds of amendments and updates to the BRCWRT's Bylaws. He also managed the legal paperwork necessary to qualify the BRCWRT as a 501c(3) charitable organization. However, his historic involvement and contributions have gone much further. I asked John to fill us all in on his work on behalf of the BRCWRT. He has provided the following:

"As best as I recall, I joined the BRCWRT in 1996, during John McAnaw's presidency [1997-98, 2001-02, and 2004-2008]. Due in part to our military backgrounds and love for the outdoors, we became fast friends and spent many great hours scouting out Civil War sites in Fairfax and Prince William Counties, planning field trips, and working on preservation issues.

"According to the 25th Anniversary preservation book, I served four terms as vice-president (2001, 2007-09), one term as Field Trip Chairman, and 16 terms as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. During that time, I led or co-led 12 tours. I was also heavily involved with John



McAnaw and other members of the Round Table in efforts

Crimean Oven
(heating duct), Wolf
Run Shoals
Photo by Blake Myers

to preserve the Bristoe Station Battlefield. This included efforts to locate battlefield graves, negotiating with developers and their attorneys, and testifying before the Prince William County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Such efforts by our members were instrumental in the preservation of 41 acres of what was then known as the "Reynolds Battery" site.

"In addition, while serving as an at-large member of the Roundtable, I drafted five revisions or amendments of the Roundtable by-laws, the last of which amounted to a major rewrite of the bylaws. As a member of the Prince William County Historical Commission, I continue to be heavily involved with the Roundtable in preservation efforts relating to the Bristoe Station and Manassas Battlefields.

"I can't find any picture of myself, alone in civilian attire. There is, however, a picture of me at page 29 of the Anniversary Book with my arm inside a cannon barrel during an explanation of rifling in a formerly smoothbore gun."



Demonstrating Rifling in Cannon, The Wilderness

Photo by Janet Greentree

(cont on page 14)

Thank You, John DePue

Mark Trbovich worked with John often during Mark's ten years as President of the BRCWRT. Mark provided the following praise:



John with President Mark Trbovich, 2014

"John DePue was an integral part of the BRCWRT Executive Committee for over 20 years, serving as an At Large Member to the Officer Level of Vice President. His law skills were highly utilized for many Exec Comm initiatives throughout those years. Projects such as a member of a team creating our 501c3 documentation in 2012 to revising our By-Laws various times successfully concluding in 2023. As the round table grew and enhanced its operations, processes and procedures during his elected terms, John was always an important counsel for so many projects the Executive Committee signed off on. His opinions were treasured and respected and certainly a big part helping the BRCWRT achieve the CWT Round Table of the Year Award in 2011. His love for Civil War Preservation has always been his passion, including working to preserve the Bristoe Station Battlefield, Centreville Historic District and parts of the Manassas Battlefield Park. John has always been keeping his eyes and ears on the many preservation efforts, especially in PWC, where he is now a member of the Historic Commission. His over 20 years of dedicated service to the BRCWRT will never be forgotten and remembered for his passion and desire to help our BRCWRT attain the heights it has now achieved. Thank you so much John and good luck in your future endeavors."

Charlie Balch, who worked with John for many years on the Executive Committee, noted that John did a lot behind the scenes, including the annual election of officers and Bylaws revisions, but also was instrumental in "tuning our communication to Fairfax governing people and organizations". Charlie also commented that, "Not only did he step up to these unexciting but necessary responsibilities, but his steadfast leadership produced solid, fact-based results for all of us. We could always count on John to provide well-reasoned, unbiased counsel on ground rules that underpinned the Round Table. John will be missed!"

Jim Lewis, who spent time with John on many tours, commented, "John was a pillar for many of us who joined BRCWRT over the years. He was a symbol of what was right with the organization and was not afraid to speak up when the situation warranted it. He will be sorely missed; hopefully he's aware his contribution will be long-lasting."



John DePue, center, with Jim Lewis, Touring Brandy Station
Photo by Janet Greentree

Fortunately for the BRCWRT, John will "continue to be heavily involved with the Roundtable in preservation efforts relating to the Bristoe Station and Manassas Battlefields." Good for us all that a great talent has not been lost, but merely re-focused. Thank you, John, for everything you have done for the BRCWRT and all that you will continue to do for the preservation of Civil War history.

New Museum Opens In Gettysburg

The Adams County Historical Society has scheduled the Grand Opening for its new "Gettysburg: Beyond The Battle" museum. A full week-end of self-guided museum tours, living history, music, children's activities and more is planned.

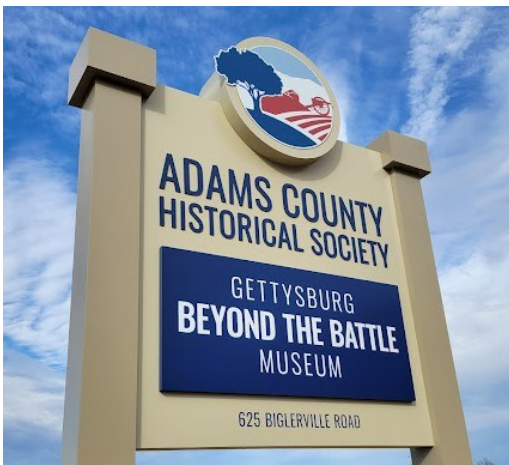
Guests include William A. Frassanito, Jeff Shaara, Garry Adelman, Sue Boardman and ACHS's own Timothy H. Smith.

Timed-entry tickets will be required to visit the museum, and it is recommended you reserve them in advance. The Saturday evening panel discussion will require a separate ticket. Tickets are available at:

www.achs-pa.org/visit/reserve-tickets.html

For further information:

info@achs-pa.org



GETTYSBURG

BEYOND THE BATTLE

MUSEUM

Grand
OPENING
Schedule

Saturday, April 15th

- 10:00 a.m.** Doors open and timed ticketing entry to the museum begins
- 10:15 a.m.** *The Making of Caught in the Crossfire* with Jeff Shaara
- 11:00 a.m.** Book Signing: Jeff Shaara
- 1:00 p.m.** *Ike at Gettysburg: A Conversation* with Susan Eisenhower
- 2:00 p.m.** Book Signing: Susan Eisenhower
- 3:00 p.m.** Book Signing: Tim Smith and Garry Adelman
- 4:00 p.m.** Ribbon Cutting: Special Exhibit Gallery - *The Frassanito Collection*
- 4:30 p.m.** *The Aftermath at Gettysburg* with Garry Adelman
- 5:00 p.m.** Book Signing: William A. Frassanito
- 7:00 p.m.** Panel Discussion: *Gettysburg - A Journey in Time* with William A. Frassanito, Garry Adelman, Sue Boardman, and Tim Smith
**Ticketed event*

Sunday, April 16th
Family Day

- 10:00 a.m.** Doors open and timed ticketing entry to the museum begins
- 10:30 a.m.** *Dinosaurs and Meteorites* with Phil Eberspacher
- 11:30 a.m.** *Hands-On History: Native American Artifacts* with Tim Smith
This program is made possible by Adams County Nursery
- 12:30 p.m.** *Adams County, USA Film Screening* with Jake Boritt
- 2:00 p.m.** *Gettysburg in 1776* with Jackie White
- 3:00 p.m.** *Children of the Battlefield* with Sue Boardman
- 4:00 p.m.** *Hands-On Activity: Gardening* with Hollabaugh Bros, Inc.

Virginia Cavalry Battles: Prelude to Gettysburg

(Upperville, Middleburg and Aldie)

BRCWRT Car Caravan tour

Saturday May 6



Subject Matter: As the Army of Northern Virginia moved north through the Shenandoah Valley (on its way to the Battle of Gettysburg), General J.E.B. Stuart was tasked with screening the march, while the Union cavalry tried to pierce the screen to determine Lee's plans.

Tour Guide: Kevin Pawlak, Historian and Expert on these battles and the war in the Virginia Piedmont.

Lunch: Hunter's Head in Middleburg. Individual tabs.

Transportation: We will carpool from Mt. Zion Church Historic Park. Some walking will be involved.

Time/Location: **8:30 AM** Meet at Mount Zion Church Historic Park (40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, VA 20105) to arrange car pools; **9:00** Tour the church; **9:30** Caravan departs from the church. Tour ends at approximately **3:15 PM** at Mt. Zion Church.

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

BRCWRT Contact: John Scully scullycivilwar@gmail.com 703-869-4036

The tour is FREE! If interested in attending, please sign up via the BRCWRT website or at the April General Membership meeting.



Decisions at Fredericksburg by Chris Mackowski is an in-depth study of decisions made on both sides at the battle of Fredericksburg. For those who were at the BRCWRT meeting and heard Chris speak, this is the book that he used as a basis for his talk. For those who were not at the meeting, this is an analysis of who made each decision and how that decision played out in the conflict.

Although there are only 5 chapters, each of them is packed with detail about the events and the decisions that they include:

Abraham Lincoln Replaces McClellan
 Ambrose Burnside Moves to Fredericksburg
 Robert E. Lee Defends Fredericksburg
 Burnside Crosses at Fredericksburg
 Lee Lets the Federal Army Commit to its Plan
 Barksdale Contests the Federal Crossing
 Burnside Delays his Crossing Until December 13
 William Franklin Attacks Without Clarifying Orders
 John Pelham Harasses the Union Left Flank
 Jubal Early Marches to the Sound of the Guns
 John Reynolds Directs His Artillery
 Franklin Calls Off Attack Without Telling Burnside
 Burnside Does Not Renew the Attack
 Lee Does Not Launch a Counteroffensive

Having discussed the decisions, the options, and the results of each of these decisions, the book provides an overall conclusion. That, however, is not the end – Appendix 1 is a driving tour of the Fredericksburg battlefield beginning at Rectortown and Warrenton for the McClellan incidents, but more closely at Chatham for the battle, per se. Appendix II is the Union Order of Battle; Appendix III is the Confederate Order of Battle;

then, as in all good history books, the pages of footnotes/endnotes and an extensive index.

Let one think it is all writing, the book is profusely illustrated with photographs of the major cast of characters as well as excellent maps by Edward Alexander. The book is, in the opinion of this reviewer, an easy read, but do not confuse that with a fast read. The level of detail is amazing, possibly too deep for someone not familiar with the battle of Fredericksburg, but excellent for one who wishes to know more about what was most likely going on in the minds of those who made these decisions.

Editor's confession: from the first time I heard Chris speak when we were having book talks at the Manassas Museum, I have been a fan. He tells the story not as a dry lecture but almost as entertainment. Those who have been privileged to hear him speak can attest to this.

The book was published by the University of Tennessee Press and is part of the Command Decisions in the American Civil War series. The ISBN is 978-1-62190-700-8 if you want to look it up. It is available through Barnes & Noble for \$29.95. You may be able to find it elsewhere.



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

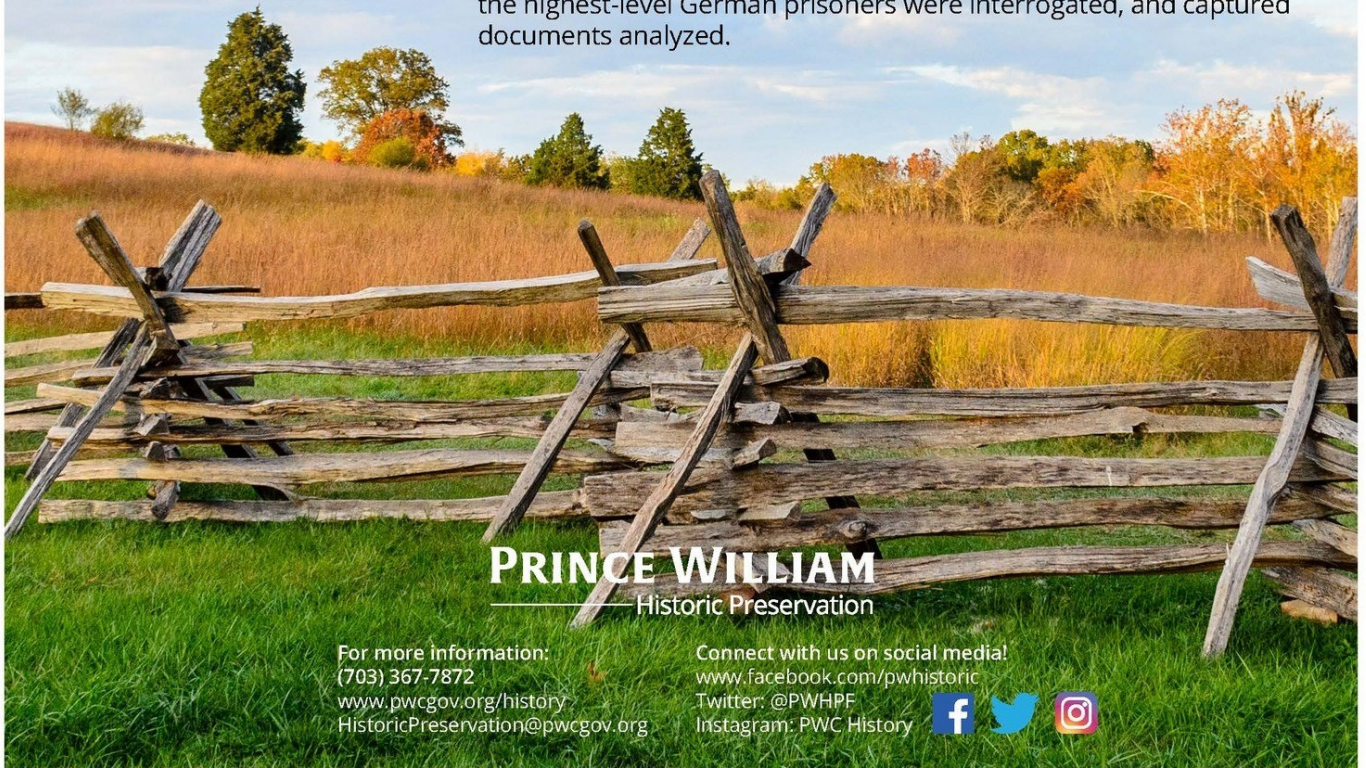
Learn how the built environment of Northern Virginia developed into the places we live, work, and entertain in today. Andrew Painter has researched and written articles examining the region's land development history.

**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.pwcv.gov/history
HistoricPreservation@pwcv.gov

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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)_____

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? _____