



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXX, Issue 11, NOVEMBER 2023

HISTORIAN AND HISTORIC SITE INTERPRETER NATHAN MCDONALD SPEAKS ON "THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN, NOVEMBER 1863" AT THE NOV. 9th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Droop Mountain, located three miles south of Hillsboro in Pocahontas County, was the site of one of the most important Civil War battles in West Virginia, as well as the last large-scale engagement fought on West Virginia soil. The battle was fought on November 6, 1863 by Federal forces led by General William W. Averell and Confederate forces under General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. A decisive Federal victory ended Confederate efforts to control the new state. For the rest of the story, we are happy to have a local historian and PWCHPD staff member visit us in the 160th Anniversary month of the battle.

Nathan McDonald is a Historic Interpreter for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation. He is from the Shenandoah Valley, where he grew up surrounded by Civil War history. Graduating from Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 2013, he worked for West Virginia State Parks and the National Park Service from 2011 to 2016. In 2017 he came to Prince William County as a historic interpreter, at Rippon Lodge and later Brentsville Courthouse.

Come join us early at our November Membership Meeting to chat with Nathan and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, November 9, 2023

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:
Nathan McDonald**

**TOPIC:
"The Battle of Droop Mountain
WV, November 1863"**

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Fall field trip, to the Auburn and Bristoe Station battlegrounds, originally scheduled for Sept. 23rd, was drenched out by torrential rains. Then, the commemoration on Oct. 14th of the 160th Anniversary of the Bristoe fight was dampened by rain, forcing cancellation of the traditional Luminary display.

However, there is one more opportunity for us to enjoy a special guided visit to Bristoe Battlefield heritage sites - Saturday, November 11th, AND the tour is FREE! Our Guide will be BRCWRT member Bill Backus, a Preservationist with the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation, and author of "A Want of Vigilance: The Bristoe Station Campaign" (part of the "Emerging Civil War" series). And it will not rain, because the "Third Time is ALWAYS the charm". For additional details see the flyer on page 20.

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

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

November 19 Special Meeting - "The Healing: Conversations of Civil War Nurses" (see flyer on page 21 for more information)

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

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

February 8 Kevin Pawlak - "The Emancipation Proclamation"

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

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
Notice of Officer Elections	Page 4
Welcome New Members!	Page 4
BRCWRT Calendar of Events	Page 5
Mine Run After Action Report	Page 6
Bristoe Station Caravan Tour	Page 20
Special Meeting: The Healing Civil War Nurses	Page 21
Preservation Corner	Page 22
Gettysburg Turns 30!	Page 26
Ms. Rebelle	Page 27
Medal of Honor at Bristoe Station	Page 34
Image of the Month	Page 37



The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

With fall finally here, it is time to think about end-of-the-year charitable contributions. Remember that the BRCWRT is a 501(c)(3) entity, so your gifts to the Round Table are tax deductible. During the past two months, we have sold nine framed prints that were donated to us for \$975. The money is earmarked for the Preservation Fund for preservation activity spending. We have a number of prints remaining, one of which I'll bring to each future General Membership meeting. We also have a total of just under \$1,500 banked for the 2024 Scholarship, which requires \$2,000. Please consider a donation to the Scholarship Program by writing a check to the BRCWRT and giving it to our Treasurer, Joe Young, or making the donation by credit card using the "Donate" button on our website. If you use your phone to scan the QR Code on page 4, you will jump immediately to our "Donate" site.

October was a good month for our Round Table, including the fact that we are up to 327 members! We started the month with our October 12 General Membership meeting featuring two BRCWRT members, Kevin Pawlak and Kate Bitely. They gave us an entertaining presentation

on the maneuvering during the days before A.P. Hill's fateful encounter with the "tail end" of Meade's army heading back to Centreville. If you missed your chance at the meeting, look for one of Kevin's several books at Bristoe or Ben Lomond.

Kevin Pawlak's 160th Bristoe Station 1863 event on Friday evening (October 13) was dry and well-attended. Despite the intermittent rain on Saturday, there were over 100 attendees, including BRCWRT stalwarts Stephanie Vale and Blake Myers, who set up the BRCWRT table with Debbie and Mark Whitenton helping later in the day. See photo below of Stephanie Vale (Chair of the Marketing Committee) and Debbie Whitenton (Secretary), with Dan Lundeen, Anthony Trusso and Kate Bitely (slumped in the chair) in the background.



Photo by Blake Myers



Photo by Debbie Whitenton

As part of our efforts to provide more frequent tours, please see the After-Action Report on Blake Myers' tour on October 21 of "The Mine Run Campaign", featuring our own Mike Block as the tour guide, on page 6. Our next tour is on November 11, "Postscript to Gettysburg: The Bristoe Station Campaign". This tour, which was rescheduled from September 23 due to heavy rain, will be guided by Bill Backus. See the notice on page 20.

(cont on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

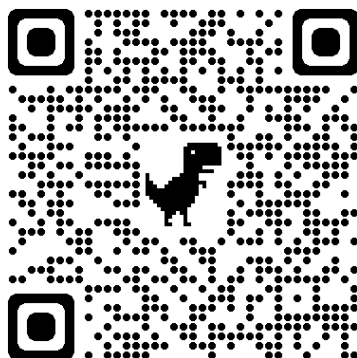
Also, please mark your calendars for our **13th** “monthly” General Membership meeting on November 19! See the flyer on page 21. This is a gathering that is especially oriented to those members who like the comradery of our Round Table, but simply can’t make it to a Thursday evening meeting in Centreville.

Although John DePue has retired from the ExCom, he is conducting this year’s election of officers from Zoom during our General Membership meetings. This November 9, he will ask for final applications for the four BRCWRT officer positions. See John’s announcement on this page.



Photo by Debbie Whitenton

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



NOTICE OF ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Under our Bylaws, our President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected for one-year terms commencing on January 1st each year and terminating at the end of December. During our October General Membership meeting, nominations for these positions were opened. Nominations will be closed and the names of the members running for office will be announced during our November General Membership meeting. The officer election will then be conducted during our December General Membership meeting. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for one of these offices or to nominate another member in good standing with his or her consent.

If you are interested in throwing your hat in the ring or in nominating another member for one of these offices, but did not do so during our October General Membership meeting, you can express your interest in running for office or in nominating another member by notifying John at jfdepue@comcast.net or by telephone ((703) 994-9023) prior to the closure of nominations.

Respectfully,

John F. De Pue

Nominating Committee Chair

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Welcomes New Members

Bill Bilard

John Butler

Jim Gilbert

William Willard

Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Upcoming 2023-2024 Program of Events

Date	Event
November 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: J. Nathan McDonald - “Battle of Droop Mountain WV, November 6, 1863”
November 11	November Field Trip: “Postscript to Gettysburg: The Bristoe Station Campaign” – Guided by Bill Backus (rescheduled from Sept 23)
November 19	Special BRCWRT Meeting: “The Healing: Conversations of Civil War Nurses” Location: Brentsville Courthouse Historic Center, 12229 Bristow Rd, at 2:00 PM
December 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Quarstein - “Into The Ring of Fire, Federal Admiral DuPont’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 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”
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 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Sarah Bierle - “What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864”

Monthly Meetings in “Black” **Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in “Red”** County or outside sponsored events in “Green”

AFTER ACTION REPORT - BRCWRT'S MINE RUN TOUR

"Mine Run - The Great Battle Never Fought"

By Blake Myers

(Photos by Blake Myers unless otherwise indicated)

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, eight intrepid and hardy BRCWRT members joined Tour Guide Mike Block on a car caravan tour of sites associated with the November 26 – December 1, 1863, Mine Run Campaign. This campaign was the last in a series of campaigns in the Fall of 1863, following the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, that Mike Block refers to as the *Campaigns of Lost Opportunities*, and culminated in a 'stand-off' along Mine Run south of the Rapidan River. On a clear and sunny morning Round Table Members Alan Day, Andrew Monahan, Blake Myers, James Dean, Cliff Wheeler, Mike Buckley, Don Richardson, and Jerry Watson joined Mike Block on this interesting and informative tour to learn about and better understand the actions, in-actions, decisions, and events that define this 'campaign of lost opportunities' and 'the great battle never fought'.

Our first tour stop was at the Historic Germanna Visitor Center (VA Rt 3/ Germanna Highway). Mike provided an overview of the strategic and operational situation with respect to Major General Meade's Army of the Potomac and General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in late November 1863, and the operational considerations and plans of both Army Commanders. The stop included a short walk to the vicinity of Germanna Ford on the Rapidan River and a discussion of General Meade's plan for crossing his Army over the Rapidan River and the unanticipated events that impacted that plan.



Mike Block providing strategic overview at the Historic Germanna Visitor Center Wayside

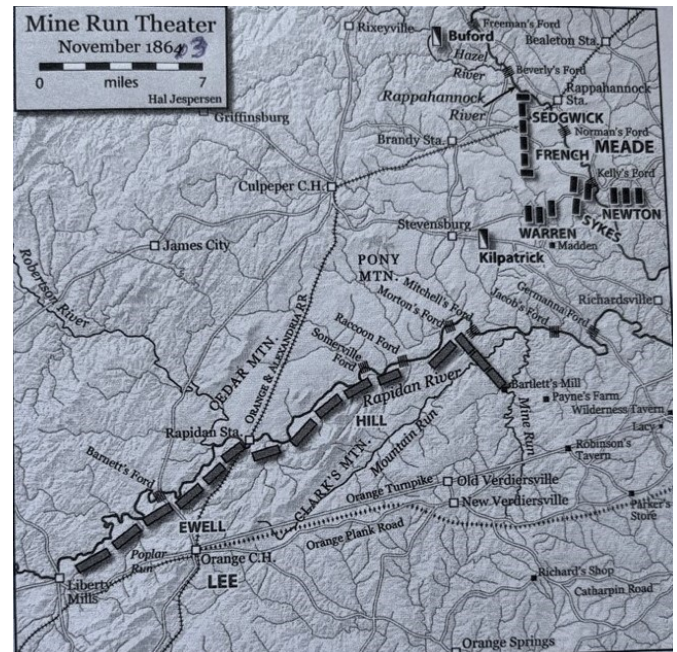
Mike described the actions of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia in the Fall of 1863, following the Battle of Gettysburg, as the "*Campaigns of Lost Opportunities*". From operations near Culpeper Courthouse in September, through the Bristoe Campaign (October 9-15), Rappahannock Station (November 7) and the Mine Run Campaign (November 26-December 1), Generals Meade and Lee continually sought a decisive military victory over the opposing Army. Although both

(cont on page 7)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

armies achieved some tactical victories – the Battles of Auburn, Bristoe Station, Buckland Mills, and Rappahannock Station / Kelly's Ford - the operational and strategic results were inconclusive. By mid-November the Armies were in generally the same positions they occupied in September; the Army of the Potomac near Culpeper Court House along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and the Army of Northern Virginia entrenched along the south bank of the Rapidan River, north of Orange Court House (see map).

General Meade remained under pressure from President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton to stay on the offensive and decisively defeat Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, while also protecting Washington City. Meade also had to protect the Orange and Alexandria Railroad – the supply line for his Army that was then under continuous threat from Colonel John S. Mosby and his 43rd Virginia Battalion of Cavalry (Rangers). The Army's 11th and 12th Corps had been transferred to the Western Theater, leaving the Army of the Potomac with an operational strength of approximately 60,000 soldiers.



Positions of the Armies - Mid-November 1863

General Lee expected Meade to continue his Army's advance south along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and thus arranged his defensive line accordingly – strongly entrenched along the Rapidan River from Liberty Mills to Mitchell's Ford. The transfer of General Longstreet and his Corps to the Western Theater and casualties suffered during recent battles left the Army of Northern Virginia with an operational strength of approximately 44,000 soldiers. Given his Army's reduced strength and the operational situation, Lee adopted an active defense strategy, protecting the Orange and Alexandria Railroad from Culpeper to Gordonsville while attempting to draw the Army of the Potomac into an attack against his smaller, but well-entrenched Army.

Having learned from General George Custer's cavalry reports that Lee's forces were well entrenched along the Rapidan from Liberty Mills to Raccoon, Morton's and Mitchell's Fords, Meade pondered the best way to attack the Confederate forces. Upon learning that Jacobs', Germanna and Culpeper Mine Fords were practically unguarded, Meade formulated a plan to quickly cross the Rapidan at those fords and advance to the Orange Turnpike and Orange Plank Road, which led to Lee's rear. According to Meade's Chief of Staff, Major General Andrew Humphreys, "success of this plan depended on 'prompt, vigorous action and intelligent compliance' on the part of Meade's subordinate commanders and their officers.

(cont on page 8)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

From the Visitor Center's Wayside, we walked to the vicinity of Germanna Ford, located just beyond the west-bound bridge of today's VA Rt 3/Germanna Highway.

Germanna Ford itself is now physically inaccessible due to the changes in ford access roads, non-use of the ford and the encroachment of Mother Nature's vegetation. See the photographs below for "then" and "now" views of historic Germanna Ford.

Mike explained, incorporating numerous first-person accounts and recollections, Meade's plan to cross the Rapidan River and get his Army around Lee's right flank and into the rear of Lee's Army. Meade's plan (see map, next page) was to cross Major General George Sykes' 5th Corps and Major General John Newton's 1st Corps at Culpeper Mine Ford and move via the Orange Plank Road to vicinity of Parker's Store, to cross Major General Gouverneur Warren's 2nd Corps at Germanna Ford and move along the Orange Turnpike to Robinson's Tavern (at Locust Grove) where it would link up with Major General William French's 3rd Corps, followed by Major General John Sedgwick's 6th Corps, that were to cross at Jacobs' Ford and take the left fork at the crossroads at the Widow Morris farm and link up with the 2nd Corps at Robinson's Tavern. Once 'reunited', Meade planned to move his Army into Lee's rear, forcing Lee to retreat from his entrenchments along the Rapidan River, thereby providing favorable opportunities for attacking a retreating Army of Northern Virginia.



View of the Rapidan River near historic Germanna Ford (just beyond the far Route 3 bridge lane)



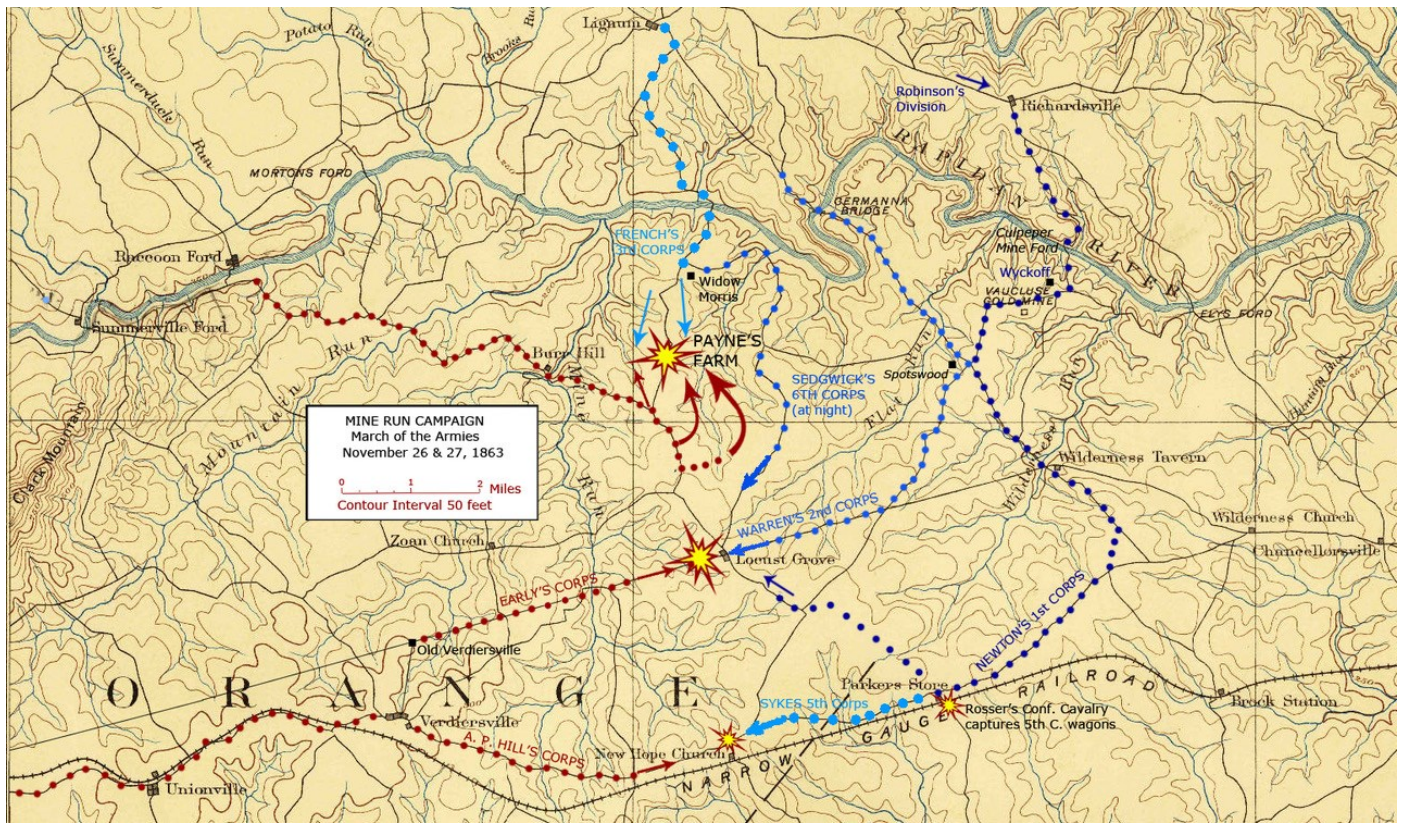
The Army of the Potomac crossing Germanna Ford
May 4, 1864 (Timothy O'Sullivan, LOC)

Modern view of Germanna Ford
from VA Rt 3 bridge



(cont on page 9)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



Mine Run Campaign – March of the Armies

General Meade planned to begin movement to the Rapidan fords on November 24th, but heavy rains (a "Nor'easter") caused him to delay the Army's movement for 48 hours. Meanwhile General Lee had learned through his scouts of a planned Army of the Potomac movement. Lee did not know Meade's plan or intent, but he knew the Federal Army was about to move, and he prepared accordingly – readying his forces and implementing increased cavalry patrols to monitor the federal forces. After two days of cold and rainy weather, Meade decided to launch his Army's movement on November 26th – a clear, but cold and damp day.



The steep banks at Jacobs' Ford – the north bank (L) and the south bank (R)

(cont on page 10)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

The previous days' heavy rains had turned the roads muddy, made the steep access roads to Jacobs' and Culpeper Mine Fords virtually unusable by artillery and wagons, and significantly increased the Rapidan's depth.

The impacts were significant – muddy roads slowed the Army's advance to the fords and beyond, the Engineers had an insufficient number of pontoon bridges to cross the swollen river at Jacobs' and Germanna Fords, and artillery units and supply wagons were forced to cross at Germanna Ford, greatly increasing the time required to get to the fords and to get across them. Meade's plan for simultaneous crossings did not work - it took more than 7 hours for the Army to cross the Rapidan River, completing the crossings at approximately 4:00 PM on the 26th. At sunset, the Army halted far short of its intended destination and bivouacked for the night.

Confederate Cavalry had detected the Federal Army's movement, and Lee was shifting units from positions along the Rapidan River eastward along Raccoon Ford Road, the Orange Turnpike and the Orange Plank Road to block Meade's flanking maneuver. Bad weather and alert Confederate reactions had thwarted Meade's plan for surprise. Poor decisions and actions by his 3rd Corps Commander, General French, would further hinder execution of Meade's plan.



Battle of Payne's Farm - November 27, 1863

Our next stop was at the Payne's Farm Battlefield on Rt 611 (Zoar Road) - the only 'battle' fought during the Mine Run Campaign, and the 620 acres of battlefield land saved by the Civil War Trust (now the American Battlefield Trust) in the early 2000s. The Battle of Payne's Farm Trail and the CWT/ABT interpretive markers aid in understanding the why and how of the battle fought here on the late afternoon of November 27th.

Again, using primary sources and first-person accounts, Mike led the discussion of the Armies' movements and actions. Daybreak on November 27th found both sides moving toward each other (see Campaign Map, above) – skirmishing began at approximately 11:00 AM near Robinson's Tavern, between Major General Robert Rodes' Division of Major General Jubal Early's 2nd Corps and lead elements of General Warren's 2nd (Federal) Corps and continued throughout the day as both sides awaited the arrival of reinforcements. Three miles to the south, Brigadier General David Gregg's Federal cavalry clashed with Major General J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry near New Hope Church on the Orange Plank Road. Both sides fought a holding action until about 2:30 PM when Major General Henry Heth's Confederate Division occupied the key high ground west of the church. A short time later lead elements of Sykes' 5th (Federal) Corps arrived and pushed Heth's Division off the hill, occupying it themselves. Meade ordered Sykes to hold his position until the entire Army was ready to attack.

(cont on page 11)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

To the north French's 3rd Corps advanced slowly from Jacobs' Ford to the cross-roads at the Widow Morris farm. The right fork (Jacobs' Ford Road) led directly to Robinson's Tavern after merging with Raccoon Ford Road. The left fork also led to the Tavern, but by a much longer route. French stopped to conduct reconnaissance and determine which fork to take and sent a messenger to General Meade requesting instructions, losing valuable time. Ultimately deciding to proceed on the right fork (despite Meade's plan and written orders), French sent his Corps forward along Jacobs' Ford Road (today's Indiantown Road). At about 4:00 PM the 3rd Corps' lead division, commanded by Brigadier General Henry Prince, collided with Confederate forces at the intersection of Raccoon Ford Road (today's Zoar Road) and Jacobs' Ford Road. This Confederate unit was the trail Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General George 'Maryland' Stuart, of Major General Edward (Allegheny) Johnson's Division, moving down Raccoon Ford Road to link up with Rodes' Division near Robinson's Tavern. General Johnson heard the firing resulting from this collision and rode back to investigate. He instructed General Stuart to hold the road intersection 'at all costs', and then rode back to "about face" his division and return to engage the Federal force encountered at the road intersection.

Steuart's defense at the intersection was anchored on the 37th Virginia Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Titus Williams. General Prince's lead Brigade was Colonel William Brewster's NY Excelsior Brigade (General Dan Sickles' former Brigade). The Excelsior Brigade's initial charge was repulsed by the 37th Virginia. Subsequently the 37th Virginia pulled back along Raccoon Ford (Zoar) Road, but the Excelsior Brigade did not pursue.

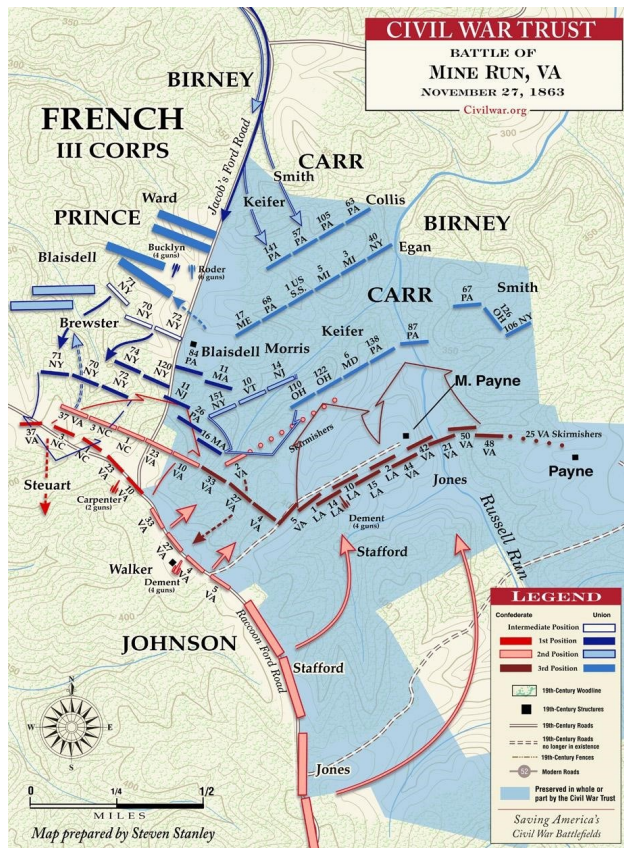


Tour Group at the Zoar (Raccoon Ford) Road and Indiantown (Jacobs Ford) Road intersection – Discussing the clash between Prince's and Johnson's Divisions and Maryland Steuart's 'holding of the intersection'

(cont on page 12)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

Unaware that he faced an entire Federal corps, the aggressive Johnson attacked with his 5,300 veterans. General Steuart held the intersection as General Johnson led



his three remaining brigades (Walker's, Stafford's and Jones' Brigades) back to the scene of the action. By that time Brewster's Brigade had been reinforced by Blaisdell's Brigade of Prince's Division, and Brigadier General Joseph Carr's Division (Morris', Keifer's and Smith's Brigades) had extended Prince's line eastward, establishing defensive positions on the high ground east of Jacobs' Ford Road and on the Payne farm. Major General David Birney's Division (Collis' and Egan's Brigades) was in reserve (see Battle Map, below). General Johnson reinforced and extended Steuart's line with Walker's Brigade. He subsequently deployed Stafford's and Jones' Brigades on a 'wheel' attack against Federal forces on the high ground on the Payne farm, coupled with a supporting attack by Steuart's and Walker's Brigades to 'squeeze' and defeat the Federal forces in their defensive position.

This battle, the heaviest fighting of the Campaign, consisted of significant artillery firing and troops charging and countercharging one

CWT (now ABT) Battle of Payne's Farm map
(disregard the title 'Battle of Mine Run, VA')

another, with heavy fighting and sharp exchanges of musketry fire across the Payne farm fields and through the adjacent woods. The Battle of Payne's Farm lasted about 2 1/2 hours, resulting in 943 Federal casualties and 545 Confederate casualties. Significantly this action by Johnson's Division halted the Federal 3rd Corps advance and thereby protected General Rodes' left flank at Robinson's Tavern.

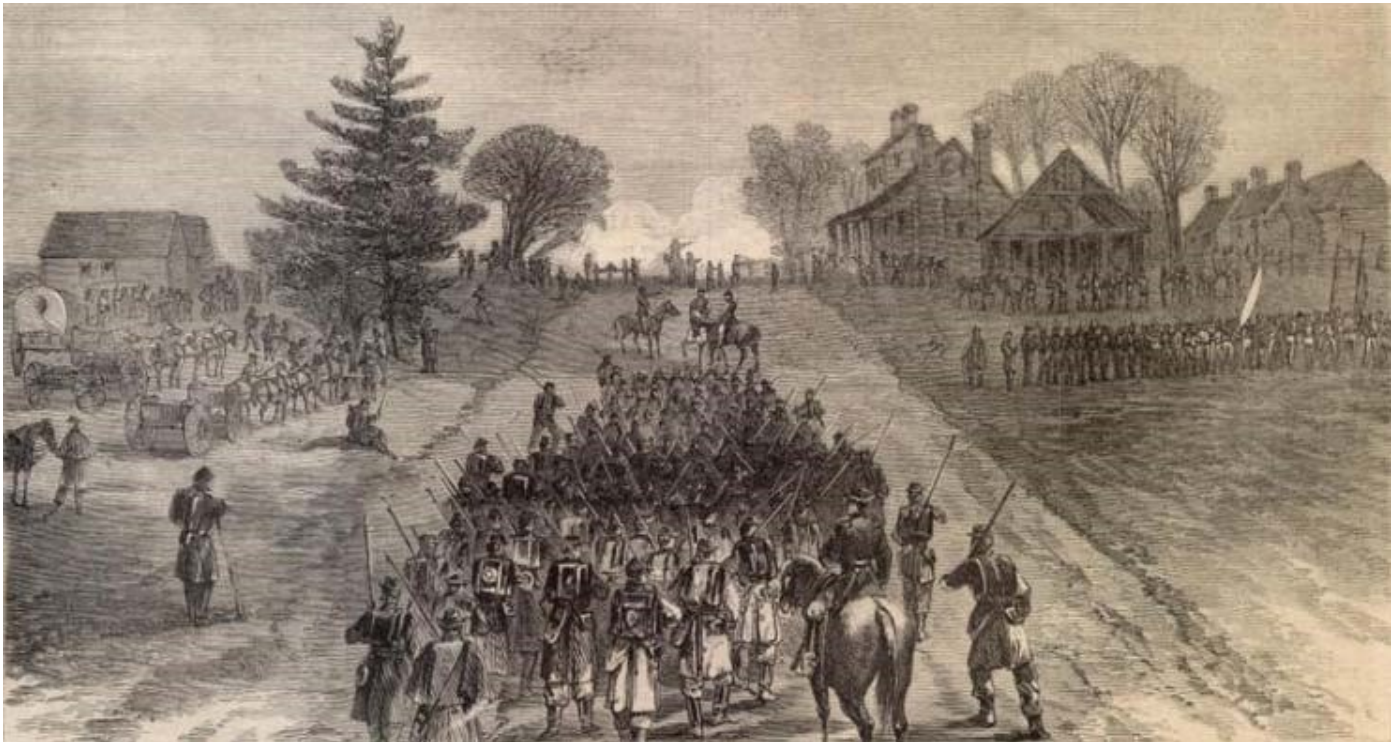


Tour Group at the Payne's Farm Battlefield. Johnson's wheel attack came through the woods on the right of the righthand photo

(cont on page 13)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

Our next stop was at the site of Robinson's Tavern at Locust Grove (the modern-day intersection of Zoar Road [Rt 611] and Constitution Highway [Rt 20]). As Mike explained, this was Meade's planned link-up point for the 2nd, 3rd, and 6th Corps, with the 5th and 1st Corps moving via the Orange Plank Road to Parker's Store. Warren's 2nd Corps arrived at approximately 10 AM on November 27th meeting lead elements of Early's (Confederate) Corps as they too arrived at Robinson's Tavern (engraving below).



Harper's Weekly, January 4, 1864, engraving depicting General Gouverneur K. Warren's 2nd Corps at Robinson's Tavern, engaging with General Jubal Early's Corps

Hays' Division of Warren's 2nd Corps secured and held the road intersection at Locust Grove, and Early's men withdrew and began entrenching west of the Tavern along the Orange Turnpike. Sedgwick's 6th Corps arrived that evening, while French's 3rd Corps did not arrive until very late that night.

So, what was this Robinson's Tavern? Mike shared the following: A member of the 13th Massachusetts Infantry described the anticipation and reality of Robinson's tavern. *"When the announcement was made that we were going to Robinson's Tavern, it filled our minds with visions of 'flowing bowls', which landlords fill until they run over, according to the song. We thought what we might do on arriving there if we were major-generals, but we were not. However, we couldn't resist picturing what this tavern might be, and so we amused ourselves by discussing the probabilities of broad open fireplaces and hot flip until some one called out "Shut up! There's Robinson's Tavern!" and it turned out to be the most ordinary-looking tenement-house, without the remotest suggestion of comfort or hospitality associated with the time-honored name of tavern"* (Head Quarters 13th Regt. Rifles, Mass. Vol.- Mine Run Campaign).

(cont on page 14)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



Tour Group at the Robinson's Tavern 'capped' well. Robinson's Tavern was moved several hundred yards from its original location near the road intersection to make room for a store and service station.

Meanwhile Sykes' 5th Corps, led by Brigadier General David McMurtry's Cavalry Division, reached Parker's Store, and proceeding west along the Orange Plank Road, at approximately 3:00 PM met and engaged in a skirmish with General Heth's Division of A.P. Hill's (Confederate) Corps near New Hope Church. The skirmish was inconclusive and resulted in a stalemate.

During the night, Lee pulled his Army back to new positions on the high ground west of Mine Run and began entrenching. Meade realized that his plan to get on Lee's flank and into his rear had failed. During the night he concentrated his Army on a line perpendicular to the Orange Turnpike, west of Robinson's Tavern. Once again, heavy rain and hail, muddy roads and cold temperatures hampered any advances the next day. While Lee's men strengthened their entrenchments and positions, Meade plotted his next move.

Mike next explained how General Meade, near dawn on November 28th, summarized his situation thusly; *"I cannot attack Lee. I cannot surprise Lee. I cannot cripple Lee."* Meade instructed his Corps Commanders to go out and search for an avenue and opportunity to overcome Lee's forces. Meade's front-line Corps Commanders (Generals Sedgwick, Warren and Newton) sent out skirmishers and cavalry patrols to look for such an avenue or opportunity. The skirmishers and cavalry patrols approached the Confederate positions along Mine Run, drawing heavy fire from Confederate skirmishers and confirming the strength of the Confederate line and entrenchments.

Our Tour then took a short break from sites associated with military movements and action, and visited Confederate earthworks overlooking Mine Run, a section of the 1863 Orange Turnpike roadbed where it crossed Mine Run, and the site of New Hope Church.

(cont on page 15)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



Mike Buckley examining one line of Confederate earthworks above Mine Run and north of Rt 20 (L) and a separate view of the earthworks (R)



The 1863 Orange Turnpike roadbed (L) & our group overlooking the 1863 turnpike roadbed crossing of Mine Run (R)

(cont on page 16)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



Route 20 crossing of Mine Run (looking South). The 1863 Turnpike roadbed, where our Tour Group is standing in the previous photo, is visible at left

(Photo courtesy of https://www.13thmass.org/1863/mine_run.html#mozTocId871576)

In 1863, New Hope Church sat on the south side of the Orange Plank Road a few miles west of Parker's Store and served as a Federal field hospital following the late afternoon fight between David McMurtry's Cavalry Division and Henry Heth's Infantry Division west of the church. Among the wounded men who received treatment there was young Charles (Charley) Longfellow, a member of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry and the son of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow learned of his son's wounding on December 1st, and left immediately with his younger son, Ernest, for Washington City to recover his son, Charley. During his journey to the capital, the father was not certain if he would be bringing back a wounded son, or a dead one.

In the midst of his sorrows – the war, his recently deceased wife, a young family to raise alone, and a son potentially hovering near death – Longfellow thought of all the other households in the Union whose holidays were marred, some forever, by the events of the past three years. He did what writers do - he wrote. The resulting poem "*Christmas Bells*", the one we know as "*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*," was not written or intended to be a Christmas carol.



Today's New Hope Baptist Church & site of the 1863 New Hope Church

(cont on page 17)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



1863 New Hope Church watercolor painted in 1877 by Charley's cousin and well-known watercolorist, Mary King Longfellow of Portland, Maine

Christmas Bells Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound

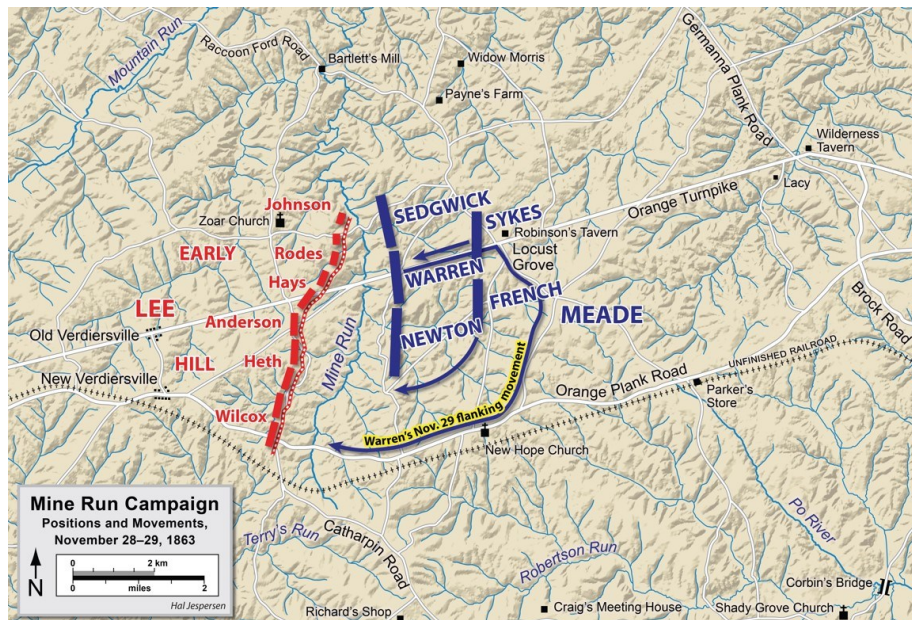
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Our final Tour Stop was a field on the Mayo farm along Catharpin Road – the land between the opposing Armies on November 28-29, 1863. Mike led us in a discussion of Lee's strong defensive line on the west bank of Mine Run with his right flank adjacent to the unfinished railroad bed, Warren's November 29th flanking movement and plan to assail Lee's right flank (see map, below), and the result of that maneuver.



Mine Run Campaign – Unit Positions and Movements on November 28-29, 1863

(cont on page 18)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR

General Meade continued to assess his situation and his options from his line perpendicular to the Orange Turnpike, west of Robinson's Tavern. General Warren proposed, and Meade adopted, a plan to send Warren's 2nd Corps on a flanking maneuver to get beyond and roll up Lee's lightly defended right flank, while Sedgwick's 6th Corps and Sykes' 5th Corps attacked Lee's left flank. Meade's instructions included the direction, *"Do not stop and fire until you are in the Confederate works."* On the morning of November 29th Meade launched Warren's Corps on the flanking maneuver. It took Warren all day to conduct the maneuver and get his men in position, but by 5:00 PM they stood poised to attack and roll up the Confederate right flank. Unfortunately for the Federals, darkness postponed the assault until the next morning. During the night, General Lee, who had learned of Warren's movement, shifted units from A.P. Hill's Corps southward, where they hastily constructed earthworks opposite Warren's lines and approximately 1 mile beyond Warren's forces to Antioch Church (today's Antioch Baptist Church). Overnight the temperature dropped below zero, and without tents, shelters, or fires, soldiers shivered through what, for many, was perhaps the worst night of the war.

General Meade planned an all-out assault at 8:00 AM on November 30th. Warren shared his thoughts with his staff officers in the hours before the attack was to begin, *"If I succeed today, I shall be the greatest man in the army; if I don't, all my sins will be remembered."* Just before dawn on November 30th Warren discovered that Lee had extended his line south, resulting in Warren no longer being on Lee's right flank, but rather facing a newly entrenched force directly in front of his Corps. Warren could not justify an attack over the open ground in front of his corps and into the entrenched Confederates, and so he called off the attack, sending word to Meade via a messenger, his aide-de-camp, Captain Washington Roebling.



A.R. Waud's sketch of the Confederate line and the railroad cut opposite Warren's position

Meade was furious when he learned of Warren's decision and rode out to meet Warren. Once Meade saw firsthand the open terrain and the entrenched enemy facing Warren, he concurred with Warren's decision to cancel the attack, saying *"This would be no day of blood and horrendous casualties."*

(cont on page 19)

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MINE RUN TOUR



View of the open ground Warren's Corps would have to cross in an attack against Lee's forces entrenched along the high ground (far tree line); the unfinished railroad running perpendicular to the Confederate line is seen on the right

Frustrated, low on provisions, and faced with continuing bad weather, General Meade withdrew the Army of the Potomac back across the Rapidan River on December 1st. That same day General Lee ordered an attack on the Federal lines, but upon moving forward discovered that Meade's Army had withdrawn and had already crossed the Rapidan. Thus ended the Mine Run Campaign and the Battle of Mine Run – The Great Battle Never Fought.

Many thanks to Mike Block for his well-researched and very informative Mine Run Tour



Suggested Readings on the Mine Run Campaign:

Graham, Martin F., & Skoch, George F., *Mine Run: A Campaign of Lost Opportunities, October 21, 1863 – May 1, 1864*, H. E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, VA, 1987.

Mackowski, Chris, *The Great Battle Never Fought: The Mine Run Campaign, November 26 – December 3, 1863*, Savas Beatie, El Dorado Hills, CA, 2018.

Gottfried, Bradley M., *The Maps of the Bristoe Station and Mine Run Campaigns*, Savas Beatie, El Dorado Hills, CA, 2013.

Bristoe Station Campaign October 13 – 19, 1863 (BRCWRT Caravan Tour)

Saturday, November 11, 2023

(Tour postponed from September 23, 2023)



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

Tour Guide: Bill Backus, Preservationist - Prince William Office of Historic Preservation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The tour is FREE! If interested, please sign up via BRCWRT's website, or at the November Membership meeting. Please sign up, even if you had previously signed up for the September 23rd tour.



BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SPECIAL 13th MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!!

November 19th, 2023
at the Brentsville Courthouse
Historic Center
12229 Bristow Road

**1:00 PM - Guided Tour of the Brentsville
Grounds, including the Jail**

**2:00 PM - PRESENTATION OF *The Healing*
"Conversations of Civil War Nurses"**



Doesn't matter if you wore the blue or the gray

Presented by Dawn Diehl (Confederate) and Linda Harrison (Union)



PRESERVATION CORNER by Blake Myers

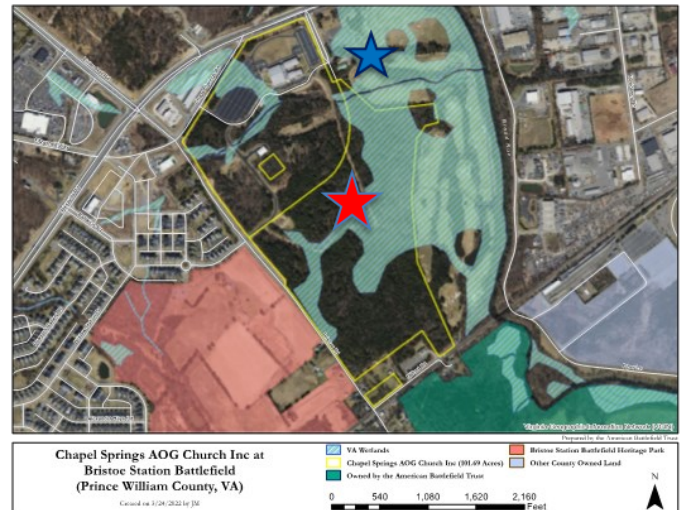


Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends. This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides updates on two highly significant threats to local Civil War Battlefields and the ongoing preservation efforts to protect the historic integrity of these battlefields - the proposed Manassas Logistics Center development along Bristow Road and adjacent to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, and the Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) Data Center rezoning applications for three data center complexes along Pageland Lane and adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park and in close proximity to Conway Robinson State Park.

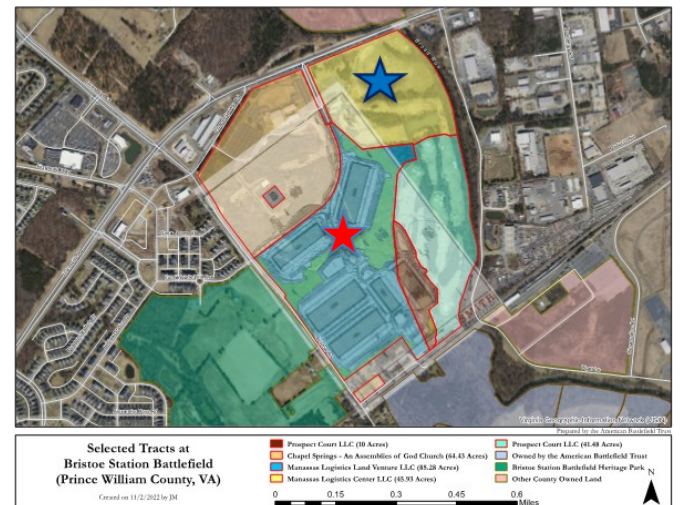
Manassas Logistics Center Phase II Proposed Development (Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Bristoe Station & Kettle Run Battlefields)

As previously reported, this industrial project, proposed by commercial real estate developer Trammell Crow Company (TCC) and its affiliate Manassas Logistics Land Venture, LLC, to be located along Bristow Road and directly adjacent to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and to historic battlefield land owned by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) (see parcel map, at right).

The proposed project is Phase II of a proposed Distribution Center where Phase I (identified by the blue star on the parcel maps) has been constructed and is in operation on the site of the former Golf Academy adjacent to Nokesville Road (Rt 28) and



Proposed Project Land Adjacent to Bristoe Station
Battlefield Heritage Park



Manassas Logistics Center Phase II Project Concept
Overlaid on Parcel Map

immediately south of Broad Run. The Phase II project plan includes six large warehouse and distribution buildings, similar in style and size to the Phase I structure, totaling 72,400 square feet, and associated parking and loading areas (see depiction, above).

Also, as previously reported, a National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Review of this project under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began in December 2022.

(cont on page 23)

PRESERVATION CORNER

As a designated consulting party BRCWRT concurred with the amended USACE Adverse Effects Determination to historic properties, specifically the Battlefield Core Areas of the Battles of Kettle Run (August 27, 1862) and Bristoe Station (October 14, 1863), and archaeological site 44PW0971 that includes a Civil War campsite, earthwork remnants and soldiers' graves. BRCWRT's input also noted that the proposed project would have a direct adverse effect on the historic viewsheds to and from the adjacent Battle of Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and adjacent historic battlefield land currently owned and preserved by the American Battlefield Trust.

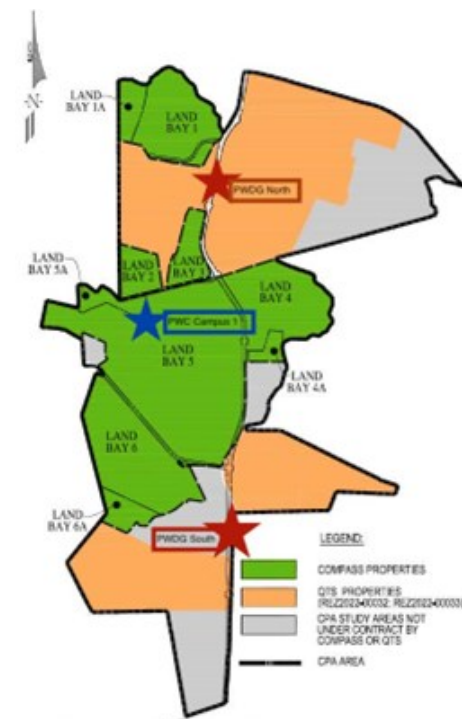
At 2:30 pm on October 5, 2023, USACE conducted a Consulting Party 'virtual' kick off meeting for the Section 106 Consultation. The stated purpose of the meeting, announced at the beginning, was to "...discuss the adverse effect determination that was made for the project..."; however, no advance materials were provided to consulting parties and the meeting structure/agenda was not provided until 12:03 pm on the day of the meeting. Accordingly, consulting parties were not prepared to engage in an informed discussion regarding proposed avoidance and mitigation measures that were presented by the developer during the meeting. Additionally, specific adverse effects determinations were not discussed, and many of the mitigation measures presented are not developer mitigation measures, but rather are requirements under Virginia state law and/or Prince William County zoning ordinance.

Subsequent to this kick off meeting, several consulting parties, including BRCWRT, submitted letters to the USACE citing their concerns with how the meeting was conducted, the minimal information provided to consulting parties prior to the

meeting, the lack of discussion of specific adverse effects as determined by the USACE, and the 'uninformed' (inaccurate) presentation of developer mitigation measures. No USACE responses to these letters have yet been received, nor has USACE provided information as to when the next consulting party meeting may be scheduled. Stay tuned.....

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

As previously reported, rezoning applications for three PWDG data center complexes along Pageland Lane - within the Manassas Battlefield Historic District and adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) - were submitted to PWC by QTS Realty Trust (PW Digital Gateway North, PW Digital Gateway South) and Compass Data Centers (PWC Campus One) in July 2022.



PWDG Land Parcels Proposed for Data Centers

(cont on page 24)

PRESERVATION CORNER

Prince William (PW) Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Chair Ann Wheeler has scheduled the three rezoning applications for BOCS consideration and action during its December 12, 2023, meeting – the final meeting of the current Board prior to the seating of the new Board based on November 2023 election results. Ahead of this BOCS consideration and action, the Prince William County Planning Commission is scheduled to conduct public hearings and Commission considerations on each of the respective rezoning applications during their November 8, 2023, meeting.

On October 27, 2023, the Prince William County Planning Office released a staff report on each of the three rezoning applications (PW Digital Gateway North & PW Digital Gateway South [QTS], and PWG Campus I [COMPASS]). Citing the lack of specific information requirements for a rezoning application and a long list of unanswered staff questions, the PWC Planning Staff recommended denial of each of the rezoning applications. Specific application shortfalls include:

- Lack of information on the siting and design of data center buildings
- Lack of information on the effects of the project on electrical infrastructure
- Lack of information on the effects on nearby Manassas National Battlefield Park
- A jointly submitted master corridor plan consisting of overhead, illustrative sketches of building footprints, trees, creeks and sites for power substations, but does not depict or stipulate where the proposed buildings would actually be built
- Lack of detailed elevations of proposed buildings
- Applicants' inclusion of proffers that would allow them to make changes to the number and sizes of buildings, building architecture, landscaping and noise mitigation measures subsequent to rezoning application approval

- Applicants' inclusion of significant flexibility to dictate project landscaping, leaving PWC limited ability to ensure the projects would conform to the landscaping guidance in the PWDG Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA)
- Project plans submitted do not include routes for high-power transmission lines to serve the dozen or more power substations required for the data center complexes
- Applicants' requested waivers from having to obtain a Special Use Permit (SUP) to build data centers outside the County's Data Center Opportunity Zone Overlay District, but did not provide the requisite building footprints, site layouts and elevations necessary to consider granting the waivers

The planning staff noted that some of the data centers proposed for PW Digital Gateway South are only a few hundred feet from the Manassas National Battlefield, and there remains a level of uncertainty as to the historic viewshed effect of data center buildings and infrastructure, especially with the lack of applicant commitment to effective screening buffers and landscaping, and the absence of site layouts and building footprints. There are also many unresolved issues with 10 different state and county agencies, who have raised specific concerns and questions since the initial rezoning applications were submitted in 2022.

Application shortfalls noted by the Prince William Conservation Alliance include:

- To date, the applicants have failed to complete the 2 phases of the archaeological review that were promised during the PWDG Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) vote - Phase 1 has been completed with Phase 2 being proffered upon approval of the application

(cont on page 25)

PRESERVATION CORNER

- QTS is proposing a 60-ft height restriction in PW Digital Gateway South rather than the 45-ft restriction in the CPA
- During the CPA public hearing, the applicants promised net-zero storm water runoff, yet their applications do not reflect this
- Lastly, the applicant site layouts are such that it's likely that the only area available for required power transmission lines may be within or through the Resource Protection Area (RPA), which protects our waterways

From a historic preservation perspective, the proposed data centers and the new infrastructure that would be required for their operation (including power transmission lines, power substations, sewer and water lines, and storm water management infrastructure), would have highly significant adverse effects on the historic viewsheds to and from Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) and its historic sites. Also, the noise levels generated by

data center operations and, when used, backup generator(s) operations would have significant adverse effects on the visitor experience at MNBP.

For those interested in doing so, please contact the **Planning Commission** (ahead of the November 8th Commission meeting) and share your concerns regarding the proposed PWDG Data Centers.

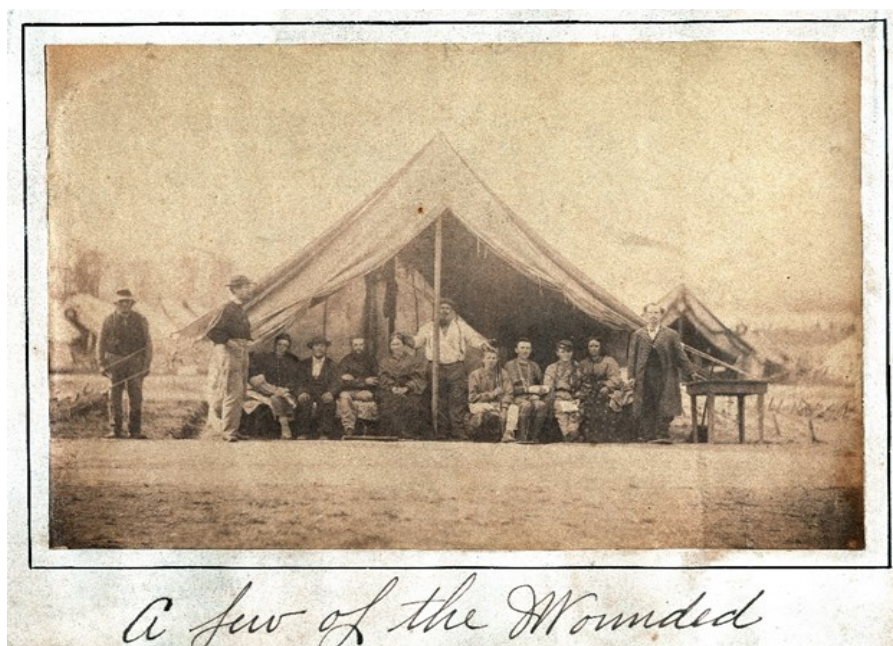
For those interested in attending BOCS meeting(s) and sharing their concerns regarding the proposed PW Digital Gateway Data Centers during Public Comment time, currently scheduled BOCS meetings include Nov 28 at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM, Dec 5 at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM, and Dec 12 at 10:00 AM.

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

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

Where is it? This newly discovered photograph was shared with the public in July. Can you guess where this photo was taken during the Civil War? Go to page 37 for the answer, and more about its discovery and unveiling! (Collection of Fred Sherfy)



GETTYSBURG TURNS 30!

By Melissa Winn

On October 8, 1993, the feature film *Gettysburg* was released, spurring a new interest from the general public about the Civil War. Written and directed by Ronald F. Maxwell, the film was adapted from the 1974 historical novel *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the movie's release and its profound impact on many Civil War historians, enthusiasts, and hobbyists, the Adams County Historical Society and several partners, including the American Battlefield Trust, hosted a weekend of events in Gettysburg from October 13-15.

The weekend kicked off with a press event at the Adams County Historical Society on October 13. Director Ron Maxwell was joined by several actors from the epic film, including Tom Berenger, Stephen Lang, Brian Mallon, Patrick Gorman, Bo Brinkman, Billy Campbell, and many more! Cast signings were held at Lee's Headquarters and other venues throughout the weekend and the Majestic Theater ran two showings of the nearly 4 ½ hour long film,

one of the longest films released by a major film studio in the United States.

The weekend also included speaker panels and tours of sites related to the filming of the Gettysburg movie in and around Gettysburg National Military Park.

The list of sponsors for the weekend's events included Main Street Gettysburg, American Battlefield Trust, Destination Gettysburg, Adams County Historical Society, Seminary Ridge Museum & Education Center, Gettysburg Foundation, and Gettysburg National Military Park.



Gettysburg panel discussion



Gettysburg participants

Photo credits: Buddy Secor/American Battlefield Trust



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS **WITH MS. REBELLE**

By Janet Greentree

Major General John Alexander McClernand, USA

Ms. Rebelle has been in contact with McClernand "Mac" Butler Crawford, the 3rd great-grandson of General McClernand. I found Mac while looking for the general's family on Ancestry.com. The line goes from the general and his wife Sarah Freeman Dunlap to their daughter Helen Chase McClernand, to grandson William Joseph Butler, great-grandson McClernand "Mac" Butler, to 2nd great-granddaughter Susan Elizabeth Butler, to Mac Crawford. Great-grandson Mac Butler was a Lt. Colonel in World War II and later served in Korea. Mac Butler is standing in front of McClernand's monument at Vicksburg during the 1940s. Mac Crawford was very interesting to speak with and gave me a lot of facts, pictures to share, and the general's autobiography, written in the third person in his own hand. It was an exciting day for Ms. Rebelle.



McClernand "Mac" Crawford

Helen Chase McClernand

Gen. McClernand with grandson
and son-in-law

(photos courtesy of Mac Crawford)



John Alexander McClernand was born on May 30, 1812 near Hardinsburg, Breckinridge Co., KY. His parents were Dr. John McClernand and Fatima Cummins. John was their only child. Dr. McClernand was born in Antrim Co., Ireland. The family is of Scottish descent. He first got a degree from the University of Dublin studying for the ministry. He then studied medicine at Edinburgh University in Scotland. Leaving Ireland after the failed Irish Revolution, he came to Philadelphia in 1801 and then settled in Kentucky. His mother's father Peter Cummins was born in Prince William Co., VA and fought in the Revolutionary War under General George Rogers Clark. He was a captain in the regular Army in the Quartermaster Corps. The family moved to Shawneetown, IL on the Ohio River in 1813. His father died in 1816. His mother insisted that he have a good education. He was educated at local schools by several men: Edward F. Cafsedy (an Irish gentleman), Jefferson Gatewood (attorney & state senator), Francis Spillman (clergyman), and Capt. Fasarr (a Frenchman who served in Napoleon Bonaparte's army). In 1829 at age 17 he began the study of the law and was admitted to the bar in 1832. In 1835 he started the Shawneetown Democrat newspaper.

Mac Butler at Vicksburg



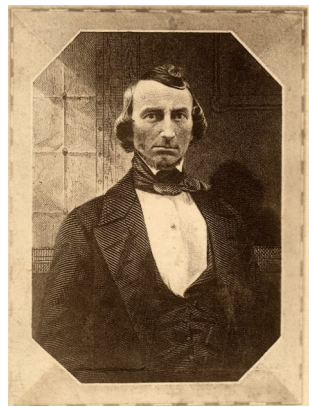
(cont on page 28)

MS. REBELLE

From 1836-1842 he served in the Illinois legislature. In 1839 a dispute arose over the office of the secretary of state, which McClernand held. When the case went to court, Abraham Lincoln represented one side and Stephen A. Douglas represented McClernand. The case was lost and McClernand lost his office. Later Lincoln and McClernand practiced law together in the last case Lincoln ever tried. In 1840 while in the legislature, McClernand confronted Judge Theophilus Smith, a Supreme Court Judge, and criticized the judiciary. Judge Smith challenged him to a duel. Judge Smith along with some friends urged McClernand to reconsider which he did.

From 1843-1851 he served as a Democrat in the House of Representatives. He was the Chairman of the Public Lands and Foreign Affairs Committee. He was 12 votes shy of becoming the Speaker of the House. He was re-elected from 1859-1861, resigning in 1861.

Congressman McClernand
(courtesy of Mac Crawford)

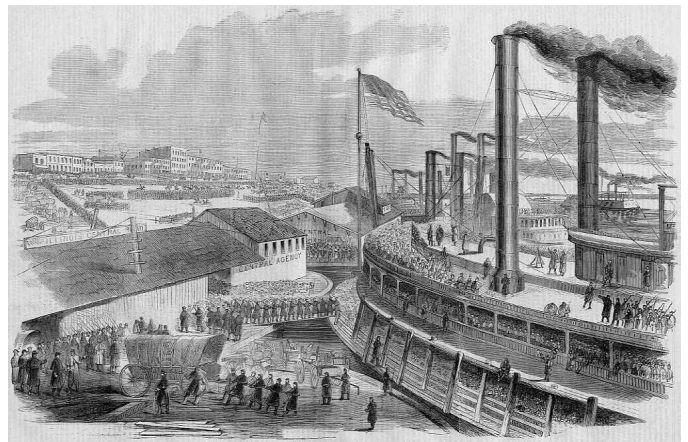


From 1852-1860 he had a law firm in Springfield, IL called McClernand and Herndon (Archie). In 1856 he moved to Springfield, IL after living for five years in Jacksonville, IL while riding the circuit. His home was located on the northwest corner of 6th Street & Enos Avenue. The house was turned into a school before being torn down. (McClernand Elementary School now occupies the site.)



McClernand House, Springfield IL

President Lincoln appointed him a brigadier general when the Civil War began. He returned to Illinois with future general John A. Logan and Philip B. Fouke and raised the McClernand Brigade. The volunteers went from Springfield to Cairo where they intercepted several steamboats loaded with arms and ammunition for the South. In the picture of the steamboat boarded by McClernand, it is believed that Grant and McClernand are standing together behind the covered wagon.



Grant & McClernand at Cairo IL

(cont on page 29)

MS. REBELLE

On November 9, 1843 John married Sarah Freeman Dunlap in Jacksonville, IL. Her father was a wealthy railroad executive who offered his services to the Union in 1861. He was assigned to McClelland's staff and served as the Chief Quartermaster of the XIII Army Corps. Dunlap's rank when exiting on June 11, 1864 was Brevet Brigadier General. John and Sarah were the parents of 5 children. One son, Johnny, died in infancy. His other children were: Helen Chase, who died at the age of 24 of typhoid fever leaving a 2 year old son, William Joseph Butler. William's aunt and McClelland helped raise him. After the Civil War, he was hired as a junior partner in McClelland's law firm.

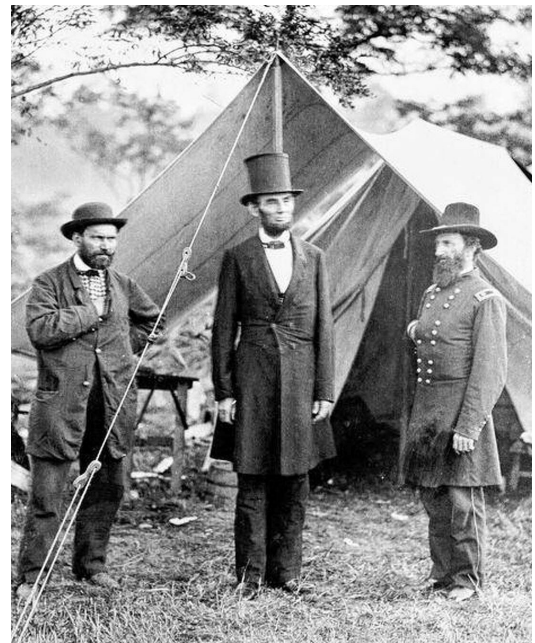
Lt. Edward John "Ned" was an 1870 graduate of West Point. He won the Medal of Honor on Nov. 27, 1894 in the final battle with the Nez Perce Indians at Bear Paw Mountain, Montana. He was also military governor of Cebu, in the Philippines. He retired as a brigadier general and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Fatima Cummins and Sarah Freeman rounded out the family. His wife Sarah died May 8, 1861. John then married Minerva Dunlap (Sarah's younger sister) on December 23, 1861 in Jacksonville, IL. They had three children: Rosalind, John, and Helen Chase, II.

Gen. McClelland was described by biographer Stan Buckles as follows: "In stature John A. McClelland was a little above medium height and rather spare built, but was of a tough and wiry fiber. As a man he was not devoid of vanity, and he had an excitable temper, yet was placable and did not cherish animosity." According to Mac, he had a good disposition and was the life of the party.

McClelland was a long-time friend of Abraham Lincoln. They met during the Black Hawk War. Gen. McClelland is standing with President Lincoln and Allan Pinkerton in one of the best-known pictures of the Civil War, in front of a tent at Antietam.

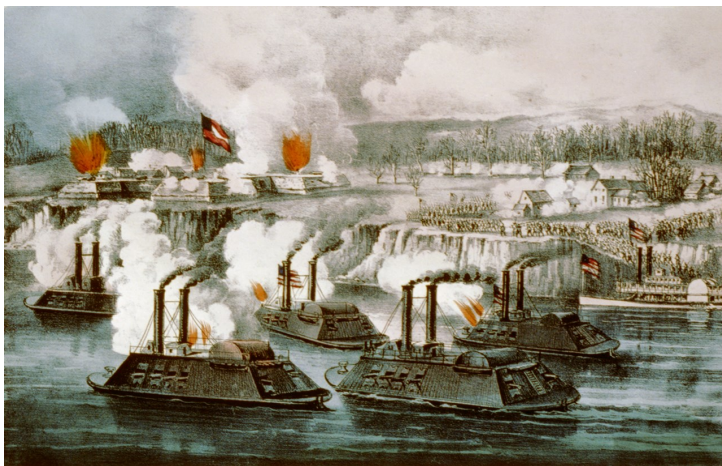
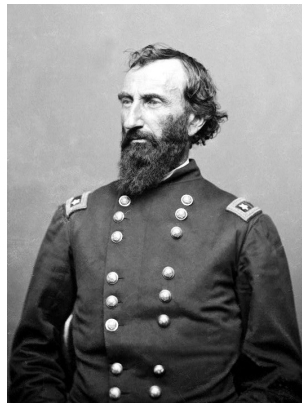


(cont on page 30)

MS. REBELLE

According to the Knoxville Daily Tribune of July 19, 1899: "Mrs. Lincoln's Funeral. Springfield, Ill., July 19. Mrs. Abraham Lincoln was buried to-day. All business, public and private, was suspended, and the streets were thronged with citizens. Governor Cullom, Judge S.H. Treat, Gen. John A. McClernand, Hon. Milton Hay, Col. John Williams, Hon. S. Johnson, Hon. James C. Conkling and Capt. John S. Bradford acted as pall-bearers." His wife Sarah was also a friend of Mary Lincoln.

McClernand was appointed as commander of the XIII U.S. Army Corps in December, 1862 when the Army of the Tennessee was divided into smaller units. He fought entirely in the western theatre during the Civil War, including Belmont, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman), his most significant military achievement, Champion Hill, the siege of Vicksburg, and the Red River Campaign.

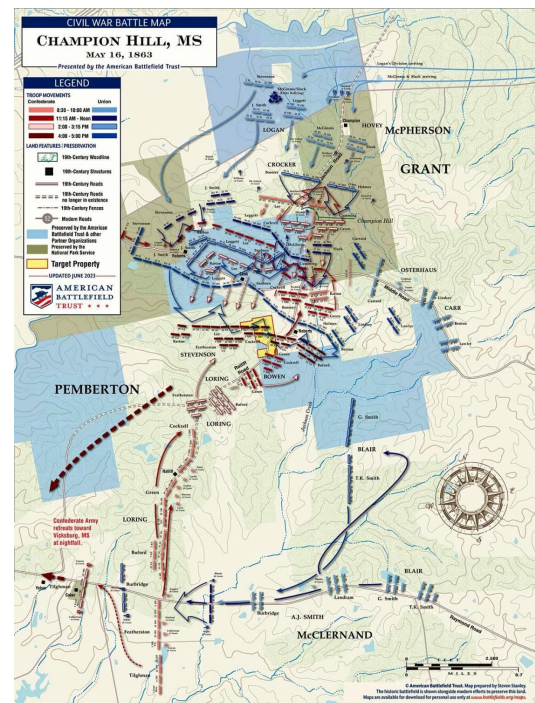


Assault on Fort Hindman, January 1863

The late Ed Bearss had a monument installed at Champion Hill by the American Battlefield Trust on May 3, 2019 for his work preserving the battlefield. He was also responsible for finding the USS *Cairo* in 1956 in the Yazoo River seven miles north of Vicksburg. The *Cairo* was the first vessel to be sunk by a mine on December 12, 1862.



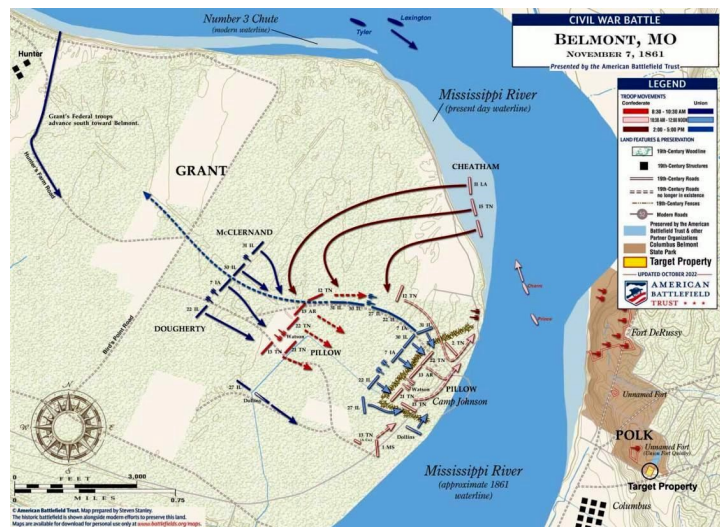
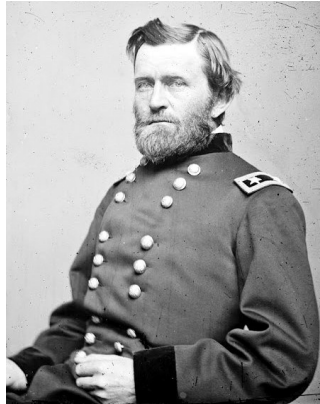
James Lighthizer and Ed Bearss - Bearss Monument at Champion Hill, May 2019



(cont on page 31)

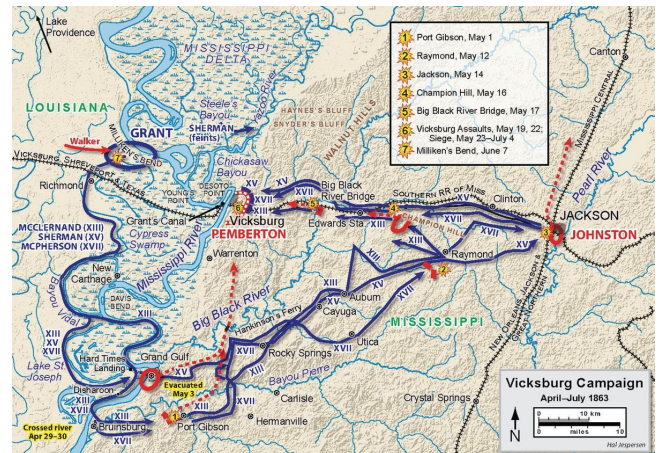
MS. REBELLE

In June, 1861 Grant asked McClelland to give a pro-Union speech to his 21st Illinois regiment. Grant and McClelland initially worked well together, but the relationship began deteriorating after the Battle of Belmont, MO. McClelland and Grant grew to dislike each other and disagreed with one another's tactics over the first two years of the war. It was not until the Vicksburg Campaign in 1863 that the feud between them grew to its breaking point. During the campaign, McClelland requested Grant to provide him with reinforcements before a Confederate counterattack. Grant needed to be persuaded by General William Sherman to provide the necessary troops to support McClelland, which he reluctantly did. This led to a large loss of soldiers for the Union as the Confederate Army decimated their ranks, and McClelland was blamed.



Battle of Belmont, November 7, 1861

However, he published a congratulatory letter in the nation's newspapers that stated how important his men were to the campaign, which went against War Department regulations. This led to McClelland's removal from duty as Brigadier General.



Vicksburg Campaign, 1863

McClelland's letter to the New York Times: "BATTLEFIELD, NEAR VICKSBURG, June 4, 1863. GENERAL (Grant): What appears to be a systematic effort to destroy my usefulness and reputation as a commander, makes it proper that I should address you this note. It is reported, among other things, as I understand, that I attacked the enemy's works on the 22d ult. without authority: again, that I attacked too late; again, that I am responsible for your failure and loss: again, that I am arrested and being sent North: again that my command is turned over to another officer, and again, that you have personally assumed command of it. These reports are finding their way from the landings up the river. I hardly need say to you that all these reports are false, that I obeyed orders in attacking; that my attack was more prompt, and in a large measure more successful, than any other; that the ultimate failure of the

(cont on page 32)

MS. REBELLE

general attack, and losses attending the failure, were under the circumstance, unavoidable consequences of obstacles found to be insurmountable, and in spite of a determined effort on my part to carry and hold the works in obedience to your express and peremptory order. I may add that I am not yet under arrest, or being sent away or superseded in my command. All these things being known to you, and these false reports being brought to your notice, it remains for you to determine whether truth, justice and generosity do not call on you for such a declaration as will be conclusive in the matter. Your obedient servant (Signed) JOHN A. MCCLERNAND, Maj-General Commanding."

McClerland sent many articles about his battles to newspapers. He also has a statue in tribute to him on the Vicksburg battlefield. He was restored to his command after several months and participated in the Red River Campaign with General Nathaniel Banks.



McClerland Statue at Vicksburg

McClerland's poor health restricted his ability to do his job. He resigned from the Army on November 30, 1864. He assisted in Lincoln's funeral procession from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, IL. McClerland rode on the Lincoln funeral train with Illinois Governor Richard Yates and led the Second Division, which preceded the hearse during the final funeral in Springfield. It took the train from April 23 to May 3, 1865 to reach Springfield. The hearse had eight large plumes on top, was brought from St. Louis for the funeral, cost \$5,000.00, and was pulled by six black horses.



After the war ended, McClerland returned to his former work as a lawyer and politician. He went on to serve as a District Judge for Illinois for three years. In 1871 at the Illinois State Fair his horse Zenith won first place as Best Stallion Colt. He would later preside over the Democratic National Convention in 1876. From 1886 to 1894, he spent 170 days a year in Utah as part of a Federal Advisory Commission overseeing the Utah Territory. The commission recommended Utah not be admitted as a state until they abandoned polygamy. Utah was finally admitted to the Union on January 4, 1896.

(cont on page 33)

MS. REBELLE

General McClerland passed away on September 20, 1900 in Springfield, IL at the age of 88. He is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Block 14, Lot 77. His friend Abraham Lincoln is buried there as well. Lincoln's first burial was in a receiving vault on the back side of where Lincoln is interred now. The body of Willie Lincoln, Abraham and Mary's third son who had died in Washington, was also returned to Springfield on the funeral train. Willie had been moved into the vault prior to President Lincoln's funeral.



McClerland's Grave Marker in
Springfield IL (above and right)



Lincoln's original burial vault (below)
(Photos by Janet Greentree)



The New York Evening Post of September 20, 1900 reported his obituary as follows: "Gen. John A. McClerland, Springfield, Ill., September 20-1:40 A.M. Gen. John A. McClerland has just died. His death was the result of old age and a general breaking down of the system. He had been unconscious for twenty-four hours. His wife, two daughters, and one son were with him at the last. His other son, Col. Edward McClerland, is a Military Governor of Cebu Province, Philippines."

The Idaho Falls Times on October 18, 1900 in their obituary for McClerland reported: "It was on the Vicksburg expedition that General McClerland had a falling out with General Grant. The facts have never been authoritatively settled, but General McClerland's version of it was the trouble originated with the neglect of his adjutant general to send to General Grant a copy of an order issued by General McClerland congratulating his men upon their brilliant service in the fight against Vicksburg. The sequel to this delinquency was the relief of General McClerland in July, 1863, from the command of the Thirteenth army corps. He asked for an investigation of the matter, but President Lincoln disposed of the controversy at the time by saying that "the permanent estimate of a soldier is fixed by the cloud of witnesses who have been with him in the field, and that, relying upon these, he who has the right need not fear." But on Jan. 31, 1864, the president restored General McClerland to active command."

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.

THE MEDAL OF HONOR AT BRISTOE STATION

By Jeff Joyce

The Medal of Honor was introduced for the Navy in 1861 and the Army in 1862. There have been 3,536 Medals of Honor awarded to 3,517 individuals, with 1,522 awarded for actions during the Civil War.

The first Medals of Honor were presented to six soldiers ("Andrews Raiders") on March 25, 1863, by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Private Jacob Parrott, a volunteer from Ohio, became the first Medal of Honor recipient for his participation in the raid on a Confederate train in Georgia April 12, 1862.

The last Civil War Medal of Honor was awarded on November 6, 2014 by President Obama to 1st Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing for his actions at the Battle of Gettysburg. Cushing was killed July 3, 1863.

A total of six Medals of Honor were awarded for actions at or near Bristoe Station between the Battles of Kettle Run (August 27, 1862) and Bristoe Station (October 14, 1863). Their brief biographies appear below.



Joseph K. Corson was born in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, on November 22, 1836. While studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania he enlisted in Company K, 4th Pennsylvania Infantry, in April 1861, and mustered out as a sergeant in July 1861. Returning to the University of Pennsylvania, Corson served as a medical cadet at an army hospital while continuing his medical studies. He enlisted in the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves (35th Pennsylvania Volunteers) as an assistant surgeon in March 1863 after graduating with an MD degree. Brevetted as a Major for distinguishing himself in the Wilderness, Corson mustered out in June 1864. In November 1864 he became medical officer at Camp Discharge in Philadelphia. Corson mustered out in May 1865 and returned to Plymouth Meeting to join his father's medical practice. He was appointed an Assistant Surgeon in the regular army in October 1867, promoted to Major in November 1888, and retired in November 1897. Corson died in Plymouth Meeting on July 24, 1913 and is buried at West Laurel Hill Cemetery.



Citation: Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863

Date of Issue: May 13, 1899

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Assistant Surgeon Joseph Kirby Corson, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 14 October 1863, while serving with 35th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 6th Pennsylvania Reserves, in action at Bristoe Station, Virginia. With one companion Assistant Surgeon Corson returned in the face of the enemy's heavy artillery fire and removed to a place of safety a severely wounded soldier who had been left behind as the regiment fell back."

(cont on page 35)

MEDAL OF HONOR AT BRISTOE

Thomas Cullen was born in Ireland on February 26, 1839. He enlisted in Company I, 82nd New York Infantry, in May 1861. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863 and captured at the Weldon Railroad near Petersburg on June 22, 1864. After his parole in July 1864, Cullen transferred to the 59th New York Infantry and mustered out in June 1865. He died in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, on August 17, 1913, and is buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery.

Citation: Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863

Date of Issue: December 1, 1864

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Thomas Cullen, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 14 October 1863, while serving with Company I, 82d New York Infantry, in action at Bristoe Station, Virginia, for capture of flag of 22d or 28th North Carolina (Confederate States of America)."



John H. Haight was born in Westfield, New York, on July 1, 1841. John and his younger brother, George, enlisted in the 72nd New York (George in Company E in June 1861 and John in Company G in July 1861). John was severely wounded at Williamsburg on May 5, 1862 and George was killed at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862.

Recalling his experience at the Battle of Kettle Run, Haight stated:

"On August 27, 1862, at the battle of Bristow Station, I was suffering greatly from a severe carbuncle [a cluster of painful boils under the skin - Ed.] on my neck. On this account I was ordered to the rear before the battle commenced. From my dreary position I could hear the distant rattle of musketry, and longed to be with my comrades. Soon I began to formulate schemes whereby I could rejoin my regiment. I gave this up and decided simply to forget my orders and join my company. Here I fought until the battle was over, when I fainted and had to be carried from the field."

Haight was honorably discharged due to his wounds on March 1, 1863. He returned home to Westfield and worked as a tin-smith. Haight died in Westfield on April 8, 1917, and is buried at East Ripley Cemetery.



Citation: Williamsburg (May 5, 1862); Bristol Station (August 27, 1862); Manassas (August 29-30, 1862)

Date of issue: June 8, 1888

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Sergeant John H. Haight, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on May 5, 1862, while serving with Company G, 72d New York Infantry, in action at Williamsburg, Virginia. Sergeant Haight voluntarily carried a severely wounded comrade off the field in the face of a large force of the enemy; in doing so was himself severely wounded and taken prisoner. He went into the fight at Bristol [sic] Station, Virginia, August 27, 29 and 30, 1862, although severely disabled. At Manassas, he volunteered to search the woods for the wounded."

(cont on page 36)

MEDAL OF HONOR AT BRISTOE

Nathan M. Hallock was born in Middletown, New York, on August 23, 1844. He enlisted in Company K, 124th New York Infantry, in Wallkill, New York, in August 1862 and mustered out in June 1865. He died in Los Angeles on March 21, 1903 and is buried at Hillside Cemetery in Middletown.

Citation: Bristoe Station, June 15, 1863

Date of Issue: September 10, 1897

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Nathan Mullock Hallock, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 15 June 1863, while serving with Company K, 124th New York Infantry, in action at Bristoe Station, Virginia. At imminent peril Private Hallock saved from death or capture a disabled officer of his company by carrying him under a hot musketry fire, to a place of safety."

Moses C. Hanscom was born in April 1842 in Auburn, Maine. He enlisted in Company F, 19th Maine Infantry, in August 1862 and mustered out in May 1865. Hanscom died in Auburn on July 26, 1873 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. His Medal of Honor is on display in the Maine State Museum in Auburn.

Citation: Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863

Date of Issue: December 1, 1864

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Moses C. Hanscom, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 14 October 1863, while serving with Company F, 19th Maine Infantry, in action at Bristoe Station, Virginia, for capture of the flag of 26th North Carolina (Confederate States of America)."

Michael Emmet Urell was born in Ireland on November 8, 1844. He enlisted in Company E, 2nd Regiment, New York State Militia, in April 1861 (the 2nd Regiment was redesignated as the 82nd New York in December 1861). Recovering from his wounds

received at Bristoe Station, Urell returned to the 82nd New York as a 2nd Lieutenant by April 1864. He was discharged in May 1864 and went to work as a War Department clerk in Washington, D.C. When war with Spain was declared in April 1898, Urell was commissioned a Major in the District of Columbia National Guard, accompanying the District's 1st Volunteer Infantry Regiment to Cuba. Arriving in July 1898, he and the 1st Infantry participated in the last stages of the Santiago Campaign. After his return from Cuba, Urell became Colonel of the 2nd District of Columbia Volunteer Infantry and retired in 1909 as a Brigadier General in the National Guard. In 1910 he traveled to Ireland and died in Cork on September 6, 1910. Before leaving, Urell had left instructions that he wanted to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery next to his wife Isabelle, who died in 1892. His final wish was honored, and today he rests at Arlington.

Citation: Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863

Date of Issue: June 6, 1870

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Michael Emmet Urell, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 14 October 1863, while serving with Company E, 82d New York Infantry, in action at Bristoe Station, Virginia. While detailed as Color Bearer; Private Urell was severely wounded."



IMAGE OF THE MONTH

By Melissa Winn

A New Exposure

If you guessed Camp Letterman, you're correct! As part of the commemorative activities in Gettysburg this July for the 160th anniversary of the battle fought there July 1-3, 1863, the Center for Civil War Photography and the Adams County Historical Society unveiled a newly discovered wartime image of Camp Letterman. The image, taken by photographer Peter Weaver in October or November 1863, shows wounded Union soldiers and amputees sitting in front of a tent at Camp Letterman with several civilians.

"It is truly striking how young a couple of these wounded soldiers are," said Center for Civil War Photography President Bob Zeller. "They were just boys. And now they face a lifetime coping with a grievous disability."

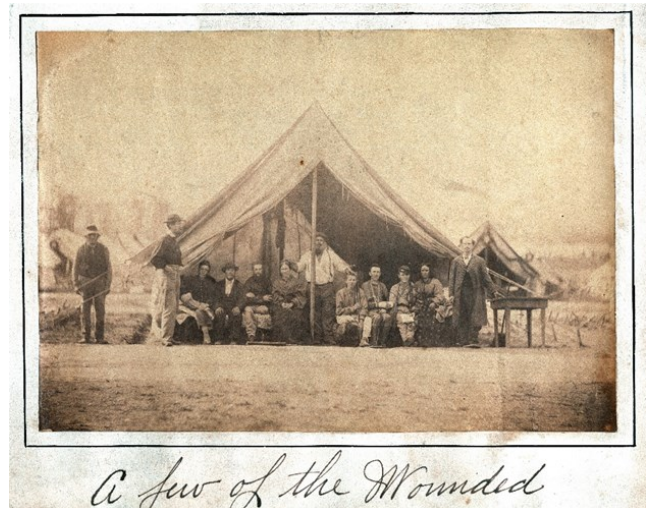
The Center for Civil War Photography published the image, labeled "A Few of the Wounded," for the first time on the printed page in the new issue of the Center's historical journal, *Battlefield Photographer*, which was released during the unveiling event at the historical society's new headquarters and Beyond the Battle Museum in Gettysburg.

The 19th-century albumen print is owned by CCWP member Fred Sherfy, whose ancestors managed the famous Gettysburg battlefield landmark the Peach Orchard.

"This is a photograph that allows you to step back into the moment and be able to see soldiers who are vulnerable in a way that no other photo from Camp Letterman seems to show," said Garry Adelman, vice president of CCWP. "In that sense, it is one of the most striking and emotional of all of the photographs at Gettysburg."

Adelman and other top experts on the Civil War photographs of Gettysburg, including photo historian William A. Frassanito, said they had never seen a print of the image until now and are unaware of it ever having been published. "A Few of the Wounded" is one of eight images by Hanover, PA photographer Peter Weaver that were acquired by Sherfy.

Camp Letterman, a tented general hospital located near the battlefield, opened on July 20th, 1863. Named after the medical director of the Army of the Potomac, Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Camp Letterman was built on 80 acres of George Wolf's farm, also known as "Wolf's Woods," located 1 mile north-east of Gettysburg on the York Pike near the Gettysburg Railroad. As one of the first and largest general hospitals built from the ground up, within a few months Camp Letterman became an enormous establishment with more than 400 tents. Spread ten feet apart, each tent could house 12 patients, and each medical officer was in charge of 47 patients. The hospital had the appearance of a small city with a cookhouse, officer's row, an administrative building, and separate quarters set aside for nurses, orderlies, attendants, and more.



(Collection of Fred Sherfy)



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? _____
