



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXI, Issue 8, AUGUST 2024

## **HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR DOUG CRENSHAW SPEAKS ON "FORT HARRISON AND THE BATTLE OF CHAFFIN'S FARM, SEPTEMBER 1864" AT THE AUGUST 8th, 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**By Mark Trbovich**

On September 30, 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee directed an unsuccessful counterattack against Fort Harrison during the siege of Petersburg VA. Following two days of battle that produced an estimated 5,000 casualties, both armies once again entrenched - continuing the seemingly endless cycle of attack, dig, and wait. The Battle of Chaffin's Farm was the North's most successful effort to break Lee's defensive lines north of the James River. The attack at New Market Heights forever established the fighting spirit of the African-American soldier. We are happy to have a friend from Richmond VA come and give us the rest of the story.

Doug Crenshaw studied history at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Richmond. A volunteer for the Richmond National Battlefield Park, he is a Board member of the Richmond Battlefield Association, former president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable, and is a speaker, presenter and tour leader. His book *Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin's Farm*, was nominated in the nonfiction category for a Library of Virginia Literary award. Doug has also written *The Battle of Glendale: Robert E. Lee's Lost Opportunity*, and *It Shall Not Be Given Up!*, a survey and tour of the

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY, August 8, 2024**

**6 P.M. Social Hour**

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

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Doug Crenshaw**

### **TOPIC:**

**"Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, September 1864"**

Seven Days campaign, which was a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing award.

Doug is a strategic IT sourcing manager, while also being an avid history enthusiast. He has written *On to Richmond!* with Bert Dunkerly and has recently published a book with Drew Gruber on the Peninsula Campaign. He is currently working on a study of the Confederate high command during the Seven Days.

Come join us early at our August 8th, 2024, Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Doug and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

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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 **September 2024 issue**, e-mail articles by **September 2nd** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: [don.richardson@erols.com](mailto:don.richardson@erols.com)

### ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **September 2024 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org>

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**August 8** Doug Crenshaw - "Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm"

**September 12** Melissa Weeks - "Rendezvous with Destiny: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse"

**October 10** Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"

**November 21** Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, TN, December 1864"

**December 12** Eric Buckland - "Mosby: When The Story Ended, The Legend Began"

**January 9, 2025** Melissa Winn - "Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way"

**February 13** Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"

**March 13** Dawn Diehl & Linda Harrison - "The Healing: Conversations With Civil War Nurses"

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## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kim Brace

Photos: Janet Greentree

As most people know, I'm a numbers guy. I deal with data for my professional work all day, compiling and analyzing (mostly) Census data and election returns from around the country and at all geographic levels. I've always said "there's not a number I don't like ... except zero".

For the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT), our main number of interest is attendance at our monthly meetings. Luckily long-time member Charlie Balch is just as crazy for numbers as I am. He has been counting, tallying and collecting our attendance numbers since 2004. Thank heavens we have Excel spreadsheets where he has columns for date of meeting, the speaker's name, their subject, and the number of people in attendance (with individual meeting numbers and then yearly totals and monthly averages). Charlie's records now consume 337 rows of information. Blake Myers has been helping Charlie collect the information recently.

In the past, our largest draw for a speaker was consistently Ed Bearss, the pre-eminent National Park Service historian and battlefield guide. Ed would bring in over 100 people at each of his yearly visits. Unfortunately Ed passed away in 2020.



Below are the totals from 2004 through February 2019; these reflect counts of in-person attendance at, usually, the Centreville Library.

Year	Monthly Average	Yearly Attendance
2004	69	830
2005	74	886
2006	73	877
2007	82	899
2008	79	949
2009	79	953
2010	74	882
2011	79	946
2012	85	1,022
2013	77	922
2014	74	888
2015	77	926
2016	86	1,116
2017	76	917
2018	75	971
2019	80	1,122
2020*	85	160

The COVID pandemic started in 2020, so the numbers above (\*) reflect January's and February's meetings. We canceled the March and April meetings, but then went to Zoom to keep members informed as people discovered the joys of staring at their computer screens as their only human contact. Yours truly lead the effort to incorporate the use of Zoom in the organizations' workings, which included keeping track of more numbers at each meeting. While Webex and then Zoom were the primary computer connection, our Marketing Committee head Stephanie Vale soon started adding our Facebook account into the mix. It should also be noted that there was no in-person meeting from March, 2020 through August, 2021. Charlie expanded his spreadsheet to keep track of all of these connections:

Year	Monthly Average	Yearly Total	In Person	Zoom	Facebook
2020	72	719	43	55	17
2021	64	834	29	44	17
2022	70	836	33	30	11
2023	72	952	50	23	12
2024	97	677	56	20	27

(cont on page 4)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

New At-Large Exec Committee member Melissa Winn convinced Civil War Trail Marker head Drew Gruber (a former speaker) to include notices of our meetings in his Upcoming Meetings e-mails to nearly 1,000 history nuts. As a result, our Facebook viewership grew to 111 at the July 2024 meeting. When added to our in-person and Zoom viewers, we had 177 people listening to Jonathan Noyalas' talk on the Battle of Cool Springs, the highest number since Charlie began keeping records! So wherever you are, tune in or attend our meetings!

### Civil War Print for Sale at the August 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

This month, our Civil War print is by Keith Rocco: "Pickett's Charge - Hell for Glory". It shows Confederate General Richard Garnett urging his brigade of Virginians forward, waving his hat just before he was struck by a bullet in the head. He was about 20 yards shy of the "Angle" on Cemetery Ridge.

The print is impressively shown in a golden frame that measures 38 by 29 inches. It appears to be in its original packaging and comes with authenticity papers. It has been long out of stock and no versions are currently available on E-bay. We are asking \$175 for this print.

All proceeds are dedicated to the Preservation activities of the BRCWRT; your purchase will aid a worthy cause.

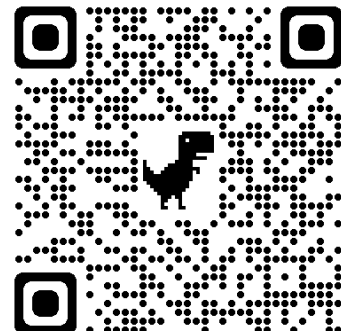


## SUPPORT BRCWRT ACTIVITIES

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that relies on your donations to continue our excellent programs and initiatives throughout the year. There are many select programs to donate to, including: the BRCWRT Scholarship Fund, Preservation efforts, Civil War Trails sign preservation and maintenance, educational programs, and of course the General donation category (which the Round Table uses as a discretionary fund to offset various expenses, to help keep our membership dues at a reasonable rate). Please consider your Round Table for tax-deductible donations every year. We are a special organization and appreciate our members very much.

There are a number of ways to make a donation. On the BRCWRT website, click the link labelled "Renew/Donate" and select the link at the bottom of that page. Alternatively, you can give a check to our Treasurer at a membership meeting, or mail it to: BRCWRT Treasurer, PO Box 2147, Centreville VA 20122. Make checks payable to BRCWRT, and be sure to note whether it is for the Scholarship Fund, Preservation Fund, or the General Fund.

Finally, you can scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to make a donation.





## Bull Run Civil War Round Table



### Upcoming 2024-2025 Program of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
August 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Doug Crenshaw - "Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, September 1864"
September 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Weeks - "Rendezvous With Destiny: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse, 1864"
September 22	<a href="#">Annual BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery at Bull Run</a>
October 5	<a href="#">BRCWRT's Fall Tour: "The Battle of Cedar Creek"</a> - Tour leaders Blake Myers & Jim Lewis (rain date October 26th)
October 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"
November 21	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 1864"
December 12, 2024	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Eric Buckland - "Mosby: When The Story Ended, The Legend Began"
January 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Winn - "Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way"
February 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"
March 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Dawn Diehl & Linda Harrison - "The Healing: Conversations with Civil War Nurses"
April 10, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Garrett Kost - "The Spirit Fled to God Who Gave It: Dr. Charles Leale & The Medical Treatment of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater"
May 8, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Schroeder - "Myths About R.E. Lee's Surrender At Appomattox VA, April 1865"
June 12, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Hennessy - "The People's Army: The Life and Mind of the Army of the Potomac"
July 10, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ronald Coddington - "Civil War Portrait Photography: Reflections of a Generation"
August 14, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dana Shoaf - "Gutbusters: The Development of the Ambulance During the Civil War"

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

## VISITING ANTIETAM WITH YOUR FAMILY

By Brian McEnany

Last year, I invited my family to visit the Antietam National Battlefield Park. It is relatively close - about 70 miles from the DC area - an hour and a half drive. Their answers came quickly, a firm Yes! Taking your family to a National Park is an educational experience. You want to do it right as it will become part of family reunions and lore for years to come. I am a member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) and have participated in creating tours. I believed I understood what it took to craft one. After the family took my tour, I decided to write a summary of how we did it in case other Round Table members decide to make the trip to Antietam as well. Here's how it was planned.

**Finding Information:** Most members of the Round Table collect books and articles about the Civil War; I found my Antietam ones and then used the Internet to reach the National Park Service website for Antietam. It has a wealth of information. The NPS brochure outlined an auto tour with 10 stops of the battle that took place on September 17, 1862. It briefly discussed the entire Maryland Campaign and provided a time line of events leading up to and after the battle. The website offered virtual tours of each stop, with Rangers discussing each one. The American Battlefield Trust sets aside a special section for teachers' lesson plans about the Antietam battle. I visited the battlefield on a Round Table tour some time ago and searched my files for that event. With most of the textual information gathered, I started work to add photos, sketches, maps, and creating text about each stop I selected for my tour.



Current NPS Brochure

**Visitor's Center:** My wife and I made a pre-tour drive to the battlefield to check out the information I had gathered. We drove west thru Loudoun County and then north over the Potomac to Sharpsburg. The Visitor's Center was recently rehabilitated. It opens at 9:00 AM and closes at 5:00 PM each day. You need to check if there is a different holiday schedule. The Center includes a store, a central area, a theater and a museum. The construction left the museum rooms with some humidity and water issues that caused the Center to move many of the artifacts elsewhere. The Rangers and volunteers are more than happy to discuss your information needs. In addition, there is an excellent movie every 30 minutes. It is something you should see to learn more about the battle and country issues at that point in the war.

**Fees:** The NPS requires a \$10 fee to be paid upon entry to the battlefield. If you have annual passes, it helps. I have one of the life-time passes so one car load was going to be free - the others I would pay for.

**Sharpsburg and Lunches:** It is a quiet, interesting town with a long main street and several cafes, but parking is difficult. There are restaurants north and south of the battlefield. The Bavarian Inn is a few miles south of town and Bonny's Red Bird Restaurant

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## VISITING ANTIETAM

a few miles away on the road north. You need to decide if you want to use time away from the battlefield to eat lunch or not. We decided to bring our own lunches and picnic on the battlefield. Be aware that there are only a very few picnic tables. It is allowable to picnic on the battlefield itself, just pick-up everything and leave it clean. No picnics are allowed at the National Cemetery. The pre-tour visit helped me better understand routes and timing to move between stops and how to organize the tour for four parents and four grandkids, using the brochure's auto tour as a starting point.

**Getting the family Involved:** First of all, you need to get them to agree on a date. We chose Saturday, May 11, as it did not interfere with school or plans for weekend baseball games or already planned events. It made sense to have a rain date in mind, but we focused on just the one date.

**Getting there:** Round Table tours use Marching Orders to lay out most of the important things each tour attendee needs to know before taking the tour. I used that format to send info to the family. My family lives in DC, Bowie MD, and Vienna VA, so we had three different starting points. We thought about getting a larger vehicle to take all of us there at one point. After some discussion, I convinced everyone to drive individual cars and meet at the Visitor's Center before 10:00 AM. Weather might become an issue so they were to take rain gear as well.

GPS devices offer several different ways to drive to Antietam. We found that Route I-270 was the fastest for the District and Marylanders. Virginians might consider a western route to get there if you are west of Fairfax. I simply used the I-270 route. It takes you over I-70 to the Old National Pike (US 40 ALT West), and then over South Mountain thru Turner's Gap to Boonsboro and south to Sharpsburg. Be advised that from any direction, the last ten to fifteen miles will have lots of curves coming through the various gaps in South Mountain. The morning ride up I-270 was easy. Heading home, the traffic on I-70 and I-270 was horrendous in the late afternoon. I suggest you find a different route to go home.

**Weather Call:** Your iPhone apps and other sites may give you mixed results. I used the iPhone weather app, [weatherunderground.com](http://weatherunderground.com), and found that the Park also had a weather link you could use. I started tracking weather ten days in advance. On Thursday before we left, I informed the families of weather issues – mixed rain, cloudy, showers, etc., and asked them to decide if we should go. The answer came back, yes, rain or shine. I checked again Saturday morning and the Park weather was foggy, with light wind (5-6 MPH), a chilly 54 to 66 degrees, with rain showers expected in the afternoon.

**The Actual Tour:** I used the ten-stop battlefield tour in the brochure to start planning. I soon became convinced that if you wanted to spend the entire day, it was fine, but with our drive times to Antietam and the pending weather, I eliminated three of the ten stops. I'll explain how I provided that information to the family later. By allowing 15 to 20 minutes for each stop and 30 minutes for lunch, the plan was to finish the tour and movie within 4-5 hours at most.

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## VISITING ANTIETAM

It took the better part of three weeks to prepare the tour. I was cutting and pasting stories and maps into my tour book until 10 PM on the night before we left. Most of it was the result of trying to add more information and time lines about what happened before the battle and after it.

I started the tour at the Visitor's Center parking lot behind my SUV to explain what we were actually going to do on the tour. Up to this point, the family had not really been involved with the mechanics of the tour, so they were eager to get started. Weather still looked like rain showers in the afternoon so we decided to skip the movie and begin the tour. If it rained, we could return to the Center and see the movie. I passed out brochures and maps and provided "Passports of National Parks" for the grandkids so they could get them stamped at the end. It was chilly that morning but it turned cloudy and warmed up later. I checked with the Rangers in the Center about fees. I had a Lifetime pass that allowed me and a car load to access the Park without a fee. I explained that I had a second car load and was prepared to pay the \$40 (\$10 per person) for them. The Ranger asked if I had any teachers – yes, two of them; any military veterans – yes, me. She slipped the pass back to me and said "have a nice day." We were off to a good start. I passed out walkie-talkies so we could talk while driving between stops.

I led the three-car convoy up to the North Woods (Stop 2), pulled into the parking area, discussed how the battle started, and then we drove to the Cornfield (Stop 4). This is where the greatest number of casualties occurred, so you shouldn't miss it. Sometimes there is no corn growing, so you have to create stories about what happened there. I skipped the West Woods (Stop 5) and Dunker Church (Stop 1) to save time, replacing them with a stop along Smoketown Road, just before the turn to the Mumma Farm, to discuss those two stops and the attack by Sumner's 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps together. The view across the fields there allowed that to take place. That completed the Morning and Mid-Morning phases of the battle.

Next, we headed for the Sunken Road (Stop 7) where we picked out a spot near the parking area and laid down some canvas (it rained the night before). We had lunch and I discussed what transpired at the Sunken Road and its other name, "Bloody Lane". There is an observation tower at the end of the Lane and the grandkids climbed the stairs. Our final stop was Burnside's Bridge (Stop 8) where I discussed Burnside's part in the attack and the Final Attack (Stop 9) too. Be careful: the roads to the bridge are one way and if you miss a turn, you can't turn back. You have to go around through Sharpsburg before returning to the Bridge area – I missed a turn and had to do that. I also discussed what happened after the battle to complete the Afternoon Phase.



My Smoketown Road Stop

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## VISITING ANTIETAM

I summarized several key points about the battle:

- Antietam was the bloodiest single day in US military history – 22,720 Union and Confederate casualties. There were issues with burials on both sides for years after the battle, leading to the creation of the National Cemetery.
- Antietam provided President Lincoln with a limited victory and allowed him to issue a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. A final one was issued on Jan 1, 1863, that freed all slaves in all of the States that were then in rebellion. Complete freedom for all slaves did not take place until the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed by Congress and ratified by the States in December 1865.
- The Confederacy did not receive diplomatic recognition from the UK or France because it had not secured a victory in the North.
- Publication of photographs from the battlefield put a new focus on the cost of war.

At the end, we crossed Burnside's Bridge and took group photos before returning to the Visitor's Center in time to see the movie. Afterward, the grandkids got their Passports stamped and everyone loaded up for the trip home. Conversations with members of the family afterwards told me that the movie solidified much of the information I put out and made the day more understandable and enjoyable. I think they got a lot out of the tour of Antietam.

We missed the rain that afternoon; only a few drops on the windshields on the way back – it came later in the afternoon. The tour plan timelines worked. Prodigious amounts of information are available in books and on the internet. Take advantage of what is already available thru the websites to formulate what you think your tour should entail. Try to keep it simple and don't get down in the weeds too much!

All in all, taking your family on a history tour is a grand thing to do. You need to include pre- and post-battle events to make it fit into how schools teach the Civil War. Antietam is a wonderful Civil War site and I heartedly recommend fitting it into your summer schedules. Hopefully, what I have written can serve as a starting point for your own trip to the Antietam National Battlefield Park.



Our intrepid tour group

# Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

8th Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 22, 2024

The Winery @ Bull Run

New Museum Tour 10 am – 11 am

BBQ Served 12-2 pm

Food Provided by...

**THE BONE**

hand-shredded pulled pork platter

(OR)

certified angus beef brisket platter

*platter includes*

*Sandwich + homemade sides: cole slaw, potato salad, ranch beans*

*A drink (coke, diet coke, sprite, water)*

*and cake*

Individual Members @ No Cost

Family Memberships (husband & wife or equivalents) plus children

@ No Cost

All others will be considered as "guests"

Guests: Pork (or) Beef brisket platter @ \$17.00



*Silent Auction  
With Civil War Prints*

*Proceeds go to our  
Preservation Fund!*



To sign up, go to <http://www.brcwrt.org>. Please list each person separately.

## PASSING OF PROF. PETER CARMICHAEL

### From the *Gettysburgian*, the Gettysburg College newsletter

Civil War Institute director and Gettysburg College history professor Peter Carmichael, 58, died on July 21<sup>st</sup> due to complications from a respiratory illness. Carmichael was a published author, renowned Civil War scholar and Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Era Studies at the College for 14 years.

Carmichael earned his bachelor's degree in history at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and his doctorate from Penn State University in 1996. He held positions at Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina Greensboro and West Virginia University before coming to Gettysburg College in 2010. Known for his Civil War books *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*, *The War for the Common Soldier*, and *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram*, he also served on the Board of Directors and the Historians' Council of the Gettysburg Foundation, and previously as a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, as Gettysburg National Military Park's first scholar-in-residence and as co-editor of the *Civil War America* series from the University of North Carolina Press.

Carmichael, with the help of his staff, created a Public History minor and expanded the Funded Internship Program for Gettysburg students interested in working in a variety of sub-fields within Public History.



Professor Peter Carmichael  
(Photo: Gettysburg College)

Gettysburg College President Bob Iuliano said "Pete's impact on this community and in the community of Civil War scholars has been immeasurable. He has helped us to see the Civil War through a broader and more nuanced lens and along the way guided legions of Gettysburg College students into the field of public history."

Matt Callery, host of the podcast *Addressing Gettysburg*, reflected on Carmichael's death: "He was integral to the Gettysburg history community, especially the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. On a personal level, he became a very good friend to me, and from the first time we had him on the show, he was an instant supporter."

Carmichael leaves a wife, Beth, and two daughters, Cameron and Isabel, who often accompanied him as children on his travels across the battlefield.



## IMAGE OF THE MONTH

By Melissa Winn

### In Memory of the Patriots Who Fell at Bull Run

Shortly after the Civil War ended in 1865, the 5th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery was tasked with unearthing the dead of two battles in Manassas, Va., for reburial. Moved by what they saw, the artillerymen built two monuments on the battlefield. This image was taken at the June 11, 1865, dedication of the Patriots Monument, built to honor those who fell in the 1861 battle. Among the dignitaries standing in front of the monument are (left to right) Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs (6th), Presiding Chaplain Robert McMurdy (7th), Congressman John Farnsworth (9th), General Samuel Heintzelman (11th), General Orlando Wilcox (12th), and General William Gamble (13th). Lieutenant James McCallum, architect of the monument, stands at its base.

Judge Abram B. Olin of the District of Columbia Supreme Court delivered the main address at the dedication ceremony. Prayers were intoned and a hymn was sung that had been specially written for the occasion by Reverend John Pierpont. The song included the stanza:

“Here on Virginia’s sacred soil, Where slavery bred and drove the gangs, The horrid serpent lay in coil - Here Freedom’s sons first felt her fangs.”

It remains one of the oldest extant monuments on any Civil War battlefield.





# BRCWRT Fall Tour

## The Battle of Cedar Creek

### Saturday, October 5



**Subject matter:** The last major battle of Gen. Phil Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign, August thru October of 1864, three weeks before the November presidential election. Believing Gen. Jubal Early's Army of the Valley is beaten, Sheridan leaves for Washington D.C. on October 15 for a strategy meeting with Lt. Gen. Grant and Sec. of War Stanton regarding next steps for Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah. The stage was set for one of the most audacious counterattacks in the Civil War and its profound ramifications.

- 15 tour stops and several relevant drive-bys

**Tour Guides:** Blake Myers & Jim Lewis (BRCWRT members)

**Assembly Time/Location:** 8:00 AM / Centreville Regional Library

- Consolidate into as few cars as possible for the tour caravan

**Tour Start Time:** 9:30 AM

**Lunch:** c. 12 Noon (Italian Touch, Middletown) - Individual tabs

**Tour Duration:** Approx. 6 Hrs.

**Mode of Transportation:** Caravan

**Uniform of the Day:** Dress for the prevailing weather conditions

- Nominal amount of walking

**BRCWRT Contact:** Jim Lewis – [antietam1862@verizon.net](mailto:antietam1862@verizon.net) / 703 593-2956

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

**The detailed Marching Orders are on the website as well.**

## CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTION

By Jacob Fajer

In December of 1851, Hungarian patriot Lajos Kossuth arrived in New York City to a reception unlike that of any foreign dignitary since the Marquis de Lafayette. He embarked on an extensive speaking tour of the United States that saw him greeted as the Washington of Hungary. Abraham Lincoln named him “the most worthy and distinguished representative of the cause of civil and religious liberty on the continent of Europe.” Kossuth had been exiled from his homeland two years before, after leading an unsuccessful war of independence against the Habsburg empire. Hungary was but one theater of the wider revolutions of 1848, an explosion of nationalism and republicanism across Europe that was brutally suppressed by the conservative monarchies. Kossuth saw in the United States a potential ally for European revolutionaries in their ongoing struggle for liberation, and at least in the northern states most Americans seemed to agree with him. However, once he entered the south his appearance prompted far less positive reactions. To southerners he was a dangerous demagogue, who had championed the abolishment of serfdom in Hungary, among the last regions of Europe to do so. As a leader in the cause of liberty, his rhetoric sounded suspiciously like that of American abolitionists decrying slavery, attracting accusations that he himself was an abolitionist. Most southern states asserted that the US should stay out of European affairs entirely, and not endorse a fugitive like Kossuth. Often in the US the Civil War is considered in a vacuum, but at the time it was interpreted as an extension of the international conflict between the conservative order and the forces of revolution, who had so recently been defeated and sought new opportunities across the Atlantic.



Lajos Kossuth

Kossuth’s visit was only temporary, and he soon returned to Britain. However, other revolutionaries saw in the US a new home, far from the oppressive monarchies they despised. Known as the Forty-Eighters, after the year of their defeat, they led a wave of immigration into midwestern cities, lending their voices to America’s political debates. In particular they furnished much needed energy to the young Republican party. Exemplary of this trend was the Rhinelander Carl Schurz. A professor at the University of Bonn, Schurz was a vocal advocate of democracy and national unification in his native Germany, at the time still divided into a host of small principalities dominated by Prussia. When the king of Prussia rejected the notion of unification under a constitutional system in 1848, Schurz was among the German liberals who went into revolt, joining the revolutionary army of Franz Sigel. Unfortunately, few military men besides Sigel sympathized with the liberal cause, and the revolutionaries were swiftly scattered by the Prussian war machine. Once in exile in the United States, Schurz’s political beliefs



Carl Schurz

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## CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTION

were informed by his experience in 1848. Forty-Eighters like Schurz believed America was the one place on earth where their cherished ideals of liberty and equality had been put into practice, with one undeniable blemish: slavery. Finally in a country where electoral politics was possible, Schurz signed on to the one political movement opposing slavery, Republicanism, as the natural progression of his revolutionary career. In addition to a moral opposition to slavery, he saw danger in the divisive “states rights” language of southerners, because regional divisions were such effective obstacles to national reforms in Germany. He became a voice for the immigrant population across the northern states, and a leader at the 1860 convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln.

Despite the ignominious conclusion of the German revolution, Schurz’s role in it meant he had more military experience than most of those around Lincoln, and explained his appointment as brigadier general in the spring of 1862. He quickly found himself once again serving Franz Sigel, who was also lending his reputation among the emigres to the US army. A trained European soldier, Sigel attracted a host of his fellow immigrants to the XI Corps. Despite not actually constituting a majority of the unit, the presence of so many Germans, especially among the officers, led the XI to be nicknamed the “Flying Dutchmen.” Sigel, Schurz, and their fellow officers, almost all veterans of 1848, formed a tight-knit clique who were proud to fight together, and resisted efforts to break them up. Sigel generally disappointed as a commander, but the slogan “We fights mit Sigel” was far too effective for recruitment among the North’s German population for Lincoln to consider removing him. Throughout the war Lincoln shuffled Sigel from post to post, demonstrating how important immigrant support was to the president’s war effort. For his part the academic Schurz performed well as a combat leader, remaining at the head of his division until 1865. He and his comrades in the XI were some of the administration’s staunchest supporters in the Army of the Potomac, reliably antislavery when much of the country was undecided on emancipation. Their commitment to the Union was influential not only in Northern cities, but in Europe’s as well.



Franz Sigel

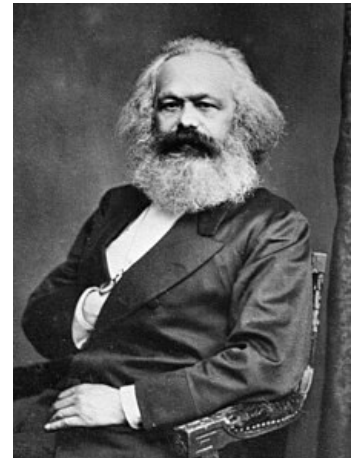
Not all German liberals crossed the Atlantic after 1848. Some remained in Europe, still committed to the revolution’s eventual success. One of the most radical spent the 1860’s in London, and kept a close eye on the Civil War and its potential effects on European politics. Karl Marx was another Rhineland reformer, an old acquaintance of Schurz from before the revolution, though the practical Schurz could not stand his idealistic colleague. He was a regular contributor to liberal papers in both Britain and America, especially the *New York Tribune*, which was read religiously by (among others) Abraham Lincoln. Marx had published his magnum opus, the *Communist Manifesto*, months before the outbreak of violence in 1848, and the defeats of that year did not shake his confidence in the theories presented in that text. He had pronounced the revolutionary takeover of the Western world inevitable, the result of

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## CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTION

industrialization and urbanization. In Marx's formula, feudal monarchies would always be overthrown by liberal revolutions, and the capitalist republics that followed would in turn face socialist revolutions that would finally place power in the hands of the working-class majority, Marx's proletariat. 1848 was a failed attempt at the first revolution, which was necessary to allow for the industrial growth that would make the second revolution possible. Marx spent all of his life waiting for the successful revolutions in Europe he was certain were coming.

According to Marx, in America the liberal revolution had already succeeded in 1783, and the US was on the path towards socialism he had mapped out in the *Manifesto*. However, the nation was being held back by slavery. In 1861, as the Civil War threatened to erupt, Marx asserted, "as the War of Independence initiated a new era of ascendancy for the middle class, so the American anti-slavery war will do for the working-classes." He was an avowed abolitionist, and predicted the war would end with the destruction of slavery long before Lincoln came to that conclusion. For Marx slavery was simply another form of the feudal aristocracies that dominated Europe, keeping all economic power in the hands of a tiny elite. Abolition was a prerequisite for the growth of the proletariat that would make further economic progress, and socialist revolution, possible. The consequences would not be limited to the US alone. Marx believed the most important social movements of his age were "on the one hand the movement of the slaves in America... and on the other the movement of the serfs in Russia." Victory against the most oppressive systems of the nineteenth century world, American slavery and Russian autocracy, would benefit revolutionaries and reformers everywhere.



Karl Marx

For Europe to see the benefits of that victory, however, Lincoln would have to win his war. At first Marx was highly critical of the President's caution. Lincoln was fighting a constitutional war, while Marx believed that to succeed it "must be conducted in a revolutionary way." The Emancipation Proclamation assuaged Marx's concerns, signaling that Lincoln was seeking fundamental societal change. The Proclamation turned the Civil War into a revolutionary event. It also had a dramatic effect on public opinion in Europe. Marx was living among the British working class, and witnessed their reaction to the war firsthand. The Union blockade of southern ports had cut off cotton exports, negatively affecting all of the workers at British textile mills. However, as Marx predicted, after the proclamation those same workers rallied behind the Union, as evidenced by a series of mass meetings in British cities. Their public pressure contributed to the British government withholding diplomatic recognition from the Confederacy.

The North's triumph in the Civil War gave Marx and his radical friends hope for their own struggles in Europe. It signified that the conservative resurgence that began in 1848 would not last forever. 1863 saw a widespread revolt in Poland, which

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## CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTION

would hasten the end of Russian serfdom. In 1870 France’s last monarchy was overthrown, and the nation was permanently converted into a republic. Nineteenth century observers did not believe these events were unrelated. The causes and effects of the Civil War were inextricably linked to the competition between reaction and revolution taking place throughout the Western world.

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### In the Footsteps of the Irish at First Bull Run



Join guides Damian Shiels (above) and Harry Smeltzer for the Fifth Bull Runnings Battlefield Tour on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Both authors have maintained specialized Civil War websites for years: Damian at *Irish in the American Civil War* ([irishamericancivilwar.com](http://irishamericancivilwar.com)) and Harry at *Bull Runnings* ([bullrunnings.wordpress.com](http://bullrunnings.wordpress.com)). In 2019 they co-led a tour that followed in the footsteps of the 69<sup>th</sup> New York State Militia at First Bull Run that proved informative and fun! This time, the topic has been expanded to cover Irish soldiers North and South. Damian has done extensive research into the stories and backstories of these soldiers, making particular use of pension files, and he tells those tales with unique eloquence. And yes, we’ll be covering the action as well.

Join us at 9 AM at the Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center parking lot on Henry Hill. This is a tour that can be entirely walked, or you can drive yourself (carpooling is encouraged, as parking is limited) to the three stopping points. This free tour will probably end around 2 PM (no guarantees, as there will be questions), and our intent is to debrief at nearby *The Winery at Bull Run* afterwards. Wear sturdy shoes (there are two steady climbs and descents if you’re walking), dress for the weather, and bring your own water and snacks.

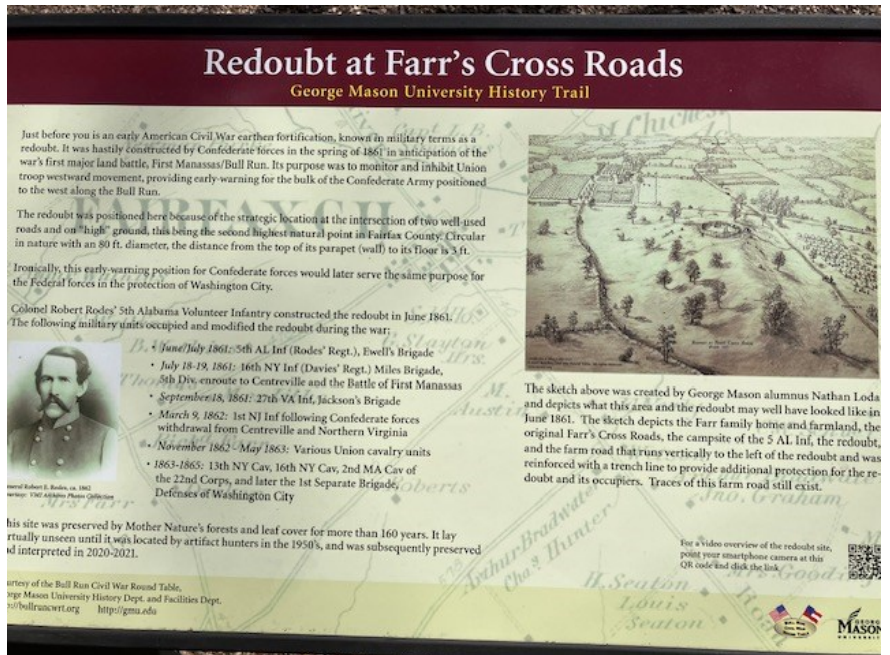
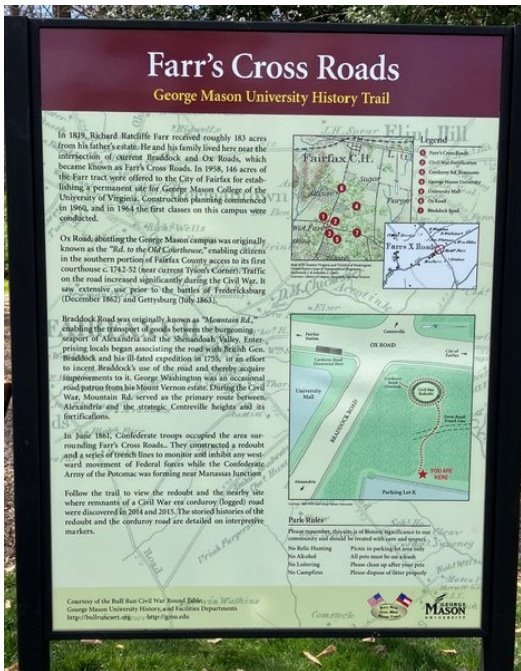
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## BRCWRT EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

By Sam Laudenslager

On Friday, July 26th, eighteen Osher Lifelong Learning Institute members visited a little known historic site, Farr's Crossroads, that is located on the George Mason University campus. The OLLI class "The Civil War, Off the Beaten Path" walked to a Civil War redoubt fortification that is hidden in the woods near GMU's Eagle Bank Arena. The walking tour was led by Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis, from the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Their program covered the history of the "Mountain Road" and "Ox Road", which developed into modern Braddock Road and Main Street/Chain Bridge Road, and the importance of Farr's Crossroads, now the University Mall/GMU intersection, during the Civil War and how the Farr family tract evolved into today's Mason campus. Brian explained how the redoubt was constructed and how it was used during the Civil War as an early warning site by both sides. Jim Lewis also explained how during the Civil War era, Ox Road was "improved" as a "Corduroy" road.

In addition to the 18 field trip participants, there was a substantial waiting list for this OLLI class. Therefore, this walking tour class will probably be offered again during the Spring 2025 OLLI term.



See next page for more pictures of this BRCWRT Community Outreach event.

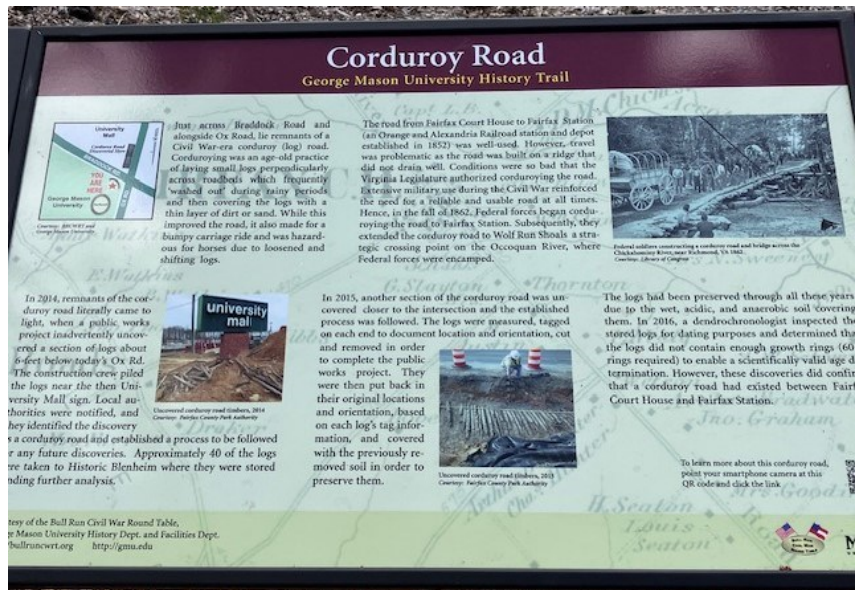
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# BRCWRT EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Brian McEnany addresses the class about the Redoubt's construction and uses during the war



Jim Lewis explains how the Ox Road was improved as a "corduroy" road during the Civil War era



**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

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**-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:**

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**CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_**

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**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? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_