

## HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR DAVID GOETZ SPEAKS ON "COLONEL JOHN S. MOSBY AND THE LINCOLN CONSPIRACY" AT THE MARCH 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## By Mark Trbovich

The presentation "Colonel John S. Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracy" examines the background of individuals and groups, on both sides of the Civil War, who wanted to capture or kill Confederate President Jefferson Davis and U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. The particulars of Colonel Mosby's role in the conspiracies against Lincoln, which also considers the clandestine side, will be brought to us by a member and friend of the BRCWRT at the March $14^{\text {th }}, 2024$ General Membership meeting.

David Goetz is descended from the family of Chaplain Father James M. Graves, a Jesuit priest who served with Confederate Generals Joe Johnston and Stonewall Jackson in the Army of Virginia in 1861-62. He is a past commander of the Black Horse Camp \#780, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Fauquier County, Virginia and is a member of the Fauquier Historical Society Board of Directors. David has a professional background in public relations, sales, and marketing, primarily with non-profit organizations. He holds an undergraduate degree in English from BelIarmine University, Louisville, and a Master of Science in Community Development from the University of Louisville.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, March 14, 2024

## 6 P.M. Social Hour

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

## GUEST SPEAKER:

David Goetz
TOPIC:
"Colonel John S. Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracy"

David's first non-fiction work is Hell is Being a Republican in Virginia: The Post-War Relationship Between John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant. David is a U.S. Army veteran, received an Honorable Discharge, and lives in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Come join us early at our March 14th, 2023, Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with David and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

[^0]NOTE: The Centreville Military Railroad Tour originally scheduled for March 9th has been POSTPONED to March 16th. You still have time to sign up - see the flyer on page 6 for details.

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

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

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 14 David Goetz - "Col. John Singleton Mosby \& The Lincoln Conspiracy"
April 11 James Anderson - "Elizabeth Van Lew: Union Spy in the Heart of the Confederacy"
May 9 Chris Mackowski - "The Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864"
June 13 Brad Gottfried - "The Maps of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 1864"
July 11 Jonathan Noyalas - "The Battle of Cool Springs, July 1864"
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"

| In This Issue |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| President's Column | Page 3 |
| BRCWRT Calendar of Events | Page 5 |
| Military Railroad Tour | Page 6 |
| Preservation Corner | Page 7 |
| Welcome New Members | Page 11 |
| 13th Membership Meeting | Page 11 |
| PW History Symposium | Page 13 |
| Image of the Month | Page 14 |
| The Stone Church Markers | Page 15 |
| Ms. Rebelle | Page 18 |
| PW Historic Preservation <br> Lecture Series | Page 25 |



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kim Brace

In the past month I've been photographing wild animals in the heat of the Serengeti in Tanzania, as well as the Northern Lights in the sub-zero temperatures of Churchill, Canada. While I'm seeing (and feeling) wide ranges of temperature swings, I am blessed to know there is steady and growing leadership of our Round Table. In the past two months your Executive Committee has approved the At-Large Member additions to the Exec Comm of Melissa Winn (currently with American Battlefield Trust and formerly on the staff of Civil War Times) and Jeffrey Joyce (Battlefield guide at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and a Civil War re-enactor and living historian at Manassas National Battlefield and other local Civil War historical sites).

Long-time members have also stepped up to give steady leadership in the various offices they hold. Blake Myers, head of the Preservation Committee, continues to monitor actions of our local governments as they impact our local battlefields and development. His monthly reports (usually reprinted in the Stone Wall) let members know where history is being impacted. Many other Round Tables are beginning to pick up his reports.

Past President Mark Trbovich is heading up a group of members to explore contacts we are having with other Round Tables in the DC area. Since the BRCWRT is the largest Round Table in the area, these smaller Round Tables have reached out to us for assistance in finding potential speakers. Mark's group will explore additional avenues of cooperation, such as creating a master calendar of events that all Round Tables will be able to tap into and publish.

As a past member of the board of the CWRT (Civil War Round Tables) I have long been interested in nurturing contacts and cooperation between Round Tables. Now we have a chance to implement the idea locally. Come and join us.

Our February General Membership Meeting featured an informative talk on the Emancipation Proclamation by our good friend Kevin Pawlak.


Photos: Janet Greentree
There are a lot of interesting things to do this month. The Centreville Military Railroad Tour was postponed to this Saturday, March 16th, so it is not too late to go to the website and sign up for it; see the flyer on page 6.

The following weekend, March 23, brings the Prince William/Manassas History Symposium, which will include topics of special interest to our members such as The Rise of Stonewall Jackson and Cemeteries of Prince William County. For details, see page 13.

Finally, the Prince William Historic Preservation Lecture Series continues on Thursday, March 28, with a presentation entitled Small But Important Riots: The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. The details are on page 25. Here's hoping you can enjoy one or more of these events.

## WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

You can find interesting things on Facebook sometimes... like the breakfast menu for Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore, just one week after the battle of Gettysburg. Note that it looks more like dinner than breakfast. Apparently in 1863 an extensive breakfast wine list was fashionable; one wonders if Chateau Lafitte pairs well with Corned Beef Hash. And if you didn't want a roll or toast, "stale bread" was an option. City life during the Civil War....

Source: University of Houston, Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management Hospitality Industry Archives.


## 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 Program of Events

| Date | Event |
| :--- | :--- |
| March 14 | Monthly Meeting Speaker: David Goetz - "Colonel John Singleton Mosby and the <br> Lincoln Conspiracy" |
| March 16 | RESCHEDULED Spring Field Trip: "Centreville Military Railroad" - Tour leaders <br> Blake Myers and Jim Lewis |
| March 23 | Prince William County Symposium will be held 8:00-4:30 at the Manassas Museum <br> Membership Drive and Book Sales |
| April 11 | Monthly Meeting Speaker: James Anderson - "Elizabeth Van Lew: Union Spy in <br> The Heart of the Confederacy" |
| May 9 May 1864" Anniversary Celebration - CAKE! |  |

# Centreville Military Railroad Tour Saturday, March 16 



Subject matter: The CMRR, the first American railroad built exclusively for military purposes, was built between Nov. 1861 - Feb. 1862 and operated from Feb 4, - March 8, 1862 - providing food, forage, and supplies to the Confederate forces (44,000 strong), horses and mules camped in and around Centreville.

Five (5) tour stops (Manassas Visitor Center/RR Depot, Bull Run trestle site, CMRR roadbed remnants, CMRR terminus site, and historic St. John's Episcopal Church). Optional tour stop after lunch (CMRR roadbed remnant in Bull Run Reg. Park). Trail and cross-country walking required - TOUR NOT ADVISED FOR MOBILITY-CHALLENGED PERSONS.

Tour Guides: Blake Myers \& Jim Lewis
Assembly Time/Location: 9:00 AM / Manassas Visitor Center (Historic Manassas RR Depot) @ 9421 West St., Manassas, VA 20110

Mode of Transportation: Car Caravan - will consolidate into vehicles for main tour only \& vehicles for main tour plus optional lunch/tour stop

Tour Start Time: 9:15 AM
ETA for main tour only vehicles returning to Manassas Visitor Center: 1:00 PM
Optional Lunch: Burger King (Centreville) - Individual tabs
Uniform of the Day: Appropriate dress for weather conditions, comfortable walking shoes, and bring a walking stick as needed/desired.

BRCWRT Contacts: Blake Myers - ib11thva@cox.net (703 868-1728), or Jim Lewis - antietam1862@verizon.net (703 593-2956)

The tour is FREE! If interested in attending, please sign up via BRCWRT's website or at the March 14, 2024, BRCWRT Membership meeting


## PRESERVATION CORNER

 By Blake Myers

Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends. This edition of Preservation Corner contains a short update on the PWDG lawsuits and on data center reform legislation introduced during Virginia's 2024 legislative session, an update on the initiative to preserve and interpret the historic Conner House in the City of Manassas Park, and an update on the status of the on-going National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review for the proposed Manassas Logistics Center development on property formerly owned by Chapel Springs Church.

## The Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) and its Proposed Data Centers (Manassas National Battlefield Park \& Manassas Battlefield Historic District)

Approximately one year ago, the Oak Valley Homeowners Association (HOA) and ten individual plaintiffs sued to overturn the BOCS approval of Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) 2021-00004, PW Digital Gateway that paved the way for the PWDG rezoning applications. That lawsuit remains active and is working its way through the court system.

On January 12, 2024, two lawsuits were filed seeking to overturn the Prince William BOCS' approval of the three PWDG rezoning applications. The Coalition to Protect PWC, six Gainesville District residents who live in or near the PWDG corridor, and ABT filed a lawsuit to overturn the approval of the PWDG rezoning applications. The lawsuit stipulates that the BOCS took inap-
propriate actions on the rezoning applications as they made their way through the County's review and approval process, did not require a Special Use Permit as part of the PWDG data center rezoning applications, and that the county did not comply with applicable Virginia state law and PWC ordinances in notifying affected residents of the rezoning application public hearing conducted on December 12, 2023. The lawsuit provides a detailed history of the area and the two Civil War battles fought there, and cites many of the previously expressed objections and concerns, including overburdening the region's power grid due to the PWDG's high demand for electricity, the loss of green space and public spaces, and significant negative environmental impacts with respect to air quality, clean water and the Occoquan Watershed Reservoir, and noise pollution.

The second lawsuit, filed by the Oak Hill HOA, likewise seeks to overturn the approval of the PWDG rezoning applications and block construction of the proposed PWDG data centers. This lawsuit stipulates that the Prince William County BOCS ignored the County's established processes and requirements for data center developments, ignored specific PWDG Comprehensive Plan Amendment requirements, ignored recommendations of the County's Planning Staff and Planning Commission, and was dismissive of the objections and concerns raised by county residents, the National Park Service, MNBP and historic preservation groups. Specific negative impacts cited in the lawsuit include PWDG proximity to residential areas and public open space including national and state parks, air, water and noise pollution, and the destruction of wildlife corridors and open space. The lawsuit also cites the litany of unknown elements and unspecified aspects
(cont on page 8)

## PRESERVATION CORNER

of the proposed project design and infrastructure requirements, and the haphazard approach used by the BOCS to consider and approve the rezoning applications.


Rendering of the proposed PWDG Data Centers depicting the data centers' site schematics in relation to adjacent historic sites within the Manassas Battlefield Historic District, Manassas Battlefield National Park and Manassas Battlefield Core Area land currently owned by the American Battlefield Trust and planned for eventual incorporation into MNBP (courtesy of American Battlefield Trust)

## Virginia Data Center Reform Efforts

The Virginia Data Center Reform Coalition has been urging Virginia to study the cumulative effects of data center development on the state's electrical grid, water resources, air quality, and land conservation efforts, and to institute several


January 12, 2024, Press Conference Announcing the Two PWDG Lawsuits (photo courtesy of author)
common-sense regulatory and infrastruc-ture-related reforms for the data center industry. The Coalition seeks Virginia state government intervention to require more transparency with respect to land use decisions that directly affect residential quality of life and energy and water usage that carries significant implications for both local communities and the Commonwealth.


Of the 17 legislative bills concerning data center reform (tax incentives, energy demand, impacts on natural and historic resources, etc.) submitted during the 2024 Virginia legislative session, most were continued to 2025. One bill, HB 338, passed the House in a somewhat water-downed version. The amended bill encourages localities to request a site assessment of water usage and carbon emissions, while the original language required it.
(cont on page 9)

## PRESERVATION CORNER

The majority of the other data center bills were set aside in deference to a statewide study on data centers being conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) - a study due to be completed in November 2024. JLARC is the highly respected "research" agency whose work informs the General Assembly's legislative function.

Meanwhile, nearly all data center trade magazines are writing about and discussing a significant issue - LACK OF POWER - and Virginia, led by residents and environmental and historical preservation groups, has become the epicenter of the fight for sustainable communities and quality of life. Specific issues of concern include the environmental impacts of data centers on local power, water, sewer, and wastewater collection and treatment resources and infrastructure, and the negative impacts of data centers sited on or adjacent to historic sites and properties, open spaces, and wildlife corridors.

## Historic Conner House

The Conner (Duncan) House and its historic significance was covered in last month's Preservation Corner article and is not repeated here.


As reported last month, on December 13, 2023, the Manassas Park City Council approved the Generalized Development Plan for Artena Park and its apartment complex. The site plan from the approved Artena Park Generalized Development Plan (see diagram, below) avoids the Conner House and the land it sits on in the apartment complex's development footprint. This seemed to eliminate the development's direct threat to the Conner House - or so we thought.


In recent discussions and meetings with Aksoylu Properties, the apartment complex developer, we were informed that the footprint for the Phase 2 apartment building has been lengthened and shifted to the left and up, encompassing the Conner (Duncan) House site. So, the Conner House is once again directly threatened by the apartment complex development. During our discussions the developer indicated his desire to save and preserve the Conner House as a historical structure. He did not have a definitive concept of how and what a 'saved and preserved Conner House' might look like but indicated that potential options include moving the Conner House to another site, relocating the Conner House on its present site to
(cont on page 10)

## PRESERVATION CORNER

be out of the apartment building's footprint, and donating the Conner House to another entity. Likewise, potential uses and functions of a saved and preserved Conner House were not clearly articulated or described. Obviously BRCWRT's interest in this project remains preserving, restoring and interpreting the Conner (Duncan) House with respect to its significant antebellum and civil war history, and we will remain actively engaged with Aksoylu Properties in hopes of achieving that outcome.

No near-term development actions are anticipated as physical work on the development is not envisioned to begin until 2026-27, at the earliest. That said, planning will continue, and any changes to the site plan will need to be approved by the City of Manassas Park. Stay tuned for future developments and updates.

## Chapel Springs (Manassas Logistics Center Phase II) Proposed Development (Bristoe Station and Kettle Run Battlefields, Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park)

Consulting Parties recently (Feb 29, 2024) received follow up information and documentation from the January 22, 2024, Consulting Party meeting, as promised by USACE, for review and comment. Based on discussions during the January $22^{\text {nd }}$ meeting, there appears to be a general sense, or at least my impression of one, of where the Section 106 Review may be heading and how preservation issues and concerns might potentially be addressed in a resultant Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

- While the project area, located along Bristow Road and adjacent to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park (see parcel map below), is within the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) designated Core Areas of both the Kettle Run Battlefield (August 27,

1862) and Bristoe Station Battlefield (October 14, 1863), the project will likely eventually proceed as it is consistent with PW County's designated M -2 (Light Industrial) zoning for the respective land parcels.


Manassas Logistics Center Phase II Project Concept Overlaid on Parcel Map (courtesy PW County)

- Major focus areas for historic site avoidance and adverse effects mitigation measures include the southern section of the project area (see annotated map, below) that features:
$\diamond$ Land over which Brigadier General William Kirkland's NC Brigade attacked federal forces positioned along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad;
- Remnants of hut sites of a Civil War era encampment with earthworks, and an associated cemetery containing military graves/burials (Archaeological Site 44PW0971) that has been recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
$\checkmark$ And the historic viewsheds to and from Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and American Battlefield Trust (ABT) owned land that is within the Bristoe Station battlefield core area.


## PRESERVATION CORNER

- Key on-going avoidance and mitigation discussions include:
$\diamond$ Siting, footprint, and orientation of proposed buildings
$\checkmark$ Project setback distance from the Bristow Road property line (must be greater than the proposed 35 feet)
$\diamond$ Use, or non-use, of earthen berms
$\diamond$ Specifics and details of proposed tree screenings along Bristow Road
$\diamond$ Archaeological Site 44PW0971
$\checkmark$ Additional investigations to confirm or deny GPR detected anomalies as potential human burials
$\diamond$ Management and care for Archaeological Site 44PW0971 and associated historic sites during and after construction
$\diamond$ Viewshed assessments, including Balloon Study
$\diamond$ Logistics Center noise levels and attenuation
$\diamond$ Procedures, including on-site monitoring, to identify, protect and document unmarked burials/graves discovered during project land clearing and construction operations
Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, Civil War historic preservation in general and BRCWRT's preservation projects, actions, and activities.

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair


## BRCWRT SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING By Mark Whitenton Photos by Mark Whitenton

With the enthusiastic cooperation of BRCWRT member Paige Gibbons Backus (Site Manager of Brentsville Historic Centre), Debbie Whitenton (BRCWRT Secretary) arranged for a Sunday $13^{\text {th }}$ General Membership meeting on February 18. Despite the chilly weather, 19 BRCWRT members came to the meeting.


After being welcomed by Paige (above), we went into the fully restored Brentsville Courthouse, which was built in 1822 and used while Brentsville served as the Prince William County seat during the mid-1800's. There, we were given a substantive history lesson by Nathan McDonald, Historic Interpreter for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation. You will remember Nate from his talk at the General Membership meeting on November 9 on "The Battle of Droop Mountain WV, Nov. 1863".

(cont on page 12)

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Nate then took us next door to the fully restored Brentsville Jail. Long-time members will remember that restoring the old jail was a passion for past-president Mark Trbovich and the BRCWRT. In fact, Mark spoke at the official opening of the restored jail in May 2017. Posted in the entrance room of the jail is a plaque thanking principal donors for the restoration - and the BRCWRT is listed near the top.


After the briefing on the jail, we had some time to look around and then convened at the restored Union Church for the main attraction, "The Healing: Conversations between Nurses North and South". The presentation was modified somewhat, since the Union nurse, Linda Harrison, had fallen ill that morning.

Undaunted, the Confederate nurse, Dawn Diehl, performed the Confederate part admirably. She concluded the performance with a show and tell of authentic Civil War-era medical hardware. Then, Dawn shockingly confirmed her allegiance by showing off her petticoat!


Dawn Diehl presents the Confederate side of the story
Many thanks to Dawn Diehl, Paige Gibbons Backus, and Nate McDonald for their presentations. Thanks, too, to Debbie Whitenton for organizing this $13^{\text {th }}$ meeting on a Sunday to afford an opportunity to get together for those members who find it difficult to meet on Thursday evenings.


Debbie Whitenton, presenter Dawn Diehl and her assistant, Julie Ferguson.


# IMAGE OF THE MONTH 

By Melissa A. Winn

Photo Credit: 1859 Freeman Store \& Museum, operated by Historic Vienna Inc.
In 1859, Abram Lydecker built his combined store and house at the intersection of the main road through Vienna, VA and the Alexandria, Loudoun \& Hampshire Railroad, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The lower level of the building became the town's first general store. The railroad brought goods, gave access to distant markets and made commuting possible. In 1859 and 1860 Lydecker had a license for an 'ordinary' - a place where meals can be served to travelers - and house of private entertainment.

The building in view at the left is likely Lydecker's grist and saw mill. During the Civil War, the house was occupied by both sides. Union officers were quartered here for a while and kept their horses in the cellar. When occupied by the Confederates, they used the house as a field hospital.

After the 1950s, the Freeman Store became unoccupied and the property fell into disrepair. It was purchased by the Town of Vienna in 1969, and restoration work began in January 1975. The building was dedicated and reopened to the public on June 26, 1976. Today Historic Vienna, Inc. operates a historic country store on the first level and a museum on the top level.


## THE STONE CHURCH MARKERS

## By John Carter

The ambulance raced along the Warrenton Turnpike to Centreville, slowing only to make the turn onto Braddock Road. It came to a quick stop in front of a small stone church, and the driver and two stretcher bearers leapt out to open its rear gate. Two orderlies came out of the church and ran down to help bring in the stretchers with the wounded men. This had been their routine for the last few hours - unload an ambulance, take the wounded inside, and then go back for the next one coming right behind it. The Warrenton Turnpike and Braddock Road were also filled with walking wounded, some being assisted by other soldiers, and others carried on horseback.

The stretcher bearers and orderlies brought the wounded men through the front door of the church and into the sanctuary. There was no check-in, and no triage. A soldier's rank and the severity of his wound did not secure him a place in line, only the order of his arrival. The wounded were laid on the open spaces on the floor to wait for the surgeon to get to them. The backlog was long, and it could be hours before they were treated. The orderlies knew these wounded men were lucky in one way. The church was not yet over-filled with wounded, so they could remain indoors and would not have to be left outside. As the stretcher bearers turned to go to return to their ambulance, they saw the surgeon and an assistant performing an amputation. The surgeon was operating on a table which appeared to be either a church pew or a communion table. Water was pooling on the floor beneath the surgeon's feet, coming from the repeated rinses of the wooden blood-covered operating table after each operation.

As more injured soldiers came through the front door, orderlies were tossing amputated limbs out the rear windows; but they respectfully carried the bodies outside. There was no time to do otherwise. The number of wounded was overwhelming for the handful of doctors and orderlies who had been stationed in Centreville before the First Battle of Manassas. Surgeon William S. King, the Medical Director of General Irwin McDowell's Army of the Potomac, thought he had adequately prepared both the battlefield and the village of Centreville to handle the expected volume of wounded. The projected numbers of dead and wounded were greatly underestimated. The surgeons on the battlefield were equally overwhelmed, and many of the severely wounded died before they could be helped. Those who survived were left at the battlefield field hospitals and at the mercy of the victorious Confederates, while those with less serious wounds were sent on to Centreville.

Along with the church, several homes on Braddock Road were used to treat the wounded (possibly the nearby Havener House, Mohler House, and Grigsby House). Bodies and body parts were building up behind the church, and the line of incoming wounded would continue past nightfall. Not only were the surgeons in the village short-handed, but many items which were normally found in hospital wards were missing: beds, linens, pillows, blankets, and tables. Orderlies were sent from home to home to get kettles for water and tea, and also to get food. The citizens of Centreville did not have to climb the Heights to see the war as they had done before the battle; it was now in their streets.

The last of the wounded that evening were stabilized and sent by ambulance
(cont on page 16)

## STONE CHURCH MARKERS

to Fairfax Court House. Only then did anyone have time to remove the bodies and the piles of amputated limbs around the church. The sight of dead bodies was horrible enough, but piles of amputated limbs were eerie and grotesque, both for civilians and soldiers. The Confederate attack had stopped at Cub Run, so there was time to remove the deceased soldiers from the village. After the last body was removed, the orderlies went behind the church to begin their final task. They were stopped in their tracks by the smell of the gore from dozens of amputated limbs. Pulling bandannas over their faces, they began the job of burying the limbs behind the church and away from the buildings. The scene would be repeated later that December after the Battle of Dranesville, and again in 1862 after the Battle of Second Manassas.

As of today, no graves have been discovered near the Stone Church, and the buried amputated limbs were probably destroyed over the years by decay, the plowing up of the land, and construction of $20^{\text {th }}$ century highways. There are some who would consider the site to be hallowed ground - although a battle was not fought there, soldiers were treated at the church for their injuries or had died there while in the service to their country. The battlefield of Manassas has a number of monuments and grave sites which honor those who sacrificed their lives. Not every Civil War site has a monument to its dead. During the war many soldiers were buried where they fell, or at the regional hospitals after they succumbed to their wounds.

The first burial markers were usually wooden crosses with the name, rank, and regiment written out in coal or pencil. Few names would be distinguishable by the end of the war. The Regional Hos-
pital at Culpeper had received most of the long-term wounded and sick from the First Battle of Manassas and the winter encampments in Northern Virginia. Deceased soldiers were buried on the hospital's grounds. After the war, 567 bodies were exhumed and reinterred in nearby Fairview Cemetery. Since most graves were unidentifiable, an obelisk was erected over the site with the name of each deceased soldier inscribed on its base.

Not all deceased soldiers, however, were identified. Well after the war, as Union and Confederate groups sought to find, identify, and honor their dead, they developed a system for identifying the resting places of individual soldiers. The bodies of soldiers were found on farms, in woods, and even inside of wells. The remains were sent to a National or Confederate cemetery, where they were individually buried as unknowns. A simple iron marker was later devised to mark an unknown veteran's grave site.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) put up markers between 1866-1900. The UDC and the SCV continue today to locate and upgrade individual Confederate soldiers' burial sites. The GAR was a fraternal organization of honorably discharged Union Civil War veterans founded in 1866 by Benjamin Franklin Stephenson. It was involved in charity and politics, and they lobbied for soldiers' homes and pensions. They also began the tradition of Decoration Day on May 30th, now called Memorial Day.

In the rear of the Stone Church (the Church of the Ascension - Episcopal; Centreville Methodist Episcopal Church South from 1854 to 1970 ) behind its gravel driveway, there is a small shrine with two
(cont on page 17)

## STONE CHURCH MARKERS

metal markers. One is a marker for the Grand Army of the Republic. It is a fivepointed star with a circle around the lettering "GAR 1861 1865." Each star point has a circle with a star in it. At the base of the five stars are figures, symbols that relate to a branch of military service: navy, infantry, cavalry, quartermaster, and engineering. The Confederate War Veteran marker is circular with a star in the middle, with the word "War" inside it and "Confederate Veteran" written in the ring of laurel branches around the star.

The original $19^{\text {th }}$ century grave markers were made from iron. The markers in place behind the church today appear to be bronze, which make them $20^{\text {th }}-$ century markers. Markers similar to these were used even when they knew the person and the regiment, which would be added to the marker. Some would later include a SCV or GAR camp number; the Southern Cross marker also came later.


The Grand Army of the Republic marker
The markers were probably put there to honor the soldiers who had been treated for their wounds, or who had died at the church. The question of who put up the markers, and when, was answered by Fr. Michael Weaver, the current rector of the church. In a recent letter, he noted

That area was set aside because (as we know it) that was where limbs amputated when the church was used as a hospital were buried. That area has since been blessed and dedicated to the memories of those soldiers. Pre-COVID, we held a memorial day service open to the public to remember their sacrifice and the sacrifice of all the US Military who have lost their lives in service of our country. As for the markers, those pre-date me at the Church. They were most likely obtained and that area dedicated in the early or mideighties based on the memories of a few, but from where we are not sure. They were most likely placed by Rev. David Rupp, who was rector of the Church during that time.


Confederate Veteran marker
Hallowed ground in many ways.

## Suggested reading:

Paige Gibbons Backus, "The Chaos and Carnage in the Hospital of First Manassas," November 2019 presentation to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.
H. H. Cunningham, Doctors in Gray: The Confederate Medical Service, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1960.

Drew Gilpin Faust, This Republic of Suffering Death and the American Civil War, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

Bell Irvin Wiley, The Life of Billy Yank, Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1951.


## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE <br> By Janet Greentree <br> Major General John Bankhead Magruder, CSA

## Prince John-Master of Ruses \& Strategy

John Bankhead Magruder was born in Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia on May 1, 1807. Port Royal is between King George and Bowling Green on Rt. 301S and played a role in the Booth Escape Route, as John Wilkes Booth and David Herold stopped at the Brockenbrough-Peyton House to ask the ladies of the house for assistance and lodging. John's father was Thomas Baldwin Magruder and his mother Elizabeth M. Bankhead. His father was an attorney in Fredericksburg. His uncle Allan Bowie Magruder was a U.S. Senator from Louisiana. John was one of nine children: Elizabeth Bankhead, George Allan, Isabella Bankhead, James, John Bankhead, William Bankhead, Allan Bowie, Juliana, and Janetta. Allan Bowie followed his father's occupation and became an attorney, and was a colonel in the Civil War on the Confederate side. The Magruder name traces back to the clans of Scotland.


Brockenbrough-Peyton House (Janet Greentree)


## MS. REBELLE

songs and sang them, and also sang tenor at concerts or amateur theatre productions. He was said to be the wittiest man in the army and the handsomest. Magruder was a favorite of Gen. Winfield Scott. He was often referred to as a drunk, but his lisp may have had some bearing on the way he spoke.

On May 18, 1831 he married Esther Henrietta Von Kapff, a rich heiress, in Baltimore, MD. She was the daughter of Bernard Von Kapff, a Baltimore merchant who owned the Von Kapff \& Brune Mercantile House. Magruder would have a strange relationship with Esther, but she truly loved him. Due to his being in the military and her reluctance to follow him with their children, they went long periods without seeing each other during the first 19 years of their marriage. Most people thought he was single. After 1850 Esther visited him twice, in 1854-55 and 1856. His first duty stations were Fort Monroe VA, New Bern NC, Beaufort NC, Fort McHenry MD, Ft. Macon NC, Fort Johnston NC, Fort Washington MD and that is only from 18311835. They had three children: Isabel Bankhead, Kate Elizabeth, and Henry R. His wife and children mostly lived in Europe. Esther is buried in Florence, Italy.

Magruder's uncle on his mother's side, James Bankhead, was a Brevet Brigadier General in the Mexican War. He also fought in the War of 1812 and the Seminole War. His son Smith Pyne Bankhead (1 $1^{\text {st }}$ cousin) was a Brevet Brigadier General in the Civil War. His son John Pyne Bankhead ( $1^{\text {st }}$ cousin) was a Captain in the Union Navy and commanded the U.S.S. Monitor. On December 31, 1862, while the Monitor was being towed, it sank with Bankhead aboard. He was saved but suffered from exposure. He went on to command other ships but was relieved of command due to poor health. His son Henry Bankhead ( $1^{\text {st }}$ cousin) was in the Union Army under Gen. Don Carlos Buell.


Magruder first fought in the Seminole War. His next war was the Mexican War under Gen. Winfield Scott. He was brevetted major on April 18, 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Cerro Gordo. On September 13, 1847 he received a commission as Lt. Col. for his bravery at Chapultepec. After the Mexican War he was assigned to California, Kansas, and an artillery regiment
(cont on page 20)

## MS. REBELLE

at Fort Adams, Rhode Island. He commanded an artillery battery in Washington before the start of the Civil War.


Monitor turret and marker (Janet Greentree)


Magruder resigned his commission from the U.S. Army on April 20, 1861 and was commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate Army. He gave Union Gen. George McClellan a hard time in the Peninsula Campaign. At the battle of Yorktown Magruder completely deceived McClellan into thinking that he had tremendous strength in troops; he actually had far less men than McClellan. He would march his men back and forth and moved his artillery back and forth, firing often. President Lincoln accused McClellan of having "the slows" and Magruder was definitely one of the causes of that. His headquarters along with Gen. Joseph Johnston was Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. There is a marker to Magruder for the battle of Lee's Mill too. His sword and ruby encrusted pistol are in a museum in that area.


Lee Hall Mansion \& Lee's Mill Marker (Janet Greentree)


Magruder Sword and Pistol (courtesy of Alan Smolinski)
Magruder had an earthen redoubt named for him called Fort Magruder between Yorktown and Williamsburg. The fort is still standing at 1035 Penniman Rd., Williamsburg. A hotel in Williamsburg is named after him: the Fort Magruder Hotel.
(cont on page 21)

## MS. REBELLE

He also won the battle of Big Bethel and fought at the battle of Malvern Hill, but General Lee didn't like his performance there. He was charged with being "under the intoxicating influence of ardent spirits". Lee didn't pursue the charge, but assigned him to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.


Big Bethel


Malvern Hill (R. K. Sneden illustration)


The Peninsula Campaign
Magruder set up his headquarters in Houston in October, 1862 and ran his command from there. At the second battle of Galveston, which was mostly Naval, he captured the port and the city. The Confederate Congress published its thanks as follows: "The bold, intrepid, and gallant conduct of Major Gen. J. Bankhead Magruder, Col. Thomas Green, Maj. Leon Smith, and other officers, and of the Texan Rangers and soldiers engaged in the attack on, and victory achieved over, the land and naval forces of the enemy at Galveston, on the $1^{\text {st }}$ of January, 1863, eminently entitle them to the thanks of Congress and the country. This brilliant achievement, resulting, under the providence of God, in the capture
(cont on page 22)

## MS. REBELLE

of the war steamer Harriet Lane and the defeat and ignominious flight of the hostile fleet from the harbor, the recapture of the city and the raising of the blockade of the port of Galveston, signally evinces that superior force may be overcome by skillful conception and daring courage."


Second Battle of Galveston
From August 1864 to March 1865, he commanded the Department of the Arkansas but later returned to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Confederate General William Kirby Smith surrendered to the Union on May 26, 1865. The war was over for Magruder. Both Magruder and Smith signed the surrender papers aboard the USS Fort Jackson.

After the end of the Civil War he refused to apply for parole, fleeing instead to Mexico where he entered service under Emperor Maximilian as a major general in the Imperial Mexican Army. His stint in that army didn't last long, as in May 1867 the emperor was executed. He travelled in Mexico and then came back to New York City and tried to establish a law practice. He finally settled in Houston, TX. He went on speaking tours around the country. He spent the rest of his life in Houston, where he was admired as a socialite gentleman.

On November 14, 1867 Magruder wrote a letter to President Andrew Johnson about his parole: "To His Excellency, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States. Sir, as an officer of the Southern army with the rank of Major General, I am not embraced in the amnesty which your Excellency has proclaimed. The South submitted her interpretation of the Constitution to the arbitrament of the sword which decided against her - and I am now as loyal a citizen of the United States as any within their borders - I therefore apply for a pardon - As an officer, I have always endeavored to soften the rigors of War \& there are no allegations to the contrary, against me, that I am aware of. I have the honor to be very respectfully, Your Obt Servt, J. Bankhead Magruder." His request was approved by Attorney General Henry Stanbery on December 9, 1867.


In August 1869 General Lee and some of his officers met at White Sulphur Springs, now called the Greenbriar, for their first meeting since Appomattox. The meeting was to discuss the orphaned children of the Lost Cause. The photo is the only one known of Lee and his generals after the Civil War. Left to right, standing: Gen. James Conner, Gen. Martin W. Gary, Gen. John B. Magruder, Gen. Robert D. Lilley, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, Gen. Alexander Lawton, Gen. Henry A. Wise, Gen. Joseph Lancaster Brent.
(cont on page 23)

## MS. REBELLE

Seated, left to right: Edouard Blacque Bey (Turkish Minister to the U.S.), Gen. Robert E. Lee, philanthropist George Peabody, philanthropist William Wilson Corcoran, and James Lloyd from Virginia. The picture is still displayed in the foyer of the hotel.

Magruder's health was declining and he moved into the Hutchins House, a luxurious hotel in Houston on Franklin Avenue \& Travis Streets. Unfortunately the hotel burned to the ground on October 19, 1901. On February 18, 1871, after being sick for several days and suffering from heart disease, Magruder died at 3:00 PM at the Hutchins House at the age of 63 .


Hutchins House Hotel, Houston
Magruder was first buried in Houston and later reinterred on April 7, 1894 in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston, the site of his biggest victory in the Civil War, the $2^{\text {nd }}$ battle of Galveston. Magruder's grave is south of Broadway Avenue J, and inside the cemetery south of Avenue K Rear on the edge of the cemetery. The GPS coordinates are: $29^{\circ} 17^{\prime} 37.2^{\prime N} \mathrm{~N} 94^{\circ} 48^{\prime} 40.4$ "W. If you look at the monument, the year 1808 is listed as his birth year. While doing research on Magruder, I found several different dates for his birth.


Magruder Grave Monument (courtesy of Gary Haskins)

The Daily Dispatch in Richmond, VA published his obituary on February 21, 1871: "Death of Gen. John Bankhead Magruder - His Last Moments. Galveston, Texas, Feb. 20. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, of Virginia, formerly Colonel in the United States army, and afterwards Major-General of the Confederate army, died at his hotel in Houston, Texas yesterday morning. He had been unwell for a week previous, but his illness was not considered dangerous until within the past two days. About 8 o'clock on Friday night he became delirious, and his mutterings were unintelligible, and he lay in that condition until 8 o'clock in the morning. At that hour a gentleman from New York, who was stopping at the hotel, walked past his room, and heard a noise within. Upon entering the apartment he found Gen. Magruder in a sort of convulsion. A servant was immediately dispatched for a physician. Before his return the proprietor ascended to the chamber and found the General breathing heavily, and in an unconscious condition. Telling a boy to remain with, but
(cont on page 24)

## MS. REBELLE

not disturb, the sick man, he went down stairs, and upon returning, found the General without pulse, and laying his hand on his heart, found that he was dead. The body of the dead soldier was laid out in a plain black suit. The funeral took place from the Episcopal church. The interment took place in the Episcopal cemetery. The last conversation General Magruder is known to have had was on the Friday previous to his death. To an employee of the hotel, after sending a message to a distant relative residing in the city, he said in reply to a question "I don't think I am long for this world."

Magruder's son Henry R. Magruder gave his father's ceremonial sword and scabbard to the Smithsonian Museum of History in Washington. The Evening Star covered it on July 31, 1907: "Installed at Smithsonian, Bequest of Henry R. Magruder placed in the Historical Collection.
Through the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution the United States government has just received and placed among the historical collections of the Na tional Museum the bequest of the late Henry R. Magruder of Baltimore, who died several months ago in Florence, Italy, where he had lived for many years. The bequest was made to the United States for the use of the Smithsonian Institution. It includes the heavily mounted gold sword and silver pitcher presented to the father of Mr. Henry Magruder, Gen. John Bankhead Magruder of the Confederate army, by the states of Virginia and Maryland in appreciation of his services. The accessions will be exhibited in the hall of history, of which Mr. A. Howard Clark is curator."
 A big huzzah for Gary Haskins, who shared his pictures of General Magruder's grave site at the Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston, Texas. Gary told me he likes to find the graves of Civil War generals. Actually, this article has taken a village to verify the facts. A big thank you to Alan Smolinski of the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table for sharing pictures of Magruder's gun and sword on a bus tour we took in Norfolk with John Quarstein in 2004. A big thank you to Cam Huffman for verifying that a photo of Lee and his generals was taken at the Greenbriar in 1869. And lastly, a big thank you to Nancy Anwyll for helping identify the 2004 bus trip picture of Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News.
NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is traveling 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.


Old Manassas Courthouse 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas www.pwcva.gov/history HistoricPreservation@pwcgov.org

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## WASHINGTON'S MARINES: THE ORIGINS OF THE CORPS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1775-1777

By Maj. Gen. Jason Q. Bohm
The fighting prowess of United States Marines is second to none, but few know of the Corps' humble beginnings and what it achieved during the early years of the American Revolution. Jason Bohm rectifies this oversight by weaving the men, strategy, performance, and personalities of the Corps' formative early years into a single story.

Jan 25 / 7:00p-8:30p Th

## FREEDOM'S WORDS RINGING HOLLOW

By Larry Howard
Historian Larry Howard examines the perspectives of enslaved or formerly enslaved Virginians to determine their perspectives on the political ideas of America's Founding Fathers.

Feb 22/7:00p-8:30p Th

## SMALL BUT IMPORTANT RIOTS: THE CAVALRY BATTLES OF ALDIE, MIDDLEBURG, AND UPPERVILLE

By Robert F. O'Neill
Small but Important Riots focuses on the fighting from June 17 to 22, 1863, at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, placed within the strategic context of the Gettysburg campaign. It is based on Robert O'Neill's thirty years of research and access to previously unpublished documents, which reveal startling new information.

Mar 28 / 7:00p-8:30p Th

## VIRGINIA POW CAMPS IN WORLD WAR II

By Kathryn Coker
During World War II, Virginians watched as German and Italian prisoners invaded the Old Dominion. At least 17,000 Germans and countless Italians lived in over twenty camps across the state and worked on five military installations. Historian Kathryn Coker tells a different story of the Old Dominion at war.

Apr 25/7:00p-8:30p Th

Call (703) 367-7872 for more information.

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