



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXI, Issue 5, MAY 2024

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR DR. CHRIS MACKOWSKI SPEAKS ON "THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS, MAY 1864" AT THE MAY 9th, 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

The Battle of the Wilderness (May 5–7, 1864), the first battle of Union General U. S. Grant's "Overland Campaign", was a relentless drive to defeat once and for all Confederate General R. E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and capture the South's capital at Richmond. Although it was a bloody and inconclusive encounter resulting in a high body count, the battle put the Confederates on the defensive and set the stage for the aggressive war of attrition that followed. We are happy to have a dear friend of the BRCWRT return to give us the rest of the story in the 160th Anniversary month of the battle.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of *Emerging Civil War* and the series editor of the award-winning *Emerging Civil War*, published by Savas Beatie. He is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is a historian-in-residence at Stevenson's Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsyl-

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, May 9, 2024

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chris Mackowski

TOPIC:

"The Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864"

vania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died.

Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. He serves as vice president on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust (CVBT), and also serves on the advisory board of the Civil War Round Table Congress and the Brunswick (North Carolina) Civil War Roundtable (the largest in the country). He's a member of the Antietam Institute.

Come join us early at our May 9th, 2024, Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Chris 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 **June 2024 issue**, e-mail articles by **June 3rd** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 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"
- October 10** Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"
- November 14** Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 1864"
- December 12** Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"
- January 9** Melissa Winn - "Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kim Brace

While your president has spent the last 12 days in Alaska onboard an eight-passenger boat, and Mark and Debbie have been gallivanting around who knows where, the Round Table has been busy.

At our May general membership meeting you'll have a chance to meet our latest find, courtesy of our scholarship committee, headed by John Carter. John's committee has selected our 2024 scholarship winner, Simon Wilson, a fine senior in high school. Simon's scholarship essay, "Moby's Rose Hill Raid—Father against Son" will appear in a future issue of Stone Wall. Before Simon heads off for a summer in Europe and college in the Fall, he'll come talk to us at our May meeting. Be sure to be there!

Our June meeting is in a state of flux currently because the Centreville Library has been designated an early voting site for Fairfax County. As a result, our meeting room will not be available to us. We're researching alternative sites and will send out an email when we have confirmed a location. So keep an eye on your inbox!



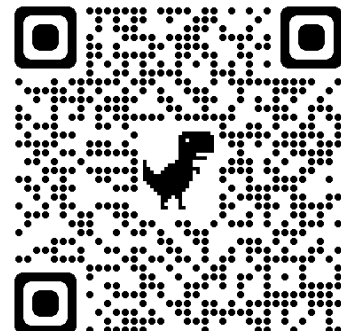
Thanks to our April speaker James Anderson. Photo: Gwen Wyttenbach

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

Date	Event
May 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski - “The Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864” Anniversary Celebration - CAKE!
June 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Brad Gottfried - “The Maps of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 1864”
June 22	Spring Tour: “Battle of Spotsylvania” - Tour Guide Greg Mertz (rain date is June 29th)
July 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Noyalas - “The Battle of Cool Springs, July 1864”
August 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Doug Crenshaw - “Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin’s Farm, 1864”
September 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Weeks - “Rendezvous With Destiny: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse, 1864”
October 5	Fall Field Trip: “Battle of Cedar Creek” - Tour leaders Blake Myers and 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 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gene Schmiel - “The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 1864”
December 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - “Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign”
January 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Winn - “Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way”
February 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Eric Buckland - “Mosby: When The Story Ended, The Legend Began”
March 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Dawn Diehl & Linda Harrison - “The Healing: Conversations with Civil War Nurses”

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

43RD ANNUAL MOSBY BUS TOUR: MAY 11, 2024

For our 43rd tour, we will head to the Shenandoah Valley, where Mosby and his men tangled with Federal cavalry leaders such as Phil Sheridan and George Custer. Some sites covered will include the Berryville Wagon Train Raid, the "Hangings," and many more.

Purchase your tickets by emailing mosbytours@gmail.com, calling (703) 431-2869, or paying via Venmo to @Robert-Orrison

Co-led by Rob Orrison and Kevin Pawlak

**Tour Start and End Location:
Univeristy Blvd. Park & Ride Lot, 13305 Lee Hwy,
Manassas, VA 20109**

\$80 for SMHS Members; \$90 for Non-Members

**Sponsored by the
Stuart-Mosby Historical Society**



IMAGE OF THE MONTH

By Melissa A. Winn

Business Card

This unique and playful carte-de-visite served as a calling card or business card for Sittler and Launey's Art Emporium, a studio in Shelbyville, Ill., which operated between 1872 and 1881. Known for their impressive stereoscopic images, ferrotypes, watercolors, and pastels, the pair used the technology to document post-Civil War scenes of the Wilson's Creek battlefield, too.

George W. Sittler was born in Shelby County, Ill., on August 25, 1847. After his public-school education, he became an apprentice for photographer Dr. George H. Hannaman. Sittler later purchased the studio from Dr. Hannaman. In 1872, he entered into the photographic partnership with A. R. Launey. Sittler sold his interest in the business to his partner in August 1881, and briefly relocated to Fort Scott, Kansas.

In January 1882, Sittler moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he would live out the rest of his life. He bought Captain S. W. Johnson's gallery, which was strategically located on the busy St. Louis Street. Sittler employed three assistants, including Robert M. Root, who enlarged photographs and produced crayon sketches and watercolors. The large gallery also became a major retailer of photographic equipment, chemicals, and frames. Sittler's gallery became one of the largest photographic wholesalers in the region. He was also engaged in Springfield civic affairs and an active member of the Photographic Association of America.

In the 1880s, Sittler frequently ventured outside to photograph local caves. In September 1887, while jumping from one area to another to secure a better view of his subject, Sittler's head struck the point of a stalactite. After returning home, he became delirious before losing consciousness. The 40 year old Sittler was comatose for several days, until he died at his Springfield home on September 22, 1887. His widow Lizzie, an accomplished photographer in her own right, operated her late husband's gallery for several years after his untimely passing.



Melissa A. Winn Collection

Battle of Spotsylvania tour

Saturday June 22

The tour is free



Tour highlights: Beginning of the battle, Upton's attack, and walking approximately two hours in the Bloody Angle.

Tour guide: Greg Mertz, retired interpreter at the battlefield

Assembly time and location: 9:30 AM at Spotsylvania Courthouse (in front of the Richard Holbert Memorial Building, 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania). We will finish about 3 PM.

Mode of transportation: Carpool caravan leaving from Spotsylvania Courthouse (individuals may want to arrange carpools with friends prior to leaving northern Virginia).

Lunch break at Subway or a Mexican restaurant.

Sign up on the website or at a meeting.

BRCWRT Contact: John Scully at scullycivilwar@gmail.com or text to 703-869-4036

Bibliography - Civil War Intelligence

By James Anderson

Editor's note: our April speaker on Elizabeth Van Lew has provided us with a lengthy bibliography of books related to Intelligence and Espionage during the Civil War.

Military Intelligence

Allan Pinkerton: The First Private Eye, by James Mackey (useful Pinkerton biography; much better than Pinkerton's self-serving autobiography)

Grant's Secret Service: The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox, by William B. Feis; University of Nebraska; 2002 (includes good detail on Grenville Dodge & Western Theater 1861-1863)

M.G. George H. Sharpe and the Creation of American Military Intelligence in the Civil War, by Peter G. Tsouras; Casemate Publishers; 2018 (comprehensive, 580 page study of Sharpe & BMI throughout the war; well sourced and footnoted. Very readable)

Mosby's Rangers, by Jeffry D. Wert; Simon & Schuster; 1990. Best of many on Mosby.

Spies, Scouts and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign, by Thomas Ryan; Savas Beatie LLC; 2015 (Gettysburg focus; summarizes from Fishel but more readable)

The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War, by Edwin C. Fishel; Houghton Mifflin; 1996 (most comprehensive, scholarly work, excellent bibliography of sources. Go-to for serious research)

Civilian Espionage

A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia, The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliff, by Charles Mauro; The History Press; 2009 (best biography on our local spy)

Death to Traitors: The Story of General Lafayette C. Baker, Lincoln's Forgotten Secret Service Chief, by Jacob Mogelever; Doubleday; 1960 (dated but solid biography of that "Scoundrel" Baker.)

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War, by Karen Abbott; Harper Perennial; 2015 (popular page turner, gets basic facts right)

Lincoln's spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation, by Douglas Waller; Simon & Schuster; 2019 (excellent, readable coverage of Pinkerton, Van Lew, Sharpe and Baker – 580 pages & good bibliography)

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy, by Elizabeth R. Varon; Oxford University Press; 2003. (Best Van Lew biography)

Gettysburg

Gettysburg, by Stephen Sears; Houghton Mifflin; 2003. (Of the many overviews of Gettysburg, the one that does the best job of incorporating the intelligence picture. Mentioned here because it covers Sharpe and the BMI).

Two Battlefields Named to NTHP 11 Most Endangered List

By Melissa A. Winn

The Wilderness Battlefield and Minute Man National Historical Park once again have been listed among the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, a stark indication of the urgent and ongoing need to protect even our most hallowed grounds from the relentless forces of development and expansion.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the battlefield areas, both partially protected within units of the National Park System, to its annual listing Wednesday, May 1, and called for immediate steps toward protection.

"Next year we will mark 250 years since the beginning of the American Revolution, when our Patriot forebearers took a principled stand in the face of a formidable foe," said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. "Today, safeguarding our battlefields so that future generations will understand what was risked on their behalf requires fierce advocates no less steadfast in their convictions."

The Wilderness, a pivotal May 1864 battle and turning point in the Civil War, is a unit of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. It is facing a 2,600-acre mixed-use development featuring millions of square feet of data centers on what is now farmland in Orange County, Va.

The Trust is lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to overturn the rezoning. It was previously on the list in 2010 when threatened by construction of a Walmart Superstore. Ultimately, Walmart built elsewhere in the county and donated the original site to the Commonwealth of Virginia

Minute Man National Historical Park sits alongside Hanscom Field, the region's largest noncommercial airport, which is seeking to add 17 private jet hangars, in-

creasing noise, visual distractions, and air pollution. In 2003, Minute Man was also listed due to the effects of the airport on the park, which commemorates the first engagements of the American Revolution in April 1775.



New member Chris Walton is an Iraq veteran (2004-2005) and prior to that deployed to Kosovo for a peacekeeping mission. He left the Army as a Captain, Military Intelligence, 1st Infantry Division. He says:

"Since I was a child, I was always interested in toy soldiers, which grew into interests in military history and more recently the Civil War. My ACW bug began two years ago following a tour to Gettysburg. I was hooked. Since then, I have toured Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Within the ACW genre, I am particularly interested in battlefield tactics and strategic decisions that affected the greater war."

Chris looks forward to meeting more of our members at future meetings, after joining us on April 11th to hear about Elizabeth Van Lew.

And speaking of Ms. Van Lew: we also are delighted to welcome our recent speaker, Jim Anderson, as a new member. Jim's credentials are on Page 1 of the April Stone Wall, if you haven't already seen them.



**THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122**

<http://www.bullruncwrt.org>

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Thank you for your continued interest in the BRCWRT!

Here are your payment options:

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$25.00

Student (21 & under): FREE!

Three-Year Option:

\$55.00

\$65.00

You may use PayPal by going to http://brcwrt.org/?page_id=962 and then emailing this form to BRCWRTtreasurer@gmail.com. Note that \$1 is added to cover the PayPal fee.

-OR-

You may pay by check, made payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table) and give the form and check to the President or Treasurer at a General Membership meeting.

-OR-

You may mail this form and the check to:

**BRCWRT Treasurer
P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, VA 20122**

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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? _____