

**Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) Preservation Corner
September 30, 2021**

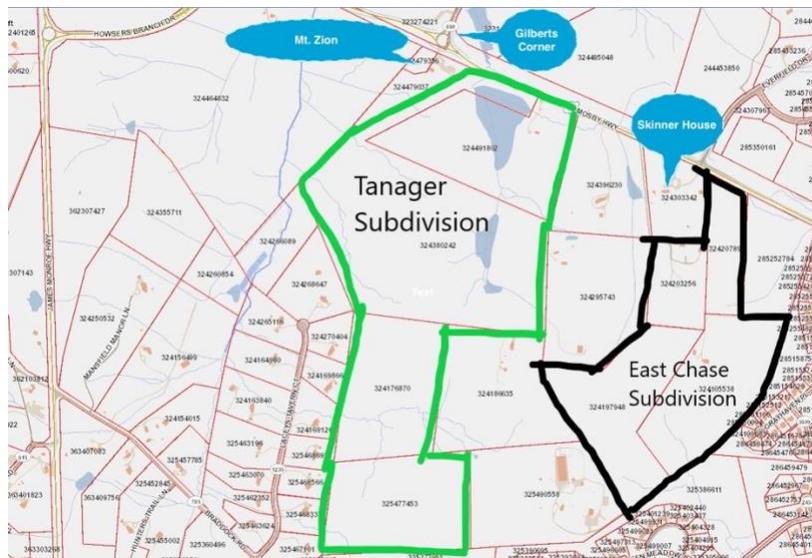


Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides an update on Mt. Zion Battlefield and Mt Zion Historic Park, and the announcement of 2021 Virginia Battlefield Protection Grants.

Mt. Zion Battlefield & Historic Mt. Zion Park

As a member of the Protect Mt. Zion preservation group led by the Ohana Preservation Foundation, the BRCWRT continues to work in support of the campaign to protect Mt. Zion and raise awareness of the on-going development threat to this historic land. At its recent (September 24) meeting Protect Mt. Zion members provided an update on the on-going residential development plans.

Two developments are currently being proposed, East Chase Subdivision and Tanager Subdivision (see diagram below), both just south and southeast of Historic Mt. Zion Park and along John Mosby Highway (Rt 50). The East Chase Subdivision, a planned HOA with 19 single family homes and 3 open space lots, currently does not directly threaten Historic Mt. Zion Park or the Mt. Zion Battlefield. Tanager Subdivision, a planned HOA with 31 single family homes, directly threatens both Mt. Zion Park and the Battlefield. The initial application for the East Chase subdivision submitted was accepted for initial review by Loudoun County in July. The initial application for the Tanager subdivision submitted for review was rejected by Loudoun County because the application lacked several elements of required information (hydrology study, HOA information, etc.)



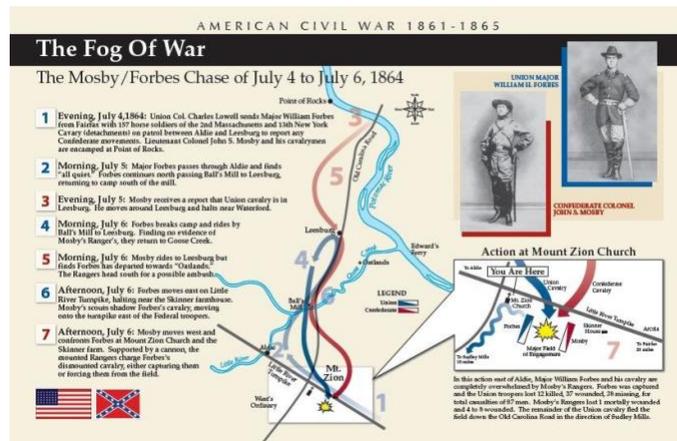
Development Threat to Mt. Zion

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Action at Mt. Zion Church (July 6, 1864)

On the afternoon of July 6, 1864 Colonel John Mosby's Rangers struck Major William Forbes and his cavalry detachments from the 2nd Massachusetts and 13th New York Cavalry at Mt. Zion Church and the Samuel Skinner farm. In this action lasting little more than an hour, the federal cavalry was completely overwhelmed. Major Forbes was captured, and federal losses were 12 killed, 37 wounded and 38 missing. Mosby's Rangers lost 1 mortally wounded and 6 wounded. The remaining federal cavalry fled down the Old Carolina Road in the direction of Sudley Mills, leaving the field under the control of Mosby's Rangers.



The Battle of Mt. Zion - Mosby vs Forbes, July 1864

Surgeons William Dunn and J. Richard Sowers of Mosby's 43rd Battalion converted Samuel Skinner's house into a hospital, tending to both their wounded and the Federal wounded. Alexander "Yankee" Davis and his daughter, who lived one half mile west of the church, also came and took several of the Federal wounded to their home. The Skinners and the Davises cared for some of these men for weeks.

Written accounts of this action indicate that the fighting took place in the area between the Skinner house and Mt. Zion Church - an area likely encompassing the two northern-most lots in the proposed Tanager subdivision (lots 324491802 & 324380242 - see diagram above). Archaeological surveys on these properties would likely discover artifacts from this July 6, 1864 fight.

Though the Skinner house remains privately owned (currently a Buddhist Temple) and is not directly threatened by the proposed subdivisions, the Mt. Zion Battlefield is directly threatened as noted above. The BRCWRT has advised Protect Mt. Zion of this threat, has provided the relevant historical and

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background information on this July 6, 1864 fight and on the Samuel Skinner house and farm, and will continue to work with Protect Mt. Zion to preserve the Mt. Zion Battlefield and the Skinner house

2021 Virginia Battlefield Protection Grants

Virginia Department of Historic Resources has announced the 2021 Virginia Battlefield Protection Grants to help save 441 acres of hallowed ground.

Based on the Department of Historic Resources' recommendations, the Commonwealth will award Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF) grants to two organizations, the American Battlefield Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. These two nonprofits will use the VBPF grants to leverage private matching donations to preserve land tracts associated with four Civil War battlefields:

- ❑ Fisher's Hill Battlefield, Shenandoah Co. (106 acres)
- ❑ Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield, Spotsylvania Co. (136.6 acres)
- ❑ Battle of Piedmont, Augusta Co. (146.6 acres)
- ❑ Deep Bottom Battlefields, Henrico Co. (two tracts, 49.7 acres and 2.3 acres)

To learn more about the grants and the respective battlefield tracts, please refer to the original press release: https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/press_releases/dhr-announces-2021-virginia-battlefield-preservation-grants-to-protect-441-acres/

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of battlefield preservation and of BRCWRT's preservation actions and activities. Stay strong, stay safe and stay healthy in 2021!

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair