



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XV, Issue 7—NOVEMBER 2008

NOTED HISTORIAN RETURNS TO DISCUSS POST-GETTYSBURG OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

By John McAnaw

Our guest speaker is an historian of the first order who is well known by veteran members of our Round Table. Joseph W.A. Whitehorne is a retired Infantry Officer, U.S. Army. During the period 1967 – 1969, Joe completed two tours in the Republic of Vietnam with only two month's leave stateside separating his second tour from the first. He served in the I Corps and II Corps Tactical Zones with the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized) during both tours of combat duty.

While on active duty, Joe served as a staff historian in the United States and Europe. His last assignment was on the staff of the Secretary of the Army, with duties that included primary research, battlefield interpretation, archives development and support to archaeological and casualty recovery operations. Of interest to Civil War buffs, Joe authored three of the U.S. Army's popular Civil War Staff Ride booklets: Second Manassas, New Market and Cedar Creek. One of his last project assignments was historian to the Snake Hill excavation at Fort Erie, Ontario (a War of 1812 site).

Following retirement from the Army in 1989, Joe entered academia as a professor of history at Lord Fairfax Community College and as an historical consultant to the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at James Madison University.

Our speaker is a prolific writer. He is the author or co-author of numerous military history articles and 16 books, many of which deal with Civil War and War of 1812 topics. Also noteworthy is the fact that during his professional years, Joe wrote the military section of six major reports on Civil War military sites in the Shenandoah Valley. These reports have been invaluable to individuals and organizations determined to preserve our priceless Civil War heritage. Also, he authored a superb article entitled "A Beastly, Comfortless Conflict: The Battle of Chantilly". Round Table member Ed Wenzel assisted Joe in the preparation of this article which was published in *Blue and Gray Magazine* in 1987.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Joe holds a doctorate from George Mason University and an honorary doctorate from Shenandoah University. In addition to numerous military awards, his honors also include the Andrew Watts Prize from the University of

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2008**

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Joseph W.A. Whitehorne

TOPIC:

**The Price of Gettysburg:
The Battle of Auburn, VA**

13-14 October 1863

Pennsylvania and the Moncado Prize from the American Military History Institute.

Our distinguished guest speaker is a Past President of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and Past President of the Warren County (Virginia) Historical Society.

Joe last spoke to the BRCWRT on 9 November 2006. His topic was *Interstate Warfare: General Averell's 1863 Raid on Salem, Virginia*. His talk on 13 November will not only address events vicinity of Auburn on 13-14 October 1863, but also the decline in the operational proficiency of the renowned Army of Northern Virginia following the Gettysburg campaign.

Join us on 13 November for another thought provoking presentation by a talented professional soldier and trained military historian.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**



BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Executive Committee

President: John McAnaw — [703.978.3371]
Immediate Past President: Keith Young
 RKeith_Young@compuserve.com
Vice-President: John De Pue—jfdepue@comcast.net
Treasurer: Mark Knowles [703.787.9811]
Secretary: Dale Maschino [703.734.3244] or
 smasch1@verizon.net

At Large:

Ed Wenzel, Charlie Balch and John Pearson
Field Trips: Kevin Anastas, KKA2@cox.net
Webmaster: Ken Jones, KJones111@cox.net
Newsletter Editor: Sandra Cox
 scox@capitalav.com [703.675.0702]

Newsletter Team:

Nancy Anwyll, Dale Maschino, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones,
 Andy Kapfer and Janet Greentree
 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.

General Membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the **Centreville Regional Library**
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121-2299
703.830.2223

For specific meeting dates and information, please visit the WEBSITE:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For DEC 2008/JAN 2009 Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Tues., Nov. 25 [due to Thanksgiving holiday] to Sandra Cox at scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by deadline, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.374.2011 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.

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ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War.

Thank You.



FIVE STAR EXHIBIT: SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2008 SHARPSHOOTERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR: THEIR WEAPONS AND ACCOUTREMENTS

By John P. McAnaw

Have you ever heard of the "Old Thousand Yard" or "California Joe"? They were only two of the celebrated Confederate and Union sharpshooters during the Civil War. I hope you are still interested in seeing an exhibit of their weapons and equipment. If so, I have some good news to pass on to you. Mr. Doug Wicklund, the well known curator of the NRA Firearms Museum on Waples Mill Road, has agreed to set up an extraordinary exhibit on 8 November 2008 at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax City. The exhibit will be accessible to the public from noon to 4 pm. AL Post 177 is located at 3939 Oak Street (behind Paul VI High School). The Post's telephone number is; 703-273-2250.

This highly prized exhibit will be part of the Veterans Day weekend activities sponsored by AL Post 177, VFW Blue and Gray Post 8469, and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. I am a member of all three organizations cited above.

To the best of my knowledge, this exhibit will be available to the public only on one more occasion, mid-November in Boston, MA.

If you are interested in attending the 8 November exhibit, please call me at 703.978.3371. Obviously, I am interested in making sure there is enough space set aside at AL Post 177 for the exhibit and for Civil War buffs to talk with Curator Doug Wicklund.

One bit of advice, if you plan to attend – **get there early.**



The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw

First, I want to congratulate Kevin Anastas, our field trip chairman, for the outstanding *Retreat From Gettysburg* tour that he led on 18 October. I also extend my appreciation to all those who participated in this "Deep Strike" operation. Well done!

For the record, a total of 77 members and guests attended Dr. Franklin Cooling's presentation entitled *Counter-Thrust: From the Peninsula to Antietam* on 9 October. He certainly knows how to get the attention of the audience. The Q & A period was lively and informative.

At the 9 October meeting I advised the general membership in attendance that the Executive Committee unanimously voted to recommend a raise in the Annual Membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Family and Student Membership dues will remain the same. Currently, according to Ed Bearss, we have the second lowest dues of any Civil War Round Table in the United States and we have not raised our dues since 1992 (when it increased from \$12.50 to the current \$15.00). **The general membership in attendance at the 13 November 2008 meeting will vote on the proposed dues increase discussed above. I ask for your support.**

The downturn in the economy has resulted in major budget shortfalls in expected revenue for area political jurisdictions such as Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Needless to add, the commonwealth's budget is similarly affected. Also, additional and severe budget cuts are now being proposed for FY 2009-2010 (1 July 2009-30 June 2010). Resources to support organizations and programs devoted to historic preservation and conservation efforts are threatened. Read John Pearson's article in this issue on what is under consideration for the FY 2009-2010 budget in Prince William County. Another article in a similar vein on Fairfax County will be in the December 2008 issue.

Once you get the facts, get involved to protect existing and seriously endangered preservation programs. Express your opposition to the crippling or elimination of county organizations and programs devoted to historic preservation (including Civil War heritage) and conservation of our natural resources. Remember, elections for the commonwealth and county political offices are scheduled for November 2009.

As a final reminder, the nomination period for CY2009 elected positions of the BRCWRT will terminate at our monthly meeting on 13 November. Please read 'BRCWRT Election '09' on Page 4.

**DUES INCREASE VOTE TO BE TAKEN
NOVEMBER 13!**

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



The year is quickly coming to a close. The Round Table has enjoyed another successful year both program-wise and financially.

Through our book sales revenue and the generosity of our members, we were able to purchase a projector. We are in the process of evaluating its capabilities.

You may recall during the last couple of meetings, an announcement was made that the board was considering the necessity of raising the membership dues.

While we have maintained a \$15 individual membership since 1992, our costs have steadily increased. In order to maintain the quality of our programs and to keep our organization viable, it is with much reluctance that we feel we need to increase our individual membership dues by \$5. If approved by membership vote, the new 2009 individual membership will be \$20. The family (\$25) and student (\$10) memberships will remain the same. On a positive note, we will still be the "Cheap & the Proud".

For those who have already renewed for the 2009 season before the new rate was established, we thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,
Mark Knowles

UPCOMING MEETING

11 December 2008

Guest Speaker:

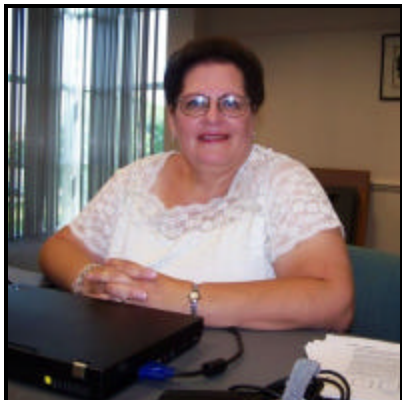
John McAnaw

TOPIC:

The Little Known History of the War
Along Bull Run
and the Occoquan River

THE CENTREVILLE SIX

By Janet Greentree



My dear Boston friend, Nadine Mironchuk, who I've personally heard say "paaark the caaaaar" started off her presentation by saying "Hi, Y'all." What a way for a Yankee to ingratiate herself with some of our Bull Run Civil War Round Table members. Nadine flew down here on August 30, 2008 and talked to ten of our members at the Centreville Library. Also present were some members of the Civil War and history communities: Elizabeth Crowell of Fairfax County, Senior Historian Michael Johnson, Fairfax County Park Authority, and Dalton Rector, Northern Virginia Relic Association plus others.

Nadine is from Chelsea, Massachusetts and is the founder and president of the Chelsea Historical Society, a member of the Friends of Garden Cemetery in Chelsea, member of the Civil War Round Tables of Massachusetts, North Shore Chapter in Lynn, and former newspaper reporter and editor of a Chelsea newspaper. She now works for a law firm in Massachusetts. Nadine has a keen interest in Civil War history and has been researching the six soldiers who were found at the Centreville McDonald's in what is now the "drive-through" lane. She had a wonderful slide show to share with us. It has been determined that the six were from Massachusetts. After doing lots of research and deduction, Nadine believes that two of them are Albert F. Wentworth, 17, and George Bacon, 22, from Company H, First Massachusetts and were from Chelsea, Massachusetts.



Albert F. Wentworth died at Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861. His family placed a marker for him in the Garden Cemetery in Chelsea. Nadine passed out a wonderful handout of her research showing all the reasons why Wentworth and Bacon should be returned to Chelsea and re-buried at the Garden Cemetery. Nadine faces an uphill battle because the six were

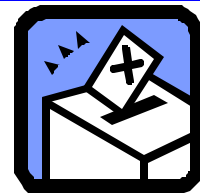
interred in a National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts after several years of their bones languishing on a shelf at the Smithsonian. The six were buried in pine boxes with rope handles as was the custom then. At first the six had brass nameplates but they were removed by the direction of Fairfax County Historian Michael Johnson. He classified them as unknowns. It takes an act of Congress to have a body disinterred from a National Cemetery. Nadine would like our help, if only signing a petition, to help reopen this matter and return Wentworth and Bacon to their home ground of Chelsea. In addition, Nadine would like all of us to keep our eyes and ears open to anything that has to do with Blackburn's Ford, the possible private cemetery at Level Green and where it was in relation to the McDonald's, and any information on the jackets and buttons.

Along with the presentation came a little drama after Nadine tried to buy the First Massachusetts roster photo on E-bay from Dalton Rector. The roster even included a picture of their mascot dog, Egypt. She didn't realize it was Dalton who was selling the roster until later when she did place the winning bid. Nadine said she was prepared to take an advance on her pay to buy the roster but was able to buy it at a reasonable price from Dalton. Dalton is the one who found the graves, and he calls them "his" guys. Dalton does not want their remains exhumed, wants them kept together, and refused to have a photo taken with Nadine or condone what she is trying to do.

Most of our BRCWRT members went to Ruby Tuesday's with Nadine after the meeting for a nice lunch and more Civil War talk about the Centreville Six. Nadine can be reached at: nadinem@mindspring.com.

Best of luck, Nadine.

BRCWRT ELECTION '09



The call for nominees for the 2009 term of officers will close at our monthly meeting on November 13. Election will take place at the December 11 meeting.

Should you desire to run for office or wish to nominate a member, please notify Ken Jones at 703.385.8624 or see Ken before the November meeting.

To date the following members have agreed to run:

President: Nancy Anwyll

Vice-President: John De Pue

Treasurer: Mark Knowles

Secretary: Dale Maschino

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted please e-mail Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net.

8 Nov – Lecture, “And a Few Marines – the U.S. Marine Corps in the Civil War”, at the USS Constellation in Baltimore Harbor. Noon. Free with admission. Call 410-539-1797 or link to www.constellation.org.

8 Nov – “Richmond’s Civil War Hospitals” and “Angels of Mercy”. Lectures and demonstrations at the NPS Theater at the American Civil War Center in Richmond. Presentations begin at 2 pm, \$10 or free with admission to the site’s “In The Cause of Liberty” exhibit. Call 804-780-1865 or www.tredegar.org.

8 Nov – Walking tours, living history, artillery and infantry demonstrations at Fort Ward in Alexandria. 10 am and 2 pm. Free. Call 703-838-4878 or, www.fortward.org.

8 Nov – Antique appraisals at the Graffiti House on the Brandy Station Battlefield. 10 am - 2 pm. \$10 per item, proceeds go to the restoration of the house. Call 540-727-7718 or, www.brandystationfoundation.com.

9, 22 Nov – Bus tour, “Second Manassas,” a Smithsonian tour with Ed Bearrs. Leaves DC 8:30 am. \$158. Call 202-633-3030 or www.residentassociates.org.

11 Nov – Lecture, “Abraham Lincoln as Commander In Chief,” with James McPherson at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr., SW, Washington, DC. 7 pm. \$28. www.residentassociated.org.

14 Nov – Lecture, “Cartographic Gems from the Library of Congress,” by Dr. John Hebert at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. Includes material from the Museum’s Jed Hotchkiss exhibit. 7 pm. \$8. (Includes gallery admission.) Call 540-662-1473, or www.shenancoahmuseum.org.

16 Nov – Lecture, “The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt’s Flight From the Gallows”. The story of John Surratt, the only conspirator who got away, remains untold and largely unknown. Author Andrew Jampoler will speak on his book. 2 pm. \$10 or free with admission at the American Civil War Center in Richmond. Call 804-780-1865, or www.tredegar.org.

15-16 Nov – Fall open house at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD. Free. Noon-4 pm. Call 301-868-1121, or link to www.surratt.org.

17 Nov – Lecture, “From Pantaloon to Parasols: Women’s Civil War Fashion,” at the Manassas Museum in

Manassas. 12:15 pm. \$4. Pre-registration required. Call 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

22-23 Nov – Civil War Gun show. An annual event at the Richmond, VA, International Raceway. Hundreds of tables of Civil War items for sale. Admission fee. Call 804-737-5827.

6 Dec – “Old Time Christmas,” with visits from Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus, at the Brandy Station Battlefield Visitor Center (Graffiti House). 1-4 pm. Free. 540-727-7718, www.brandystationfoundation.com.

THANKS ON BEHALF OF BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD PARK

To the dedicated men and women of the BRCWRT, I wish to extend to you my most sincere thanks for your support during the 145th Anniversary of the 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station.

I am sure that I’m missing folks, but John De Pue, and John Pearson both led excellent tours and Sandra Cox was quite instrumental in helping get the word out.

I am grateful to the three of you in particular and the club in general for adding that special touch to the events of the weekend.

I owe you a debt that I hope to one day be able to repay.

David M. Born,
Historic Programs Coordinator/ Historic Site Manager,
Prince William County
Department of Public Works,
Division of Historic Preservation

“TAKING THE CARS”

On Wednesday, November 12, the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is sponsoring “Taking the Cars, An Overview of Railroad Travel Prior to the Civil War”

The presentation will address how people really traveled from the 1820’s to about 1870.

Topics include the evolution of the steam engine, passenger cars including ladies compartments, water closets, sleeping cars, dining cars, and ventilation, etc., and freight cars (header, baggage and mail). Also discussed will be cost of transportation and types of payment.

Call (703) 978-6820 7:30-9:00 PM Free
The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located
11200 Fairfax Station Rd, Fairfax Station.

OX HILL LANDSCAPING BEGINS SOON BICYCLE RACKS REQUESTED MINOR ERRORS FOUND ON SIGNAGE

By Ed Wenzel

Before beginning this update, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to President John McAnaw and round table member Bob Hickey for the wonderful luncheon reception they organized after the park dedication on September 1st. It was truly a surprise, and an occasion I'll never forget. To be presented with the BRCWRT's prized mug, amid all the kind words and amongst the stalwarts of this round table, was a tremendous honor. Thanks to John and Bob and all who attended the luncheon.

When the Ox Hill Battlefield Park opened on September 1st, there were several things that remained uncompleted due to lack of time or other reasons. One of the most important was the landscaping which had to wait for the cool and wetter weather of fall. This work is now about to begin. The Park Authority met at the end of October with the contractor who will do the work. There are three types of plantings in the contract: First, additional trees. American Hollies and Eastern Red Cedars will be planted in the buffer areas to fill gaps and further screen the condominiums to the west. Also, a tree buffer will be created on the earthen berm behind the two Virginia Historical Markers to screen Monument Drive from the park's cornfield area.



Cornfield fence at Ox Hill. This fence separates the Reid's cornfield on the left from the pasture on the right. The view is northeast toward the Kearny and Stevens monuments. Part of the 21st Massachusetts, urged on by Gen. Kearny, came right to left across this ground and entered the cornfield. The large gathering of people in the distance are attending the park's ribbon-cutting, September 1st. Photo courtesy of *America's Civil War*.

Second, a mixture of pasture grasses will be sown in the pasture area. The mix will consist of rye, ladino, red clover, timothy, bluegrass, and possibly alfalfa, all suitable for a horse pasture. The annual rye grass that's there now to prevent erosion will not come back in the spring. Third, plugs of broomsedge will be planted on 18-inch centers in the cornfield. The broomsedge will grow 18-24 inches in height and will represent a fallow field. This will substitute for a corn crop which requires labor to plant and maintain, manpower that the Park Authority does not have.

Also coming to Ox Hill are "vintage" bicycle racks at both entrances. At the request of touring bicyclists, the Park Authority is looking at purchasing several U-shaped bike racks with ornamental features designed to integrate them into historical settings. Of course, we also need park benches that are designed for a historical setting. The "Luxor Hotel furniture" has been at the park long enough. Correspondence will be prepared soon addressing a number of items and requesting that more appropriate benches be installed.

Regarding the interpretive signage at the park, two errors of omission have been discovered, one on Kiosk Panel #4 "The Wounded Left Behind" and one on Wayside Marker #9 "Aftermath: The Invasion of Maryland". The kiosk panel error was found while digging through accounts of Stevens' division looking for other information. Among the accounts was one of Chaplain Browne of the 100th Pa. regiment which I had forgotten about. The chaplain, who stayed behind with the wounded, identifies two surgeons at the Millan House, "our division surgeon, Dr. Kimble and Dr. O'Farrell of a Massachusetts regiment".

The text on Panel #4, under the heading "Union Field Hospital", says "Assistant Surgeon Joseph W. Hastings in charge". This information comes from Capt. Charles Walcott of the 21st Mass. regiment. It didn't occur to me or the Interpretive Team at the time, but Walcott's reference to Hastings being "in charge" refers *only* to the 21st Mass., not the entire field hospital. Surely with 150-250 severely wounded, there would have to be many surgeons attending, and if Stevens' divisional surgeon is present (Dr. Kimble), what about the surgeons of Reno's and Kearny's divisions? And if Dr. O'Farrell is there from "a Massachusetts regiment" (undoubtedly the 28th Mass.), and Assistant Surgeon Hastings of the 21st Mass., then there had to be other regimental surgeons there as well. So the heading for the field hospital should say at the very least "Surgeons Kimble, O'Farrell and Assistant Surgeon Hastings, among others, in attendance".

The other error was noticed on Marker #9 by Brian McEnany during the round table's walk-through of the park on September 20th. Brian pointed out an inconsistency in the time lines of the troop movements. The map shows the Confederates moving to White's Ford and

See OX HILL, Page 7

OX HILL, [Continued From Page 6]

crossing the Potomac Sept. 4th through 7th. But the Union forces halt in the Washington fortifications Sept. 2nd and 3rd. To make the time lines equal, the Union troops should have been shown continuing into Washington on Sept. 3rd and 4th. From there, they would march out the River Road, Rockville Pike and other routes toward Frederick, Md.

The Park Authority's Interpretive Team has been advised of the above errors and at some point in the future, perhaps after other mistakes have been found, corrections will be made. In the meantime, I'll consult with Brian and prepare a correction map showing the various Union movements through the streets of Washington.



The park's new entrance on West Ox Road. The entrance drive leads to the parking area and covered kiosk. The kiosk presents an overview of the battle and is the starting place for the interpretive tour on the quarter-mile loop trail. The office building on the right is located close to where the 21st Massachusetts was nearly slaughtered by Trimble's brigade. Photo courtesy of *America's Civil War*.

On other Ox Hill matters, historical accounts are still being examined to support revisions of the animated map, "The Battle of Chantilly", prepared by the Civil War Preservation Trust. The animated map was posted on their web site before being reviewed, and corrections are needed for some of the troop movements and battle positions. However, CWPT has received so much positive feedback on the map as is, that they want it to stay on the web site rather than take it down until corrected. It's a great animation, showing the troop movements and battle action superimposed over two base maps, one a topographic map and one a current aerial photograph. A toggle allows the viewer to switch back and forth between the map bases as the battle progresses. A running text accompanies the map segments. CWPT plans to make changes as correct troop movements and positions are provided. The map can be found at www.civilwar.org. Go to "From the Front Lines" and click on "Animated Map: The Battle of Chantilly".

Also, the January issue of *America's Civil War*, now on newsstands, has a short article on Ox Hill, but the space devoted to the new park is minimal. However, a more detailed article with photos of the park is posted on their website at www.historynet.com. In addition, *Civil War Times* is planning an Ox Hill story for their Feb-

ruary issue. The Weider History Group publishes both magazines.

Finally, with the opening of the park behind us, there will be much less on Ox Hill to report in future months, so watch for these updates to diminish in length or even skip a few issues. Several items do remain in the works however (off-site markers, new monuments etc.) and will be reported on from time to time as new information arises. My thanks to John McAnaw for the opportunity to keep everyone informed during this long-running effort. And thanks also to you, the membership, for your interest and steadfast support. Stay tuned.

* * *

AFTER ACTION REPORT: RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG 18 Oct 2008

By Kevin Anastas



Part of our group at the entrance to the Washington Confederate Cemetery in Hagerstown
Photo by John Pearson

The weather was absolutely perfect! Our fall tour covered approximately 60 miles following Lee's retreat route during the period of 4-14 July 1863 from Gettysburg PA to Williamsport MD.

Twenty-five Round Table regulars were reinforced by a light battalion of sixteen veterans from Falcon's Landing (41 total participants). Our caravan of seven cars and a bus kept the column closed up – some of the time anyway. We achieved limited success with our attempt to use citizen's band radios to conduct part of the tour on the move. We may have to upgrade our equipment before we try this again.

See GETTYSBURG, Page 9

HAUNTED ... OR HEARSAY?

BRCWRT member Rob Orrison is also the Site Manager at the Brentsville Court House Historic Center. He shared this article "**Haunted...Or Hearsay?**" by Keith Walker which appeared in the October 16, 2008 Edition of the *Potomac News*. Although the event has past, it is interesting to read of possible hauntings plus it keeps our preserved sites visited and in the news.



Brentsville served as the county seat of Prince William County between 1822 and 1893.

"You can't get anybody to say definitively that the old Brentsville jail is haunted, but people can go next week and decide for themselves.

The Prince William County Historic Division will host a Halloween program on Oct. 25, and the D.C. Metro Area Ghost Watchers will bring what they say is evidence of spirits at that haunted jail, said Robert Orrison, site manager for the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre.

"They've been out several times and they've recorded audio and a few visuals—what they say is audio and visual evidence—of particular spirits in the building," Orrison said of the ghost watchers.

"I've heard the audio. It's pretty compelling," Orrison said. "I'm not going to go out and say it's haunted, but it's pretty compelling audio."

Members of the group will be on hand to explain their evidence, Orrison said.

"They're used to having people who are skeptics. They're pretty good at talking to people who don't believe what they say," Orison said. "They'll explain what their methods are and their background."

Orrison said there are at least three tales of ghosts that haunt the jail.

There was a slave woman who was executed at the jail. Her spirit remains, or so some say. There is also the story of a slave boy who haunts the grounds, which include the old Brentsville Courthouse, a church and school house and a farm house.

Another story tells of the spirit of James Clark, who was accused of abducting a woman and was murdered in the jail by her older brother. People claim he too haunts the jail, Orrison said.

Even though he won't say the jail is haunted, Orrison said it's an eerie place at night.

"Your mind plays tricks on you sometime. But yeah, it's a scary building. It's dark. There's no electricity. It's one of those buildings that give you the creeps," Orrison said.

The program, at the historic center at 12229 Bristow Road, will also include guided lantern tours of the grounds.

Visitors will also be able to experience the danger of traveling between the lines of opposing armies, a soldier's burial and the horrors of a field hospital, Orrison said.

Brentsville served as the county seat or Prince William County between 1822 and 1893.

BUDGET WOES THREATEN PRESERVATION IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

By John Pearson

The current financial downturn and forecasted decrease in revenues has Prince William County looking at severe cuts in their preservation efforts for fiscal year 2009.

The county is weighing eliminating all general funding of historic preservation, cutting everything except maintenance of historic buildings.

All programs at the **Bristoe Station Battlefield, Brentsville Court House, Sudley Manor**, etc. are expected to be cut. Funding for management and interpreters would be eliminated.

Our recent successes in advancing historic preservation in Prince William County are all at risk.

Please contact the PW Supervisors at <http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=04005000240> to voice concerns about these proposals and to add your support to historic preservation.

GETTYSBURG [Continued From Page 7]

We began the tour at the Henry Culp house north and east of Cemetery Hill. This was the place where Colonel Isaac Avery was taken on the evening of 2 July after being mortally wounded while leading his brigade in the evening assault on East Cemetery Hill. Avery scrawled his famous message "Major, tell my father I died with my face to the enemy" just moments before he died. Avery's personal slave, Elijah, decided to take the body back to the colonel's home in western North Carolina. Elijah procured a wagon and joined the 17 mile long "train of misery" led by General John D. Imboden through the Cashtown Gap on its painful journey back to Virginia.

After leaving the site of Avery's death, our tour diverged from Imboden's route and followed the track of Ewell's wagon train instead. This was the most direct route to Williamsport and it was the route taken by all three of Lee's infantry corps.

Our next major stop was the site of the battle of Monterey Pass. This fight occurred on the night of 4 July. Kilpatrick's division of federal cavalry was delayed for several hours by a handful of men and one cannon (with only 5 rounds of ammunition!) under the command of Captain George Emack, 1st MD Cavalry Battalion. Around 9 PM, in a driving rainstorm, Emack opened fire with his single gun and launched a countercharge consisting of eight mounted Marylanders. It took the blue cavalry over an hour to reorganize and reengage from this unexpected assault. In the end Kilpatrick and Custer broke through the slim rebel defenses and captured or destroyed over 250 wagons and took 1,300 prisoners.

From Monterey we made a quick detour to visit the site of the skirmish at Smithsburg. Next we headed to the Hagerstown Visitor's Bureau where volunteer guide Roger Keller came in on his day off to tell us about the battles in the streets of Hagerstown. From the Visitor Bureau we broke for lunch. Later the group reassembled at Hager Park to continue the tour.

Our first afternoon stop took us across the street to the Washington Confederate Cemetery. Here we stood at the newly installed headstone marking Col. Avery's final resting place after his location had been lost for over a century. A local historian recently deduced that "COL J.E. Ayer, 6th N.C.S.T." was really I.E. Avery. The Avery family dedicated the grave stone in November 2007 by sprinkling soil from Swan Ponds Plantation (Avery's home in NC) over the gravesite.

By this point we were a little behind schedule so we compressed some of the afternoon stops. We drove past the battle of Funkstown, stopped at the site of Meade's HQ in the beautiful Devil's Backbone park, and stopped again in the center of Lee's main defense line at St. James school. Our final stop was at the ford site on the Potomac in Williamsport.

We parked near the Cushwa Basin along the river bottom where between 4,000 and 5,000 wagons were crowded together in squalor and the filth of 30,000 horses and mules while waiting for the river to recede. Finally, on 14 July, Lee successfully extracted his army from the clutches of the pursuing Federals and continued his retreat up the valley into Virginia.



Williamsport, MD on the Potomac River
Photo by John Pearson



COL Avery's Tombstone placed in 2007 and paid for by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

My thanks to Ken Jones for setting up the online signup list, to Dale Maschino for bringing the nametags and to Bill Carritte for driving my car while I did the color commentary. My special thanks to Brian McEnany for sending me pages from his manuscript documenting the history of the West Point class of 1862 on the retreat.

Once again we accomplished our mission on time and under budget. We hope to see you all at our spring tour in May 2009.

Very Respectfully, Kevin Anastas, Chief Tour Guide

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

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