



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIX, Issue 6, AUGUST/SEPT 2012

SUMMER SPEAKERS INCLUDE NPS HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR JOHN HENNESSY AND NOTED CIVIL WAR AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN CHUCK MAURO

By Mark Trbovich

The BRCWRT is honored to again have one of the most renowned authors on the Battle of 2nd Manassas/Bull Run at our August 9 meeting. **John Hennessy** is a veteran of the National Park Service and the New York State Historic Preservation Office, involved all the while in the development of interpretive media and programs for the public. He is currently chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he has worked since 1995. John is the author of four films and three books, most notably *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (Simon and Schuster, 1993). His other publications include more than 100 reviews, essays, and articles on everything from the preservation of New York historic urban areas to the exodus of slaves from central Virginia in 1862, to the legacy of the Civil War in modern society.

John is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany. He has worked for the New York State Historic Preservation Office and for the National Park Service at Manassas, Harpers Ferry, and at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

The Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly is the Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event for our region. We are so fortunate to have one of our own members and one of the battlefield's greatest supporters speak to us September 13. **Chuck Mauro** is the author and photographer of *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*, *The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers*, *Herndon: A Town and Its History* and *Herndon: A History in Images*. He received the Nan Netherton Heritage Award for his historical research, writing, and photography of *The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)*, *A Monumental Storm*. He is the co-producer of the documentary, *Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County, Virginia*. He is also the writer and co-producer of the independent film, *The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)*, based on his book. In addition to the BRCWRT, Chuck is a member of the Civil War Trust, the National Center for Civil War Photography, the Louisiana Historical Association Memorial Hall Foundation, Inc., the Capital Hill Civil War Round Table,

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

GUEST SPEAKER:

John Hennessy

TOPIC:

The Battle of 2nd Manassas/ Bull Run August 1862



THURS., SEPT. 13, 2012

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chuck Mauro

TOPIC:

The Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly September 1, 1862

the Stuart - Mosby Society, the Friends of Fort Ward, the Historic Centreville Society, Ltd., Historic Fairfax City Inc., and the Historical Society of Fairfax County.

Chuck is a member and past president of the Herndon Historical Society and Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club. He has won numerous prizes for his photography. He received a bachelor of science from the University of Maryland and a masters in business administration from Temple University. He is currently a manager at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and lives with his wife Nancy in Herndon, Virginia.

BRCWRT members are encouraged to join John Hennessy on August 9 and Chuck Mauro on September 13 at the Copper Canyon Grill at 5:00 p.m. for supper and great conversation. If you can't make that, please come early to the library for fellowship and get a good seat for the meeting. Hope to see you then!

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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 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 20121-2255
703.830.2223

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

NEWLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **OCTOBER 2012 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 27 to Sandra Cox at scox@capitalav.com. If acknowledgement of your article is not received by deadline, call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.374.2011 (Capital AV).

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For **OCTOBER 2012 issue advertisers**, click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, Monday, Sept. 17 to Charlie Balch at BRCWRTads@gmail.com.

BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS



Please remember to bring your unwanted Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book event. Besides raising money for the BRCWRT, these books increase our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank you.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER 11

SPEAKER:

John Hoptak

TOPIC:

Maryland Campaign, Battles of South Mountain and Antietam Sept. 1862

NOVEMBER 8

SPEAKER:

Keith Young

TOPIC:

The Battle of Iuka, MS Sept. 1862

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The President's Column

By Mark Trbovich

The region's Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event is upon us as the Battles of 2nd Manassas/Bull Run and Ox Hill/Chantilly are almost here. The BRCWRT is really active in supporting these events and will be announcing to the general membership all of the venues that week. I encourage everyone to get out and participate, and also to drink lots of water. Let's hope the weather will be milder than the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of 1st Manassas/Bull Run last year. I'll be seeing you at the events, because I'll be 104 at the 200th anniversary and may not do so well in the heat.



Ed Sanders

Thank you again for all who came out to the June meeting to hear Ed Sanders speak on the 7 Days Battles



Scott Patchan

Around Richmond in 1862 and to the July lecture by former BRCWRT President Scott Patchan on General Longstreet's attack on Chinn Ridge during the 2nd Battle of Manassas August 30, 1862. Both did a fantastic job reviewing the tremendous struggle on both sides. Thanks, Ed and Scott, for excellent presentations.

I am happy to announce that at our August 9 meeting we will be taking a vote to fund \$1,500 to support Ed Wenzel's Fairfax County Civil War Chronology Book, Part 1, October 1859 through 1862. One of our BRCWRT members, Bob Hickey, is holding a raffle for a Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest cavalry print by John Paul Strain to support the editing and indexing effort. Once the book is finished, Ed will give the BRCWRT the copyright privileges. We have been so fortunate to work with Ed throughout his tremendous, and I do mean tremendous, writing of this book. A reference book for the ages!

The Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg Sept 17, 1862 will be our focus as we tour that battlefield, led by our own Kevin Anastas, on Saturday, September 22. (See Page 6) Check our Web site for details or sign up at the August and September meetings.

Thanks to everyone who voted at our July general membership meeting to approve the 2013 BRCWRT College Scholarship program. One high school senior

ED WENZEL'S CHRONOLOGY OF FAIRFAX CIVIL WAR EVENTS

By Charlie Balch

Ed Wenzel of the BRCWRT has researched and written a chronology of over 1,200 Civil War events occurring in Fairfax County during 1861 and 1862. This will be Part 1 of a two volume set which Ed is gifting to the round table.

In order to achieve the standard of a publishable book, an investment must be made in editing, indexing and formatting. The BRCWRT has invested \$480 to date along with \$1,000 from the Hunter Mill Defense League. It is estimated that an additional \$1,500 will be needed from the round table to complete this volume. Subsequently, funds raised by Bob Hickey's John Paul Strain print raffle will offset some of this expenditure. (See Page 9)

The BRCWRT will be the copyright owner of the volume when completed. The book will then be for sale. Since this \$1,500 was not budgeted at the beginning of 2012, the general membership is asked to approve this expenditure by vote at the regular BRCWRT Meeting on August 9.



heading to college to major in history from West Springfield, Centreville or Stonewall Jackson High Schools will be granted this scholarship next spring. Nancy Anwyll and the Scholarship committee are working hard to set up this program which will make a path for one of our future Civil War historians, preservationists and enthusiasts. Again, please invite some younger people to our meetings. There may be one of the aforementioned in our midst, and we don't know it.

In closing, we have two great renown speakers and lectures coming up for August and September. Please be careful on vacation this year, and try to get some relaxation along the way. As always, Civil War events in the region will be announced at our meetings, through our e-mail distribution, and newsletters. Stay in touch and enjoy the 2nd Manassas and Ox Hill Sesquicentennial Anniversary events with your families and friends.

Let us never forget these soldiers and what they did for us.

Speaker photos by Janet Greentree

ED WENZEL RECEIVES CWT PRESERVATION AWARD



March 2006 photo by Janet Greentree

During the 2012 Annual Conference of the Civil War Trust (CWT) in Richmond, Virginia, the Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award "was given to three individuals who demonstrated exceptional merit in and extensive commitment to Civil War battlefield preservation, dating back to the very origins of the modern movement." Ed Wenzel, Clark B. "Bud" Hall and Tersh Boasberg were honored.

The BRCWRT is pleased to have Ed as a member, and most members know of his 22+ year commitment to the preservation of Ox Hill (Chantilly) Battlefield. He was also a board member (vice president) of the Save the Battlefield Coalition, which fought against a proposed mall at Manassas in 1988.

What many round table members may not know is that Ed was a founding board member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), a group which has evolved into the Civil War Trust.

An article entitled *The Birth of the Modern Battlefield Preservation Movement* by historian Bob Zeller, president of the Center for Civil War Photography, appears in the Summer 2012 issue of CWT's *Hallowed Ground* and tells part of the story.

Of the countless threats, the one that finally spurred the Civil War community to action, on a national level, was the desecration of the battlefield at Chantilly, Va, in the mid-1980s. For more than a century after the battle that was fought there in pouring rain, the Chantilly/Ox Hill Battlefield remained very much a part of the heritage of Fairfax County. In 1962, the county itself sponsored the centennial commemorative events at the battlefield. The sense of heritage that burned brightly in the 1960s disappeared in the 1970s and 1980s in the bright gleam of the almighty dollar. Fairfax County was exploding with growth, and nearly every acre of unde-

veloped land, including the old battlefield was up for grabs.

By the time Civil War buff Ed Wenzel of Falls Church [Vienna] noticed the first condominiums sprouting up along nearby U.S. 50 in the summer of 1985, the game was already over. Wenzel understood the pressure to develop, but "I just assumed the county (of Fairfax) would be doing something with the site as far as making it a park," he recalls. "Whatever the county was doing, I just sort of assumed they had it under control. But they didn't."

The bulldozers were already scarring the landscape for good when Wenzel began a furious, one-man, rear-guard action, soon joining forces with another lone wolf, Clark "Bud" Hall, who was fighting the same battle. In 1986, historian Brian Pohanka, joined them.

"You talk about three angry guys," Wenzel said. "We just couldn't believe what the county was doing. This was one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, and they knew full well it was a historic site, and nobody was doing anything about this. It was a time when I didn't get much rest."

Wenzel managed to ignite a brief national firestorm when he put the "Washington Post" onto a story about the remains of a South Carolinian whose grave had been unearthed by the bulldozers, and whose remains were sitting forgotten in a box on a shelf at the local medical examiner's office. In the end, though, most of the battlefield became condos. The preservationists did manage to thwart the plan to move the Kearny and Stevens memorials behind the old Confederate lines, and eventually they were able to help save 4.9 acres (more than twice as much as originally allocated), which is now Ox Hill Battlefield Park.

Ed, the BRCWRT is so very proud of you and honored to have you as a friend and member.



Above—Ed with Ed Bearss at the Sept. 2008 park dedication. Photo by Doug Cox

Above—May 2008 rainy ground breaking ceremony for park improvements. Photo by Nancy Anwyll

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fees may apply. If you would like an event posted, please e-mail Dale Maschino at fsainc@netzero.net.

4-5 Aug – Living History, "Confederates Occupy Turner's Gap," at Dahlgren Chapel, Alt. Route 40 on South Mountain near Boonsboro, MD. Camps and demonstrations Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free. For info call 301-7914767.

9 Aug – Walking tours, music, talks and living history, "An Evening on Cedar Mountain Battlefield." Begins 6:30 p.m. on the battlefield south of Culpeper. \$10 parking fee. Details go to www.friendsofcedarmountain.org.

11 & 25 Aug – Car-caravan tours on the Brandy Station Battlefield, Kelly's Ford (11th) and Fleetwood Hill (25th). Begins at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. \$10. Go to www.brandystationfoundation.org.

18 Aug – Boat tour, "Potomac River Blockade," includes surviving batteries that enforced the Confederate blockade (Sept. 1861 – Mar. 1862). 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$30 includes lunch. For reservations call 703-792-4754.

18 Aug – Bus tour, "Stonewall Jackson's Bold Sweep: Second Manassas," a tour of this critical movement to the Second Manassas battlefield, includes Marshall, Thoroughfare Gap and Bristoe Station. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$85. For reservations call 703-367-7872.

18-19 Aug – "Thunder on the Mountain," artillery demonstrations on South Mountain, Fox's Gap, Reno Monument Road, near Middletown. Firings at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday, 11 and 1 p.m. Sunday. Free. Call 301-791-4767.

24-26 Aug – Lee's Lieutenants Army of Northern Virginia, part of the Commemoration of the 2nd Battle of Manassas/Bull Run, will be setup on the Manassas Museum lawn from dawn to dusk. Meet, speak with, and ask questions of General Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, James Longstreet, J.E.B. Stuart, and many of the other officers who helped make the Army of Northern Virginia seem "invincible" to its opponents on the field of battle. Go to www.manassascivilwar.org or call 703.361.6599.

24-26 Aug—Virginia's 150th Civil War History Mobile will be in Old Town Manassas for tours each day.

25-26 Aug – Living history and tours at the Chapman/Beverly Mill on the Thoroughfare Gap battlefield near Haymarket. Military and civilian camps. Talks and tours every two hours both days. Free (donations welcome). Go to www.chapmansmill.org.

4 Sep – Film, "The Heart of the Civil War," a documentary at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, 201 West Patrick St., Frederick, MD. 7 p.m. For details go to www.fredericktourism.org.

8 Sep – Special tours, "The Deadliest Enemy," disease at a Civil War hospital, at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. \$5. For info call 703-367-7872.

8-9 Sep – Reenactment, "Maryland My Maryland: The Battle of South Mountain," in Boonsboro. For information go to www.marylandcampaign150.org.

13-15 Sep – Anniversary commemoration of the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry, WV. Includes ranger programs, tours, lectures, panel discussion and more at the Harpers Ferry National Park. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with park admission. For details go to www.nps.gov/hafe.

15-16 Sep – Tours at the Oatlands Historic House and Gardens south of Leesburg. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, 1 p.m. on Sunday. Fee charged. For details go to www.oatlands.org.

22 Sep – "Rendezvous at Rector's Crossroads," Civil War stories and tours of the town and nearby Goose Creek Bridge. Meet at Rector House, 1461 Atoka Rd., Marshall. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5/adult. For details go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

22-23 Sep – "Yankees Return to Falmouth," at Falmouth Park and Moncure Conway House, 401 River Road, Falmouth. Demonstrations, camps, exhibits and more. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Call 540-658-8681.

22-23 Sep – "Anniversary of the Potomac River Blockade of 1861." Camps and demonstrations at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking fee applies. Call 703-583-6904.

29 Sep – Talks and memorial at the Bristoe Station-Camp Jones Cemetery, the camp where nearly 1,000 Confederate soldiers died in the fall of 1861. At the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Iron Brigade Unit Ave., in Bristow. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.



DON'T MISS

MARCHING THROUGH CULPEPER

a Multimedia, Musical
Performance based on the book
by historian Virginia Morton

Aug. 3, 4, 10, 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Eastern View
High School Auditorium

Marchingthroughculpeperonstage.com/tickets

AAR 7 DAYS BATTLE OF GAINES' MILL, GLENDALE & MALVERN HILL, BRCWRT TOUR JUNE 30

The evening before the tour, a derecho, a fast-moving, long-lived, large and violent thunderstorm, the largest in D.C. memory, swept through the entire area packing wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph causing extensive storm damage, downing hundreds of trees and leaving more than 1 million area-residents without power. Although many were forced to cancel, a group of diehard members and guests weren't going to miss touring Glendale on the anniversary of the battle.



Tour guide Kevin Anastas at the "breakthrough" marker where Hood and the 4th Texas broke the Federal line. Bill Carritte holds the map.

Joe Widikowski sits on a canon prompted by Kevin's story of Tom Rawls of the 11th Mississippi (Law's Brigade) who climbed on one of the trophies (captured Federal guns) to celebrate, "but his rear becoming painfully hot he was compelled to retire in quick order amid shouts of laughter from his amused comrades."



Park service volunteer, Mike Andrus, a retired NPS ranger, guided the group around the Glendale Battlefield on the 150th anniversary.

Tour participants include guide Kevin Anastas, Bill Carritte, Lance Carroll, Craig Carroll, Todd Creekman, Anne Currin, Chris Kern, Mark Labeda, Dan Paterson, David White, Joseph Widikowski, Dan Lundeen and Nancy Olds, a photojournalist with *Civil War News*. Thanks, Nancy, for sharing your photos.

BRCWRT 2012 Fall Tour Antietam: The Bloodiest Day



Confederate view of Burnside's Bridge taken just after the battle

We are continuing our 150th Anniversary series with a tour of one of the most important battles of the war. The anniversary of the battle is on Monday, 17 Sept. This tour will be on the following Saturday. Please join us for this full day BRCWRT event.

Date: Saturday, 22 September 2012

Assembly Location/Time: If you want to carpool to the battlefield, meet at the Centreville Library parking lot -- we will depart at 8:00 A.M. sharp. If you choose to drive on your own, meet the group at the Antietam Visitor Center at 9:30. (Driving time from Centreville is about 1 hour and 20 min).

Tour Duration: 9:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. (approximate tour completion time at the park).

Lunch: I will make a no-host reservation for our group at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown, WV (10 min from battlefield). We'll provide more info at the September meeting and via e-mail. Of course, you can always picnic or make your own lunch plans if you choose.

Degree of Exertion: Light to moderate. We will follow the approach of the Irish Brigade into the Bloody Lane (approximately 1 mile walk) and we will walk from the parking lot to the Burnside Bridge (incline).

Special: Each attendee is responsible for paying their own park entrance fee - \$4 per person. Bring insect repellent, water etc.

Sign Up: Please sign up for the tour using the link on the BRCWRT home page. By signing up online you will be added to our e-mail distribution list for directions and notifications.

Inclement Weather: We will send out a weather cancellation notice via e-mail the morning of the tour. If you do not have e-mail, please call Kevin Anastas for an update.

Chief Tour Guide: Kevin Anastas Cell: (703) 431-2569. E-mail kka2@cox.net

VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION PRESENTS

A Fireside Chat:

Looking at the Emancipation Proclamation
U of Mary Washington Dodd Auditorium
Friday, September 21, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln on September 22, 1862, days following the bloody Battle of Antietam. It became effective January 1, 1863 as the nation entered its third year of civil war, forever changing the course of the war. Without question, the Emancipation Proclamation is one of the great American documents of freedom.



Join the nation's foremost Lincoln scholars as they gather to interpret, evaluate, and remember the Emancipation Proclamation at its 150th anniversary:

Edna Green Medford, Frank Williams, and Harold Holzer with introductory remarks by **James I. Robertson, Jr.** Participants will discuss the Emancipation Proclamation from three distinct perspectives: The legal, political, and military pressures on Lincoln; the historical influence of and response to the proclamation by African Americans; and the role pictorial images played afterward in establishing the document and its author in public memory.

The Fireside Chat is free but pre-registration is required at <http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/>.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE EVENT

The **BATTLE OF OX HILL** (Chantilly)

Commemoration
Sat., Sept. 1,
at Ox Hill Battlefield Park
10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

The fighting at Ox Hill occurred during a fierce storm that field reports described as so thunderous it drowned out the cries and clamor of the battle. Dry ammunition became scarce, and the fighting degenerated into a brawl of bayonets and musket clubs. The chaotic conflict lasted a little more than two hours and ended at dark as a stalemate.

If you want to hear more about the battle which includes a walking tour, check out the newly launched Podcast: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill/>. The Web site will also describe the day of battle, the creating of the park and other important facts.

Sesquicentennial events will include speeches by local dignitaries, artillery demonstrations, presentation of flags from the 16 states that fought at Ox Hill, Civil War period music, living history reenactors, battle speeches, a children's craft station, wreath laying, bayonet drills, and a company volley. Spectators will also have ample time to visit at local history booths adjacent to the park's kiosk.

Shuttle buses will be running throughout the day from the Fairfax County Government Center's parking lot to Ox Hill Battlefield Park's upper entrance on Monument Drive. The park is located at 4134 West Ox Road in Fairfax at the intersection of West Ox Road and Monument Drive.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF 2ND MANASSAS/BULL RUN

Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the National Park Service, will bring top quality programs and events to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas/Bull Run. Events are taking place over two weekends, during the day and with evening events.

During the anniversary week, living history, demonstrations, talks, lectures and special tours at the Manassas National Battlefield Park will be given Aug. 24-26 and Sept. 1-2 with anniversary tours on Aug. 28-30 to describe the campaign and battles as well as the experience of soldiers and civilians in 1862. \$3 park admission. (703) 754-1861. www.nps.gov/mana.

For information on all Civil War events taking place, visit www.manassasbullrun.com.

**150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF KETTLE RUN
Bristoe Station Battlefield Park
August 25, 2012**

Day Time Events And Evening Luminary



Come commemorate the August 1862 Battle of Kettle Run. This battle set the stage for the Battle of Second Manassas. A new Park Interpretive Trail will be dedicated at 10:00 a.m. with living history

and special tours all day. Demonstrations include Infantry and Artillery. The day time event is FREE to the public.



Join us in the evening for a somber and beautiful luminary of the battlefield. One thousand candles will light the battlefield to honor the men who fought and died here in 1861-1862. Also, specialized torch light tours will be led of the battlefield. Visitors will meet the men and women who were impacted by this battle. Tours will run from 8:00—

10:00 p.m. and will cost \$10.00 per person. Reservations suggested, call the park for more information.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park
*Corner of Iron Brigade Unit Ave and
Tenth Alabama Way*
703-366-3049, www.pwcgov.org/bristoe

**LONG FORGOTTEN
ALABAMA CEMETERY DEDICATED
AT BRISTOE STATION
BATTLEFIELD PARK**

By Rob Orrison

In 1861, thousands of Confederate troops camped in and around Bristoe Station. This camp, called Camp Jones, would become infested with disease and sickness. Nearly 700 Confederates died during the fall of 1861. Various cemeteries were set up in the area to handle the high death toll.

One such cemetery for Alabama soldiers is now on park property. This cemetery has been known for a long time but has never been accessible to the public and not easily seen. In this cemetery are buried nearly ninety soldiers. Only forty are known. No marked stones remain, and ground depressions are the only evidence that this is a cemetery. An Eagle Scout project this past winter cleaned up the cemetery, cleared it of all vegetation and fenced in the boundaries.

Recent fundraising efforts by the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation and the Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans have raised nearly \$10,000 to maintain the cemetery and establish a monument to the men buried there. We are happy to announce that this cemetery, with a proper monument, will be dedicated in a public ceremony on Saturday, September 22nd. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will feature local speakers, Alabama officials, historian Mike Miller and the unveiling of the new Alabama Monument at the cemetery. We hope you will join us on September 22nd to honor these 80 men who have been forgotten until now.

For more information, contact Bristoe Station Battlefield Park at 703-366-3049 or www.pwcgov.org/bristoe.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR
BRISTOE STATION BATTLE-
FIELD PARK LUMINARY**

Bristoe Station Battlefield Park is looking for volunteers to help with our first ever commemorative luminary event on August 25th. Please see the article on this page.

We are seeking help with setting up, lighting and monitoring the over 1,000 luminary candle bags. We would ask volunteers to be at the park by 5:00 p.m. and have shifts of 2 hours and five hours. Any time you might be able to assist would be appreciated. All volunteers will be offered a free torch light tour at 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested, contact Rob Orrison at 703-366-3049.





**THOMPSON'S STATION, TENNESSEE,
MARCH 5, 1863
by John Paul Strain**

This print, matted and framed, could be yours!

Help us to cover the cost of editing and indexing BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, or Battles Skirmishes, Incidents and Events of the War Between the States occurring in Fairfax County, Virginia*. Part 1 covers Oct. 16, 1859 to December 31, 1862 and contains over 1,200 incidents and events that happened in the county. Part 1 will hopefully be published this fall. Part 2 (1863-1865) is targeted for publication in 2015.

Several weeks ago, BRCWRT members should have received a letter from member Bob Hickey which included a \$10 raffle ticket and reply envelope. To help with this project, please send in your \$10 check and raffle stub.

The drawing will be held during the pre-meeting dinner on November 8 at the Copper Canyon Grill, and the winner will be announced at our meeting along with the amount of money raised. You do not have to be present to win. The raffle winner will receive a framed and matted Civil War art print of John Paul Strain's "Thompson's Station, Tennessee, March 5, 1863." When outnumbered by Federal forces, BG Nathan Bedford Forrest on his favorite mount "Broderick" led the attack.

Ed is giving his book copyright to the BRCWRT. The round table is currently helping to pay a professional to edit and index the work. The indexing is a major undertaking and is absolutely necessary in order to search the hundreds of names, places and military units mentioned in the text. Your participation in the raffle will go a long way towards offsetting the costs.

If you would like additional raffle tickets or did not receive one, see Bob at the August meeting.

32nd ANNUAL STUART-MOSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Fall Civil War Mosby Bus Tour

Saturday, September 15, 2012

The bus will be leaving the Truro Rectory at 8:30 a.m. Please arrive at 8:00 a.m. to sign in.

We will be visiting Thompson's Corner, Aldie Mill, Warrenton, Mosby's Grave, The Payne Cemetery in Orlean, the Gray Ghost Winery & more. We will arrive back at Truro Rectory around 5:30 p.m.

Tour Leaders will be Don Hakenson, Gregg Dudding & Eric Buckland

Special guest will be noted Mosby historian Tom Evans.

Price: \$65 for members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society or \$75 for non-members.

To Sign-up for the tour please contact:

Don Hakenson – Phone: 703-971-4984 or e-mail: dhakenson@cox.net, or send a check made payable to Don Hakenson at 4708 Lillian Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22310

Sorry, no refunds after September 1st, 2012



JOIN US AT THE COPPER CANYON GRILL

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early for dinner?

Join the BRCWRT board, other members, and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting around 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Canyon Grill located just across Lee Highway from the library.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cheron Rhodes

Joe Rhodes, Jr.

Carl Smith, Jr.



THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph Swanson

Rumor has it (widely discredited) that in commemoration of the 150th anniversary, and especially in recognition of Ed Bearss' recent BRCWRT presentation, we have a new book on the Battle of Shiloh. *Shiloh 1862* by Winston Groom (National Geographic, 2012) is the first offering on this epic battle in many years. Given its military significance, it is a mystery why we have had only three scholarly-length treatments of this terrible, bloody conflict in almost 40 years.

Groom, perhaps best known as a novelist (he penned *Forrest Gump*) is no stranger to non-fiction, particularly the western theater of our great nation-defining event. With prior books on Vicksburg, the Atlanta to Nashville campaign, and now Shiloh, his historian chops are well established. Rather than a West Point-level re-analysis of the battle, Groom has chosen to tell the Shiloh story largely through the words of 20 or so of the best diarists and memoirists he could uncover who actually participated in the battle, men like Ambrose Bierce and Henry Morton Stanley. (Bierce would go on to become one of America's best known writers and Stanley, a noted free-lance journalist, is best remembered as the explorer who "found" David Livingston in Africa ("Dr. Livingston I presume?"). The result is the historical critique we demand but rendered in a breezy novelist's style that is a joy to read. Groom fits soldier quotes into his overall narrative in a manner that is seamless and lends life and reality to this history. I was never a fan of Henry Steele Commager's style of stringing together endless soldier letters and diaries to tell the story of our Civil War, but Groom has mastered this technique with just the right blend that carries the action and drama of this ferocious battle.

Confederate military strategy in the west was anything but straightforward. Out where distances were huge and roads primitive, posting a limited force for the greatest strategic benefit would test any military mind. Albert Sydney Johnston, who clearly had more reputation than accomplishments behind him, probably did about the best he could. Groom takes great care in covering all the preliminaries, along with concise biographies of the key players, without boring density. Nearly half the book is devoted to the challenges, personalities and interrelationships that produced the Battle of Shiloh.

The battle itself was not particularly complicated, either strategically or tactically. It was hit 'em hard and march right over 'em. The result was the largest and most brutal battle of our still-infant war: Two armies, 9 divisions (Buell added a third army on the second day), more than 100,000 men, all trying to murder each other. (Thankfully, Groom's battle maps are numerous

and first rate. Take his maps with you when you tour this Battlefield National Park.) By comparison, First Manassas (about 7,000 casualties) was a mere skirmish. In Groom's words Shiloh was "ruthless battlefield butchery almost unimaginable at that day and time." More than 23,700 men were killed and wounded. And all this around a church whose name means "place of peace."

If it was a Confederate defeat, it certainly was not for lack of trying. The rebels had pushed Grant nearly into the Tennessee River by late on that first day (April 6) and Braxton Bragg's efforts to administer the coup de grace were all anyone could ask. Only a final, stubborn Union defense (and possibly fire from two Union gunboats on the river) saved Grant. Buell's army of 37,000 fresh troops (plus the arrival of Lew Wallace's missing Division of Grant's army) settled issues the next day.

Oh, there are plenty of mysteries, what ifs, and missed opportunities for us to analyze and argue. So what if Lew Wallace got lost on the way to the battle? Could his 5,000 troops really have made the difference when Grant already had 33,000 in confused retreat? Was Johnston really as great a general as reputed? If the job of a general is, as R.E. Lee stated, to bring his army to the field at the right time and place, then Johnston performed masterfully, moving 36,000 untrained troops 20 miles over poor roads, in bad weather, and striking with complete surprise. Did Johnston's death spell Confederate defeat? Beauregard, contrary to popular myth, continued with dogged tenacity long after Johnston's death and, frankly, deserved to take Grant's surrender.

Luckily for us, the generals have rehashed much of this already in post-war articles in *The Century* magazine. About 1883 Grant wrote a thinly veiled rebuttal to criticism of his generalship. That apparently set off Don Carlos Buell who at least waited until after Grant's death (1885) to publish strenuous arguments that not only had Grant been "defeated" on April 6, but that only the arrival of his Army of the Ohio had saved the Union in the west. Their articles, preserved for us in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, make enlightening adjunct reading.

Well, the generals have had their say and are now dead and gone. In this season of commemoration, let us focus on how virtually untrained boys could possibly have endured such extended and savage combat. Hardened regular troops might have sustained this battle, but where did mere boys find the courage to withstand such unmitigated carnage? Perhaps that is why Winston Groom tells his story largely through the personal recollections of those who actually experienced this battlefield hell.

Until next time, keep reading.

Note: The Book Corner welcomes your comments, and especially, your recommendations for outstanding books on the Civil War. Send your comments to renataralph@gmail.com.

FORT EVANS & BALLS BLUFF TOUR AFTER ACTION REPORT

By John De Pue



Photo by Tom Jones

Having been forced to cancel our trip last October on account of bad weather, June 16th, could not have provided a more perfect day for 17 members of the BRCWRT to explore Civil War sites in the vicinity of Leesburg, Virginia. We were fortunate to have been led by Jim Morgan, a published author and recognized authority on the Battle of Balls Bluff. After fortifying ourselves with breakfast and coffee at the Sheetz/McDonalds complex on Edwards Ferry Road, we caravanned the short distance to Fort Evans. Now maintained in pristine condition by a preservation-friendly commercial firm, Fort Evans was constructed during August and September of 1861 on high ground just east of Leesburg. Its purposes were to interdict efforts by Union forces to flank the Confederate Manassas/Centreville defense line by way of Edwards Ferry, and to defend Leesburg from attack via the Alexandria-Leesburg Pike (modern Route 7). The remains of the fortification were truly impressive. Its walls are still over five feet in height, contain easily discernible artillery embrasures, and three of its four corners feature bastions to accommodate additional guns. The view from this vantage point permitted Jim to orient us to the area's geography and to point out other historically significant features on both sides of the Potomac River. For those interested in learning more about Fort Evans and the defenses of Leesburg, I would commend them to Craig Swain's Web site, *To the Sound of the Guns, Defenses of Leesburg Part. 2*. His summary not only recounts the history of Fort Evans, it also contains a highly detailed diagram of the remaining earthworks.

Our next stop and the main feature of the tour was the Balls Bluff Battlefield administered by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. When the BRCWRT visited this site several years ago, this experience was entirely different. Since that time, the park authority has diligently worked to improve this site. Jim first led us down an abandoned roadway leading to an open field. There he explained how an early morning reconnaissance, resulting in false information, precipitated the October 20, 1861 battle, and he discussed the cavalry versus infantry meeting engagement that marked its opening phase. We reassembled at the Balls Bluff Regional Park, where Jim provided an overview of the engagement. Proceeding toward the Potomac River, we

noted the trail clearing work that had been done during the years since our last visit and the historical markers that had been installed. As we cautiously moved down a steep hill toward the river, Jim explained how the Virginians and Mississippians, who rushed to the vicinity, halted the Union advance after they landed on the Virginia shore. We proceeded along the river bank, eventually arriving at the point where the Union forces disembarked and began moving in piecemeal fashion up the river bank. Making our way back up the bank proved to be particularly demanding. We were, however, rewarded by reaching the portion of the field where the closing phase of the battle was fought. The park authority has restored this 12 acre tract to its war-time appearance by the removal of post-war trees and undergrowth. It has also installed signage, and deployed two reproduction 12 pounder mountain howitzers and a 6 pounder bronze gun. These artillery pieces represent the Union force's artillery compliment, which the Confederate forces captured intact after the Union withdrawal. After Jim recounted the closing phase of the battle at this location, we visited the second smallest VA-administered military cemetery in its system containing the remains of the Union soldiers killed in the battle. Jim also pointed out the stone monument where Colonel (and Senator) Edward Baker was supposedly killed by Confederate gunfire and explained that, in fact, it marked the location of where his body had been placed by would-be rescuers. Jim terminated the visit by describing the consequences of the battle and the manner in which it affected the careers of key participants, including Brigadier General Charles P. Stone, the senior on-scene Union commander who became scapegoat for the defeat and for Colonel Baker's death by the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War.

Several members of the tour group expressed an interest in visiting the field works overlooking Goose Creek, often referred to as the Burnt Bridge site. These works were constructed during the fall and winter of 1861 to interdict movement by Union Forces up the Leesburg Pike. During the Battle of Balls Bluff, the site was occupied by a company of the Eighth Virginia Infantry to act as a tripwire force should a Union column advance from that direction. Our investigation revealed one extremely well-defined artillery lunette accommodating two guns fronted by what appeared to be a trench for supporting infantry. Craig Swain's Web site, however, indicates that there is a second lunette just to the north of the one we explored but that it is covered with deadfall and difficult to find. The property on which the lunettes are located is owned by a local homeowners association that is working with Jim Morgan in developing plans to clean it up and obtain a historical marker.

We are deeply indebted to Jim Morgan for leading us on an absolutely fantastic tour. It was well worth the wait. We are also appreciative of the owners of Fort Evans who granted us access. Members participating in the tour included: Nancy Anwyll, John Briar, Mike Buckley, Bob Eldridge, Tom Jones, Chris Kern, Mark Labeda, Jim Lewis, Dale Maschino, Rob Osterhout, Pam Ungar, Patrick Quinn, Jayne and Mac McLaughlin, Joe Young, and yours truly, John De Pue.

CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Gathering of Eagles

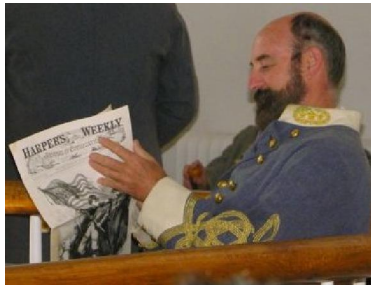
By Janet Greentree

"In all my years of going to Civil War events, this was by far my favorite."

The Three Musketeers of Civil War events (Gwen, Nancy, and me) were invited by our own General Ewell (Chris Godart) to attend the Gathering of Eagles event held in Winchester, Virginia on June 2, 2012. The event is held in the 1840s Winchester Courthouse Civil War Museum located on Loudoun Street in the city. It turned out to be a beautiful non-humidity day so it was just perfect to watch the action of the reenactors making "their" generals come alive. The three of us just sat there absolutely enthralled with the event.

Chris told me later than there is no script for the event. The members are given a year before an event to prepare. This year's event was the year 1862. The action began with General Ewell reading a copy of Harper's Weekly. A reporter from Harper's Weekly started asking questions of the generals on various topics relating to 1862. Some of the generals were seated in the center of the Courtroom, while others were in the gallery on either side, or on the bench behind. General McClellan was asked many questions. Then the others started making comments so it was a lot of back and forth with the discussion. Chris tells me that sometimes it gets very animated, and there is shouting back and forth between the Union and Confederates. We didn't get to see any arguments, but there were some heated discussions.

In looking at my pictures from the event, it seems there were more Confederate generals than Union. One of our favorites was General William Tecumseh Sherman (Jim Opdenker). This is the first time I have ever seen anyone portray the general. He was sitting in the Courtroom with his rakish red hair in a slouched position that made you believe it really was General Sherman



before you. Afterwards the general told us that he has never lit a fire but people come up to him all the time and give him matches.



It was a treat to see our own Colonel Mosby (Jimmy Fleming), Colonel Heros von Borcke (R.J. Cicero), and General JEB Stuart (Bill Frueh) there. Bill Frueh has been to the BRCWRT before. He lives outside of Denver, CO and several years ago, Nancy and I saw him in the Denver airport in full Stuart regalia, including his sword, getting ready to travel. Colonel von Borcke had his blunderbuss with him. He also presented a Confederate coat to General "Stonewall" Jackson (Greg Randall) replacing his Union coat that he wore at First Manassas. Mosby, von Borcke, and Stuart walked round and round the Courtroom singing Riding Around McClellan while General McClellan sat in the Courtroom.

The ladies had a tea and sewing circle discussing the war and the hardships they had to endure. It turns out that one of the ladies had a birthday on June 2nd so General George Pickett (Niles Clark) sang to her. He has a marvelous voice and sang a cappella.

During intermission I approached General Hartranft (John Schlotter) and asked him what it was like to read the death sentence on the gallows to the Lincoln Conspirators. He said they were very respectful of Mary Surratt. I told him I had found the grave of his aide Colonel William Henry Harrison McCall in Prescott, AZ several years ago (August-September 2009 *Stone Wall*). We talked about the poor state of the Norristown, PA cemetery where he and General Hancock are buried. General Hartranft's marker has bullet holes in it as well as several others in the cemetery. In "real" life John Schlotter is the postmaster of Gettysburg.

Al Stone (General Robert E. Lee) is head of Lee's Lieutenants. Al is a very believable General Lee. The three of us joined him at lunch at Blenheim once, and he stood while we sat down. Wow! Al headed up the event and got all the reenactors together for pictures at the end.

I enjoyed talking to General Longstreet (Gene Pennell), General Trimble (David Trimble), Lewis Armistead (Dennis Cole), Maxcy Gregg (Tony Virando), General Ulysses S. Grant (Barry Meadows), and General

**See GATHERING OF EAGLES
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GATHERING OF EAGLES [Continued from Page 12]

George Sears "Pap" Greene (Paul Bourget). Tony Vi-rando looked so much like General Gregg. The beard was really something. Our Extra Billy Smith (Dave Meisky) and Colonel Venable (Mark Whittenton) were also in attendance.

In all my years of going to Civil War events, this was by far my favorite. These men absolutely made the Civil War come alive with their portrayals of the generals. I would heartedly recommend this event to all of you. The Lee's Lieutenants Web site is: leeslieutenants.com, and the Federal general's Web site is: federalgeneralscorp.com.

Get ready Bull Run Civil War Round Table – Ms. Rebelle is going to Montana in August. I've already scoped out the Civil War connections there in addition to George Armstrong Custer.



THE BLUE AND THE GRAY



FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

**August 25-26, 2012
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Honoring
Clara Barton,
Founder of the Red Cross
150th Civil War
Commemoration**



Outside Exhibits and
Demonstrations—Free
Museum Fee—\$5.00 adults, 5
to 10 \$1.00, 4 and under free

This event will feature lectures, exhibits, historical interpretations and demonstrations during those four hectic days leading up to the Union retreat. Featured will be Union Medical units, Confederate Soldiers, Civil War camp life, Civil War railroad history, Civil War telegraph office, and Clara Barton, Founder of the Red Cross.

After the flags were furled, after the cheering stopped, after the guns were silenced, after the battles were fought in 2nd Manassas and Ox Hill, the Union wounded and injured were brought here in late August, 1862. They all endured, they all sacrificed, some died and others lived another day on this hallowed ground.

The event will commemorate the medical evacuation of the Union wounded brought to this train station after the nearby battles. 3,000 Union wounded were brought by various means. They were hastily treated as they lay and awaited rail transport back to hospitals in Alexandria and Washington.

Civilians were sent out on the trains to aid the wounded. One of those civilians, Clara Barton, would later be called the "Angel of the Battlefield" for her efforts. The last evacuation occurred as the Confederates prepared to enter the area.

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

www.fairfax-station.org

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2012 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM

We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!

Annual dues are:

Individual—\$20.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.

Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the Treasurer at the General Membership meeting, or mail it to:

Mark Knowles, BRCWRT Treasurer, 169 Applegate Drive, Sterling, VA 20164

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