



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIX, Issue 9, DEC 2012/JAN 2013

## BRCWRT WINTER SPEAKERS INCLUDE DONALD ERNSBERGER AND DANIEL J. VERMILYA

By Mark Trbovich

Our December 2012 Sesquicentennial Anniversary month speaker, **Don Ernsberger**, has blessed the BRCWRT with excellent lectures in the past, and we are glad to welcome him back December 13. Don has been a student of the American Civil War almost all his life. He has walked nearly all the battlefields of that war, read all the classic military histories, and given guided tours of many of the key battlegrounds. He has done hundreds of individual soldier research projects at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and has traveled to state archives in five states. He hails from Fremont, Ohio and is descended from ancestors who served in Ohio and New York infantry units during the Civil War. Fremont is also the home of Civil War General and President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Don received his bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1969. Following graduation, he commenced a teaching career that lasted 30 years. During this period he earned a MA degree and a PhD from Temple University. For 12 years he taught U.S. history in the Bucks County (PA) Public School System. He then taught for 18 years at Penn State where the focus of his labors was on "Political Philosophy, 1900 to the Present." Following his retirement from teaching, Don embarked on a new career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. as the deputy chief of staff for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California. Don is now officially retired.

Don has written several books on the Civil War, including a regimental history entitled *Paddy Owen's Regulars: The 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers*. The 69th was a distinguished Union unit composed largely of men who were either Irish by birth or by descent. Until Don's two-volume history on the 69th PA was published in 2004, the only other history on this unit was a brief account authored by two 69th veterans, Anthony W. McDermott and John I. Reilly, published in 1889. In contrast Don Ernsberger's grand opus consists of 1,091 pages, 350,000 words and 58 photographs. It is truly an impressive regimental history. According to reviewer and fellow historian, Michael Kane, Don's history "is the best treatment of the Irish soldier in the American Civil War ever written. This is a work so well researched that we will never see its depth."

His last lecture with us was October 2010 on his book, *Also For Glory: The Pettigrew-Trimble Charge at*

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 2012**

**7:00 P.M. Centreville Library**

## GUEST SPEAKER:

**Don Ernsberger**

## TOPIC:

**Meade's Breakthrough at  
Fredericksburg  
Battle of Fredericksburg  
December 13, 1862**



**6:30 p.m. Come early for  
Christmas Holiday  
Refreshments**

Gettysburg. His new book, *Meade's Breakthrough at Fredericksburg*, will be the topic of his December presentation. I'm sure Don will have books to sell so come on out early so he can sign one for you. December 13 is the date you won't want to miss so put that on your calendar.

Our January 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary month lecture will be the Western theater Battle of Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. BRCWRT members asked for more western battles, and we are getting another very large battle lecture from NPS Ranger **Dan Vermilya**. Total casualties in the battle were 24,645: 12,906 on the Union side and 11,739 for the Confederates. Considering that only about 76,400 men were engaged, this was the highest percentage of killed and wounded of any major battle in the Civil War, higher in absolute numbers than the infamous blood-baths at Shiloh and Antietam earlier that year.

Dan is a National Park Service ranger at the Antietam National Battlefield and was the first to receive the Joseph L. Harsh Memorial Scholarship Award this year on his research on the Union Army at Antietam. He received his bachelor of arts degree in history and

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## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

### Executive Committee

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**Secretary:** Dale Maschino, smasch1@verizon.net, 703.734.3244

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**Membership:** John Pearson, 703.475.1943

**Preservation:** John McAnaw, 703.978.3371

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**Webmaster:** Ken Jones, KJones111@cox.net, Assistant Webmaster, Dennis Feldt

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandra Cox, 703.675.0702 or scox@capitalav.com

**Newsletter Team:** Dale Maschino, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones, Andy Kapfer, Janet Greentree and Jill Hilliard

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 AND ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

For the **FEBRUARY 2013 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00 a.m., Monday, Jan. 28 to new *Stone Wall* editor Nadine Mironchuk at nadinem@mindspring.com.

For **FEBRUARY 2012 issue advertisers**, click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon, Monday, January 21 to Charlie Balch at [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com).



### 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.

## 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



### JANUARY 10

**SPEAKER:**

**Dan Vermilya**

**TOPIC:**

**Battle of Stones River**

### FEBRUARY 14

**SPEAKER:**

**Al Conner**

**TOPIC:**

**Union Army's  
"Valley Forge" 1863:  
93 Days That Saved America**

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## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

The winter months and Christmas season are upon us as we continue our Civil War Sesquicentennial journey together with great lectures coming up for December and January. We have had an excellent year as a 501c3 non-profit organization, and I'm blessed with the best BRCWRT Executive Committee any president could ask for. We will be saying good-bye to three members in 2013 but just from their service on the Executive Committee: Sandra Cox, our wonderful Newsletter Editor for seven years, Dale Maschino, our excellent Executive Committee Secretary, and Ken Jones, our excellent Webmaster and media equipment lead. Your service will never be forgotten and will always be a part of this organization's legacy. We will welcome two new Executive Committee members in January: Jim Meagher, Webmaster, and Nadine Mironchuk, *Stone Wall* editor. Pending officer election at our December 13 meeting, our 2012 Vice President, John Pearson, will change his position to Secretary. Rob Orrison is running for vice president to fill John's former position. Thank you so much, Sandra, Dale and Ken, for all these years of service. Welcome Jim, Nadine, John and Rob to new Executive Committee positions in January 2013. A big thank you to John DePue for stepping up to be the 2013 Nominating Committee Chairman.

I look for our membership to continue to grow in 2013, and as always, keep putting out the good word to family and friends. Continue to encourage young folks to come to the lectures because they are the future.

A huge thank you to member Bob Hickey. His successful raffle collected almost \$1,500 to help support editing of Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County: Part 1 1861-1862*. Ed has given the copyright for the book to the BRCWRT.

Thank you for all who came out to the November lecture on the Battle of New Orleans, an outstanding presentation from 2003 BRCWRT President Keith Young. I certainly learned a lot that night on Civil War naval bombardment strategy for the battle and what a pounding those two Confederate forts on the Mississippi River took from Federal "mortar" boats. The capture of New Orleans was quite a prize for the Federals so early in the war. Many believed the Confederate War in the West was deeply affected by this important strategic river city falling to the North. Thanks, Keith, for another outstanding lecture, and thanks for increasing our knowledge on so many Civil War subjects over the years. Watch for the audio portions on the Web site in the next few months.



Photo by J. Greentree

Two thousand twelve was another momentous

## SPEAKERS [From Page 1]

politics from Hillsdale College in 2009 and graduated cum laude with departmental honors in history. His master of arts degree is from John Carroll University in 2011 with the main focus on the Civil War. His master's thesis analyzed motivations and experiences of Ohio soldiers in Sherman's army during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. Dan writes and maintains a blog, "Our Country's Fiery Ordeal," dedicated to his 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfather, Private Ellwood Rodebaugh, Company D, 106<sup>th</sup> PA Volunteer Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862.

Members are encouraged to come early to meet our speakers at the Copper Canyon Grill at 5:00 p.m. for supper and great conversation. Please come early to the library for holiday refreshments and to get a good seat.



year for the BRCWRT. We all can take pride in the accomplishments of our local Civil War Sesquicentennial volunteer efforts. We have the memories and photos and know that this organization is rooted in preservation and education for our ever growing Northern Virginia region. We are up to the task again in 2013. The Sesquicentennial "high water mark" is Gettysburg in July. More details of our planned motor coach bus trip there to follow in the next few months.

In closing, the December 13, 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg will be brought to us by Don Ernsberger, and the Battle of Stones River lecture will be brought to us by Dan Vermilya in January. We sure have been blessed with good speakers.

Enjoy the holiday season, and be safe in all your endeavors. We want to see your bright shiny face next year. We are so thankful that we can continue to meet at the Centreville Regional Library in 2013. We have another great line-up of speakers and topics for the 1863 Sesquicentennial calendar. As your president for the last three years, I can say we have come a long way, but there are still so many more outstanding initiatives and efforts we can accomplish together. We are the Bull Run Civil War Round Table...a great place to gather and to learn as students and scholars of the country's most difficult time in its history, the Civil War.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**HAPPY HANUKKAH**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**





## MEET OUR NEW *STONE WALL* EDITOR NADINE MIRONCHUK

By Sandra Cox

Before you learn more about our new editor, I want to thank everyone for the great articles submitted over the past seven years, while I have been editor, especially Janet Greentree (Ms. Rebelle), Ralph Swanson (The Book Corner), Nancy Anwyll (150 Years Ago), Dale Maschino (Events), and Chuck Mauro. Thanks, also, to our newsletter team for their assistance. Andy Kapfer, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones and Jill Hilliard have been excellent proofreaders. Janet Greentree has been faithful to send the newsletters to those on our snail mail list, and Webmaster Ken Jones sends to those on the e-mail list.

Nadine Mironchuk, of Chelsea, Massachusetts, was always interested in history, but it was her renovation of an old historic cemetery in Chelsea 25 years ago that brought her focus to the Civil War. The most prominent area was an ellipse of Civil War graves, and because a great fire in 1908 destroyed all of the city's history in one day, there was nowhere to go in the city to learn about the men who were buried there.

That's when she joined the Civil War Round Table of the North Shore in Lynn, Massachusetts. A world of wonderful people was waiting to show her the resources available for research and travel, especially to the battlefields of Northern Virginia. She soon became the secretary of the round table and editor of their newsletter – *The General Orders*.

Meeting many historians and Civil War enthusiasts in Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun Counties on annual round table trips to Virginia, and during many trips to conduct research, has been a source of great joy and a tremendous resource for information about the war and its great battles. Joining the Bull Run Civil War Round Table last year was a great way to maintain a constant association with the great Civil War folks of Northern Virginia.

She has been conducting research in conjunction with Virginia Civil War historians on the Battle of Blackburn's Ford, which involved Chelsea Co. H, 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts, who faced the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Rifles on that field, July 18, 1861. The exhumation of six sets of remains in Centreville, Virginia some years ago was of particular interest, as it was speculated that two of them were from that Chelsea company.

Nadine is often asked to produce newsletters, PR materials or grants for various organizations, having had a career in Greater Boston-area newspapers for 25 years as a reporter, photographer and editor, and having been involved in many community-building projects. When prompted by member Janet Greentree to consider taking on the production of the *Stone Wall* when I retired, it was a privilege for Nadine to sign on and contribute more directly to the promotion of the activities of the BRCWRT.

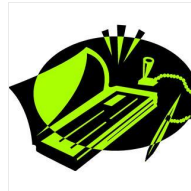
Nadine started the Chelsea Historical Society in Chelsea, as well as worked to include a Historical Commission in the new charter the city wrote in 1994. She has served as the chair since then. As well as being a member of both round tables, she is a life member of the Lincoln Group of Boston and a member of the Lincoln Forum of Gettysburg, PA.



**Elections for the 2013  
BRCWRT Officers  
will take place at the  
Dec. 13 meeting.**



Candidates are as follows:  
President - Mark Trbovich  
Vice-President - Rob Orrison  
Treasurer - Mark Knowles  
Secretary - John Pearson



**IT'S TIME TO  
RE-ENLIST FOR 2013!**

Please send your check  
to the address on the mailer  
(page 10) or pay your dues at the Decem-  
ber or January meeting.

This year let's all renew by January  
to help the Executive Committee budget  
for 2013.

BRCWRT membership is the best  
bargain around...great speakers, excellent  
topics, exciting Civil War tours, preserva-  
tion, Sesquicentennial participation, infor-  
mative newsletters and great fellowship.

# 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 [fsaind@netzero.net](mailto:fsaind@netzero.net).*

**1 Dec** – Grand Illumination of the Antietam battlefield near Sharpsburg. Big annual event with candles representing battle casualties. Gates open 6 p.m. Free. Living history at the Pry House field hospital at nearby Keedysville. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). for illumination; [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org). for living history.

**1 Dec** – Bus tours to the Antietam National Battlefield Illumination Site from Hagerstown. Buses leave at 6 p.m. from the visitor center downtown. \$25/adult. Tickets. 301-791-3246 ext. 10.

**1 Dec** – Walking tour, "Butler's Offensive at Point of Rocks," begins at Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Rd. Chester, 10 a.m.-noon. \$8 Register. [www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com).

**1 Dec** – Living History, "Christmas on the Farm." at the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield State Park. Military and civilian demonstrations 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. 866-515-1864.

**1-2 Dec** – "Capt. Flagg's US Quartermaster City: Prospects of Peace," 1864 Ranger Programs at the Harpers Ferry National Park. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Free with Park admission. [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe).

**3 Dec** – Living History, "Christmas in Camp," soldier and civilian holiday traditions at the historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center in Fairfax. Noon - 4 p.m. Free. 703-591-0506.

**4 Dec** – Lecture, "The Great Locomotive Chase," at the Carroll Community College in Westminster. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$25. Details and registration 410-386-8100.

**6 Dec** – Lecture, "Fredericksburg – It is Well That War Should Be So Terrible," at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Dr. in City Park, Hagerstown. 7 p.m. \$5. [www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org).

**7 Dec** – "Christmas With The Jacksons" candlelight tour at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington. 5:30-7 p.m. Admission-canned food.

**8 Dec** – "A Civil War Christmas" at the Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Avenue, Falls Church. Period decoration, games, music and more. 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Free. 703-248-5171.

**9 Dec** – Christmas camp at the Mt. Zion Church Historic

Park, 40309 John Mosby Hwy. Aldie. 4-7 p.m. Free. [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

**13 Dec** – Dinner talks, book signings, "Battle of Fredericksburg," featuring Gary Gallagher, Robert K. Krick, and Ed Bearss at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House hotel, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg. Proceeds go to battlefield preservation. 5 p.m. cocktails, buffet diner 6:45 p.m., program, 8 p.m. \$50. 540-374-0900 or [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

**30-31 Dec** – Special display of the original Emancipation Proclamation at the National Archives (East Rotunda Gallery) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-noon Monday. [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

**18 Jan** – Symposium: "Lee-Jackson." Speakers on the historical importance and character of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, as well as the ongoing significance and controversial aspects of their legacies. 1-6 p.m. Lexington Holiday Inn Express, 880 N. Lee Hwy., Lexington. [www.leejacksonday.webs.com](http://www.leejacksonday.webs.com).

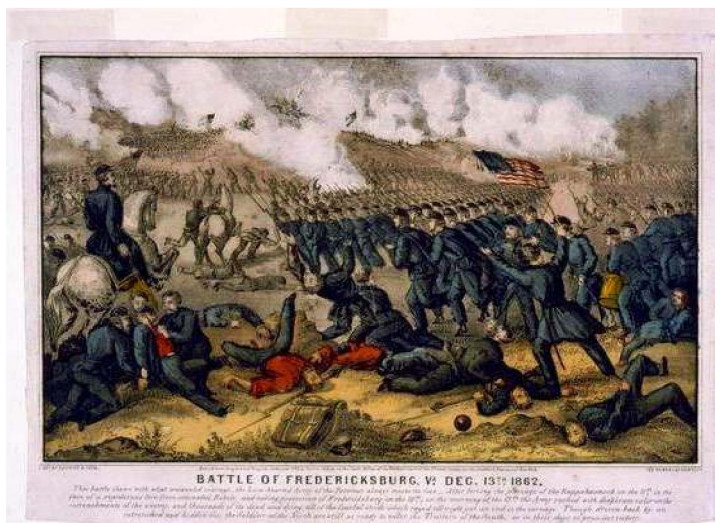
**21 Jan** – Stonewall Jackson Birthday Celebration. Open house, free tours of the house, cake and ice cream at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. [www.stonewalljackson.com](http://www.stonewalljackson.com).

**26 Jan** – Book talk, Civil War in Northern Virginia 1861 by William Connery 10 a.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy., Fairfax. 703-591-0560.

## BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION



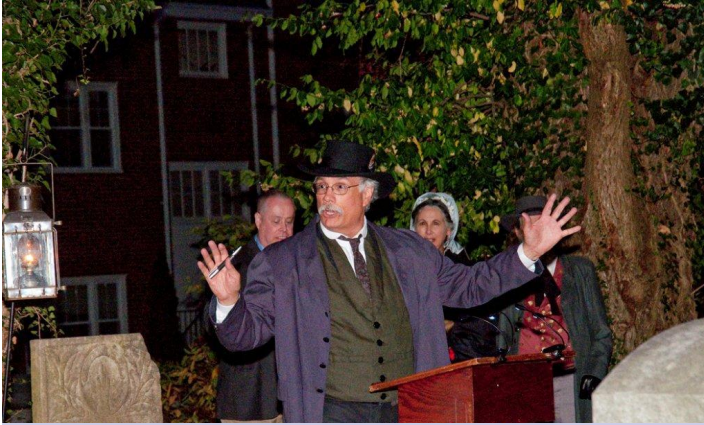
Thomas Nast's  
Santa Claus



**7-13 Dec** – Living history, tours and more commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg. Events planned throughout the city, at the Fredericksburg battlefield NPS sites and George Washington's Ferry Farm. [www.visitfred.com](http://www.visitfred.com) and [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).



## CIVIL WAR TRAILS MARKER UNVEILING & LUMINARIA COMMEMORATION Flint Hill Cemetery, Oakton, Virginia



**"Our very own" Jim Lewis delivering the keynote address. Photo by Nancy Olds**

By Brian McEnany

Saturday evening, October 27, approximately 150 people including dignitaries, crowded the Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton for the unveiling of a new Civil War Trails Marker authored by our very own Jim Lewis. Of particular interest, the Oakton Church of the Brethren just off Chain Bridge Road (Rte. 123 north of Oakton) sits on the remains of a Confederate fort, one of three that defended the Flint Hill area during the early days of the Civil War. In addition, two historic cemeteries abutting each other lie there with 26 interred Civil War veterans and over 165 military veterans in total.



**L to R: Janet Greentree, Nancy Anwyll, Col. Mosby (Jimmy Fleming) and Gwen Wytttenbach. Photo by Charlie Balch**

The headlights from cars flickered on the walls of the church, but little sound of their passing could be heard in the quiet of the cemetery. The crowd sat or stood among the tombstones in the gathering darkness. They drank hot cider, ate cookies and listened to Civil War era music as it drifted through the trees. Dave

Farmer, president of the Flint Hill Cemetery Association, performed the master of ceremonies function. Various other speakers, including Jane Seeman (Vienna Mayor), Sharon Bulova (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors), Patrick Lennon (Visit Fairfax), and Pastor Chris Bowman (Oakton Church of the Brethren) described their knowledge of the site. Other notables attending the event were Mark Keam (35<sup>th</sup> District), Linda Smythe (Providence Supervisor), and several members of the Fairfax County Historical Commission, Visit Fairfax, and Sesquicentennial Committee. The BRCWT was proudly represented by Charlie Balch, Bob Eldridge, Ed Wenzel, Brian McEnany, Tim Duskin, Janet Greentree, Gwen Wytttenbach, Nancy Olds (official photographer for the event), Nancy Anwyll, and Lyle Loveall. If I missed anyone, please forgive me.

The event was also supported locally by the Hunter Mill Defense League, Girl Scouts Troop #980 (prepping the candle-lit bags), and the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia, Co. D. (the 'Colors'). Jim Lewis managed the event, authored the marker's text, and was the keynote speaker.

One hundred and seventy-five candle-lit 'luminaria' were incorporated into the event for various purposes, including (1) lining the flagstone walkway from the church's parking lot into the cemetery, (2) providing a perimeter for the crowd, (3) outlining the front earthen walls of the fort, and (4) the placement of two luminaria for each of the 26 Civil War veterans.

The program began as a number of Civil War-era civilians, re-enactors in blue and gray uniforms from the Fairfax Rifles/17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry and other units were present as the color guard posted both U.S. and Confederate flags as the crowd grew larger.

Pastor Chris Bowman took a few moments to relate the importance of a decision made in 1902 by the Oakton Church of the Brethren. Would the members of the church who believed so strongly in peace build on a site whose purpose was war? The discussion lasted for some time, but in the end, they decided to turn a place of war into a place of peace. The adjoining Flint Hill Cemetery first recorded burials took place in 1852 although local lore takes it back a bit earlier. The Flint Hill Association was formed in 1875 and oversees the property to this very day.

As it grew darker, the luminaria grew brighter and certain grave sites became more prominent. Jim took over the lectern and offered historical descriptions of various local families whose ancestors occupied grave sites in the cemetery. He peppered his remarks with family history and identification of a number of descendants present in the audience that evening. The Freeman, the Lydecker, the Bowman and the Stunz families and their gravesites were all identified. Mayor Seeman earlier noted that the Flint Hill Cemetery was always considered an unofficial part of the town of Vienna. Many of its prominent citizens lay buried therein.

**See FLINT HILL, Page 7**

## FLINT HILL [From Page 6]

The Confederate fort was built on high ground on the northern side of the village of Flint Hill, the old name for Oakton, circa 1883. The interior of the fort has since been filled to form the parking lot for the church and subsequently preserved the exterior walls of most of the fort. The exterior walls contain a good amount of foliage but are clearly visible, particularly in the winter when the foliage dies back. Jim also explained that 151 years ago then-Colonel William T. Sherman's brigade marched, as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, right by the site on July 17, 1861, via Court House Road, on its way to the First Battle of Bull Run.

At the end of his talk, Jim Lewis lifted up the flyer that had been handed out to all who attended. It contained the names of the 26 Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery. He asked everyone to listen carefully as he began Roll Call. He called out the first name, "Corporal George Basye, 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry." Out of the darkness came a voice from the cemetery, "Present Sir!" The names of each of the 26 veterans were called, and from different parts of the cemetery voices announced their presence. Four members of Mosby's Rangers were identified and called out at the end. At the conclusion of the Roll Call, Col. John S. Mosby (well known living history re-enactor Jimmy Fleming) emerged from the dark cemetery in complete regalia and walked up to the lectern. He reached out, shook

Jim's hand and said, "Because I was rushed at the end of the war, I didn't have time to really thank each and every one of my men. I would like, at this time, to say goodbye to four of my finest men." You could imagine the audience's reaction. They were stunned. Then Colonel Mosby turned and melted back into the darkness. Jim finished with an "all presented and accounted for" salute. At that point, "Taps" was played and many a misty eye was obvious.

Sharon Bulova then walked to the lectern and made a few comments before unveiling the Civil War Trails Marker. She emphasized the importance of preserving history and the need to continue identifying sites like this one. She ended by saying that she had attended many such events in Fairfax County and believed this evening's ceremony was the best she had ever seen. With that, she unveiled the Civil War Trail Marker. Jim brought up a lantern and the marker was illuminated for all to see.

The evening's activities came to a close. Pictures were taken around the marker. Jim took a small group to the rear of the church for a brief tour of the exterior fortifications of the old rebel fort. It was a wonderful experience for all who attended. Jim deserves congratulations for orchestrating the event. In the darkness as the crowd left, the luminaria in the cemetery slowly winked out as the 26 veterans slipped peacefully back into their endless sleep.



## HISTORIC CEMETERIES



### Flint Hill & Oakton Church of the Brethren



Before you is Flint Hill Cemetery, the resting place of many of this area's most prominent Civil War-era civilian and military figures. Twenty-four veterans, including four who served in Confederate Col. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers, are buried here. This is believed to be one of the oldest community cemeteries in Fairfax County. The first documented burial occurred in 1852, when present-day Oakton was called Flint Hill.

Josiah B. Bowman, who owned Ayr Hill in Vienna and served as one of Union Gen. Lafayette C. Baker's detectives, a forerunner of the Secret Service, is buried just in front of you. The Lydecker/Freeman family memorial stands behind Bowman's grave. The family-owned store and residence on Church Street in Vienna was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. It was one

of three polling places in Fairfax County where the majority of male residents voted against the Ordinance of Secession on May 23, 1861.

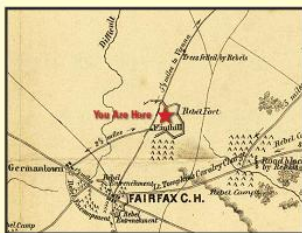
The Oakton Church of the Brethren and cemetery are directly behind you. During the congregation's first meeting, on Decem-

ber 25, 1902, it debated whether to build the church there on the site of a Confederate fort.

Those who "believed it was good to change a place of war into one of peace" prevailed.

The fort faced Vienna, and its front wall is still

intact behind the church and parking lot. In this cemetery, Union Pvt. Isaac F. Jenkins is buried on your right beneath the headstone marked "Soldier," and Union Pvt. Jacob Snowden, Co. I, 105th Pennsylvania Infantry, lies under the flat grave marker behind you on your left.



Map of Flint Hill site, 1861 - Courtesy Library of Congress

### CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED IN FLINT HILL AND OAKTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CEMETERIES



Name (Confederate)	Rank	Company	Birth Date	Death Date	Lot #
Basye, George W.	Cpl.	Co. G, 12th Va. Cav.	1844	3/25/1914	B-68
Beavers, Alexander	Sgt.	Co. A, 45th Va. Inf.	3/25/1842	4/18/1938	C-54
Chinn, John Plaster **	Pvt.	40th Bn, Va. Cav.	1843	2/13/1936	C-104
Clarke, Addison E.	4th Sgt.	Co. D, 15th Va. Cav.	Unknown	4/18/95	A-75
Clarke, Robert G.	Pvt.	Co. I, 5th Va. Cav.	8/20/1841	1/7/1918	B-73
Hunt, Lewis Benjamin **	Pvt.	Co. E, 41st Bn, Va. Cav.	3/2/1848	9/30/1927	C-58
Johnson, Laron Edwin	Pvt.	Co. K, 6th Va. Cav.	12/3/1841	1/23/1925	A-67
Lynn, John H.	Pvt.	Co. A, 4th Va. Cav.	1835	3/31/1895	B-3
Patt, Brian H.	Pvt.	Co. H, 17th Va. Inf.	3/17/1840	3/17/1914	B-31
Poole, James W.	Pvt.	London Arty.	1/25/1824	4/10/1910	B-4
Scott, Edgar	Pvt.	Alexandria Arty.	1844	9/1/1920	B-97
Trummel, Benjamin **	Pvt.	Co. A, 43rd Bn, Va. Cav.	1847	1878	A-1
Troth, Jacob H.	Pvt.	Alexandria Arty.	1842	1/12/1918	B-307
Walker, Thomas Hartwell **	Pvt.	43rd Bn, Va. Cav.	1830	3/10/1913	A-81
Weeks, Joseph A.	Pvt.	Co. G, 12th Va. Cav.	2/8/1824	7/19/1911	B-26
Wright, Jacob L.	Cpl.	Co. L, 8th Va. Inf.	5/5/1833	7/19/1881	A-84



Name (Union)	Rank	Company	Birth Date	Death Date	Lot #
Burton, John B.	Sgt.	Co. G, 5th Mich. Cav.	1838	1/12	B-30
Bowman, Josiah B.	Secret Agent	Baker's Detectives	1827	1904	A-4
Bryman, Albert H.	Pvt.	Co. B, 7th Wis. Inf.	Unknown	Unknown	B-55
DeGosse, William Augustus	Pvt.	Co. C, 5th N.Y. Hwy Arty.	9/10/1827	4/29/1908	B-20
Hornbeck, Charles W.	Pvt.	Co. D, 1st W. Va. Cav.	1845	1913	A-184
Jenkins, Isaac F.	Pvt.	Union Arty.	1832	1907	CR
Kenyon, George L.	Capt.	20th N.Y. Vol. Eng.	1833	1903	A-5
Slynton, Gardner P.	Pvt.	Co. B, 161 N.Y. Inf.	5/28/1821	8/4/1877	A-65
Snowden, Jacob	Pvt.	Co. L, 105th Pa. Inf.	24/12/1833	2/19/1911	CR
Van Slyck, Edgar A.	Lt.	U.S. Navy	2/23/1834	2/18/1877	A-113



Courtesy James G. Lewis and Tim Evans







## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE Montana

By Janet Greentree

Does Montana have Civil War significance? Well, there's Little Big Horn, where Custer and his men were killed, many of whom served in the Civil War. There is Helena, where there is a large equestrian statue of Union General Thomas Francis Meagher in front of the Capitol, and also in Helena is the grave of Union General Benjamin Franklin Potts. There is also Fort Belknap named for Union General William W. Belknap and former Forts Custer (George Armstrong Custer), Keogh (Myles Keogh), Logan (John Logan), and C.F. Smith (Charles F. Smith).



**Thomas Francis Meagher**, son of Thomas Meagher, was born on August 3, 1823, in Waterford, Ireland. The elder Meagher was a wealthy merchant



who retired to enter politics. Young Thomas was educated at Catholic boarding schools. At age 11, he was sent to Clongowes Wood College in County Kildare for further education. He excelled at oratory, and when he was 15 years old, he was the youngest medalist of the Debating Society. He left Ireland for the first time to study in England at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire.

His professors had quite a time trying to rid Thomas of his thick Irish brogue. He later spoke with an Anglo-Irish upper class accent.

Returning to Dublin in 1843, he decided to study for the bar but became involved with the Repeal Association to repeal the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland. He and John Mitchel, William Smith O'Brien, and Thomas Devin Reilly formed the Irish Confederation in 1848. O'Brien and Meagher travelled to France to study revolutionary events there. They returned to Ireland with a new flag – a tricolor of green, white, and orange given to them by a French woman who was sympathetic to the Irish cause. It is similar to the present day flag of Ireland. After the Battle of

Ballinagarry in August 1848, Meagher and O'Brien along with Terence MacManus and Patrick O'Donoghue were arrested and tried for sedition. They were sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Their death sentence was commuted, and they were all sent to Van Diemen's Land, Tasmania, Australia.

Thomas was sent to Campbell Town and his friends were sent to other locations. He married Katherine Bennett while in Tasmania on February 22, 1851. In January 1852, Thomas planned an escape to the U.S. He did manage to escape, but Katherine stayed behind as she was pregnant with their first child. Unfortunately, the child died before his father even got to New York City. Katherine came to America to be with her husband for a short time but ended up going back to Ireland in poor health and pregnant with their second child. Meagher never met his son who lived with his relatives. Katherine died in May 1854. Soon thereafter Meagher married Elizabeth Townsend.

When tensions were mounting before the U.S. Civil War, Meagher originally supported the South. His friend John Mitchel had settled in the South. Finally the friends split over their allegiance, and Meagher joined the Union Army. In September 1861, he made a speech at the Boston Music Hall for the Irish to join the Union Army. He recruited Irish men for Company K of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York Militia. His ad read, "One hundred young Irishman – healthy, intelligent and active – wanted at once to form a company under the command of Thomas Francis Meagher." The regiment was assigned to General Irvin McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia. After First Bull Run, Meagher returned to New York to form the Irish Brigade. He was commissioned a brigadier general on February 3, 1862, during the Peninsula Campaign.

His first battle as a general was Fair Oaks where he was defeated but his Irish Brigade gained a reputation as fierce fighters. For a time he was given a regiment of non-Irish men but said he would only command Irishmen. The Irish Brigade sustained large losses at Antietam on Bloody Lane. Meagher fell off his horse, and there were rumors of him being drunk, but his horse had been shot. Meagher led 1,200 men into battle at Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, but there were only 280 men left the next day. He resigned on May 14, 1863, after the Battle of Chancellorsville. His 69<sup>th</sup> Irish Brigade fought at the Angle at Gettysburg, but Meagher wasn't there. His resignation was rejected in December 1863, and he was sent to the Western theatre. He resigned again on May 15, 1865. President Andrew Johnson appointed him secretary of the Montana Territory in 1865, and he later became acting territorial governor of Montana. On July 1, 1867, while travelling on a steamboat near Fort Benton, Montana, he fell off the boat into the Missouri River. His body was never recovered. There are two schools of thought on his death. Some say he was drunk and fell overboard. Others say that he

**See MS. REBELLE, Page 9**



## MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 8]

was sick with an intestinal problem and accidentally fell overboard. There is no marker for Meagher. He does have the statue in Helena and a monument at Fort Benton alongside the Missouri River. He also has a monument at Antietam.

**Benjamin Franklin Potts** was born in Carroll County, Ohio on January 29, 1836. He attended Westminster College but ran out of funds to complete his education. He taught school and read the law under Ephraim R. Eckley who later became a U.S. Congressman. Potts was a Democrat supporting President James Buchanan. After passing the bar exam in Canton, Ohio, he started his law practice in Carrollton. He was a member of the Ohio delegation to the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston, S.C. and supported Stephen A. Douglas for president against Abraham Lincoln.



Potts was mustered into service in the Civil War on August 29, 1861, as the captain of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry. He served at Cheat Mountain, Greenbrier River, McDowell, the Shenandoah Valley in pursuit of Stonewall Jackson, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Winchester, and Harpers Ferry. His company was part of the largest surrender of the U.S. Army at Harpers Ferry until World War II. Potts was sent to Camp Douglas in Chicago, inactive under terms of his parole. After being exchanged, he refitted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio for service again. They fought at Vicksburg, Atlanta Campaign, Port Gibson, Raymond, and Champion Hill where his unit captured an eight-gun Confederate battery. Most of his war service was in the Western theater. He was also with Sherman's 'March to the Sea' taking Savannah. He received his rank of brigadier general in January 1865. He marched in the Grand Review of the Army in Washington, D.C.

After the war, he returned to Carroll County, Ohio to practice law and resume his political career. He changed to the Republican Party and was elected to the Ohio State Senate in 1867. In 1870, President Grant appointed him governor of the Montana Territory where he served until 1883. General Potts died in Helena on June 17, 1887, where he is interred in the Forestvale Cemetery. His grave is on the same row as Montana native, actress Myrna Loy.



To add a postscript to my Myles Keogh/Little Big Horn article in the November 2012 issue of the *Stone Wall*, my sister and I met a young male descendant of Curly who was a Crow scout for General Custer. He told us where to find Curly's grave at the Custer National Cemetery at Little Big Horn. There are several Indian scouts (Goes Ahead, White Man Runs Him, White Swan, and Two Whistles) buried there as well as Major Marcus Reno (reinterred from Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.), Lt. J.J. Crittenden, and Captain William Fetterman (of the Fetterman Massacre before Little Big Horn on December 21, 1866). Our Union ancestor, Daniel Smothers, was in the same 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army of the Ohio, with Fetterman. Lucky for us, Great Grandfather Daniel went back to Ohio after the Civil War to farm and wasn't at Little Big Horn.



**Capt. William Fetterman's  
marker at  
Custer National Cemetery,  
Little Big Horn**

*NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is travelling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far she has located and photographed 384...168 Confederate and 216 Union. You may contact her at [jlqtree@erols.com](mailto:jlqtree@erols.com).*

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