



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIX, Issue 4, MAY 2012

## ED BEARSS TO SPEAK ON THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, APRIL 1862

By Mark Trbovich

It wouldn't be May without welcoming Ed Bearss and another of his outstanding lectures. He will be speaking on the Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing) on this Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration month. We are heading out west to the Mississippi, to their "Gettysburg" equivalent in terms of death and destruction, in a battle that showed early in the war how horrible a struggle this War Between the States would become.

I don't have to tell you that our guest speaker is a matchless Civil War historian, lecturer, tour guide and preservationist. This meeting also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of Ed's birth date slightly ahead of the event. This June, Ed will be 89 years young. We are indeed fortunate to have an American legend as a friend of the BRCWRT.

During World War II, Ed Bearss served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps, first with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion commanded by Col. Harry "The Horse" Leversedge, and then with the 7th Marine Regiment. While serving with the latter unit, he was severely wounded at Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain. Following a convalescent period of 26 months, he entered Georgetown University. After earning an undergraduate degree at that institution, Ed spent three years working at the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, MD. He then enrolled at Indiana University where he received a master's degree in history.

In 1955, Ed joined the National Park Service (NPS) and worked his way up the promotion ladder to become the chief historian of the NPS. In that position, he gained the respect of innumerable congressmen and members of the Executive Branch. Following his retirement in 1998, Ed became a much sought-after guest speaker and tour guide to battlefields where Americans have fought. These tours cover armed conflict ranging from the French and Indian War through World War II, including both the European and Pacific theaters of operation.

We anticipate a record turnout for Ed Bearss' presentation on the Battle of Shiloh. Members are encouraged to come early, meet Ed Bearss at the Copper Canyon Grill at 5:00 p.m. for supper and fellowship. If you can't make supper, please come early to the library

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**ED BEARSS**

**TOPIC:**

**The Battle of Shiloh, April 1862**



**6:30 p.m.  
BRCWRT's  
21ST ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**

at 6:30 p.m. to fellowship and to enjoy cake, cookies and beverages at our pre-meeting celebration. Hope to see you then!

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## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

**President:** Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net,  
703.361.1396

**Past President:** Nancy Anwyll, njanwyll@verizon.net

**Vice-President:** John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com,  
703.475.1943

**Treasurer:** Mark Knowles, 703.787.9811

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

**At Large:** Ed Wenzel, Charlie Balch and John De Pue

**Communications/Media:** Jim Lewis,  
antietam1862@verizon.net

**Membership:** John Pearson, 703.475.1943

**Preservation:** John McAnaw, 703.978.3371

**Sesquicentennial Fairfax:** Ed Wenzel, ew136@verizon.net

**Sesquicentennial Prince William:** Rob Orrison,  
rorrison@pwccgov.org

**Field Trips:** Kevin Anastas, KKA2@cox.net

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

**Newsletter Editor:** Saundra 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>.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **JUNE/JULY 2012 double issue**, e-mail articles  
by 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 31, to Saundra Cox at  
scox@capitalav.com. If acknowledgement of your article  
is not received by deadline, call Saundra at  
703.675.0702 (cell) or 540.374.2011 (Capital AV).

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

## BRCWRT BOOK DONATIONS



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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**JUNE 14**

**SPEAKER:**

**Edward Sanders**

**TOPIC:**

**The Seven Days Battles**

**June 1863**

**JULY 12**

**SPEAKER:**

**Scott Patchen**

**TOPIC:**

**Second Manassas:  
Longstreet's Attack and the  
Struggle for Chinn Ridge**

**AUGUST 9**

**SPEAKER:**

**John Hennessy**

**TOPIC:**

**The Battle of 2nd Manassas (Bull  
Run) August 1862**



## The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Greetings and happy anniversary for 21 years of such outstanding leadership in this region for Civil War tours, education and preservation. I am so honored to serve as your president and watch the BRCWRT continue to become the beacon of Civil War knowledge and respect among our many peers throughout this great country. Together we have so much more we can do. I again want to thank you for your membership support in 2012. We will not rest on our laurels on becoming the "CWT 2011 Round Table of the Year." We will continue to strive to bring this region high quality Civil War Sesquicentennial anniversary lectures, tours, newsletters and support the various local Civil War events and preservation efforts.

We were so honored last month to hear historian John Quarstein speak on the "Battle of the Ironclads" at



Newport News in March 1862. It was quite a night and a lecture to remember as John laid out the entire battle and strategy leading up to it in a most entertaining way. Ninety souls came out to the lecture and left with smiles as they were certainly entertained by John's wit and knowledge. I almost fell out of my seat when John said that the pre-battle breakfast of the Confederates on the CSS Virginia was two boiled eggs and two jiggers of whisky

for each man, a "Breakfast of Champions" shout came out of the crowd.

There were memories for all of us. Fortunately, the lecture was caught on audio recorder and will be posted on our Web site for you to hear again, or for your first time, in the coming months. John's books were sold at the meeting and highly recommended for purchase. We hope to have John again in this Civil War Sesquicentennial. He really enjoyed the evening and expressed interest to come back and do more of his many outstanding lectures. Thank you so much, John, and thanks for the memories.

Speaking of memories, Ed Bearss is coming this month, and every one of his lectures is memorable. You will not want to miss this presentation. Come early to fellowship with members and friends, enjoy some sweets, and most importantly get a seat.

As we have been discussing for the past months, the 2012 BRCWRT Executive Committee has voted to support a 2013 BRCWRT College Scholarship program

for a high school senior heading to college to major in history. We are all pretty excited to make this happen. I want to thank our Past President Nancy Anwyll for leading a scholarship committee to select our future candidate. This is Civil War education at its finest reaching out to help worthy students.

Make sure you keep up with a the various Civil War events coming to our region this summer. On Saturday May 19, the BRCWRT will support the Centreville Library Day celebration with lectures and exhibits from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. If you want to see Civil War weaponry and artifacts, we'll have them there.

In closing, please feel free to contact me at anytime. I will make every attempt to get back with you promptly. Lots of late spring and summer activities coming up so keep in touch, and increase your Civil War knowledge. Again, together and united, we are the Bull Run Civil War Round Table launching new initiatives which has made us the Civil War education and preservation leader in the area.

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

### DON'T MISS THE BRCWRT AUDIO ARCHIVE

Can't make it to a monthly meeting or just want to hear one of our great speakers again? Check out our BRCWRT Web site at "Audio Pod-casts" under "BRCWRT Activities." You can listen online or download many of our speakers including Paul Gilbert, Mark Trbovich, Jim Morgan, Steven Bernstein, Ed Bearss, Brian McEnany, Chris Godart, Chuck Mauro, Robert Alton, and John Quarstein to your iPad or similar device.



**THE BRCWRT  
GAINES MILL TOUR  
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR  
MAY 12 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.**

**A NEW DATE WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED SOON AND  
POSTED ON THE BRCWRT  
HOME PAGE.**

## TWO EXCITING MAY CIVIL WAR EVENTS AT FORT WARD

### Civil War Crimean Oven Lecture Saturday, May 12

Fort Ward Museum will sponsor a lecture on "The Story of Alexandria's Civil War Crimean Ovens and Camp California." The lecture will be presented by Wally Owen, Assistant Director at Fort Ward Museum, at 1:00 p.m. in the museum library. Admission to the program is \$10 per person. Reservations are recommended due to limited seating.

The lecture will present new research highlighting the story behind Alexandria's rare archaeological features that were discovered in 2003 and used to heat hospital tents and their relationship to Camp California. Camp California was home to 10,000 Civil War soldiers from December 1861 to March 1862. Located in today's West End of Alexandria, the Camp was an early war training ground for the Union Army of the Potomac.

Mr. Owen is a Civil War historian, curator and author who specializes in the Defenses of Washington and the Civil War history of Alexandria. He is the co-author of the book, *Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*.

### Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Concert featuring the Washington Revels Heritage Voices Thursday, May 24



Enjoy an evening concert of songs from the Civil War era performed by the Washington Revels Heritage Voices in the Fort Ward Park amphitheatre. The program, sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria in recognition of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, will begin at 7 p.m. and is free to the public. A rain date is scheduled for May 31 at 7 p.m.

The Washington Revels celebrate the history and cultural traditions of the Washington area and beyond. Their repertoire of Civil War music includes military and patriotic songs, African American spirituals, and popular folk tunes from the period. Featured selections will range from the 1863 camp song, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," to the well-known African American spiritual, "Oh, Freedom." Each selection in the program will be preceded by a brief introduction highlighting the song's historical significance to the Civil War period. The public will also be able to purchase the Washington Revels' CD, *Hard Times Come Again No*

*More: American Music of the Civil War Era.*

Fort Ward is the best preserved fortification in the Defenses of Washington, an extensive defense system built to protect the Union capital during the Civil War. The museum offers changing exhibits, tours, lectures, and interpretive programs throughout the year. The amphitheatre is located in the historic park. Fort Ward Museum and Park is located at 4301 West Braddock Road. For more information, please visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org), or call 703.746.4848.



### Decoration Day

**Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest  
On this Field of the Grounded Arms,  
Where foes no more molest,  
Nor sentry's shot alarms!**

**Ye have slept on the ground before,  
And started to your feet  
At the cannon's sudden roar,  
Or the drum's redoubling beat.**

**But in this camp of Death  
No sound your slumber breaks;  
Here is no fevered breath,  
No wound that bleeds and aches.**

**All is repose and peace,  
Untrampled lies the sod;  
The shouts of battle cease,  
It is the Truce of God!**

**Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!  
The thoughts of men shall be  
As sentinels to keep  
Your rest from danger free.**

**Your silent tents of green  
We deck with fragrant flowers  
Yours has the suffering been,  
The memory shall be ours.**

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



## 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..

5 May—Fairfax Civil War Day at historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Civil War balloon inflation with Thaddeus Lowe; cannon & infantry firing, youth boot camps, hayrides, Civil War music. Lee, Grant, Mosby & others. Graffiti tours of Blenheim. Talks on Sarah Tracy of Mount Vernon; the "Butterfield Twins;" Gen. McClellan; Germans in the Civil War; Soldiers' lives changed forever. Other demos include balloon aeronautics, researching ancestors, jewelry and women's accessories, naval artifacts, medicine, Christian Commission, railroads, etc.

5-6 May – Living history, encampment on the grounds the White Oak Civil War Museum, 985 White Oak Rd. Falmouth (near Fredericksburg). 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Surgical and military demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Free (fee for museum). 540-371-4235.

10 May – Lecture, "The Seven Days Battles: War at the Gates of Richmond," at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave., Manassas. 7 p.m. Free. (donations Welcome) Call 703-792-4754.

12 May – "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee," tales from the Mosby Heritage Area at Mount Bleak in Sky Meadows State Park near Delaplane. 7:30 p.m. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

16-20 May – Living history and Live Fire demonstrations at the North-South Skirmish Association Spring Event at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester. Free. For details and directions go to [www.n-ssa.org](http://www.n-ssa.org).

14 Apr – Lecture, "Shiloh: The Devil's Own Day," at the Thomas House on the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. 1 p.m. Free. For reservations and directions, call 301-662-3515.

19 May – Tours and talks, "Mr. Lincoln visits Fredericksburg," based on Lincoln's May 23, 1862 visit. Based at Chatham. Go to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

19 May – "Civil War Day" in Falls Church. Camps and demonstrations, tours, period music and Civil War medical exhibit. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cherry Hill Park, 312 Park Ave. in Falls Church. Free. Call 703-248-5171.

19 May – Walking tour, "Twilight Stories in Stone," at the Manassas Confederate Cemetery. 6:30 p.m. \$15. For details go to [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

19 May – Music, "Arlington Taps 150," commemorates the anniversary of the bugle call "Taps" at the Old Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. 10 a.m. – noon. Free. Go to [www.taps150.org](http://www.taps150.org).

19 May – Soldier-led tours of Ft. Ward, at the Ft. Ward Museum and Historic Site in Alexandria. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free. For information, call 703-746-4848 or go to [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org).

19 May – Boat tour, "Potomac River Blockade," includes surviving batteries that enforced the Confederate blockade of the Potomac Sept. 1861 to March 1862. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$30 includes lunch. For reservations call 703-792-4754.

19-20 May – "Thunder on the Mountain," artillery demonstrations on South Mountain at Fox's Gap on Reno Monument Rd. near Middletown. Firings on Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Free. Call 301-791-4767.

23 May – Car-caravan tour of the Front Royal battlefield. Orientation at 1 p.m., tour 2-4 p.m. Begins at the Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester St., Front Royal. \$10. For details call 540-636-0702 or go to [www.warrenheritagesociety.org](http://www.warrenheritagesociety.org).

24 May – Car-caravan tour of the running battle fought along the Valley Pike (Route 11), following the Battle of Front Royal. Begins at the NPS offices, 7718 Main St., Middletown. 4 p.m. Free. For details go to [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org).

25 May – Tour, "History at Sunset: The First Battle of Winchester," starts at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St., Winchester. 7 p.m. Free. Call 540-740-4545 or go to [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org).

25 May – Car caravan tour to sites associated with the First Battle of Winchester. Begins at the Winchester-Frederick County visitor center, 1400 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester. Orientation at 1 p.m., tour 2-4 p.m. \$10. Go to [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org).

26 May – Tours at Ellwood Manor on the Wilderness Battlefield, near routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg. For information link to [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org).

26-27 May – Living history and tours at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with Park admission. For information link to [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe).



27 May—17th Annual Fredericksburg National Cemetery Illumination with over 15,000 candles to represent the soldiers buried here. Follow the NPS interpreter-led path to hear the cemetery's stories from 1862 (in honor of the Sesqui-centennial). The lit cemetery will be open from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. For details go to [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

28 May – Memorial Day observance at the Groveton Confederate Cemetery at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Begins at noon. Free with Park admission. Go to [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).

## HISTORY MARKED ON LAWYERS ROAD IN VIENNA

By Charlie Balch

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the core group of Hunter Mill historians, which includes BRCWRT members Bob Eldridge, Jim Lewis, and Charlie Balch, unveiled a state historic marker commemorating the first skirmish between Union cavalry and Confederate forces serving under General J.E.B. Stuart. The dedication was held on Lawyers Road in Vienna where it intersects with Kedge Drive, not far from the site of the first contact between the two cavalry units.



Left photo L to R: Hunter Mill Defense League Team - Tom Evans, Bob Eldridge, Jim Lewis, Charlie Balch and Steve Hull. Right photo BRCWRT members L to R: Ed Wenzel, Bob Eldridge, Mike Buckley, Gwen Wyttenbach, Brian McEnany, Janet Greentree, Nancy Anwyll, Lyle Loveall, Karen Lyddane, & Charlie Balch. Photos by Janet Green-

The 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Company D, in Civil War attire, presented the colors of the Union and Confederacy prior to the dedication ceremony.

Approximately 120 neighbors, dignitaries and historians, including many BRCWRT members, enjoyed a short but meaningful presentation on a beautiful, sunny day. The words on the dedicated sign are as follows:

*On 26 Nov. 1861, a 120-man detachment of Col. Robert Ransom Jr.'s 1st North Carolina Cavalry attacked 94 men of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry under Capt. Charles Bell. Ransom's men took Bell's detachment from the rear as the Pennsylvanians headed north on Lawyers Road out of Vienna. The panicked Union troops suffered significant losses in the two-mile long engagement, with one killed, six wounded, and 26 taken prisoner. Regarding his cavalry, recently appointed Confederate Brig. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart reported: "The result of this our first engagement with the enemy's cavalry is, I doubt not, highly satisfactory to the General-In-Chief."*

Called the "Skirmish Near Hunter's Mill" by *Harpers Weekly* on December 21, 1861, the extended engagement ended with Union forces suffering 35 percent casualties. The wording for the sign was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and the commemorative sign was researched and paid for by the Hunter Mill Defense League History Committee.

With such a wonderful day, crowd and subject, many attendees expressed their appreciation for raising public awareness of an important local historical event.

## AFTER ACTION REPORT BRCWRT Tour of Wolf Run Shoals and Vicinity Saturday 14 April 2012



Photo by Ken Jones

By John McAnaw

For the record, the tour lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Start point for the walking tour was near the small parking lot located at the southern terminus of the paved section of Wolf Run Shoals Road. The entire tour was conducted on property owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

We visited a number of interesting sites; however, time constraints prevent coverage of them at this time. Fortunately, at a future meeting of the BRCWRT a PowerPoint slide show of the photographs taken during this tour will be shown. Needless to state, Wolf Run Shoals was a ford of great importance to the Union Army during certain periods of the war. On occasion, Confederate cavalry also sorely needed access to this crossing point.

The big surprise of the tour was the sudden appearance, on the trail that we were using, of a steady stream of participants in the Bull Run "Run" – a 50 mile event sponsored by the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club of Arlington. They appreciated our cheers and encouragement.

The following members participated in the tour: John Carter, John McAnaw, Jill Hilliard, Brian McEnany, Ken Jones, Pat McGinty, Tom Jones, Jim Meagher, Lyle Loveall, Bill Olson, and Dale Maschino.

I extend my thanks to Dale Maschino and Bill Olson, for their assistance in putting this tour together.



## A HEART FOR LOCATING MISSING SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR

By Carol Kaltenbaugh

Seventh Street Northwest, in the heart of “old downtown” in the District of Columbia, was a major farm-to-market route in the 1800s, carrying produce from the farms in Maryland to the central market located where the National Archives now stands. In the 1950s, 60s and 70s, development moved west, and former residential neighborhoods such as Farragut and the West End gave way to office blocks that today characterize the business center of Washington. “Old downtown” was left to become dilapidated and depressing and was passed by for new development.

I used to walk these streets of old downtown while working for a law firm at the Market Square complex in the early 90s and would look up at these buildings, longing for a revival of the beautiful but grimy and abandoned 19th century structures. The renewal of this area now called “Penn Quarter” was a special project of the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. When Abe Polin opened the Verizon Center in 1997, revitalization of this area took off, and the once-decayed buildings now have the soul and feel of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of them escaped demolition and have been adapted for new purposes in this lively neighborhood. So the earlier abandonment of this neighborhood may ultimately have helped preserve the shabby building near the corner of 7th and E Streets NW that, until recently, was the unknown location of Clara Barton’s “Missing Soldiers Office.”

Clara Barton, a woman with compassion, ahead of her time, a battlefield nurse during the Civil War, founder of the American Red Cross, left her legacy at several local sites, including St. Mary’s Church in Fairfax Station on Ox Road, which was used as a hospital during the Civil War. But little was known about her efforts to help families locate their soldiers



after the war. She began receiving thousands of letters asking for help, and in 1865 she opened the Missing Soldiers Office in a boarding house at 437-1/2 Seventh Street NW in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of processing these requests. She received and wrote tens of thousands of letters, did research and compiled lists of the whereabouts of POWs and gravesites, helping families finally know the fate of their loved ones.

Her office and quarters in Room 9 will be restored as a museum space in a permanent easement in this GSA-owned building. On Thursday, April 12, 2012, the hundredth anniversary of the death of Clara Barton, I had the rare and thrilling privilege of seeing this historic treasure in its *unrestored* state. The BRCWRT was given a gracious invitation by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, to preview the space before renovation begins, and I was able to take advantage of this during my lunch hour. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, will oversee and operate the museum, which will be open to the public in a few years.

We entered the building into a tattered vintage vestibule of tile floors and decorative tin walls. While climbing two flights of stairs to the third floor we could touch the very banisters Clara Barton would have touched. We were greeted by the dear people of the Museum of Civil War Medicine and were asked to sign a guest book with a vintage-style fountain pen. Imagine in your mind’s eye the old corridors of the boarding house; worn wood doors with painted room numbers still visible; transoms above the doors; occasional pipes from ceilings that would have provided gaslight to fixtures; and dingy, faded, peeling wallpaper, yet with the hint of once pretty designs. Door number 9 where Clara Barton’s office and quarters were located had a mail slot – her ledger shows that she had contracted to have it installed for 50 cents. There was a table with artifacts found in the attic – the collection is now being held in storage. I’ll now describe the crown jewel of the visit.

Richard Lyons, a GSA employee, discovered the true identity of this forgotten space when he was sent in 1996 to inspect the building to make sure nobody was living in it, as it was scheduled for demolition. He started in the basement and worked his way to the upper floors with a flashlight, as the top floor had never been wired for electricity, and had been sealed off since the early 1900s, although a family-owned shoe store occupied the first floor for many years. He felt a mysterious presence while standing at a window on the third floor looking out over 7th Street and turned around to

**MISSING SOLDIERS, see Page 8**



## MISSING SOLDIERS [Continued from Page 7]

inspect the room. His flashlight shining on the ceiling revealed an envelope sticking out from the attic through the plaster and wood. He got a ladder, poked more space through the hole in the crumbling plaster, and beheld a treasure trove of materials in the attic -- Clara Barton's records, letters, furniture, clothes, and many many bags of socks. The major clue to the historic purpose of this space was revealed when Mr. Lyons discovered a tin sign (pictured), with the words "Missing Soldiers Office, 3rd Story, Room 9, Miss Clara Barton." Imagine being the first person in over a hundred years to lay eyes on this cache of materials! It brought tears to my eyes to hear his story, after which he took us on a tour of the space, including Clara Barton's quarters above which the find was made in the attic, and he told his story of the events that led to the preservation of the space -- he's a hero for sure!

The event culminated in a group of nurses from the 579th Medical Group at Bolling AFB giving mementos to the Medical Museum staff and other important people in the astonishing episode of this amazing historic find. These Air Force nurses are modern day "Angels of the Battlefield," as was their predecessor Miss Clara Barton.

There are many good Web sites and articles that describe the ongoing restoration efforts, and some are listed below. There is a need for partners to help fund for this amazing project, through the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Their website has pictures of the Missing Soldiers Office site, and other historic sites.

<http://www.civilwarmed.org/clara-barton-missing-soldiers-office/>

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/house-divided/post/clara-bartons-civil-war-office-to-become-a-museum/2012/04/12/gIQA5SR1DT\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/house-divided/post/clara-bartons-civil-war-office-to-become-a-museum/2012/04/12/gIQA5SR1DT_blog.html)



**Do you miss the May 1862 events this month? Would you like to volunteer for future issues?**

Due to family responsibilities, Nancy Anwyll can no longer continue the column. Thanks, Nancy, for searching for those interesting Sesquicentennial events of near and far for the *Stone Wall* since October 2010.

If you would like to help, please e-mail Sandra Cox at [scox@capitalav.com](mailto:scox@capitalav.com) or call 703.675.0702. Just think of all the interesting facts you will learn and be able to share with BRCWRT members.

## GEN LUNSFORD LINDSAY LOMAX, CSA MARKER REDEDICATION



Several BRCWRT members attended the April 22 rededication in the Warrenton Cemetery sponsored by the Black Horse Camp #780, Sons of Confederate Veterans. See the April 2012 issue of the *Stone Wall* for the story.



L to R: "Extra Billy" Smith (Dave Meisky), Col. John S. Mosby (Jimmy Fleming), Gwen Wytenbach and Gen. Richard S. Ewell (Chris Godart). Dave Goetz was also in attendance.

## CONGRATULATIONS JIM LEWIS



Mayor of the Town of Vienna, M. Jane Seeman, recently acknowledged Jim's volunteer efforts during the April 10 Mayor's Advisory Committee. "Your spirit of volunteerism is an essential part of the tradition of our Town and country and is appreciated by those of us who realize the time and sacrifices you must make to assist others."

Jim helped Vienna with a variety of functions and events including the authoring, directing, and narration of the Battle of Vienna re-enactment last summer. Jim also conducted numerous tours beginning at the Freeman House in Vienna and has given numerous lectures and slides shows on their behalf. Jim has also been a very active member in their Sesquicentennial Committee.





## THE BOOK CORNER



By Ralph Swanson

In many respects *Donnybrook: The Battle of Bull Run, 1861* by David Detzer (Harcourt, Inc., 2004) is mis-titled. The campaign that officially opened our great national tragedy was well planned, quite well executed and very hard fought. It was a rough battle, but not the rowdy free-for-all the title implies. *Donnybrook* is the best current history of First Manassas and highly recommended reading before your next battlefield visit.

Rarely is First Bull Run mentioned among epic Civil War battles. Is it simply overshadowed by Second Bull Run or ignored because it was not a Lee-Grant confrontation? If you think it is because the battle was insignificant, the generals unskilled, or the armies untrained, read *Donnybrook* at your very next opportunity.

Author Detzer has perused soldier diaries, after-action reports and previous histories to uncover an immense amount of detail about this battle. He courteously defines military terms that may be unfamiliar to readers. Sadly, the book's single battle map is completely inadequate. (Don't authors understand that we need detailed battle maps?) Consult the maps in William C. Davis' dated, but still excellent, *Battle at Bull Run*. (Davis' geography is crystal clear and his several maps depict the entire course of battle throughout July 21.)

Detzer evaluates (finally) the prejudices against our favorite First Bull Run scapegoat, General Robert Patterson. Far from single-handedly losing the battle three days before it was fought, indications are that Patterson was thoroughly hamstrung by circumstances in northwest Virginia. Without cavalry and with infantry so near the end of their enlistments they were openly refusing to fight, Patterson repeatedly sought permission to attack Joe Johnston. In response, he received confusing guidance from General Scott, including direct orders not to bring on any confrontation absent certain victory. With uncharacteristic audacity, Johnston easily stole away to Manassas. This whole Patterson-Johnston-Scott dynamic deserves additional critical research because, regardless of fault, this interaction ultimately decided the contest.

McDowell's battle plan was as good as that of any Union General to follow. He would feint left (at lower Bull Run fords) where the enemy was strongest, demonstrate hard in the center (at Stone Bridge), then sneak around the right (at Sudley Springs) to catch the enemy unawares.

Union execution was good, as well, with troops arriving on the field at the places designated and approximately on time. Until late in the afternoon of July 21, McDowell had every reason to believe the battle was his. Moreover, he had completely changed his battle plan while on the fly, something later (and supposedly

superior) generals could not do (Grant at Cold Harbor; Burnside at Fredericksburg). The feint to his left was originally the main attack, straight into Manassas Junction, until scouting reports revealed the Bull Run ford roads to be inadequate. Only then did he conceive the right end sweep. Fatefully, the delay required to scout the road to Sudley Springs allowed Johnston time to arrive from the Shenandoah Valley.

On the Confederate side, Beauregard's plans were almost entirely wrong and his performance inept. He misinterpreted everything he saw, issuing confusing orders, or no orders at all. Longstreet, Bonham and Ewell were posted at the lower fords all day and saw virtually no action, while McDowell very nearly marched unopposed onto Henry House Hill. Only those who acted independently (first Evans, then Bee, Jackson and others), moving from their assigned positions, blocked the Federal advance.

The climax of battle--Henry House Hill--could truly be called a donnybrook. Both sides fought with dogged stubbornness that belied their inexperience. Detzer found incomplete or outright conflicting after-action reports that will likely forever obscure much important troop action, but he has done the best job so far of sorting the details. It was much more than the loss of Ricketts' and Griffin's guns that swung the battle. The fortunes of place and timing were simply in Confederate favor that afternoon. Confederate forces had the natural advantage of defense and they attacked more forcefully against Union troops already exhausted from a long day of marching. And for that we must credit Johnston--his troops and his leadership. Upon taking the initiative from Beauregard, Johnston skillfully directed regiments onto the field. Of the four key brigades that turned the battle on Henry Hill, three (Bee, Bartow and Jackson) were Shenandoah Valley troops.

First Bull Run is significant beyond being the first major battle of the war. It sent McDowell (undeservedly) into obscurity and elevated McClellan and Jackson to a prominence they might not otherwise have achieved. It helped to shape the Army of the Potomac into the premier combat instrument that ultimately ended the war. Conversely, it poisoned relations among Beauregard, Johnston and Davis that would significantly undermine the Confederate military.

After reading *Donnybrook*, revisit the battlefields of First Bull Run, especially the lower Bull Run fords, Sudley Springs and Henry House Hill. You will have a fuller understanding and greater appreciation of this important historical event.

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](mailto:renataralph@gmail.com).

## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Petersburg

By Janet Greentree

Ms. Rebelle and Gwen Wytttenbach (Snake Lady per Ed Bearss) went south, yes south after all my northern trips, to Petersburg for a day and a half visit. The purpose of the trip was to attend a ceremony on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the General A.P. Hill death site marker in Petersburg commemorating Hill's death 147 years ago in 1865. The ceremony was lovely and attended by quite a few people. Patrick Falci who portrays the general was in attendance and did a moving tribute to him. At the end of the ceremony, everyone who had a Confederate ancestor in the Civil War came up to the marker, placed their hand on the stone, and recited their ancestor's name. Ms. Rebelle cited her ancestor, George Washington Baker, 23<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry.

Gwen and I started out in City Point (Hopewell) at Appomattox Manor and Grant's very small cabin on the site. We found out that there were a row of cabins leading all the way to the house next to the one Grant used. Then it was on to the City Point dock area to try to duplicate some of the "then" wharf pictures for the upcoming Civil War Trust Photo Contest.



There is a huge mansion that sits on the right side of the road looking towards the water on a big bluff. Looking at the old photos, most likely they were taken on this bluff. The house was called Miami Lodge. After trying to Google it, there was no information available, so it must be some "secret" place. It looked deserted so we walked along the edge of the property. Gwen thinks this was the site of the Don Stivers' *Supporting Victory* painting of Lincoln, Sherman, and Grant at City Point. It certainly looks like the view we saw.

Our next stop was Blandford Church in Petersburg built in 1735. If you haven't been inside to see the fifteen beautiful Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows, it is a must stop. Gwen and I plus the docent were the only ones touring the church. She gave us a wonderful history and up close view of the windows. The Virginia window of St. John shows the velvet of his robe. The detail as to fabric in the windows is amazing. She pointed out ones that had silk, satin, and water-marked taffeta robes. She told us that all fifteen windows cost \$800.00. Years later when they took them out to be cleaned and reworked, the price was in the thousands. The windows were made and installed between 1901-12 and were commissioned by the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg. Memorial services for Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were held in the church. Ms. Rebelle

also tried duplicating a "then and now" shot of the church. Some of the graves were damaged in the Siege of Petersburg. One near the church was the grave of Sarah Poythress who died in October, 1760. Her flat top marker has the impression of a cannon ball on it.

Blandford Church cemetery has three Confederate Civil War generals buried on the premises - General William Mahone, General Cullen Andrews Battle, and General David Addison Weisiger. General Mahone is buried in a big mausoleum with the letter "M" above the door. Ms. Rebelle knocked on the door, but the general was not receiving.



We toured the battlefield and saw the Dictator. This was the first time I had seen it. It's hard to believe it fired a shell that weighed over 200 pounds and shot it a distance of over two miles. It took over 14 pounds of black powder to shoot the cannon ball. During the siege



of Petersburg from June 1864-April 1865, the Union forces fired the Dictator 218 times at the city of Petersburg. The Dictator weighed 17,120 pounds and was transported by a railroad car. The train tracks are near where the Dictator now sits. It ran on the tracks from City Point to Petersburg. The weapon caused the Confederate gunners to withdraw along the right of the Union line. The farthest point reached by the gun was Centre Hill in Petersburg, a distance of 2.7 miles or 4,752 yards. One soldier from the 35<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts said in reference to the Dictator being shot: "*I'm a-coming, I'm a coming*", and then "*I'm HERE!*" It made the ground quake when the shot hit home. The Dictator was cast by Charles Knapp at his Pittsburgh, PA, iron-works. Gwen and I ran into a group of five Civil War enthusiasts from Cleveland touring the battlefield. Every place we stopped found them there as well. Finally we took each other's pictures at the different points. Our last meeting was at The Crater.

Before the ceremony started the next day, we toured around old town Petersburg. Not having been

**PETERSBURG, See Page 11**

## PETERSBURG

### [Continued from Page 10]

there for at least 15 years, I was very impressed how much the town has improved. My first visit found all the storefronts with heavy locked gates on them. The town has been working very hard to restore everything and make it a safe place to visit. We found the Visitors Center and ran into the same docent that gave us a tour of Blandford Church. Ms. Rebelle had another "then and now" picture to duplicate. It is of the Union wagon train leaving Petersburg for Appomattox. It was determined that the picture was taken on West Washington Street. I have to thank BRCWRT member Mike Block for telling me the city in which the picture was taken. There are two church steeples in the picture. One steeple had the

top blown off, but even with new buildings in the picture, West Washington Street is the correct street. Gwen and I believe the photographer, Timothy O'Sullivan, was standing on a building's roof somewhere to get the photo which was not possible for us. The old Courthouse is still standing wedged between some buildings. That was another opportunity for a "then and now" picture. On our way to the Siege Museum we passed by Longstreet's Deli. Bet you didn't know our Longstreet had a deli in Petersburg. Inside the museum we were shown General A.P. Hill's lunchbox. It was made of sweet grass braided in intricate patterns by a local woman for the general.

Next month's article will profile the three Civil War generals buried at Blandford Church. I've found some interesting things about little Billy Mahone.

### HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

#### General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

i. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

ii. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

iii. Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief N.P. CHIPMAN,  
Adjutant General

Official:

WM. T. COLLINS, A.A.G.

**NOTE: The solemn trust created by this order is kept today by our Memorial Day observation.**



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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

*The Stone Wall*

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

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**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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