

JOHN D. HOPTAK TO SPEAK AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

After the Battles of 2nd Manassas and Ox Hill, Confederate General Robert E. Lee took his starving Army of Northern Virginia north to the fertile and food abundant State of Maryland. The BRCWRT is honored to welcome to our October 11 meeting, a National Park Service ranger who is a lifelong student of the Civil War and one of the most renown authors on the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam.

John Hoptak graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history from Kutztown University (2000) and earned a master's degree in history from Lehigh University (2003). He also holds an instructional I certificate in social studies and citizenship education, 7-12, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has a strong background in American History, with the American Civil War being his area of expertise and is currently employed as a park ranger at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

His first book entitled, "First in Defense of the Union: The Civil War History of the First Defenders," was published in 2004. Other books published in 2009 include, "Our Boys Did Nobly: Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Soldiers at the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam," "They Will Be Remembered By A Grateful People: Civil War Heroes of Schuylkill County," and "Antietam Trivia." His most recent books include, "The Battle of South Mountain," published by The History Press (2011) as part of its Civil War Sesquicentennial Series, as well as "Antietam: September 17, 1862" by the Western Maryland Interpretative Association. In addition to his books, John has authored newspaper and magazine articles and maintains a highly regarded Civil War blog at www.48thpennsylvania.blogspot.com.

John has been active in preserving history at the local level and is spearheading a nation-wide fundraising campaign designed to restore the 48th Pennsylvania monument at the Antietam National Battlefield.

October 11 is the date you won't want to miss. Members are encouraged to come early to meet John at the Copper Canyon Grill at 5:00 p.m. for supper and great conversation (see page 2). Please come early to the Centreville Regional Library for fellowship and get a good seat. Hope to see you then!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012
7:00 P.M. Centreville Library
GUEST SPEAKER:
John D. Hoptak
TOPIC:
The Battle of South Mountain and the Antietam Campaign September 1863



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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **NOVEMBER 2012 issue**, e-mail articles by 9:00
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is not received by deadline, call Sandra at
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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

NOVEMBER 8

SPEAKER:
Keith Young

TOPIC:
The Battle of Iuka, MS
September 1862

DECEMBER 13

SPEAKER:
Don Ernsberger

TOPIC:
Meade's Break Through at
Fredericksburg,
Battle of Fredericksburg
December 13, 1862

Both topics are sesquicentennial event lectures.



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 High-
way from the library.



The President's Column By Mark Trbovich

Fall is here, and the leaves are beginning to turn to those beautiful colors, but there is no time to gaze at them, because we are pressing on with our Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration lecture series and volunteering for more events. The region's Sesquicentennial Signature events, the Battles of 2nd Manassas/Bull Run and Ox Hill/Chantilly, were tremendously successful both in participation and the quality of the programs.

The BRCWRT and many other local historical organizations spent all day in the heat during the Ox Hill commemoration. Over 800 visitors entered the park for the excellent programs. We also worked at our booth at the Battle of Kettle Run 150th commemoration in late August plus attended Manassas battlefield events and the unveiling of the Hood's Texas Brigade monument, in the rain, on September 6. The BRWCRT was really active in supporting these events, and I wanted to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make all of our venues first rate.

Our membership increased a fair amount this year, and we are closing in on 240 members. Keep putting out the good word to family and friends and tell them the BRCWRT will be happy to meet them.



**L to R: August speaker John Hennessy and
September speaker Chuck Mauro**
Photos by Janet Greentree

Thank you again for all who came out to the August 9 lecture on the Battle of 2nd Manassas with John Hennessy and the September 13 lecture by Chuck Mauro on the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly. These were too highly attended events and truly outstanding in content and presentation. The audio portions will be on the Web site in the next few months. One thing I was so happy to hear was the honesty of a woman who said she had been in the Fairfax County public school system as a youth yet never heard of the Battle of Ox Hill. She probably isn't aware of the many other Civil War battles and events in the region. That my friends is the honest truth, tough as it is to hear. We need to continue spreading the word and getting our youth involved too, anyway we can, to continue our fight for Civil War preservation, education and heritage. To me, that is what

the BRCWRT is all about and a top priority.

The 2013 BRCWRT election of officers will begin at our October 11 general membership meeting, and the four posts will be voted on at our December meeting. A membership committee has been formed and will solicit your nominations through this period. I regret to inform you that Dale Maschino, our excellent BRCWRT officer who has served as secretary since January 2006, will not be seeking reelection. We will truly miss Dale in this role but know he will continue to stay active. Thank you so much, Dale, for all you have done for us these past seven years.

We are continuing our funding of \$1,500 to edit and index BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County: Part 1 1861-1862*. We are also happy to report that member Bob Hickey is continuing to sell his raffle tickets for the John Paul Strain matted and framed print, *Thompson's Station, Tennessee, March 5, 1863*, when outnumbered, Confederate BG Nathan Bedford Forrest led the attack on Federal forces. Proceeds will also support the book's editing and indexing effort. The raffle will conclude on November 8 with the drawing at the Copper Canyon Grill before our monthly meeting. Ed has already given the copyright for the book to the BRCWRT.

The BRCWRT fall tour of the Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg on September 22 was a huge success with 32 folks attending. Thank you so much, Kevin Anastas, for putting the tour together and for being the outstanding guide. Also on September 22, many of us attended the Bristoe Station Camp Jones 10th Alabama Cemetery dedication which was truly an emotional event for all who attended including local citizens and some fifty folks from Alabama.

This month the 2013 BRCWRT College Scholarship Program was sent to West Springfield, Centreville and Stonewall Jackson High Schools. Nancy Anwyll and the Scholarship committee have worked hard creating this program, and we anticipate meeting our winning scholarship student in May 2013.

In closing, we'll hear an excellent lecture and presentation from John Hoptak on the Battle of South Mountain and the Battle of Antietam at our October 11 meeting. This will be another sesquicentennial event lecture. I have heard tremendous praise from other round tables on John's lecture, presentation and his books on the subject. As always, Civil War events in the region will be announced at our meetings, through our e-mail distribution, and newsletters.

Enjoy the cooler fall weather and come out to see us on October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for supper at the Copper Canyon Grill (see page 2) and at the 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Centreville Regional Library.

God Bless all of you.

DEDICATION OF THE ALABAMA CEMETERY AT BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE PARK



L to R: Ed Wenzel, John De Pue, John Pearson, Charlie Balch, Mark Trbovich, Mike Block, Jim Burgess and Rob Orrison.
Photo by Charlie Balch

By Charlie Balch

September 22, a gorgeous fall day, was a very special day at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. The recently restored Alabama Cemetery and the newly installed monument were the scene of a moving ceremony including reenactors from Alabama, spreading of Alabama soil in the cemetery, touching songs professionally presented, and in depth remarks naming several of the young men buried on site.

The men buried here in the fall of 1861 died from illness and disease. Nearly 1,000 soldiers died and were buried during the fall of 1861 at Camp Jones located at Bristoe Station. This fall marks the 151st commemoration of the establishment of Camp Jones and the creation of the 10th Alabama Cemetery. Until now, this cemetery had been inaccessible and not well preserved. After 150 years, these men were remembered and honored.

The BRCWRT has been a key contributor to the restoration of the battlefield, the cemetery and the dedication event. In 2007 and after, many of our members helped clear and identify key parts of the battlefield. This group was critical to the preservation of the area as development threatened. Rob Orrison has been a powerful force in the protection and enhancement of the historical setting. BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich served as master of ceremony for the dedication.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED FOR BRCWRT MEMBERS TO MONTHLY MEETINGS

Two longtime active members are unable to attend meetings any longer because of deteriorating night vision in one member who has been faithful to pick up the other member who does not drive.

If you live in or near the Oakton or Baileys Crossroads/Falls Church areas and would like to help either member when you attend, please e-mail the *Stone Wall* editor at scox@capitalav.com or call Sandra at 703.675.0702 as soon as possible.

Thank you.



TEXAS MEMORIAL DEDICATION AT MANASSAS NBP ATTENDED BY BRCWRT MEMBERS



BRCWRT members from left to right: Alan Day, Gwen Wyttenbach, Denis Lyddane, Mark Trbovich, Ed Wenzel, Harriet Condon. Photo by Nancy Olds.

Dedication of the Texas Monument took place on a rainy September 6 on Chinn Ridge to honor Hood's Texas Brigade who attacked and routed Pope's troops during the Battle of 2nd Manassas.

Joining the Texas Historical Commission representatives as speakers at the dedication were: President James Lighthizer of the Civil War Trust; Martin Nohe, vice-chairman of Prince William County Board of Supervisors; Rick Eiserman of Hood's Texas Brigade Association (Re-activated), and Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent Ed Clark.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

Lee's famous "Lost Orders" are on display at the Monocacy National Battlefield Visitors Center until October 31

3-7 Oct – Living History, and live-fire civil war arms demonstrations at the North-South Skirmishers Association Fall Nationals. Conducted at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester. Free. www.n-ssa.org.

5-7 Oct – "Photography at Antietam," special ranger programs at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. For details go to www.nps.gov/anti.

5-7 Oct – Conference, "The Chancellorsville Campaign," annual event sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area with talks, tours and more. Based in Middleburg. Full Conference fee \$425. For details go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

6 Oct – Special program, "Robert E. Lee and the Manumission of the Enslaved at Arlington House," at the site in Arlington National Cemetery. Living history, special tours and talks. 6-10 p.m. Free. Reservations required. Go to www.nps.gov/arho or call 703-235-1530.

6 Oct – "Mr. Lincoln Returns to Harpers Ferry," programs at 1 and 3 p.m. at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Free with park admission. For info go to www.nps.gov/hafe.

7 Oct – Living history, infantry and artillery demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana.

11 Oct – Lecture, "Rare images of Antietam and the Photographers Who Took Them," at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Dr. in Hagerstown. 7 p.m. \$5. www.wcmfa.org.

13 Oct – "Scout Along the Turnpike," first-person interpretation at Aldie Mill, Mount Zion Church and the Rector House along Route 50. Noon-5 p.m. Go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

13 Oct—149th Commemoration of the Battle of Bristoe Station. Tours 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., begin on the hour, and depart from the kiosk in the parking lot off of Iron Brigade Unit Avenue. Free, donations accepted. On October 14, 1863, Federal and Confederate forces met once again at Bristoe Station. Join local historians for an in-depth tour of the battle which ended General Robert E. Lee's last offensive of the war. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. (703) 366-3049

13-14 Oct – Living History at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Little Round Top in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett.

19-20 Oct – Talk and tour. "Roads to Antietam" with Dennis Frye. Talk on Friday 6:30 p.m. at the Hill School in Middleburg. Tour departs Saturday morning from Leesburg. Talk and tour \$110. For details go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

20 Oct – "An Evening With The Painting," a special look at the famous cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park. 6 p.m. \$20. For details go to www.gettysburgfoundation.org.

20 Oct – "Spirits, Suffering and Society: Death in Civil War Alexandria," at the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Orinoco Street, Alexandria. 6-9 p.m. \$15. Reservations required. Go to www.leefendallhouse.org.

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

20 Oct—In the Footsteps of the Gray Ghost, Col. John S. Mosby Bus Tour. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., \$85 per person, reservations required, space is limited. Ride and walk in the footsteps of one of the Civil War's most legendary figures, Col. John S. Mosby, the famed "Gray Ghost". Mosby's "Robin Hood" like exploits have been made into legend and lore. This tour will highlight several areas in Northern Virginia where Mosby made his mark. Take in the beautiful fall scenery of the Piedmont region of Virginia as we trace Mosby's most daring raids and exploits. Price includes admission to sites and lunch. Bristoe Station BHP, (703) 366-3049

20-21 Oct – Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, on the historic battlefield near Middletown. An annual event with living history demonstrations and battles each afternoon. Fee charged. For details go to www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org.

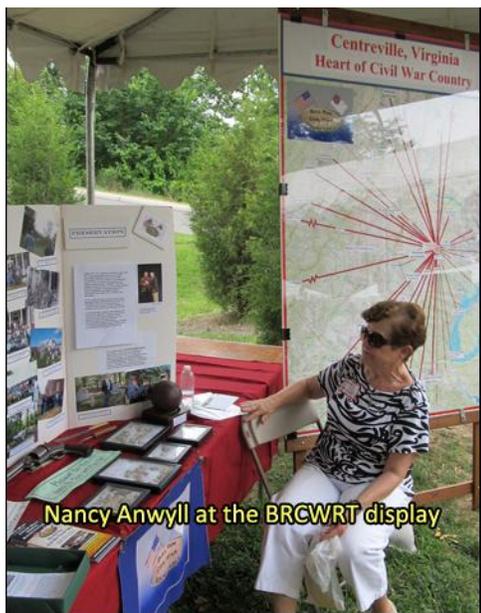
25 & 27 Oct – Seminar and tour: "Defeated But Not Demoralized, The First Battle of Kernstown." A morning session at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester is followed by a car-caravan tour of the battlefield. \$20. Call 540-868-7021.

27 Oct.— "The Northern Virginia Campaign of 150 Years Ago" tour sponsored by the Franconia Museum from Cedar Mountain to Ox Hill. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@cox.net. \$100 inclusive.

27-28 Oct – "Artillery at Antietam," camps and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. For details go to www.nps.gov/anti.

28 Oct – Living history and talk, "Soldiers, Disease and Medicine at Fairfax Court House," at the Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center. Free. Call 703-591-0506.

150TH COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF OX HILL



Nancy Anwyll at the BRCWRT display

Charlie Balch and Tom Evans at the HMDL display



Monument block at Ox Hill on Dedication day

Ed Wenzel and John McAnaw at the wreath laying



The BRCWRT/HMDL display team - Charlie Balch, Jim Lewis, Bob Eldridge, Rob Orrison, and Nancy Anwyll



Photos by Charlie Balch
Collage by Ken Jones



Taps played at the Generals' Monuments

By Charlie Balch and Jim Lewis

The BRCWRT was well represented at the Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event – the September 1st 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), and our members played key roles throughout the all-day event:

Nancy Anwyll, Charlie Balch, Bob Eldridge, Jim Lewis, Theresa Meade, and Rob Orrison manned three Tables all day representing the best of the BRCWRT and the Hunter Mill Defense League. Of particular interest for the many visitors was an artifact table and Ed Wenzel's large "Centreville in the Civil War" map.

Planning for the event was led by Paula Eley. The day included morning dignitary presentations, a mid-day Civil War music concert and artillery demonstration (man, were they loud!), and late-afternoon remarks and dedication.

Ed Wenzel and John McAnaw culminated the day by laying the 150th Commemoration wreath at the General Kearny and Stevens monuments as "Taps" was played. Mark Trbovich was the Master of Ceremonies for

the excellent closing presentations.

It was estimated that 800 people attended the day's activities with over 200 coming to the BRCWRT and Hunter Mill tables to learn about the two organizations, and their many Civil War education and preservation accomplishments. Numerous people showed interest in acquiring products and joining the BRCWRT. Parents and children also lingered to hear the Civil War stories told by our volunteers.

We are all aware of the tremendous value we are receiving from our round table. Given the excellent reputation we have in the area and the numerous events we are being asked to support, giving back a little and supporting an event in the future would really be appreciated. All you have to do is pass out our informative buck slips and chat about the first rate lectures, tours, etc. All other display materials will be provided spurring further discussion. Besides supporting our colleagues in their efforts, we benefit by bringing in new potential members who provide new ideas and keep our organization vital.

CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

The Ox Hill/Chantilly Generals

By Janet Greentree

Since we just passed the 150th commemoration of the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly, I thought I would do an article on Union Generals Philip Kearny and Isaac Ingalls Stevens who were killed at the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly on September 1, 1862. This article is dedicated to our BRCWRT member, Ed Wenzel, who along with Brian Pohanka and Bud Hall practically single-handedly saved what is left of the battlefield. I must say there were a few "Oh My God" moments researching the life of General Phil Kearny. To say he was an interesting subject is putting it mildly.

Philip Kearny was born into a very wealthy family in New York City on June 1, 1815, the son of Philip Kearny and Susan Watts. John Watts, his



mother's father, was the last Royal Recorder of New York City. The position of Royal Recorder was begun in the year 1683. Duties included being judge of the Court of General Sessions, deputy mayor, and vice president of the Board of Alderman. Watts had interests in mills, factories, investment houses, ships, and banks. Kearny's father owned a brokerage firm and was also one

of the founders of the New York Stock Exchange. Kearny's mother died at a young age so his Grandfather Watts had a huge influence on his life and future.

A career in the military was Kearny's dream but his grandfather had other ideas for him. Watts sent him to Columbia College to earn his law degree. Kearny graduated from Columbia in 1833. Three years later in 1836, his grandfather died leaving Phil an inheritance of over \$1 million dollars. At that time he was one of the richest men in America. Since he was now a free man, Kearny chose to join the military and was assigned to the 1st U.S. Dragoons as a second lieutenant of cavalry. The adjutant of this unit was Jefferson Davis.

Kearny was sent to France to study cavalry tactics in 1839. Already an accomplished horseman from the age of eight, he learned to ride his horse with his sword in his right hand, his pistol in his left hand, and the reins in his teeth. The French nicknamed him "Kearny le Magnifique" (Kearny the Magnificent). After returning to the U.S., he wrote a cavalry manual for the Army. In 1849, his father died as well leaving him an-

other large inheritance.

Kearny was assigned to the staff of General Winfield Scott and became his aide-de-camp. He complained that "honors are not won at headquarters, and I would give my arm for a brevet." These are certainly words that would haunt him later. He resigned his commission in 1846 but within a month returned to the army when the Mexican-American War broke out. Due to his wealth he spared no expense outfitting his command. He bought 120 matched dapple gray horses for his men. Kearny became a captain in December 1846. Company F fought in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco with Kearny leading a cavalry charge where he was wounded with grapeshot in his left arm. Future President Franklin Pierce (a general at the time) held him down as his arm was amputated. General Scott called him "a perfect soldier and the bravest man I ever knew." Kearny returned to duty in a short time.

Kearny's personal life was interesting as well. He married Diana Bullitt in 1841. He was sent to Washington, D.C. after requesting a field assignment in the west. Mrs. Kearny adored her role as a society hostess. He was so unhappy in Washington that he described himself as "a highly placed flunky." Finally in 1844, he was transferred to Fort Leavenworth. Diana Kearny had no intention of leaving Washington for frontier life with small children. Kearny went to Kansas alone. Later Kearny decided he had enough of army life and settled with the family in New York City. The marriage didn't survive, and Diana left after eight years of marriage, and she filed for divorce in New York. One of the stipulations Diana had entered in the divorce decree was that Kearny could never marry again as long as she was alive. Kearny was 36 years old, very rich, and took off on a world tour. In Paris he met Agnes Maxwell, and they began living together. Since Kearny's attorneys interpreted the decree to only mean he could never re-marry in New York, he and Agnes married in New Jersey and lived there.

When the Civil War began, Kearny tried to rejoin the army, but since he only had one arm, he was rejected. President Lincoln appointed him as a BG of Volunteers and placed him in command of the New Jersey brigade, and he was sent to Alexandria, Virginia. Again using his wealth, he made sure his men were well fed and clothed. He and General McClellan clashed as Kearny wanted McClellan to attack Richmond. He was appointed commander of the 3rd Division in 1862. He fought at Williamsburg, the Peninsula Campaign, 2nd Manassas, Groveton, and finally at Ox Hill/Chantilly where he rode into the Confederate line and was killed by a single bullet in his spine.

General Kearny's body was released under a flag of truce at Difficult Run and was brought back to Washington. He laid in state at Bellegrave, his home in New Jersey, before burial at Trinity Church in New York City. In 1912 his body was moved to Arlington National Cemetery. His grave is one of only two with equestrian

MS. REBELLE, See Page 8

MS. REBELLE [Continued from Page 7]



statues in the cemetery.

The Kearny Patch (of scarlet cloth) evolved into the Union Army Corps identification insignia. The Kearny medal was created by his troops after his death and awarded to officers who served honorably under him. The Kearny Cross was awarded as a cross of valor to enlisted men in his old division. The town of Kearny, New Jersey was named in his honor.

Isaac Ingalls Stevens was born March 25, 1818 in North Andover, Massachusetts. He attended Phillips Academy, was appointed to West Point, and graduated with the class of 1839 at the top of his class. He served in the army with the Corps of Engineers during the Mexican war seeing action in Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, and Churubusco. He was brevetted for bravery at the Battle of Chapultepec becoming a major. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Mexico City. After the Mexican War he supervised fortifications on the New England coast from 1841-1849. He then assumed command of the coast survey office in Washington, D.C. President Franklin Pierce named him the first governor of the Washington Territory and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. In 1853 on the way to his new position in the Washington Territory, he used his engineering skills and mapped and surveyed a railroad route across the U.S.



Stevens was a controversial governor. He used force and intimidation to make the Native American tribes of Washington Territory sign treaties to hand over their land and rights to the government. He was elected to Congress in 1857 serving the Washington Territory until 1861.

Stevens was commissioned as a colonel of the 79th New York Volunteers (Cameron Highlanders) serv-

ing under General John Pope in the Northern Virginia Campaign. He was promoted to brigadier general in September, 1861. He fought at Secessionville and 2nd Manassas. He was awarded the rank of major general posthumously in March, 1863. Like Kearny, Isaac Stevens was killed at the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly on September 1, 1862 when he picked up the flag from his old regiment shouting "Highlanders, my Highlanders, follow your general." Stevens was struck in the temple by a bullet and died instantly. The general's son, Capt. Hazard Stevens, was also injured in the battle. Young Hazard was awarded the Medal of Honor for capturing Fort Huger, Virginia.



Both father and son are interred at Island Cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island. Ms. Rebelle visited their graves last fall.

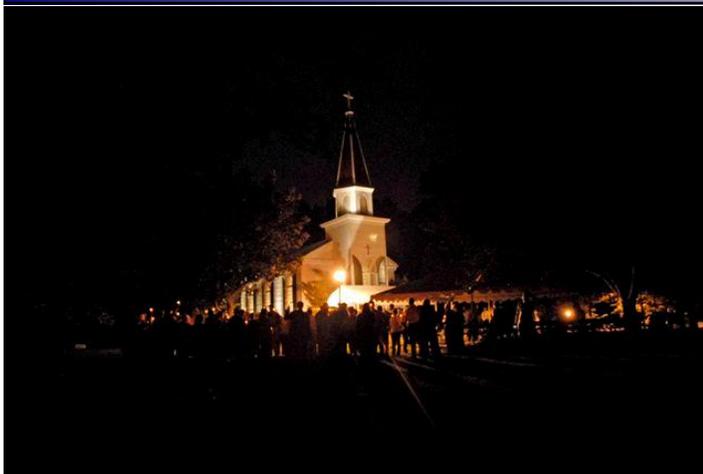
Stevens County, Washington and Stevens County, Minnesota, Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C. and also Oregon are all named for him. Also named for him are Stevens Hall at Washington State University, Lake Stevens, Washington, and the town of Stevensville, Montana. Stevens was the author of several books.



...SPEAKING OF ELECTIONS

**Nominations for 2013
BRCWRT Executive Committee Offi-
cers can be made at our October 11
meeting.**

**Election of president, vice president,
treasurer and secretary will be held at the
general membership meeting on Dec. 13.**



"Remembering Their Sacrifice"
St. Mary of Sorrows Church, Fairfax Station
 Photo by Jack Hiller

150th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE OF THE EVENTS AT ST. MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH

By John Patrick Murphy

On the evening of September 2, the Father William Corby Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, represented by Mary Lipsey, sponsored a candle light remembrance program entitled "Remembering Their Sacrifice" at the St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia.

The program took place almost 150 years to the hour of the trains leaving Fairfax Station and St. Mary's Church for Washington, D.C., with Clara Barton and many of the wounded and dying soldiers from the Battles of Second Manassas and Chantilly on board. Approximately 175 people were in attendance at the commemoration event along with the Chair Person of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, Supervisor John Cook and Ralph Victory, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland.

The Irish in America have a particular connection to this specific historic event. It was a microcosm of the Irish contribution to the development of the United States in the 19th Century. The Irish immigrants settled and developed the eastern part of the United States, built the eastern railroads and were a significant ethnic group in both the armies of the North and South.

Construction of St. Mary's, the first Catholic Church in Fairfax County, Virginia, began in 1858 by a combination of the Irish who settled the area as farmers and the Irish workers laying the track for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

Many of these settlers and workers later comprised companies of the local Confederate 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment. It should also be noted that the

trains leaving the church contained many Irish soldiers of the North, such as the members of the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment which fought gallantly at the Battle of Chantilly, later to become part of the famed Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac.

After the Battles of Second Manassas and Chantilly, the most seriously wounded of the Union soldiers were brought to the field hospital setup at St. Mary's Church close to the Fairfax Train Station from where they could be transported by rail back to Washington, D.C. Soldiers lay on the ground around the church all the way down to the station while surgeons operated inside the church. Clara Barton, who was later to found the American Red Cross, comforted the soldiers for three days as they lay on the grounds around the church.

The moderator and coordinator for the program was this article's author, an AOH Fr. William Corby Division and BRCWRT member, with William C. Baker, the AOH Fr. William Corby Division President, giving the welcome speech. There were comments by the First Secretary and the Supervisors and "first person" presentations by Clara Barton (Liz Byrne) and Union and Confederate persona. These were interspersed with period songs, by Jenee Lindner and Kate Kane, and violin and harmonica performances by Steve Morris and Jon Vrana, respectively.

The candle light remembrance ceremony involved 100 participants holding candles representing the states whose regiments participated in the battles. During this ceremony, a bagpiper, Patrick O'Brien, on the hill of the church graveyard, played "Amazing Grace." The number of candles for each state was proportionate to the percentage of casualties for the state. As each state was identified, the bell in the historic church tolled and the candles for that state were extinguished until all of the lights were out. At this point, a bugler from the VFW, Hank Roeder, played "Taps."

The program concluded with a procession led by the Squires, Squire Roses, and Boy Scouts of St. Mary's and wreath laying at the Ancient Order of Hibernians' monument, dedicated to the Civil War dead, in the church graveyard.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kim Brace
David Braun
Kenn Haas
Bert Morgan
John Murphy
Nancy Olds
Joe Rhodes Jr
Cheron Rhodes
Carl Smith Jr
Michael West

150th COMMEMORATION OF THE EVACUATION OF UNION WOUNDED FROM FAIRFAX STATION



**Re-enactors with the
28th Massachusetts Medical Unit**
Photo by Nancy Olds

By Ron Beavers

This sesquicentennial event ran from August 25 through September 3, 2012. It commemorated the medical evacuation of the Union wounded after the battles of 2nd Manassas and Ox Hill. New displays were created specifically for this ten day event. Re-enactors were present the first weekend, Aug 25 and 26. Their expertise ranged from the Christian Commission, children's games, telegraph operations, the railroad, Confederate soldiers, and daily living. Formal presentations and vignettes demonstrating life in the greater Fairfax area were presented as well. The show stopper for the living history participants was the 28th Massachusetts medical unit. They packed the house with all of their

gruesome demonstrations and discussions on 19th Century medical practices. One re-enactor portraying Clara Barton was present throughout the event talking about her activities and the role she played during the medical evacuation.

The displays inside the museum focused on the state of Civil War medicine and the enormous amount of suffering the soldiers and their families endured during this war. This ten day exhibit was well received. After touring the exhibits, many people were truly shocked at the casualty numbers and amount of suffering that occurred on these grounds 150 years ago. They came away with a greater appreciation and understanding of what the Civil War was like on a local level.

The small museum staff was augmented with three excellent post graduate interns from GMU. They worked long hours in the planning and implementation phases for this event and volunteered to staff the museum during the extra hours it was open for this special 10 day event. Unique display items were on loan to us from the National Park Service Clara Barton Museum in Glen Echo, the Civil War Medical Museum in Frederick, MD, and the Fairfax Museum. The National Building Museum was invaluable in donating display cases and panels.

On August 29, a Fairfax County marker, covering the period from the early 1850's to the early part of the 20th Century was dedicated on the museum grounds as well.

It was exciting to be able to host an exhibit honoring those who came before us 150 years ago, to have a county sign dedicated to the area mid way through the exhibit, and to end the exhibit the day after an illumination ceremony held at St. Mary's Church where the casualty lists by state were read aloud 150 years to the day that the last train left the station carrying wounded back to hospitals in Alexandria and Washington.

BRCWRT SEPT. 22 TOUR—ANTIETAM: THE BLOODIEST DAY



Photo by Janet Greentree

8TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE

“Courage & Conflict in Fairfax County” Sites & Stories of the Civil War

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012

8:15 A.M. — 4:30 P.M..

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Sharon Bulova, Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Speakers

Gregg S. Clemmer,

“Why the Civil War Still Lives “

++++

Jim Daniels, Mike Henry &

John Rutherford Fairfax County Park Authority

***“Echoes Still—This Land =
Our Land”***

****LIVING HISTORY****

Historically Speaking,

Jon Vrana Players

1861, The Secession Vote of

Fairfax County

Susan Rosenvold, Educator at

Clara Barton Medical Museum

Clara Barton at

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church



Clara Barton's favorite portrait

A Chuck Mauro Production *Chantilly After the Storm—*

“Meet Three Battle of Ox Hill Survivors”



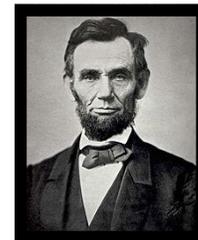
Prof. Lowe ascending in the *Intrepid* to observe the Battle of Fair Oaks

Kevin Knapp, Historic Re-enactor

Meet Thaddeus Lowe- Reconnaissance Balloonist

Dan Storck, Historic Re-enactor

Lincoln's Appeal



**Gunston Hall's Seeds of Independence
*Between the Lines: Free Blacks Living on Mason's
Neck During the Civil War (Video)***

**Exhibits, Lectures, Book Signings, History
Achievement Awards, Continental Breakfast,
& Lunch**

**Admission: \$20 per person
(Advance registration required)**

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center

**3740 Old Lee Highway,
Fairfax, VA 22030**

For registration form, contact Lynne Garvey-Hodge,
Conference Chairperson at lynnegarveyhodge@verizon.net or
703.322.1811. No on-site, same day registration

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____