



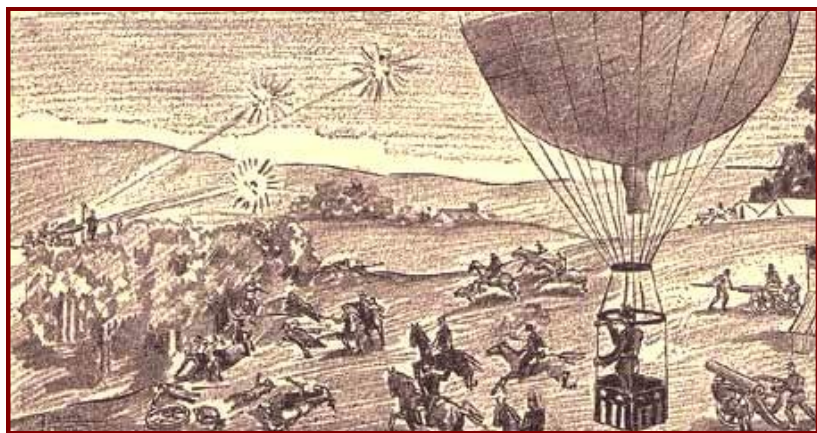
The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIII, Issue 1, FEBRUARY 2016

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR KEVIN KNAPP SPEAKS AT THE FEBRUARY 11TH MEETING ABOUT HOW BOTH ARMIES USED BALLOONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

By Mark Trbovich

Balloons were used for surveillance and reconnaissance during the Civil War, both by the Union Army (1861 through 1863) and the Confederate Army in 1862. The North made over 3,000 ascensions, using seven balloons; the South made fewer than 10 ascensions, with only two of the vehicles at their disposal.

Years after the war, the famous artillery officer (and observer in the Confederate's second balloon) E.P. Alexander wrote, "I never understood why the enemy abandoned the use of military balloons.... Even if the observer never saw anything, they would have been worth all they



cost for the annoyance and delays they caused us in trying to keep our movement out of sight."

With this lecture, we will learn about the strategies employed at the beginning of our military's air reconnaissance efforts. Our speaker is Kevin Knapp, a retired Army officer, former professional hot air balloon pilot and board member of the Balloon Federation of America. Not surprisingly, he is a Civil War Balloon Corps enthusiast. He

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THURSDAY, February 11, 2016

7 p.m. Centreville Library

**GUEST SPEAKER:
HISTORIAN/AUTHOR
KEVIN KNAPP**

TOPIC:

**"THE USE OF BALLOONS BY UNION
AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES
DURING THE CIVIL WAR"**

has owned and operated a modern "Army" balloon since 1993 and shares oral and living history as Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, Chief Aeronaut of the Army of the Potomac's Balloon Corps.

In 2006, Kevin was co-pilot for the winning team of the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race flying from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Citra, Florida, a trip of 1,478 miles, completed in 60 hours and 45 minutes.

Most recently, Kevin operated the Command Center for Jonathan Trappe's attempt to cross the Atlantic flying a cluster balloon system. His portrayal of Thaddeus Lowe has been featured at many area museums, battlefields and cities. He was also featured in the History Channel's "Man, Moment and Machines" segment on Civil War ballooning called "Lincoln's Spy Machine."

Members are encouraged to come early to the 7 p.m. lecture and get a good seat. Come on out at 5 p.m., if you would like to meet Kevin for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120; (703) 266-9755.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.

General Membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at:

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>

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For the **March 2016 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Friday, February 26, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

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Support the BRCWRT in its important mission to educate and to commemorate the battles and events of the Civil War

- PLACE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE STONE WALL -

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 11, 2016 - Kevin Knapp - "The Use of Balloons by Union and Confederate Armies During the Civil War"

March 10, 2016 - Dan Vermilya - "Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA"

April 14, 2016 - John Quarstein - "Battle of Mobile Bay"

May 12, 2016 - Chris Mackowski - "Battle at the Mule Shoe Salient"

June 9, 2016 - Anniversary Meeting - Panel of Past BRCWRT Presidents

July 14, 2016 - Ed Bearss - "Battle of 1st Manassas"

August 11, 2016 - John Hennessey - "Battle of 2nd Manassas Campaign"

September 8, 2016 - Jon Hickox - "Historic Finds at Bull Run"

October 13, 2016 - William Backus - "Battle of Bristoe Station"

November 10, 2016 - Bruce Venter - "Kill Jeff Davis, The K&D Richmond, VA Raid"

December 8, 2016 - Dwight Hughes - "CSS Shenandoah"

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The President's Column

By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

Winter 2016 has been record-setting for cold... and especially snow! The January 22-23, 2016 blizzard will never be forgotten, and I hope everyone stayed safe and warm.

I am looking forward to our February 11th lecture, when we will hear about ballooning in the Civil War. This excellent subject will be presented by Kevin Knapp, a Civil War Balloon Corps enthusiast. As you can see by the notes on Kevin's field of interest, highlighted on Page 1's meeting announcement, he is a well-known expert on the Balloon Corps, with a hands-on level of balloon flight experience that exceeds anyone in the world of Civil War living history reenactment.

As discussed at January's meeting, we are looking forward to our 25-year BRCWRT Anniversary celebration events and lectures this year with great anticipation. These enjoyable and informative activities will certainly be memorable for all our members and friends. As always, to stay abreast of these (and more) events and lectures through the *Stone Wall* newsletter, remember to renew your membership in February, or at any time during the 2016 Membership Drive, continuing through April.

Our December speaker, National Park Service Ranger Matt Atkinson, presented an outstanding lecture on the Gettysburg Devil's Den action during the battle. The discussion included factors such as the



December speaker NPS Ranger Matt Atkinson channeled his inner Elvis during the entertaining and informative talk he gave on the Devil's Den fighting at Gettysburg.

Photo by Janet Greentree



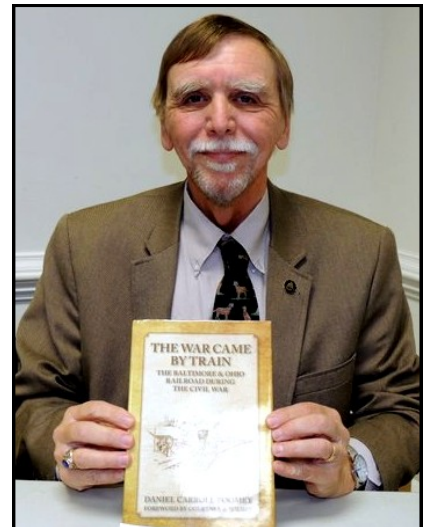
The holidays just wouldn't be done properly for members of the BRCWRT if Deanna Baily (above, left) and Sandy Iasiello (right) weren't there to bring us the special cakes and candies they provide each December. Your success in making the year-end meeting so festive each year is greatly appreciated!

Photo by Janet Greentree

terrain in that area of the battle and the tactics used to overcome obstacles there. Civil War photographs taken after the battle were also discussed. Matt has attempted to identify, at least to the unit level, the deceased snipers and other Confederate dead featured in many of the photos of which we are familiar. It was an excellent talk from our returning and always enthusiastic speaker Matt Atkinson.

Our December cake and beverages were such a treat, also! A special thanks to Deanna Bailey and Sandy Iasiello for making sure that these special treats could be enjoyed by all.

Our January speaker, Daniel Toomey, brought us a lecture based on his book *"The War Came by*



Author Daniel Toomey (above) spoke in January about the impact the availability of trains made on war strategy for both the Union and the Confederacy. Here he displays his new book *"The War Came by Train."*

Photo by Janet Greentree

(con't on page 12)



THE BOOK CORNER



In his last public speech, delivered just four days before he died, President Lincoln outlined his thoughts on the reconstruction of our nation after four years of war. This speech, little known in its entirety, was delivered from a window of the Executive Mansion to an impromptu crowd gathered on the lawn - a group said to include John Wilkes Booth and David Herold. This is also the speech where, endearingly, little Tad Lincoln scrambled at his father's feet to gather up the pages of the speech as they were read and dropped.

Harold Holzer in his new book, "Lincoln in His Own Words," lays out Lincoln's speech, in which Lincoln argues passionately for his "10% Plan" for a "re-inauguration of national authority" in the rebel states. Louisiana had already complied with his proposed Reconstruction criteria, which basically required that 10% of voters (based on the 1860 presidential election) take an oath of allegiance to the Union, then proceed to adopt a new state constitution that abolished slavery. Lincoln clearly hoped for a rapid, simple process for Reconstruction. Radical Republicans in Congress derided his "10% Governments" and pressed for harsh retribution on the defeated south.

We have all probably asked ourselves, "If Lincoln had lived, could we have avoided those violent and tragic years of Reconstruction?" This speech is as close as we will ever get to an answer. Read carefully... Lincoln was hopeful, but not naïve about Reconstruction. Still, what transpired would have broken his heart. In any study of Reconstruction, we should begin with the views of our first president called to grapple with that momentous issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States:

"We meet this evening, not in sorrow but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army, give hope of a righteous and speedy peace whose joyous expression can not be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He, from Whom all blessings flow, must not be forgotten. A call for a national thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated. Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause of rejoicing, be overlooked. Their honors must not be parcelled out with others. I myself, was near the front, and had the high pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you; but no part of the honor, for plan or execution, is mine. To Gen. Grant, his skillful officers, and brave men, all belongs. The gallant Navy stood ready, but was not in reach to take active part.

"By these recent successes the re-inauguration of the national authority—reconstruction—which has been

a large share of thought from the first, is pressed much more closely upon our attention. It is fraught with great difficulty. Unlike the case of a war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man. We simply must begin with, and mould from, disorganized and discordant elements. Nor is it a small additional embarrassment that we, the loyal people, differ among ourselves as to the mode, manner, and means of reconstruction.

"As a general rule, I abstain from reading the reports of attacks upon myself, wishing not to be provoked by that to which I can not properly offer an answer. In spite of this precaution, however, it comes to my knowledge that I am much censured for some supposed agency in setting up, and seeking to sustain, the new State Government of Louisiana. In this I have done just as much as, and no more than, the public knows. In the Annual Message of Dec. 1863 and accompanying Proclamation, I presented a plan of re-construction (as the phrase goes) which, I promised, if adopted by any State, should be acceptable to, and sustained by, the Executive government of the nation. I distinctly stated that this was not the only plan which might possibly be acceptable; and I also distinctly protested that the Executive claimed no right to say when, or whether members should be admitted to seats in Congress from such States. This plan was, in advance, submitted to the then Cabinet, and distinctly approved by every member of it. One of them suggested that I should then, and in that connection, apply the Emancipation Proclamation to the theretofore excepted parts of Virginia and Louisiana; that I should drop the suggestion about apprenticeship for freed-people, and that I should omit the protest against my own power, in regard to the admission of members to Congress; but even he approved every part and parcel of the plan which has since been employed or touched by the action of Louisiana. The new constitution of Louisiana, declaring emancipation for the whole State, practically applies the Proclamation to the part previously excepted. It does not adopt apprenticeship for freed-people, and it is silent, as it could not well be otherwise, about the admission of members to Congress. So that, as it applies to Louisiana, every member of the Cabinet fully approved the plan. The Message went to Congress, and I received many commendations of the plan, written and verbal; and not a single objection to it, from any professed emancipationist, came to my knowledge, until after the news reached Washington that the people of Louisiana had begun to move in accordance with it. From about July 1862, I had corresponded with different persons, supposed to be interested, seeking a re-construction of a State government for Louisiana. When the Message of 1863, with the plan before mentioned, reached New-Orleans, Gen. Banks wrote me

(con't on page 8)



PRESERVATION REPORT

Ox Road/Braddock Road Redoubt

Local historians have long known of the significance of the area surrounding the Ox Road (Rt 123)/Braddock Road (Rt 620) intersection. Several studies, including the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory (prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. in 2002), have documented the existence of Civil War-era redoubts, earthworks and camps in the area surrounding the intersection.

Of particular interest is a redoubt and set of earthworks constructed by Col. Robert Rodes' 5th Alabama (Ewell's Brigade) in July 1861, prior to Battle of 1st Manassas/Bull Run, located on George Mason University (GMU) property. The site is in a small wooded area on the northeast quadrant of the Ox Road/Braddock Road intersection.

Following the publication of the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory, the BRCWRT launched an initiative to preserve the redoubt/earthworks site. Although there was support within the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for preserving the site, GMU, at that time, had no interest in the discussing the preservation initiative.

Recently (2014 and 2015), remnants of a corduroy road that ran between Fairfax Court House and Fairfax Station were discovered during road construction projects along Ox Road. This discovery energized several BRCWRT members to take another look at the redoubt and earthworks site located on GMU property, in hopes of seeing whether GMU might now support a preservation project there.

While construction of the Mason Inn and parking lot and the enlargement of student parking lot K has reduced the overall size of the site and potentially obliterated some of the earthworks, the redoubt still remains and is in remarkably good condition.

Additional research and brainstorming by BRCWRT members Jim Lewis, Brian McEnany and this correspondent has led to both a productive meeting with Fairfax County Park Authority personnel to determine what data the Park Authority might have on the site and gauge their interest in partner-

ing in a preservation initiative, and also to the discovery of an archaeological assessment of the redoubt site, completed in 2008 by a GMU student. Park Authority personnel have confirmed that significant and relevant Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data exists for the area of the site, and they remain interested in pursuing education of the general public about the historical significance of the site(s).

Subsequent on-site visits to verify the condition of the redoubt and earthworks led to a meeting between the aforementioned BRCWRT members and GMU representatives to determine the current GMU administration's familiarity with the site and to discuss its historical significance. Consideration of the site(s) encompasses the Civil War redoubt and earthworks, corduroy road and possible freed black community building remains.

This initial discussion on the viability of a launching a joint preservation project regarding these items was a very positive one - the GMU representative was quick to recognize the potential value (for all parties) of preserving the site. We discussed BRCWRT's ability to actively support the project, particularly from the perspectives of research, historical expertise and signage/marker expertise, but also recognized that GMU, as the property owner, is the major player. BRCWRT members provided GMU's representative a draft project proposal for preserving the site and establishing short walking trails with appropriate signage for the redoubt, the corduroy road overlook and, potentially, the freed black community (more research is required).

This is an ongoing initiative -- we are waiting to hear back from GMU regarding their interest and any potential conflicts with GMU's future plans for the site. Stay tuned for further developments.

Note: *The Stone Wall will be publishing occasional updates about BRCWRT preservation efforts, contributed by Blake Myers, new chairman of the Preservation Committee.*

**JOIN THE BULL RUN
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AND WIN THE
BATTLE FOR PRESERVATION!**





CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Alexander Swift "Sandie" Pendleton

By Janet Greentree

When Stonewall Jackson was asked what he thought about his young staff officers, he said: "Ask Sandie Pendleton. If he does not know, no one does." Stonewall thought of Sandie as a son. They shared the same religious convictions.

Ms. Rebelle is departing a bit from generals with this article. Sandie was an interesting young man. He was a lieutenant colonel when he was mortally wounded at Fisher's Hill in Woodstock, Virginia, on September 22, 1864.



Alexander Swift "Sandie" Pendleton

Sandie was born on September 28, 1840 in Alexandria, VA, sandwiched in the middle of six sisters. His father was later Confederate General William Nelson Pendleton, a minister, who called his cannons Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The cannons

still reside in front of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. Sandie's father was the first principal of Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

When Sandie was 13 years of age, his family moved to Lexington, VA, where his father took over the pastorate of Grace Episcopal Church. Washington College offered free tuition to ministers' sons, so Sandie attended the school at age 13. He graduated in three years as one of 10 graduates in 1857 and also as one of three recipients of the Robinson Gold Medal. The medal was awarded by the faculty to graduates for outstanding student accomplishment. Sandie was the first recipient under the age of 17. He gave the oration at graduation.

After graduation he continued at Washington College as a teacher of mathematics and Latin. He first met Stonewall Jackson when Jackson was a

teacher at VMI and they belonged to the same literary society in Lexington. In 1859, he began studies at the University of Virginia to obtain a Master's Degree in Latin, Greek, Modern Languages, and Mathematics. He had completed most courses by the time the Civil War began but did not graduate.

In 1861, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in the Provisional Army of Virginia and left for Harper's Ferry to help quell John Brown's rebellion at the arsenal. He later joined the Rockbridge Artillery, a unit organized by another of my subjects, General John McCausland (see April 2014 *Stone Wall*). Stonewall then requested Pendleton to join his staff on June 25, 1861. He became his adjutant general after Antietam.

Sandie was with Stonewall Jackson at First Manassas, where Jackson would get his nickname. After Sandie's horse was killed, he joined the 33rd VA, attacking Rickett's Union battery, supported by Ellsworth's Zouaves. He was wounded by a ball to the thigh. Sandie wrote most of the battle reports of First Manassas, earning him the rank of major.

He fought with Jackson in the Valley Campaign, Shenandoah Valley, Seven Days battles, Maryland



Pendleton served with Stonewall Jackson (both depicted above) in most of the action from First Manassas to Chancellorsville. Pendleton was not with Jackson, however, the evening he was killed by friendly fire.

Campaign at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. Some of Sandie's words about the battle of Antietam: "Such a storm of balls I never conceived it possible for men to live through. Shot and shell shrieking and crashing, canister and bullets whistling and hissing most fiend-like through the air until you could almost see them. In that

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Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

mile's ride I never expected to come back alive."

After the battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, Jackson and his staff spent December 1862 to March 1863 at the Corbin Plantation - Moss Neck - near Fredericksburg. On Christmas Day in 1863, Generals Lee, Stuart, and Pendleton were among the guests for Christmas festivities.



Moss Neck, the Corbin family plantation, near Fredericksburg, VA.

It is here where he met and courted his future wife, Kate Corbin. They married at Moss Neck on December 29, 1863. Kate was the daughter of James Parke Corbin. Her sister-in-law Dianna (married to her brother - Spotswood Wellford Corbin) was the daughter of Matthew Fontaine Maury. Moss Neck still stands and is open occasionally for tours.



Kate Corbin Pendleton

Pendleton was not with Jackson on the night of May 2, 1863, when Stonewall's party took lethal friendly fire from Confederate pickets. He told Jackson's wife Mary Anna that "God knows, I would have died for him." Sandie dressed Jackson's body for burial. He accompanied his body on the train to Lynchburg,

then on the packet boat *Marshall* to Lexington for burial. He also served as a pallbearer at Jackson's funeral. Way back in 2003, 'Yankee Nan' (Nancy Anwyll) and I visited Riverside Park in Lynchburg. While there, we saw the remains of the Marshall's hull.

After Jackson's death, Pendleton served with General Ewell as chief of staff and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He served with Ewell in the Gettysburg campaign. When Ewell was replaced by General Early, Sandie retained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with the Second Corps and continued as chief of staff.

On September 22, 1864, three days after the battle of Third Winchester, he was mortally wound-



Pendleton's grave, Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington, VA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

ed in the stomach at the battle of Fisher's Creek. He died the next day. His body was buried on the battlefield but later exhumed and sent home to his parents in Lexington. A funeral was held on October 24, 1864. Kate, who was pregnant with their only child, gave birth to a son a month later. The boy, named after his father, lived less than a year; he died of diphtheria in September 1865. Kate has been quoted as saying: "I wonder people's hearts don't break. When they have ached and ached as mine has done till feeling seems to be almost worn out of them. My poor empty arms, with their sweet burden torn away forever." Kate later mar-

(con't on page 11)



Two views of the *Marshall*, which transported the body of Stonewall Jackson from near Lynchburg to Lexington, VA. At left, a commemorative post card; at right, the remains of the boat on display at Lynchburg.



The Book Corner – (con't from page 4)

that he was confident the people, with his military co-operation, would reconstruct, substantially on that plan. I wrote him, and some of them to try it; they tried it, and the result is known. Such only has been my agency in getting up the Louisiana government. As to sustaining it, my promise is out, as before stated. But, as bad promises are better broken than kept, I shall treat this as a bad promise, and break it, whenever I shall be convinced that keeping it is adverse to the public interest. But I have not yet been so convinced.

"I have been shown a letter on this subject, supposed to be an able one, in which the writer expresses regret that my mind has not seemed to be definitely fixed on the question whether the seceded States, so called, are in the Union or out of it. It would perhaps, add astonishment to his regret, were he to learn that since I have found professed Union men endeavoring to make that question I have *purposely* foreborne any public expression upon it. As appears to me that question has not been, nor yet is, a practically material one, and that any discussion of it, while it thus remains practically immaterial, could have no effect other than the mischievous one of dividing our friends. As yet, whatever it may hereafter become, that question is bad, as the basis of a controversy, and good for nothing at all—a merely pernicious abstraction

"We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper practical relation with the Union; and that the sole object of the government, civil and military, in regard to those States is to again get them into that proper practical relation. I believe it is not only possible, but in fact, easier, to do this, without deciding, or even considering, whether these states have even been out of the Union, than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us all join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper practical relations between these states and the Union; and each forever after, innocently indulge his own opinion whether, in doing the acts, he brought the States from without, into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it.

"The amount of constituency, so to speak, on which the new Louisiana government rests, would be more satisfactory to all, if it contained fifty, thirty, or even twenty thousand, instead of only about twelve thousand, as it does. It is also unsatisfactory to some that the elective franchise is not given to the colored man. I would myself prefer that it were now conferred on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers. Still the question is not whether the Louisiana government, as it stands, is quite all that is desirable. The question is "Will it be wiser to take it as it is, and help to improve it; or to reject and disperse it?" "Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical

relation with the Union sooner by *sustaining*, or by *dis-carding* her new State Government?"

"Some twelve thousand voters in the heretofore slave state of Louisiana have sworn allegiance to the Union, assumed to be the rightful political power of the State, held elections, organized a State government, adopted a free-state constitution, giving the benefit of schools equally to black and white, and empowering the Legislature to confer the elective franchise upon the colored man. Their Legislature has already voted to ratify the constitutional amendment recently passed by Congress, abolishing slavery throughout the nation. These twelve thousand persons are thus fully committed to the Union, and to perpetual freedom in the state—committed to the very things, and nearly all the things the nation wants—and they ask the nations recognition, and it's assistance to make good their committal. Now, if we reject, and spurn them, we do our utmost to disorganize and disperse them. We in effect say to the white men "You are worthless or worse—we will neither help you, nor be helped by you." To the blacks we say "This cup of liberty which these, your old masters, hold to your lips, we will dash from you, and leave you to the chances of gathering the spilled and scattered contents in some vague and undefined when, where, and how." If this course, discouraging and paralyzing both white and black, has any tendency to bring Louisiana into proper practical relations with the Union, I have, so far, been unable to perceive it. If, on the contrary, we recognize, and sustain the new government of Louisiana the converse of all this is made true. We encourage the hearts, and nerve the arms of the twelve thousand to adhere to their work, and argue for it, and proselyte for it, and fight for it, and feed it, and grow it, and ripen it to a complete success. The colored man too, in seeing all united for him, is inspired with vigilance, and energy, and daring, to the same end. Grant that he desires the elective franchise, will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps toward it, than by running backward over them? Concede that the new government of Louisiana is only to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl, we shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it? Again, if we reject Louisiana, we also reject one vote in favor of the proposed amendment to the national constitution. To meet this proposition, it has been argued that no more than three fourths of those States which have not attempted secession are necessary to validly ratify the amendment. I do not commit myself against this, further than to say that such a ratification would be questionable, and sure to be persistently questioned; while a ratification by three fourths of all the states would be unquestioned and unquestionable.

(con't on page 11)

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table

ANNOUNCES

Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County

**Battles, Skirmishes, Incidents & Events of The War Between the States
Occurring in Fairfax County, Virginia**

1859-1862 and Appendix (partial 1863)

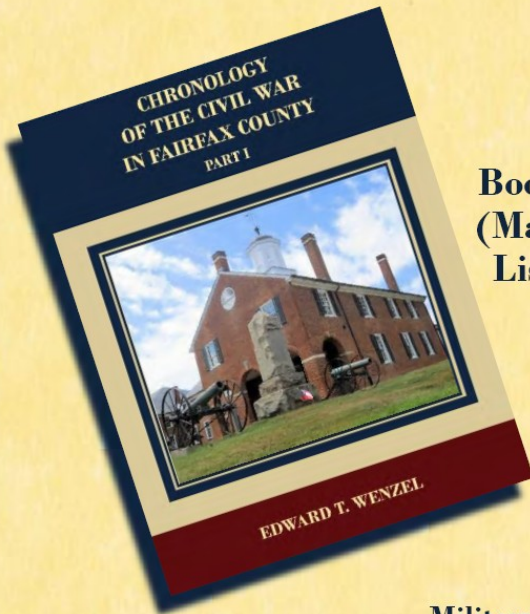
By Edward T. Wenzel

The most informative work ever assembled in one book
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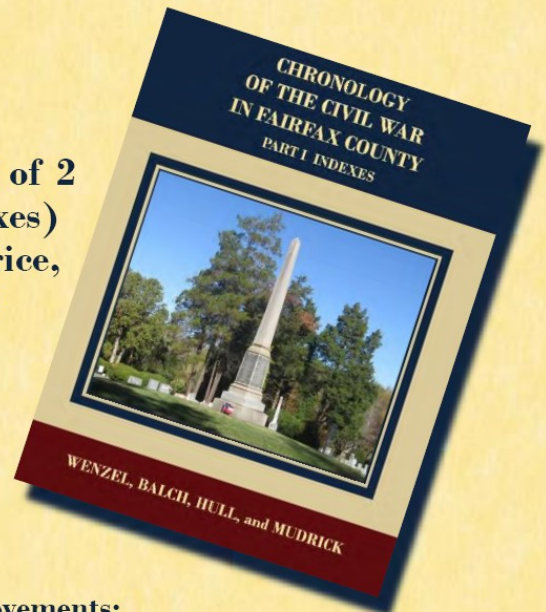
Edwin C. Bearss,

Historian Emeritus, U.S. National Park Service



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BRCWRT Anniversary Program Announced

25th Anniversary Committee

This year, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table turns 25!

As one might expect, the BRCWRT has greatly evolved since Bill Miller laid out his original vision for the group in May of 1991. Since that time, it has become a 501(c)(3) organization, increased its membership to over 200, supported an active annual lecture and tour program, established a scholarship, created an award-worthy newsletter, and regularly provided advice to local governing bodies regarding preservation. In many ways, the Round Table has not only fulfilled Bill Miller's original vision, but vastly expanded its outreach and influence.

Later this year, the BRCWRT will officially celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special three-month program. For the past year, a committee has researched much of the history of the Round Table and created an Anniversary Book that will be offered for sale at the June meeting. On June 9, we will enjoy a special 25th Anniversary meeting at the Centreville Regional Library. Members will savor cake, cookies, and soft drinks while listening to a panel of the past presidents discuss the major programs and events supported by the Round Table over the years.

In honor of the BRCWRT's heritage, we've decided to follow the same events our founders did 25 years ago. Our lectures in July and August will focus on the battles of First and Second Manassas. Civil War icon Ed Bearss will present his views on the "Battle of First Manassas" on July 14. Later, on July 16, Rob Orrison and John DePue will lead the Round Table on a customized tour featuring special locations of interest in support of that battle.

On August 11, noted historian and lecturer John Hennessey will talk about the "Battle of Second Manassas Campaign," and Hank Elliot, MNBP ranger, will lead another customized tour on August 20 in support of that battle.

Our September program will feature a lecture by Jon Hickox, manager of the Bull Run Winery, on "Historic Finds at Bull Run" on September 8. The commemorative festivities will culminate with a BRCWRT-funded picnic at the Bull Run Winery on Sunday, September 18.

Watch the Web site and the *Stone Wall* for any changes to this program as we approach the summer period.

Join us as we make more wonderful memories together!



The Book Corner – (con't from page 8)

"I repeat the question. "Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union sooner by *sustaining* or by *discarding* her new State Government?"

"What has been said of Louisiana will apply generally to other States. And yet so great peculiarities pertain to each state; and such important and sudden changes occur in the same state; and, withal, so new and unprecedented is the whole case, that no exclusive, and inflexible plan can safely be prescribed as to

details and collaterals. Such exclusive, and inflexible plan, would surely become a new entanglement. Important principles may, and must, be inflexible.

"In the present *"situation"* as the phrase goes, it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South. I am considering, and shall not fail to act, when satisfied that action will be proper."

Source: *"Lincoln in His Own Words,"* edited and annotated by Harold Holzer. A publication of American History Magazine.

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

ried John Mercer Brooke, a Confederate Naval Officer. Kate died in 1918. She and her second husband are buried near Sandie and little Alexander in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington.

As a side note, while researching this article, I discovered that a Corbin married into my Confederate ancestor George Washington Baker's family. A new-found cousin, Barry Williams, whose mother was a Corbin, sent me 444 pages of Corbin descendants. Our common ancestor was Mary Elizabeth Baker, George's sister. The document reads like a who's who of Virginia history and FFVs (First

Families of Virginia). The document lists names like Custis, Washington, Carter, Fairfax, Fitzhugh, Corbin, Lee, Pendleton, and many, many others. Barry is a third cousin five times removed from Robert E. Lee. Barry and I are third cousins once removed. I imagine that it is pretty watered down when it gets to me, but now I know why I lean towards the Confederates.

NOTE: Ms. Rebelle's hobby is traveling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,008 Civil War generals. So far, she has located and photographed 412 --169 Confederate and 243 Union. You may contact her

Upcoming Prince William County Civil War Events

January 28

Lecture: The Battle of Bristoe Station "Myths and Memory"

7:00 p.m.: Free, donations accepted

Author and Bristoe Station Battlefield Site Manager Bill Backus will discuss the many myths surrounding the Battle of Bristoe Station. The Battle of Bristoe Station was the last major battle of the Civil War in Prince William County. Backus' recent book *"A Want of Vigilance"* will also be for sale. Old Manassas Courthouse 9248 Lee St., Manassas, VA, 703-792-4754.

March 5

Mercy Street and Virginia's Civil War Hospitals Bus Tour

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; \$80 per person (lunch included)

Hospitals similar to the Mansion Hotel Hospital as seen in PBS's new drama, *Mercy Street*, were found throughout Virginia. Now learn the history behind *Mercy Street* by visiting some of these historic hospitals and learn what it was like for the wounded soldiers and medical staff working in them. Begin the tour at Ben Lomond, one of the first hospitals established during the war. Then travel to Alexandria to visit some of the hospitals and apothecaries. You will hear stories about soldiers of both north and south and learn about their experiences while in Alexandria. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas, VA 703-367-7872.

April 2

Civil War Trust Annual Park Clean Up Day – Bristoe Station Battlefield

8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Join the staff at Bristoe Station Battlefield and the Civil War Preservation Trust at History for Park Day 2016. Park Day is a nationwide event that encourages Civil War enthusiasts to help maintain, restore and preserve Civil War sites through volunteerism. Come out and join us for a fun and rewarding day of work at Bristoe Battlefield. Projects will include litter pick up, cleaning cemeteries and trail maintenance throughout the 133-acre park. Wear sturdy work shoes, bring gloves and remember sunscreen. Tools and snacks will be provided. Meet in the parking lot off Iron Brigade Avenue. Please, no pets. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, The parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049.

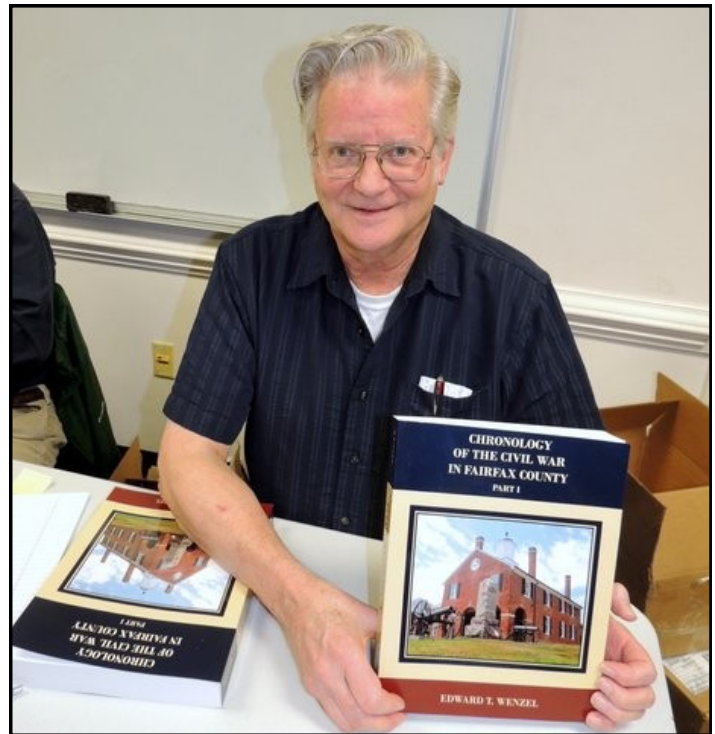
President's Column – (con't from page 3)

Train," which covers the strategy of both sides during the first year of the war. The vast expanse of Virginia (including West Virginia), was where the railroad strategy that shaped the Battle of 1st Manassas, and prior battles, played out. Dan brought forth a tremendous amount of new information on railroad tactics. We really appreciated his lecture. I hope to persuade both gentlemen to return for more excellent presentations.

As acknowledged in January, I would again like to thank all of our BRCWRT officers and Executive Committee members for stepping forward to serve in 2016 as we embark on another outstanding year. Blake Myers joined in January to serve as our new Preservation Committee lead. Welcome aboard, Blake, and thank you for volunteering for this very important post. The 2016 BRCWRT budget has been approved by unanimous vote of the membership. BRCWRT treasurer Mark Knowles did another outstanding job outlining and presenting the budget.

Please continue to spread the word about the BRCWRT to your family and friends, and encourage them to come on out and hear our outstanding lectures. It's going to be an event-filled 2016 - don't miss it! Among the great activities scheduled for this BRCWRT 25th Anniversary season are the 1st and 2nd Manassas Tours, and our first picnic! Let's make some memories together.

At the January meeting, the BRCWRT was proud to join with Ed Wenzel to introduce the *"Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County,"* his epic new book that was six years in the making and is, I believe, the greatest Fairfax County Civil War reference book ever written (or that ever *will* be written!). You can purchase the book at the meetings, or online. This book is a must-have for your library - Ed Bearss, who wrote the foreword, said that this book is a "gold mine of information...." We cannot thank Ed Wenzel enough for this invaluable and comprehensive treasure trove of facts, figures and fundamentals concerning the war that came to our back yards and the essence of which has never left.



Author and BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel displays the definitive guide he researched and wrote: the "Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County" (Part 1 & Indexes) at January's debut of the book, which will become the go-to guide for historians from now on. The tremendous work took six years to compile and publish, and as it has been the most important resource to have been produced regarding the way the war transpired locally, it will also be the most important addition to the library of any Civil War historian wanting to produce their own work in a precise and comprehensive way. Congratulations to Ed for completing this massive work!

Photo by Janet Greentree

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Newest Recruits!

Here's a grateful "Huzzah!"
for these folks who have
recently joined the BRCWRT:

- ◆ Karl Reiner
- ◆ Steve Jaren

BRCWRT Member Takes Top Honors in Essay Contest



BRCWRT member and essayist Bryan Holtzer collects his prize.

Photo by Nancy J. Olds

The youngest member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table recently distinguished himself by composing an award-winning essay on "The Importance of Pontoon Bridges During the Civil War" (shown below). His first-place entry in a competition sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Culpeper Chapter #73.

Bryan Holtzer, age 7, is shown here at left picking up the top award; Anne Howard, president of the Culpeper UDC, presented each of the 24 winners in the competition with their prize, with awards made in several age groupings.

Bryan wore butternut with his kepi – as may be expected, as Bryan has been a Civil War enthusiast for the many years that have unfolded since he was age three! Mom and Dad Julie and Don Holtzer bring Bryan to the BRCWRT meetings, along with brother Ben. Both Bryan and Ben are young scholars, advanced in grades through their home schooling. Bryan is currently in the 7th grade (yes—the SEVENTH grade!).

The Importance of Pontoon Bridges during the War Between the States

by Bryan Holtzer

Pontoon Bridges were a valuable source of transportation during the War Between the States. They were important in the navigation of water as obstacles via lakes and rivers etc. The bridges were specifically important in the Battle of Fredericksburg, VA. And the crossing the Rappahannock River.

Pontoon Bridges were a major source of transportation in the movement of troops and supplies when the armies were willing to build them. While the bridges took many resources to build and an effort under fire, they helped in the traversing of the body of water to gain tactical advantage over the opponent. In the entire War Between the States they were rarely used because of this. They did, however, play a vital role in the Confederacy's survival in the battle of Fredericksburg, VA.

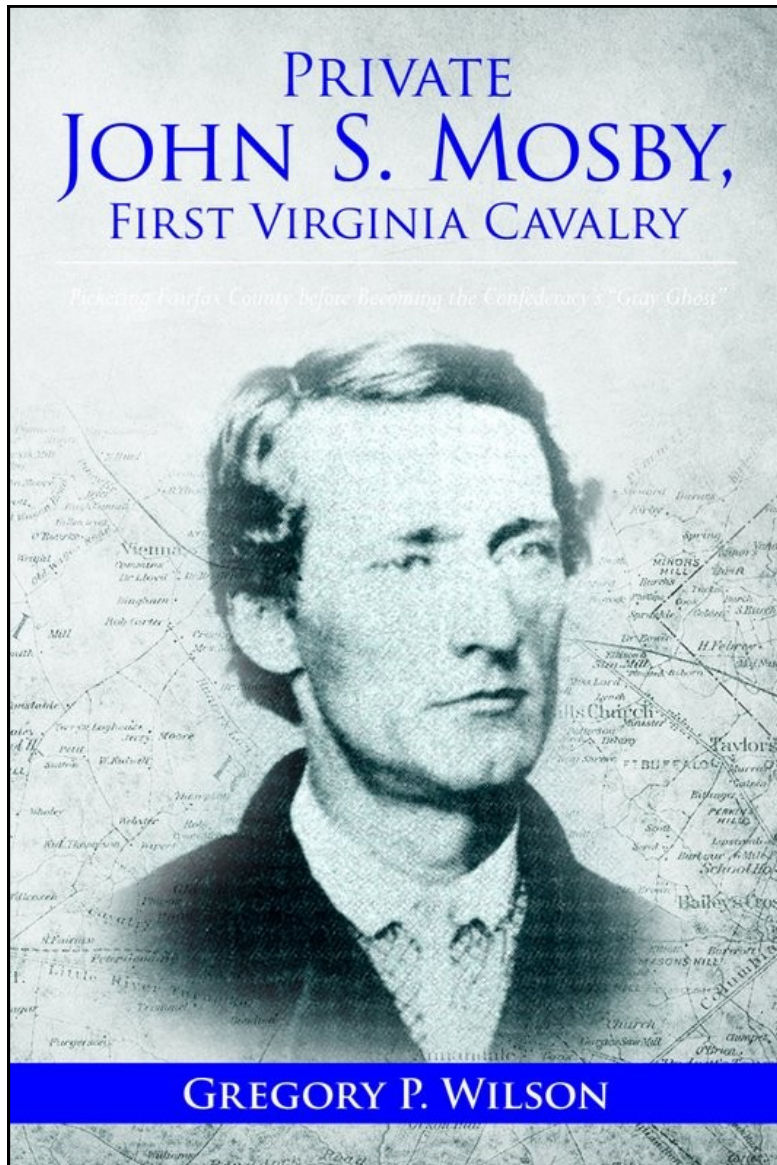
The Union General Ambrose Burnside was the Commander of the Union forces at Fredericksburg. He, with his advisors and staff, was in charge of building the pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock River. He had to wait too long to get more supplies and by then his plan would be inefficient. That delay of two weeks gave time to the Confederacy to prepare a defense.

General Robert E. Lee was the Commander of the Confederate forces. He was also the Commander that felt that he should not be in the war because he could not bear to see all the suffering. The Rebels were entrenched a week before the bridges were built and could hear and see the Civil Engineers building the bridges. Brigadier General Barksdale with his sharp shooters along the Rappahannock were determined to drive them from their work, and did, which led to ineffective Federal shelling of the town of Fredericksburg. The Snipers had Enfield (smoothbore) and Springfield (taken from the Union) Rifles and Artillery Batteries had the advantage of a known target. The Engineers were unarmed so they were quickly removed from their posts. As they were starting to move men across the bridge, they had to stop to pick up the wounded. So, It was hard to move the force across the bridge quickly.

The Union Soldiers were not able to seize the town for long because of the losses crossing the bridges. Shortly after the battle, Burnside was fired so, he regretted that attack and the decision to use the bridges for the rest of his life. He had lost the backbone of the Army of the Potomac.

In conclusion, strategically, the Pontoon Bridges were important because they provided the ability for all involved to utilize and/capture/destroy the enemies' munitions, medical supplies and food. While the Union (Lincoln) basically regretted the use of the Pontoon Bridges, the Confederacy prevailed because of them.

NEW BOOK ON MOSBY IN FAIRFAX COUNTY



By Gwen Wyttenbach

Through an oversight in a recent Stone Wall article summarizing the 2015 Fairfax County History Conference, the name of one of our Round Table members, Greg Wilson, was left out among the names of members attending.

For the record, Greg was there, too, seated at his book sales' table featuring his newly-published book "*Private John S. Mosby, First Virginia Cavalry: Picketing Fairfax County before Becoming the Confederacy's Gray Ghost.*"

Greg has been a recent Bull Run Civil War Round Table speaker on the topic of "Jonathan Roberts - Quaker Scout" and is a winner of the Ross Netherton Achievement Award, a Fairfax County History Commission award to honor research and achievements in Fairfax County history and historical preservation. Well done, Greg, and sorry for the omission!

As the promotional release for this crisp new history of Mosby says:

Before becoming famous, Mosby picketed Fairfax County in 1861-1862, gathering intelligence for Gen-

eral J.E.B. Stuart, CSA.

A Virginia native who originally sided with the Union, Mosby's views as a young man are a window into his initial ambivalence to military duty, which changed radically once Virginia seceded and he became a rebel.

Wilson offers a unique, unbiased account of Mosby's early military career, which provided the basis for his later success as the Gray Ghost.

Available now from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and other book distributors.

For more information or to inquire about speaking opportunities, contact Greg Wilson at: 202-494-0652 (cell) or at: greg@civilwarquakerscout.com.

In Memoriam: BRCWRT Members We Have Recently Lost

by Sandra Cox

James J. "Jim" Meagher, Jr.

November 6, 1948 – November 24, 2015

Jim was the beloved husband for 44 years of Joyce Meagher, also a BRCWRT member. Jim died of lung cancer at the age of 67 this past November. In late 2012, he was appointed to the BRCWRT Executive Committee and was in the process of succeeding Ken Jones as Webmaster. In January 2013, Jim was diagnosed with lung cancer and was forced to resign so he could concentrate on extensive treatment. Family and friends said he faced illness with perseverance and dignity. Members will remember Jim by his friendly smile.

Born in Schenectady, New York, Jim grew up in Michigan. He had a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, a MBA, was a Retired USAF Lt. Colonel, a program manager for eighteen years with SAIC; plus he enjoyed a third career as a Class A contractor and commercial property owner. He received full military honors at his burial at Quantico National Cemetery.

A member since 2004, Jim had participated in excess of 10 BRCWRT tours, including his last in September of 2012 to Antietam. Fellow BRCWRT member Eric Fowler was also Jim's neighbor and remembers: "Jim was very familiar with the Manassas Civil



James J. Meagher, Jr.

War area and had done lots of research and some metal detecting around our neighborhood on Bull Run."

Joyce shared that he loved studying everything about the Civil War. He read voraciously, and toured as an unofficial guide for many visiting friends and family members. His last big tour, given for his sister and brother-in-law, followed 'John Wilkes Booth's Escape Route.' As a USAF veteran, he was able to get onto Fort McNair

to see where the gallows had been located for Lincoln's assassination conspirators.

Jim was proud to say that his great-grandfather was the cousin of Union General Thomas Francis Meagher. One of Jim's USAF assignments was to Great Falls, MT. While there, he visited the general's statue in front of the Capitol Building in Helena. Joyce is donating some of Jim's Civil War books to the BRCWRT. Thank you Joyce - we appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Highly inquisitive, in addition to his Civil War interests, Jim was an artist, potter, and radio control plane enthusiast. He was most proud of his on-site Hurricane Katrina volunteer experience with the American Red Cross, and was an unwavering Catholic.

Eugene "Gene" Powers Black

March 10, 1924 – December 22, 2015

Gene passed away peacefully at his home in Gainesville, VA, on December 22nd at the age of 91. Born in Danville, VA, he attended Averett College in Danville, then entered the University of Virginia, graduating with a degree in English Literature in 1950. Gene's working career was in sales and sales management, principally with two companies: Sherwin-Williams and Winsor & Newton, a British artist's supply company.

Both he and wife Doris joined the BRCWRT in 2008. They loved traveling to various Civil War sites, and they rarely missed a monthly meeting. They were married for 57 years. Due to macular degeneration and a hearing problem, you could always find Gene and Doris seated in the second row in front of the podium.



Eugene Powers Black

Doris shared that Gene's grandfather, William Powers Black, served in the Civil War with the Confederate Fluvanna Light Artillery.

Gene was a WWII veteran and served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943-1946 in England, France and Japan. Gene's unit was one of the first to enter Japan after the treaty was signed on September 3, 1945, ending the war. On his trip home via Yokohama, his train made a

night stop at Hiroshima.

He was active in the V.F.W. Blue and Gray Post No. 8469 in Fairfax, along with fellow BRCWRT members John McAnaw, Ed Wenzel, Bob Hickey, Keith Young, and Pat McGinty. Doris thanks John McAnaw for representing the V.F.W. and the BRCWRT at Gene's funeral, and also for John's speaking about

(con't on page 16)

In Memoriam – (con't from page 15)

Gene's life at our January meeting. She also thanks Nancy Anwyll for representing the BRCWRT at the funeral.

In 2005, he lost his central vision entirely due to the macular degeneration. Gene faced blindness with courage and determination, though it took from him the ability to read, enjoy attending art galleries and to see faces. He was well-known in his neighborhood as the man who picked up litter on his daily two-mile walks, using peripheral vision to see his way. A life-long Methodist, Gene rarely missed a church service. For 45 years, he attended Fairfax United Methodist Church and served as Sunday School president for 35 years. He collected and delivered perishable food items for distribution to the needy in Fairfax County. Gene loved his family, keeping

up with world events and quoting the works of Shakespeare. The following was his favorite reflection by the Bard:

“...nothing in his life
Became him like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd
As 'twere a careless trifle.”

Shakespeare's MacBeth, Act 1, Scene IV

Gene is interred at Stonewall Memory Gardens surrounded by the Manassas National Battlefield Park - where else!

Alfred C. “A.C.” Baird

January 14, 1944 - July 23, 2015

We were saddened to learn from Julie Holtzer recently that A.C. had passed. A.C. was our member who directed Bryan Holtzer to the BRCWRT a few years ago. Bryan, our youngest member, joined first, then was joined by the whole Holtzer family - Don, Julie and little brother Ben. They met A.C. at the North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) live shoot. A.C. joined the BRCWRT in 2003.

A first-generation American (through his father's side), A.C. was a proud Irishman. He had a very strong work ethic and started working at age 12. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout and supported both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts later in life. A.C. had a passion for learning and would read five newspapers daily when he could. He instilled his passion for learning in his four children.

A.C. served with the U.S. Army as a track commander in the 25th Infantry, 3rd Cavalry, arriving in Vietnam in October of 1966; he served during the Tet Offensive and saw action at Cu Chi and Tan Son Nhut Airbase, as well as Saigon. He was sent back to the U.S. due to injuries sustained in the summer of 1968. A.C. received two Purple Hearts with oak leaf clusters and several other commendations, including the Silver Star, for his valor in action. A.C.'s unit received at least one Presidential Citation for valor as well. He was very humble when it came to talking about his service. He would often tell people that he was just doing what he had to do.

When A.C. returned to civilian life, he spent time relic-hunting, with a focus on Civil War action that occurred in Northern Virginia, including favorite haunts in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. He worked for 37 years for Prince William County government as an inspector and a materials testing analyst, and he also worked for Prince William County Service Authority.

He often gave talks at the Manassas Museum and local schools (when you could still do such a thing). BRCWRT President Mark Trbovich shared with us that many times when he spoke at the Old Manassas Courthouse for the PWC Historic Preservation lecture series, A.C. would be there to give the audience insight to the ground and history of the sites. Mark said, “He had a fantastic store of local history in his memory banks.”

A.C. joined the North-South Skirmish Association after returning from Vietnam. The N-SSA preserves the culture and history of the past while promoting marksmanship, using period-correct firearms at Fort Shenandoah in



The Holtzer Brothers (above, left) “fall in” at the direction of A. C. Baird (right), one of the BRCWRT's most devoted students of the Civil War.

(con't on page 17)

In Memoriam – (con't from page 16)

Winchester. His N-SSA membership spanned 48 years. He had hoped to achieve the 50-year award. He served as their Potomac Regional Commander for 23 years until he was forced to step down due to his health in 2009. He continued his passion for the N-SSA and Civil War history when he assumed leadership of what is now known as the A.C. Baird Historical Research Center at Fort Shenandoah.

When I told A.C. that I had moved to Fredericksburg, he shared that while relic-hunting near the Rappahannock and Warrenton Road, he turned to see a Confederate soldier standing by a tree watching him. As his daughter Rachel said, "He is with every skirmisher when on the firing line at Fort Shenandoah and is found in the breezes that travel over the battlefields, checking on every Confederate soldier that remains."

The Holtzer's friendship with A.C. was special to young sons Bryand and Ben, as evidenced by the poem the youngsters have written in memory of their mentor, included at right. Mom Julie Holtzer had this to say about her sons' affinity for A. C.: "The title is what the boys say about A.C. He always answered their questions and had something funny to say or serious depending on the situation; he wasn't shy and would always have the right thing to say or not say for the situation, whatever it was."

By Bryan and Benjamin Holtzer

DAMN GOOD FRIEND

A beautiful life
Leaving too soon
Friend to many and to One
Relic hunter
Enthusiastic about historical pictures and places
Dedicated to keeping Civil War history alive

Conservationist
An expert with guns
Loved milkshakes and cake
Bullets
Exceptionally active on the shooting range
Respectful to others
Teacher
Soldier

Bold and Brave
A very good listener
Intelligent
Resilient
Damn good Friend

Visit "Mercy Street" on Special Ben Lomond Bus Tour

by Paige Gibbons-Backus

Everyone is talking about Mercy Street, PBS's new historical drama that gives viewers a glimpse into the lives of men and women within the hospitals of occupied Alexandria during the midst of the Civil War. Beyond the stories of chaos, conflict, and drama that will be depicted in the show, there is a history that has been long overlooked by many. Prince William County's Historic Preservation Division will bring that history to light through a special bus tour, Mercy Street and Virginia's Civil War Hospitals.

Through this tour, participants will discover Prince William County's connection to the Civil War hospitals by visiting Ben Lomond, one of the first hospitals established after the Battle of First Manassas. Then travel to Alexandria to visit the hospitals and apothecaries to learn about the nurses, surgeons, and soldiers who were impacted by these hospitals and what happened to them.



Mansion House Hotel, the site of Mercy Street's action, was located where the front lawn of Carlyle House Historic Park is today.



Ben Lomond historic site, above, in 1862, and now (at right).



The tour will be held on Saturday, March 5th, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch is included and reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Ben Lomond Historic Site at 703-367-7872.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2016 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. Family—\$25. Student (age 22 and under)—FREE.

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_____ **E-MAIL**_____