



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIV, Issue 8, NOVEMBER 2017

**AUTHOR / HISTORIAN WAYNE MOTTS
TO SPEAK ON "FIGHTING THE CIVIL WAR:
HISTORICAL TREASURES OF THE
CONFLICT IN THE COLLECTION OF THE
NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM" AT THE
NOVEMBER 9th MEETING**

The National Civil War Museum, located at One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is a permanent, nonprofit educational institution created to promote the preservation of material culture and sources of information that are directly relevant to the American Civil War of 1861–1865. Also emphasized is the aftermath period of the war, as related to Civil War Veterans' service organizations, including the Grand Army of the Republic, United Confederate Veterans and the Daughters of the Confederacy, to 1920.

In 2009, the museum became affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. It is the only museum in the country that portrays the entire story of the American Civil War. History is preserved in equally balanced presentations that are humanistic in nature, without bias to Union or Confederate causes.

The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA holds over 24,000 artifacts and manuscripts and currently displays 1,300 of them. We are so happy to have the museum's CEO, Wayne Motts, come to speak at our November meeting.

Wayne was one of the youngest persons ever to complete the licensing process to become a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has guided parties around the famous field for 27 years. Formerly, he was Executive Director of the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg, PA. His father owns The Motts Military Museum in Ohio, where Wayne spent

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 p.m. Centreville Library

THURSDAY, November 9, 2017

GUEST SPEAKER:

**AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN
WAYNE MOTTS**

TOPIC:

**"FIGHTING THE CIVIL WAR:
HISTORICAL TREASURES OF
THE CONFLICT IN THE
COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM "**

many hours studying.

He was born and raised in central Ohio, and graduated in 1989 from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in military history. Moving to Gettysburg in 1990, Wayne earned a Masters Degree in American History from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1994. He has spoken to a wide range of historical bodies and groups on topics related to the American Civil War, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

In addition to his speaking engagements, Wayne has published several pieces related to the American Civil War in a variety of publications. He wrote the book *Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Lewis B. Armistead*, and coauthored (along with James Hessler) *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*. Come on out at 5 p.m. prior to the meeting and meet Wayne for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Executive Committee

President: Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net, 703.361.1396
Past President: Nancy Anwyll, njanwyll@verizon.net
Vice-President: Mark Whitenton, mark.whitenton@gmail.com
Treasurer: Mark Knowles, 703.787.9811
Secretary: John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com, 703.475.1943
At Large: Charlie Balch, John De Pue, Brian McEnany
Fairfax County 275th Anniversary Committee: Blake Myers
Communications/Media: Jim Lewis, antietam1862@verizon.net
Membership: Mark Whitenton, mark.whitenton@gmail.com
Preservation: Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net
Student Scholarship: Nancy Anwyll (njanwyll@verizon.net), Brian McEnany and Charlie Balch
Field Trips: Scott Kenepf
Webmaster: Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org
Graphic Design: Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor: Nadine Mironchuk, nadine1861@hotmail.com
Newsletter Team: Sandra Cox, Ed Wenzel, Eric Fowler, Janet Greentree and Andy Kapfer.
 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>

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2017 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, November 27, to Nadine Mironchuk at: nadine1861@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **December 2017 issue**, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on November 17, to Charlie Balch at: BRCWRTads@gmail.com

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

December 14th, 2017 - John Quarstein - "CSS Albermarle"

January 11th, 2018 - Ralph Peters - "Leadership Lesson of the Civil War"

February 8th, 2018 - George Franks II - "Battle of Falling Waters"

March 8th, 2018 - Brian Withrow - "Evening with U. S. Grant"

April 12th, 2018 - Patrick Falci - "Ambrose Powell Hill"

May 10th, 2018 - Ed Bearss - "Battle of Ft. Donaldson and Ft. Henry"

June 14th, 2018 - Stephen Phan - "Battle of Nashville - December 1864"

July 12th 2018 - Randy Ferryman - "Civil War Press: Resisting Censorship to Publish Secrets"

August 9th, 2018 - Chris Kolakowski - "The Kentucky Campaign - August to November 1862"

September 13th, 2018 - "Cavalry Action at Battle of Chickamauga"

October 11th, 2018 - Dr. Jeff McClurken - "Take Care of the Living: Reconstructing Confederate Veteran Families in Virginia"

November 8th, 2018 - Mark Dunkleman - "Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier: The Life, Death, and Celebrity of Amos Humiston"

December 13th, 2018 - Eric Buckland - "They Rode with Mosby"

In This Issue

The President's Column	Page 3
The Preservation Report	Page 4
The Book Corner	Page 5
Ms. Rebelle	Page 6
CW Monuments Statement	Page 11
Ben Lomond's Eerie Event	Page 12
Camp Letterman Update	Page 13
FFX Co. History Conference	Page 13



The President's Column

By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

November is a cold month in the region, but is also the beginning of the holiday season, which will surely be warm and happy inside with the family at Thanksgiving; but we take the time to somberly observe Veterans' Day as well, coming up on November 11th. As the year is coming to a close, I just want to give thanks for all the BRCWRT members who have come along on this enjoyable ride for historic education and preservation. It's great to reflect on what we have accomplished, and to be looking forward to a bright future for our Round Table.

Our October speakers, Rob Orrison and Bill Backus, brought us a very in-depth look at the Potomac River batteries and blockade from May



Rob Orrison (left) and Bill Backus (right) were the October speakers; their in-depth understanding of the Potomac River blockade and battlements of the Civil War provided an excellent presentation for the BRCWRT audience.

Photo by Janet Greentree

1861 to March 1862. They described the action on the river, as well as reviewing the involvement of ships and equipment used at that time by both sides. We sure can say they are extremely knowledgeable on the subject. The pair has taken our Round Table on many tours of the area discussed, which were very enlightening. We so look forward to future tours of Cockpit Point and other areas that figured into the blockade. A big "thank you," guys - and we'll

see you for sure in the near future. Don't forget - you can also "tune in" to all of our lectures at our Web site audio archives, located at the address: http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/AudioArchives/Audio_menu.html.

November will be the last month of the Round Table's process for the 2018 election of officers, according to our by-laws. Voting on the 2018 BRCWRT roster of officers will take place at the December 2018 meeting. We are happy to report that John De Pue and Ed Wenzel will head up our nominating committee again this year. Please contact them if you would like to run for one of the offices. Our membership drive has now started for 2018; 2017 ended with 260 members (a new record for our Round Table!). Let's sign up early this year, folks, and continue to be a part of one of the best round tables in the country.

As I mentioned at the October 2017 meeting, a nationwide Civil War Congress was hosted by our BRCWRT on September 16th. Executive committee members from over 30 Round Tables nationwide (including Ottawa, Canada) participated in the seminar, with a main topic being the many opportunities that may exist for Round Table growth, as many of them sadly are closing throughout the land. We were fortunate to hear many speakers discussing marketing, networking, governance, internet/social media, from large, successful Round Table leaders who wanted to share their success stories with others.

Everyone learned a great deal from each presentation, and the question-and-answer session was lively, to say the least. We are looking forward to joining them again in 2018, as we network together for Round Table success! The BRCWRT is a success story, but we must continue to work together cooperatively to ensure future success in the troubling times that have befallen the Civil War community.

Our Scholarship Committee, led by Nancy Anwyll, has begun work for our 2018 campaign to choose another scholarship winner next year. Please also continue to spread the word to your family and friends to visit the Scholarship page on our Web site, and encourage high school

(con't on page 9)



PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS, E.B. VANDIVER
AND BRIAN MCENANY

The following document, written by Blake Myers, E.B. Vandiver and Brian McEnany and recently approved by the Executive Committee, is intended to serve as an informational reference for BRCWRT members and to serve as a guide when participating in education and preservation activities or initiatives as a BRCWRT representative or on an individual basis.

The following guidelines and principles provide a framework for Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) involvement in Civil War history education and preservation activities and initiatives. These guidelines and principles were developed as an informational reference for BRCWRT members and to serve as a guide when participating in education and preservation activities or initiatives as a BRCWRT representative or on an individual basis.

No BRCWRT officer or member should make any written or public statement on behalf of the BRCWRT without first confirming, with the BRCWRT President or Vice-President, that the statement is consistent with the BRCWRT's position on the subject.

The Executive Committee, when seeking to establish a BRCWRT position concerning a specific education and/or preservation issue, shall apprise the general membership and seek member input and comment.

Guidelines and Principles.

A. The BRCWRT should, whenever possible, coordinate its efforts with the Civil War Trust (CWT) or other organization(s) dedicated to historic education and preservation.

B. Focus on historical education and preservation - remember the objectives of the BRCWRT are:

Education – methods to accomplish this include presentations, tours, newsletters, the development of historic signage, and support to selected Civil War events and ceremonies

Preservation – methods to accomplish this include raising awareness of threats to the integrity of local and national Civil War battlefields, memorials, and sites, and presentations, participation and remarks at relevant symposia, hearings, meetings, and commemorations.

C. Avoid getting involved in the politics of an issue or controversy

- The BRCWRT must remain apolitical to maintain its credibility, influence and its non-profit status
- Retain the BRCWRT focus on the history and education relevant to an issue or controversy
- Individual BRCWRT members have every right to engage in discussions and actions that go beyond the BRCWRT focus on history and education so long as in doing so they do not implicate or compromise the BRCWRT; e.g. do not 'represent' the BRCWRT, or wear BRCWRT logo items (ball cap, shirt, lapel pins, etc.) when engaging in a politicized event.

D. Become knowledgeable of relevant historical preservation processes and programs (local, state, federal)

E. Watch for and be attuned to local rezoning or development proposals that could negatively impact Civil War battlefields and/or historic sites

- Become knowledgeable of relevant local zoning and permitting processes
- Determine when and how citizen input is appropriate in these processes, and make your views/concerns known; local governing boards, planning commissions, etc. may not be aware of the historical significance of the subject property.

F. General Preservation Principles

- I. No battlefield or Civil War historical site is ever completely lost - don't despair....
 - Civil War Trust (CWT) process and preservation methods demonstrate this guideline
 - Previously "lost" historical sites have been restored

(con't on page 10)



THE BOOK CORNER



Krissah Thompson, in a Washington Post story highlighting our new Museum of African-American History and Culture wrote, “Surveys conducted by the Smithsonian Institution in the run-up to the new museum’s creation found that the public is conflicted over learning more about slavery. It ranked as both the top subject that visitors want to know more about — and the one they’re least interested in exploring.” That is a curious finding, but not deterring. We are historians. We seek to learn about our history, in part, so that we may learn from our history.

The single most important literary resource on American Negro slavery is Kenneth M. Stampp’s *The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South* (Vintage Books, 1956). This book, though old, has long been recognized by critics and academics as the milestone text that largely reversed the romantic post-Civil War notions of slavery once prevalent in this country. Any study of African-American slavery - of black history in general - must include this book.

The breadth of Stampp’s research and scholarship is exhaustive. He scoured universities and historical societies for plantation records, including the planter’s own journals and family papers. He includes the farm books of the small farmer with only one slave, and records from plantations with many bondsmen. The slave’s own narratives from the WPA Federal Writer’s Project in the 1930’s were consulted. *The Peculiar Institution* treats slave lifeways in all their extensive detail: working conditions, leisure time, home life, diet, punishment, relationships with their masters and each other. With its broad scope and vast evidentiary base, the book can be a bit tedious. Skim if you must, but stay with this book to the end.

Stampp goes right to work in the first chapter slaying the myths of Negro bondage that arose from the work of many proslavery writers. (It is hard for us to believe now that there ever were “proslavery” writers.) These include the “old saws” that the black race was specially fitted for work in our hot, southern climate; that slavery was a glorious salvation for the heathen African; and

my favorite, that the basic humanity and economic self-interest of slaveholders mandated that they tenderly care for their chattel. This last one is especially persuasive because it sounds so logical. But it simply is not true. We frequently do things that are not in our own best interests (we smoke; we order the fries when we should substitute a garden salad). Any single slave was a small item in the total capital of a plantation, so its misuse, even unto death, was not significant in any economic sense.

Among the most important of the post-Civil War writers was Dr. Ulrich B. Phillips with his influential *American Negro Slavery*, published in 1918. I mention Phillips only because *The Peculiar Institution* was largely instrumental in consigning Phillips’ views on slavery to the dustbin of history. In reviewing his methods, researchers found that Phillips limited his studies to large plantations with 100 or more bondsmen. This would address only about 1% of slave owners and only 10% of slaves. Such a biased sample could not possibly produce reliable results.

The unwarranted generalization is the pitfall of many historians trying to distill conclusions from the mass of slave historiography. (Phillips has been largely dismissed on these grounds as well.) Yet, any account of slavery must rely on the individual incident, the anecdotal evidence, and Stampp is no exception. Yet Stampp eschews generalizations. Slavery was everything from benign to horrendous. Some slaves lived better than their white laboring contemporaries; most, indisputably, did not. What few generalizations Stampp draws are based on well sourced statistics.

On the lighter side, much of our slavocracy itself was genuinely hilarious. State legislatures strained to distinguish the legal definitions of “Negro” versus “mulatto.” (Don’t worry. Both were consigned to slavery, without rights.) Much learned argument in law belabored whether slaves were personal property or realty. (Think how many property disputes, how much court time, turned on this one important point?) There is much more of this hogwash, but, even piled altogether, it was nothing more than a pathetic rationalization for slavery mixed with good old downhome racism.

But at least southerners distained the slave trader. Slavery may have been right and proper, even necessary in the agricultural south, but

(con’t on page 11)



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Wisconsin Confederate Spy Buried in Wisconsin

By Janet Greentree

Sooooo, who do you think it is? First clue – it is a woman. Is it Rose O’Neal Greenhow – no, she is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, NC. Is it Antonia Ford – no, she is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Second clue – she is practically a local girl. Is it Laura Ratcliffe – no, she is buried in Herndon, VA, in front of the Holiday Inn. Could it be Elizabeth Van Lew (Crazy Bet) – no, she is buried in Shockhoe Cemetery in Richmond, VA. Although Van Lew lived in Richmond, she was a Union spy.

Do you all give up? It is the ultimate spy - Belle Boyd - who was on a speaking tour when she died in Wisconsin Dells, WI, formerly known as Kilbourne City. She was at a Grand Army of the Republic Hall talking about her book *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison* when she died of a heart attack, on stage. It is totally amazing to me, given the number of times people were buried, disinterred, and moved elsewhere after an initial burial, that she was left in Wisconsin, instead of being brought back to Virginia, her home state.

After reading that people brought Virginia dirt to her grave in Wisconsin, Ms. Rebelle took a



Ms. Rebelle recently at the grave of Belle Boyd in Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells, WI, where she scattered Virginia soil and decorated her grave with a Confederate flag, as the notorious spy might have appreciated.

Photo by Kathe Schrader Fernandez.



Belle Boyd during her years as an actress, post war. At right, the Rebel garb that harkened the espionage she conducted for the Confederacy.



small package of dirt to put on her grave, along with a Confederate flag. Luckily TSA didn’t confiscate either item from me. There have been pictures I’ve seen of her grave with many Confederate flags on it. When I arrived, there was only the 2nd National. I’m sure my little flag won’t stay there long, but I put it there for her.

Isabella Maria, a/k/a Belle Boyd, was born on September 9, 1844, in Martinsburg, VA (now WV), to Benjamin Reed Boyd and Mary Rebecca Glenn Boyd. The Boyds were a very prosperous family with strong Southern ties. Belle’s father was a soldier in the Stonewall Brigade. Several members of her family were convicted of being Confederate spies. Belle described her childhood as idyllic. She was a tomboy, strong-willed, high-spirited, and the oldest of her siblings. She loved riding horses. She once rode a horse into her home when her parents told her she was too young to attend a party they were having. Her house still stands in Front Royal, next to the Warren Rifles Museum. She was educated at the Mount Washington Female College in Baltimore, Maryland. She had her coming-out party as a debutante in Washington, D.C.

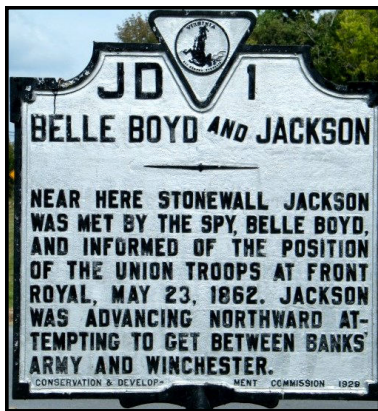
Belle, at age 17, had just returned home from Baltimore on July 4, 1861, when Union soldiers came to the hotel in Front Royal that her father ran. They had heard that she had Confederate flags in her

(con’t on page 7)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

room. In retaliation, they hung the Union flag outside her home. The Union soldiers cursed at her mother. Belle stated: "I could stand it no longer....we ladies were obliged to go armed in order to protect ourselves as best we might from insult and outrage." At one point, Belle pulled out a pistol she had hidden in her skirts, fired upon a Union soldier, and killed him. She was exonerated from punishment, but guards were positioned around her house to keep track of her activities. She was extremely good at flirting, and charmed the Union men. She watched all that was going on, and sent the information to Generals Stonewall Jackson and P.G.T. Beauregard.

In May 1862, at a local hotel, she hid in a closet, hollowed out a knothole and listened to General James Shields and his staff discussing tactics. Belle mounted a horse and rode to General Turner Ashby to tell him the information. When Jackson's men advanced to Front Royal on May 23, 1862, she rode to meet the troops, incurring bullet holes in both her skirt and purse from enemy fire. She told



Historical Marker at Front Royal noting the Boyd-Stonewall encounter.

Jackson also gave her a pass to go through his lines. An historical marker is located in Front Royal referencing her ride. Her favorite outfit was a gray frock coat, butternut kepi, and a velvet headband with the seven stars of the Confederacy. To complete her outfit, she added a pair of shoulder straps with her "rank" - Lt. Col., Fifth VA Regiment, Confederate Army.

Belle Boyd was arrested on July 29, 1862, after being reported by her lover as a spy. She was sent

to the Old Capitol Prison. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had issued a warrant for her arrest. She was far from a model prisoner, and waved Confederate flags from her window, sang Dixie, and concocted a scheme to communicate with her supporters below. A rubber ball was shot into her cell by a supporter.



Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC.

Belle would sew messages inside the ball, and throw it back outside. There must have been some pretty lax guards guarding her.

Another inquiry was later held, and she was kept at the prison until August 29, 1862, when she was exchanged at Fort Monroe. In June 1863, she was released after contracting typhoid fever. Following her recovery, she attempted to travel to England, but was stopped by a Union blockade and sent to Canada. At the time, she was carrying letters from President Jefferson Davis. She flirted with and distracted Union Naval Officer Samuel Wylde Hardinge; he took her as prisoner, but allowed the Confederate captain of the boat in which she had arrived to escape capture. Hardinge was court-martialed and discharged from the Navy. She was then sent to Boston, where she stayed at the Tremont Hotel. She was ordered never to put her foot on United States soil again or she would be shot without trial. Hardinge and Belle later married in England. She had one child with him, a daughter Grace. Hardinge died in 1866.

She married her second husband, John Swainston Hammond, in 1869, in New Orleans. They had four children – two boys Arthur and John - and

(con't on page 8)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

two girls - Byrd and Maria Isabelle. They divorced in 1884, and Belle married her *third* husband, Nathaniel Rue High, in 1885. They had no children; she was married to him until her death.

After the Civil War, Belle became an actress, traveling the country giving dramatic lectures about her exploits as a spy during the Civil War. She wrote a two-volume book entitled: *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison*, which she discussed at her lectures. She billed her show as "The Perils of a Spy."



Belle Boyd later in life, during which she promoted her book and traveled the lecture circuit.

While in Kilbourne City (now Wisconsin Dells), at a GAR Hall speaking about her book, she had a heart attack on stage and died at age 55 on June 11, 1900.

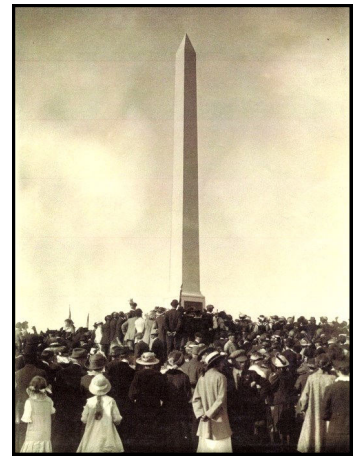
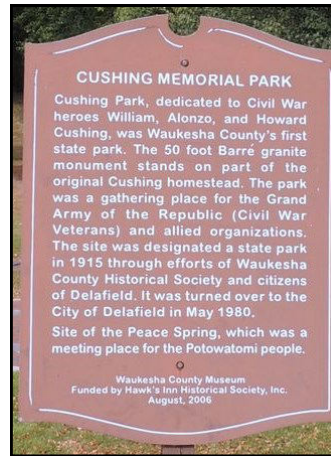
She is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells. Members of the local GAR served as her pallbearers. The monument on her grave says: "Belle Boyd, Confederate Spy, Born in Virginia, Died in Wisconsin and was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Erected by a Comrade."

During her Civil War days, she was known as 'the Cleopatra of the Secession,' 'the Siren of the Shenandoah,' 'La Belle Rebelle,' 'the Rebel Joan of Arc,' and 'Amazon of Secessia.'

Cushing Memorial Park, Delafield, WI

The birthplace of the Cushing Brothers – Alonzo, William, and Howard, is memorialized in a city park in Delafield, Wisconsin. There is a huge 50-foot "Washington Monument" type marker in the park, with a bas relief of the Cushing brothers' faces. The monument was dedicated in 1915. The tribute to the brothers reads as follows: "Alonzo, William, & Howard Cushing – Perhaps the most conspicuously daring trio of sons of one mother of any whose exploits have been noted in the places of history."

The marker further states: "Alonzo Cushing,



Above, left, the designation of Cushing Memorial Park, describing the 1915 dedication of the park, shown at right. Sign photo by Janet Greentree. Below, left, the Alonzo brothers' faces are depicted on the obelisk monument base that honors their service. Photo by Janet Greentree.



Alonzo Cushing's Medal of Honor. Photo by Janet Greentree. At right, photo of Col. Alonzo Cushing.



born 1841, died 1863, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, 4th U.S. Artillery, William B. Cushing, born 1842, died 1874, Commander, U.S. Navy, and Howard B. Cushing, born 1868, died 1874, 1st Lieutenant, 3rd U.S. Cavalry." Alonzo died at the battle of Gettysburg, at the angle, holding off Confederates while being mortally wounded, until a shot to his face killed him instantly. William led the raid on the CSS

(con't on page 9)

Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 8)

Albemarle during the Civil War. Howard was an Indian fighter in Arizona, fighting the Apaches.

After the diligent work of Margaret Zerwekh, who once lived on the Cushing property in Delafield, a posthumous Medal of Honor was awarded to Alonzo Cushing by President Barak Obama on November 6, 2014. Several Cushing family members, along with Ms. Zerwekh, were present for the ceremony in the White House. The Medal of Honor travels between Delafield, West Point, and Gettysburg. See the October, 2014 issue of the *Stone Wall* for a more complete story on Alonzo Cushing.

Ellsworth, Wisconsin

For the third Civil War connection teaser in last month's *Stone Wall*, the town of Ellsworth, Wisconsin is named for Col. Elmer Ellsworth, who was the first Union officer killed in the Civil War. He entered the Marshall House in Alexandria to take down the Rebel flag when he was shot and killed by the owner of the hotel, James W. Jackson. Jackson was, in turn, immediately killed by a companion of Ellsworth. Although Ms. Rebelle did not visit Ellsworth, it is worthy of a mention, as a Civil War related place. It seems that Ellsworth is famous for

its cheese curds, and the company that produces them is called Ellsworth Dairy Cooperative.

Ms. Rebelle added eight Civil War generals to her list of graves visited and decorated. There would have been 16, but the cemetery gate was locked in Red Wing, MN, and the road to Ripon, WI was closed for construction work. Since we were out in the farmland of WI, my sister and I decided not to pursue trying to find another way into town. I missed six generals in St. Paul, MN also, as we ran out of travel time. There is always next time!

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 420 - 169 Confederate and 251 Union. You may contact her at ilgtree@erols.com.



Col. Elmer Ellsworth in more typical Union Army dress than the famous Zouave dress he was known for before the war.

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

seniors to participate.

Our Preservation Leads Blake Myers and John Depue have continued to work on several projects, including the Rt. 28 enhancement project that widens Rt. 28 at Blackburn Ford, which endangers this unique battlefield, and with George Mason University for the preservation of the redoubt located in their parking lot. A student tour will be conducted this month by our BRCWRT Preservation leads, which was so successful last year. Again, this is an excellent opportunity for continuing our youth movement for this Round Table. BRCWRT Tour Guide lead, Scott Knepp, is also working on finalizing his 2018 tours, which he'll be able to announce to the membership in early 2018.

The BRCWRT is also looking forward to the November 11th Fairfax County History

Conference, at which we will have our booth set up. Stop by and say hello! This month (and every month in 2017) we will continue to offer for sale Ed Wenzel's *Chronology of the Civil War of Fairfax County*. This book is the perfect gift for the Civil War enthusiast on your shopping list. You can purchase the book at every meeting, or online. Ed Bearss wrote the Foreword, saying this book is a "gold mine of information...." The BRCWRT 25th Anniversary book will also be on sale at the meeting and on the Web site - another great gift idea! As the year moves on, we will be here bringing you the best Civil War lectures, tours, events and newsletters in the region, with preservation and education as a solid part of our mission!

Let us never forget the people who served, and what they did for us. God Bless all of you.

Preservation Report – (con't from page 4)

- ◇ Franklin Battlefield is being restored piece by piece: some original ground, some original contours restored, other ground reproduced as a facsimile
- ◇ Revolutionary War/ Constitutional Period Philadelphia cityscape - area around Independence Hall cleared of old 19th century buildings
- ◇ Colonial/ Revolution/ Constitutional era Philadelphia is re-emerging

II. Something is better than nothing...

- Land development follows paths that depend on unpredictable future conditions (political, economic, land use, etc.)
- Get a toehold – even a sign on a post is a start
- History field trips can be conducted based on tiny toeholds
- People love to learn about history in their neighborhoods

III. Something small can grow into something more....

- Something that exists can be added to
- Growth may be bigger, better or both
- An unpreserved site or urban decay today can become a park tomorrow

IV. Use what you have...

- Don't be too pure – 'perfection' can be the enemy of 'good enough'
- Facsimiles can be used to teach history and demonstrate preservation
- Colonial Williamsburg is properly located, but is almost entirely a facsimile
- Likewise the Jamestown Celebration replicas

V. Things that get used get saved....

- Repurposing saves historical buildings and sites
- Consider supporting repurposing even if the proposed use may seem an obnoxious one

VI. Do what you can now.....

- Write to planning bodies, governing bodies, and other stakeholder groups
- Speak before planning bodies, governing bodies, and other stakeholder groups
- Be available to the media
- Conduct history field trips to accessible sites, however minimal
- Conduct history presentations to interested audiences (Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center in Fairfax City, community clubs and organizations, etc.)

VII. Do more later.....

- Preserving options today leads to additional opportunities tomorrow
- Remain alert to opportunities

VIII. You are only beaten if you quit...

- You will lose some – tough. Press on
- Persevere - our mission is a worthy one

Pre**s**er**v**ati**o**n

A BRCWRT Statement Regarding Monuments, Memorials, Statues

The following Information Paper, written by Blake Myers and Brian McEnany and recently approved by the Executive Committee, provides Bull Run Civil War Round Table members information on the history, context, statutory provisions and other relevant considerations in order to better understand issues surrounding the status and treatment of Civil War monuments, memorials and statues in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT), a 501(3)c organization, exists to stimulate interest in the American Civil War by educating its members and the public about the military, political, economic, diplomatic, and social history of the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, including Antebellum and Reconstruction topics of interest. Educational topics may include preservation and interpretation of sites, buildings, artifacts, and memorials connected with that war. As such, we promote a better understanding of the meaning and interpretation of Civil War battlefields, memorials and sites for its members and the general public. We accomplish these objectives by promoting education of Civil War era issues, battlefields and sites and promoting their preservation by raising awareness of threats to the integrity of local and national battlefields, memorials and sites with local authorities.

History is complex, multi-faceted and often not pleasant. Civil War monuments are part of our nation's history. To some, they honor veterans and their sacrifices, to some, they honor a proud history of struggle and recovery, and to some, they represent a long and painful past, before, during, and after the Civil War. As advocates of history, we need to remember and understand the past and not attempt to judge actions taken more than a century ago by present day values.

The BRCWRT:

- Finds the recent destruction and /or removal of Civil War monuments to be ill-advised and divisive.
- Supports maintaining, protecting and preserving Civil War monuments, memorials and statues and ensuring they are readily accessible to the general public.
- Supports community-based decisions to add appropriate context to sites containing monuments, memorials or statues, and stands ready to assist, if requested.
- Supports the principle that decisions regarding the monuments, memorials and statues should rest with the communities in which they are located, subject to applicable Virginia laws, procedures and processes.



Mark A. Trbovich

President Bull Run Civil War Round Table

Book Corner – (con't from page 5)

dealing in slaves was odious and no respectable person would countenance it. It was just plain wrong.

For all our books, and authors, and studies, we don't need to intellectualize slavery. Even if every slaveholder was magnanimous and every slave well treated, the institution was profoundly contrary to our nation's principles and remains a blot on our national honor that we work, even today, to

expunge.

If slavery will admit to no generalizations, there is at least one thing I believe we can say: If we had not had it, we might have been spared a civil war.

Until next time, keep reading.

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

“Hospital Horrors” at Ben Lomond a Mix of Education & Excitement

by Paige Gibbons Backus - Photos by Christine Grubbs

With a grim history of a Civil War hospital, Ben Lomond in Manassas, VA, lends itself to a variety of opportunities that are popular during Halloween.

However, as hallowed ground, we strive to demonstrate the history that occurred at the house without turning it into a “house of horrors.”

This year, with over 30 volunteers, including several from the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, we accomplished this goal. Every year, during *Hospital Horrors*, we bring the hospital to life, illustrating the overwhelming, horrific, and saddening events that took place within the walls and on the grounds from July 21st to August 18th, 1861.

Volunteers played an integral role with this program, taking the place of soldiers wounded during the battle, civilians mourning loved ones, and a burial detail. Throughout the tours on October 28th, everyone worked tirelessly to help bring the hospital to life. Soldiers in various states of surgery, recovery, and even death were seen and



heard throughout the house, invoked by Mark Whinton, who portrayed an assistant surgeon, while Fred Eckstein, John Myers, Drew Pallo, and Michael and Tom Maples were convincing as wounded soldiers. Reverend Charles Wesley Andrews, portrayed by Jon Vrana, stood over the soldiers, attempting to comfort and aide them. Naomi Arlund's cries of grief over the death of Lt. Col. William Fitzhugh Lee echoed through the second floor, as well as Debbie Whinton's shouts of frustration outside the house for not being allowed to do what she could to help the wounded. Naomi's son Ricky's grim work at burial detail brought some visitors to tears, and Stephanie Vale helped us at our admission tent, checking in visitors and making sure they signed up for our newsletter. (Stephanie had the opportunity to attend the entire tour, so you will have to ask her what she thought!)

Through everyone's generous donation of time, effort, and passion, the event was a HUGE success! Almost every one of the 150 available spaces for the tours were filled and we heard nothing but compliments from visitors. The overpowering smells of gangrene and waste, screams of soldiers, tight spaces, and wounded reaching out to visitors for water and loved ones, created such an effect that visitors felt overwhelmed, and as though they were able to get a brief glimpse into the aftermath of war.

Additionally at this event, we saw many visitors and families who would not typically visit a historic site, which generated a lot of interest in the Civil War and its effects. Oftentimes after each tour, guides would be with the visitors for another 20 minutes, having discussions and answering questions.

With Ben Lomond's uniqueness as an immersive Civil War Hospital, this time of year gives us a great opportunity to shed some light on the past and on the aftermath the Battle of First Manassas throughout the local community.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help. I look forward to hosting this event again next year with the help of volunteers from the BRCWRT.



Photo credit: Christine Grubbs

Paige Gibbons Backus is Site Manager at Ben Lomond Historic Site and a member of

Important Camp Letterman Preservation Update

by Tim Duskin

This is an update on the status of the site of Camp Letterman General Hospital in Gettysburg, from a previous article that appeared in the October 2013 issue of *The Stone Wall*.

Of the remaining undeveloped portion of the site, the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA) has purchased eight acres. The remaining 17 acres have been purchased by S&A Homes, which seeks to develop it by building houses on it. The developer has temporarily put the development on hold because of protest from the GBPA, which is seeking to purchase it from S&A Homes for a fair market price. The GBPA seeks to add it to the eight acres it has already purchased in order to preserve all they can of Camp Letterman. They are intending to then turn the property over to the National Park Service, to be incorporated into the Gettysburg National Military Park.

In addition to being the site of Camp Letterman for over four months after the battle, Graham's battery and Nelson's brigade were there on July 3, 1863, as part of the artillery

bombardment preceding Pickett's charge. This was the left end of the Confederate line that extended all the way to the Peach Orchard on the right. Thus, it is a part of the battlefield. The land was on Major General Daniel E. Sickles' original map, used for the formation of the Gettysburg National Military Park. If this land is not saved this time, it will be developed and lost forever.

The GBPA is asking people to write to the developer to support its purchase of this land. Others who have written include James McPherson, Harold Holzer, and the Civil War Round Table of Greater Kingston, Ontario, Canada. One may write the developer at:

S&A Homes
Bob Poole, CEO
2121 Gatesburg Road
Suite 200
State College, PA 16803
Telephone: 814-231-4780

S&A Homes owns 191 acres. The GBPA is only asking to purchase 17 of those acres.

Fairfax County's 13th Annual History Conference

Saturday, November 11, 2017, 8:15am – 4:00pm

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Fairfax County is **HOST** to 275 Years of History - *A look back at our:*

Homes, Occupations, Schools and Transportation



Photos Courtesy of Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia Room Collection

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

"Honoring Our Veterans"

BG Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., USA Ret.

Executive Director, Army Historical Foundation

Boy Scout Troop Color Guard

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2017 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**_____