



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXIV, Issue 7, OCTOBER 2017

**HISTORIANS ROBERT ORRISON AND  
WILLIAM BACKUS SPEAK ON  
“THE POTOMAC RIVER BLOCKADE -  
1861-1862” AT OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Following the Confederate victory at 1st Manassas/Bull Run in July 1861, the Federals began to build their defenses around Washington City, and the Confederates began to establish strategic river blockade positions along the western side of the Potomac River. Confederate batteries across from Washington were numerous; their function was to stop Federal shipping up the Potomac designed to supply a tremendous Federal army, growing there day-by-day. As a consequence of the interference in shipping, there were also hardships inflicted on the civilian population as food and much-needed supplies began to decrease to hazardous levels in the Fall and Winter of 1861. We are so happy to have two of our members share with you at this next meeting the rest of the story of this memorable blockade.

Rob Orrison has been advancing his career in history for more than 25 years. Born and raised in Loudoun County, Virginia, Rob received his Bachelor's Degree in Historic Preservation at Longwood College (now University) and received his Master's Degree in Public History from George Mason University. Currently, Rob is the Historic Site Operations Supervisor for Prince William County. He is also a contributor to the popular blog *Emerging Civil War*; treasurer of the Historic House Museum Consortium of Washington, D.C.; a member of the Board of Directors of the Mosby Heritage Area Association; a member of the Board of Directors of Virginia Civil War Trails; and serves as the vice president of the Virginia Association of Museums. His published works include: *A Want of Vigilance: The Bristoe Station Campaign*; *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign 1863*; and - being released in January of 2018: *In A Single Blow:*

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**7 p.m. Centreville Library**

**THURSDAY, October 12, 2017**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Historians William Backus  
and Robert Orrison**

**TOPIC:**

**“THE POTOMAC RIVER  
BLOCKADE - 1861-62”**

*The Battles of Lexington and Concord and the Beginning of the American Revolution, April 19, 1775.*

Bill Backus works for the Prince William Historic Preservation Division (alongside his wife Paige). He is the Historic Site Manager at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, as well as the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. Bill also has worked for the National Park Service at Vicksburg National Military Park and the Petersburg National Battlefield.

A native of Connecticut, Bill graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a Bachelor's Degree in Historic Preservation. In 2015, Bill and Robert Orrison co-authored *A Want of Vigilance: Bristoe Station Campaign*. The book traces the campaign from the armies' camps around Orange and Culpeper, northwest through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the vital railroad route (to Centreville and back). He and Rob Orrison co-authored *War on the Potomac, 1861-1862*, an article published in the *Blue and Grey Magazine* in 2016.

Come on out at 5 p.m., prior to the meeting, and meet Rob and Bill for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant, 5805 Trinity Pkwy., Centreville, VA 20120: (703) 266-9755.

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

### Executive Committee

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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>

#### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **November 2017** issue, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, October 23, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

#### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **November 2017** issue, advertisers should please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on October 13, to Charlie Balch at: [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com)

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

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**October 12th, 2017** - William Backus and Robert Orrison - "The Potomac River Blockade 1861-62"

**November 9th, 2017** - Wayne Motts - "Fighting the Civil War: Historical Treasures of the Conflict in the Collection of the National Civil War Museum"

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

### Notice of Annual Election of Officers

During our December 14, 2017 meeting, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will conduct an election for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any member in good standing may nominate himself or herself for one of these positions, or can nominate another member in good standing. Nominations for these positions are due **NO LATER THAN October 12, 2017**, the date of our October membership meeting. At that time, nominations will be closed. Kindly submit any nominations for these positions to John De Pue, chairman of the nominating committee, via e-mail at: [jfdepue@comcast.net](mailto:jfdepue@comcast.net), or by phone at: (703) 791-3389.

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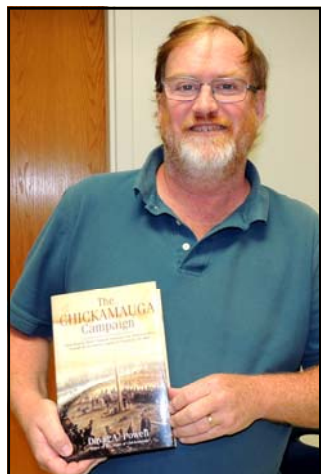
## The President's Column

### By Mark A. Trbovich

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Members,

Fall is my favorite time of the year, as the weather cools and fall colors emerge. I look forward to enjoying the great outdoors just a bit more before the winter chill sets in. The summer was an excellent season for the BRCWRT, as we held our annual picnic on September 10<sup>th</sup> and cooperated in a nationwide Civil War Congress on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Both events were outstanding, and well attended. We have steadily increased our event participation over the years, and it's all because of the great volunteers who give the effort to make it happen. I must offer a huge thank you for all who helped this summer at our events.

Our speakers for August and September brought us the outstanding presentations we had



Dave Powell, August's speaker, "wrote the book" on Chickamauga, as well as gave us a great lecture about the Western Theater battle.

Photo by Janet Greentree

looked forward to all year. In August, Dave Powell's "Battle of Chickamauga" lecture led us through the campaign, leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> bloodiest battle of the war. The way Dave took us through each day's waves of attacks proved he is one of the nation's leading experts on this battle.

Thank you, Dave, for bringing your excellent books for us to purchase - I highly recommend them for in-depth reference, and to

increase your knowledge of this battle.

September brought us Kevin Pawlak, who gave us insight into the "Battle of Antietam" campaign - this lecture, prior to our September 23<sup>rd</sup> tour of the battlefield, was a great introduction. Kevin took us through both the campaign and battle with an excellent presentation, and really interacted well with the audience. He brought his Shepherdstown book for purchase, and it also is excellent reference book! We are so happy Kevin is moving closer to our round table, so he can join us regularly at our meetings.

Don't forget - you can also "tune in" to all of our

lectures, along with PowerPoint slides, at our Web site audio archives, located at the address:

[http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/AudioArchives/Audio\\_menu.html](http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/AudioArchives/Audio_menu.html).

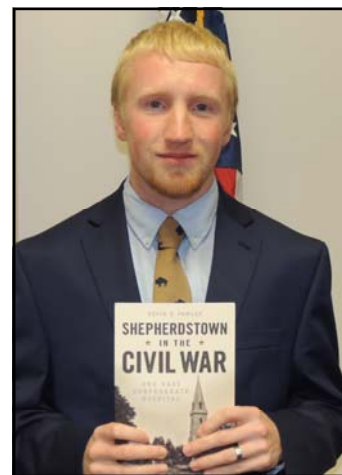
The Round Table's September 23<sup>rd</sup> tour, led by our tour guide Scott Kenepp, was well attended and wonderfully presented. We look forward to seeing photo slides at the October meeting, and want to thank Scott for his service to this round table. We are certainly looking forward to more tours next year.

Our National Archives tour was led by Kim Brace, and, as was last year's tour, it was highly attended, and enjoyed by all - especially the folks referencing material on ancestors in the war. I know a few of you found family members you didn't know about, which made the trip extra special for all. Thank you, Kim, for hosting these great tours.

October is also the first month of the Round Table's process for the 2018 election of officers, according to our by-laws. We will be bringing you information regarding this matter at the next meeting. 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. Our membership drive has concluded for the year, but I am so happy to report that we have topped 260 single and family memberships for the year. A new record for our round table! Job well done, Vice President Mark Whinton and Treasurer Mark Knowles, who lead our Membership committee efforts.

Our Scholarship Committee, led by Nancy Anwyll, has begun work on our 2018 campaign to select another scholarship winner next year. Nancy and her group are preparing to welcome and review another excellent group of candidates, - high school seniors with a passion for American

(con't on page 14)



Kevin Pawlak had us well-prepared for our recent tour of the Battle of Antietam by providing us with an excellent lecture on the topic a week earlier, at the September meeting.

Photo by Janet Greentree





## PRESERVATION REPORT

BY BLAKE MYERS AND  
JOHN DE PUE

### Route 28 Corridor Feasibility Study

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) recently completed a Route 28 Corridor Feasibility Study, with the goal of identifying infrastructure projects that will improve travel times and network reliability within the Route 28 Corridor through Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park. Public information briefings on the study were conducted on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Centreville Elementary School and on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Manassas Park Community Center. BRCWRT members Mark Trbovich, Blake Myers, John De Pue and Kim Brace attended these briefings.

The NVTa was established by the Virginia General Assembly as a regional body to develop regional transportation plans and to address transportation issues in Northern Virginia. The NVTa manages public funds for transportation projects designed to reduce congestion throughout the region. It approves and funds road infrastructure projects through its Six-Year Plan, based on priority projects submitted by NVTa jurisdictions.

The Route 28 Corridor Feasibility Study's purpose is to evaluate alternatives to relieve congestion on Route 28 (Nokesville Road/Center Street/Church Street/Centreville Road) through the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and the Yorkshire area of Prince William County; and to identify projects to be included in the County's long-range plans as well as Smart Scale prioritization consideration.

The area covered by the study is from the Route 28/Godwin Drive intersection to the Route 28/29 interchange (Fairfax County) north of the Bull Run crossing. Directly related to this study is an approved and funded Fairfax County project that will widen Route 29 to four lanes in each direction, from the Route 28/29 intersection to Bull Run (this does not include widening the existing bridge crossing Bull Run).

The Route 28 Corridor Feasibility Study was the first step in a four-step project development process envisioned, culminating with project

construction completed by 2024. The four steps are as follows:

Step1: Feasibility Study – Identification of Highest Ranked Alternative

Step 2: Complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process (18-24 months) – Selection of Preferred Alternative

Step 3: Final Design of the Preferred Alternative (36-42 months)

Step 4: Construction (48-60 months)

The feasibility study was a macro-level evaluation of alternative concepts (no initial or final designs or plans have been developed, considered or evaluated). Fifteen preliminary alternatives were initially screened using the following criteria - meeting study goals and objectives, environmental impacts, property impacts, traffic benefits and policy considerations/long-term solution. Information on the feasibility study, including study objectives, estimated project and step/phase time frames, feasibility study process, evaluation and results, and the information presented at the public information briefings, is located online at: [www.route28study.com](http://www.route28study.com).

Based on the initial screening, four alternatives were advanced for evaluation:

Alternative 2A: Godwin Drive extended to existing Route 28 south of Bull Run

Alternative 2B: Godwin Drive extended to existing Route 28 north of Bull Run

Alternative 4: Widening Route 28 on existing alignment between Liberia Avenue and the Fairfax County Line

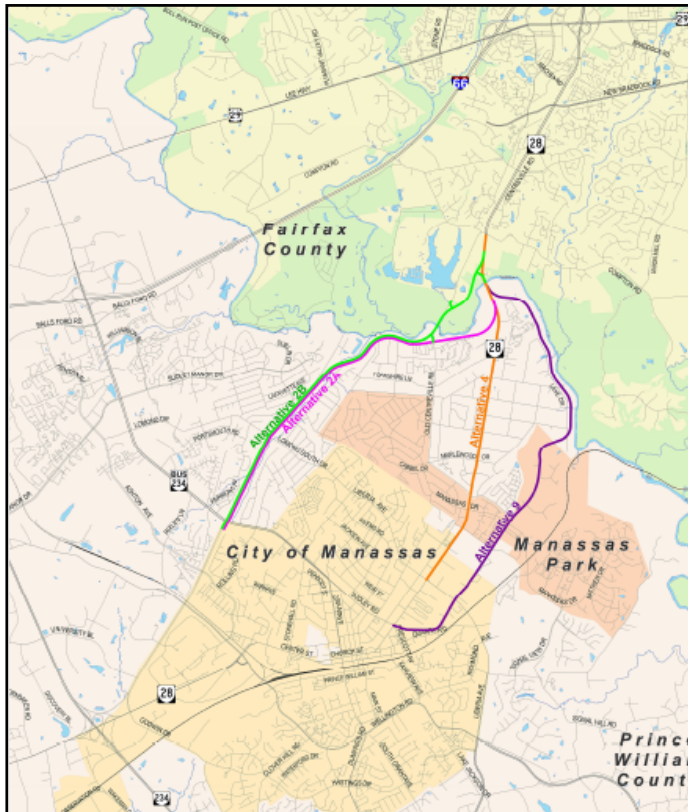
Alternative 9: Euclid Avenue extension north to Route 28 near Bull Run and south to Sudley Road/Route 234 intersection

These four alternatives were evaluated using the following criteria – project cost (estimated/planning level costs), project benefits, environmental impacts (initial assessment), and socio-economic / right of way impacts. Based on this evaluation, Alternative 2B emerged as the highest-ranked alternative (feasibility study result/product).

Based on information provided at the public briefing meetings and the results of the feasibility study, BRCWRT representatives raised several concerns. The highest ranked alternative,

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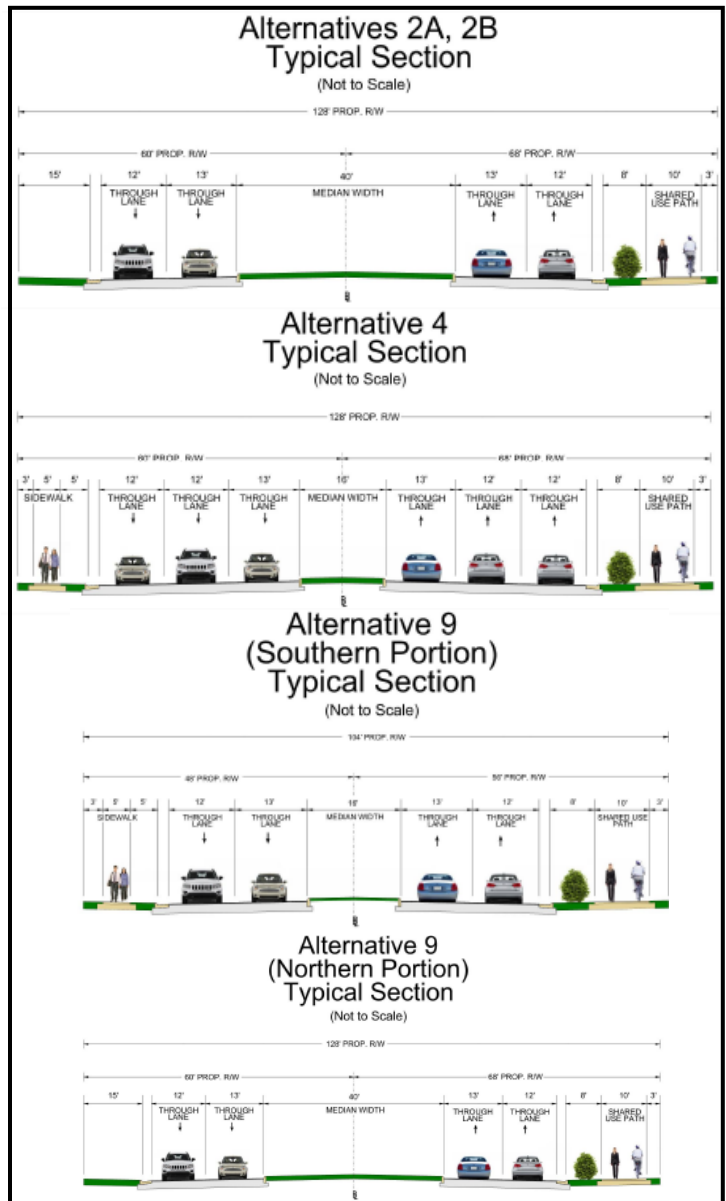
## Preservation Report – (con't from page 4)



Alternative 2B, would have significant negative impacts on the Bull Run Regional Park, including core acreage of the Blackburn's Ford Battlefield (June 18, 1861). The proposed route's northern section cuts through a significant portion of Bull Run Regional Park land and core battlefield area, as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC). Alternative 2B is incompatible with the historic and scenic character of the Bull Run Regional Park and would significantly degrade the integrity of the Blackburn's Ford Battlefield, the quality of the visitor experience and the area's scenic and historic view shed. These concerns are shared by NOVA Parks Director, Paul Gilbert.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks), the Civil War Trust (CWT) and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) recently submitted letters to the Executive Committee of the Route 28 Study Feasibility Study documenting these concerns and their non-support of Alternative 2B.

The next step in the NVTa process will include:  
a) completion of the National Environmental Policy Act Process and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), b) additional public



comment and c) selection of the preferred alternative.

What can BRCWRT members do?

- Submit comments to the Route 28 Study Committee (comment sheet available online at [www.route28study.com](http://www.route28study.com)) - comments were due by September 27<sup>th</sup>, but late submittals will likely be accepted.
- Participate in future public meetings that will be scheduled during the upcoming environmental assessment, EIS preparation and selection of the preferred alternative phase.
- Stay attuned and attentive to future developments and updates.



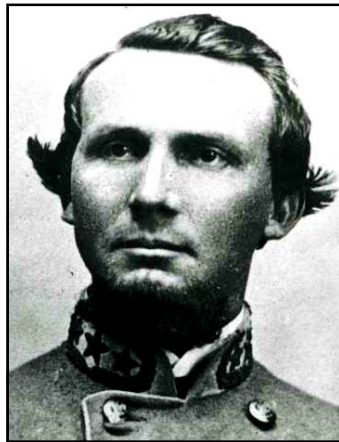
## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

### Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist, CSA

By Janet Greentree

After listing twenty-four odd first names of generals in the Civil War in the June-July, 2017 issue of the *Stone Wall*, it is time to profile one of those with a very different name. States Rights Gist was my choice to be featured in this month's article.

States Rights Gist, known as States, was born on September 3, 1831, on Wyoming Plantation in Union, South Carolina, to Nathaniel & Elizabeth Lewis McDaniel Gist. States Rights was the 7<sup>th</sup> son and 9<sup>th</sup> child of his parents. Wyoming Plantation is about three miles from Jonesville, SC. The home still stands, but is privately owned. The current owner moved the house about a half-mile from its original spot. His great-



Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist



The house on Wyoming Plantation where S. R. Gist was born.

great grandfather, William Gist, was a brother to General Mordecai Gist of the Revolutionary War, who fought in the battle of Camden in 1780 and also the battle of Combahee. He was present when General Cornwallis surrendered in Yorktown in 1781.

Mordecai was also credited with saving the life of George Washington twice when they were both surveying in Ohio. Mordecai named two of his children Independence and States Rights, so States Rights was a family name

before it became my subject's name. Our States Rights' brother, Nathaniel Jr., had a vision of his brother's death on the battlefield while on his own deathbed in 1864.

Young States was first educated at Mount Zion Academy in Winnsboro, SC, learning Latin, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, and Physics. He graduated from South Carolina College, now known as the University of South Carolina, in 1852. He attended Harvard Law School, but did not graduate. He instead went back to Union, SC, passed the bar, and partnered with William Munro in the practice of law. He married Jane Margaret Adams on May 6, 1863. Her father was James Hopkins Adams, a governor of South Carolina from 1854-56.

S. R. Gist became active in the secession movement, served in the state militia as a captain; an aide-de-camp of Governor Hopkins, and in 1856 became a brigadier general in the South Carolina Militia. In 1858, his cousin Governor William H. Gist appointed him as an "especial" aide-de-camp. During this time, S. R. lived in the Governor's mansion with his cousin. In October of 1860, Governor Gist sent States to visit six other Southern governors to seek support for secession, just prior to Abraham Lincoln being elected president on November 6, 1860.

In December, 1860, South Carolina's new Governor, Francis Pickens, appointed States as state adjutant and inspector general. He also acquired weapons for South Carolina, and men for the Confederate Army. After the fall of Fort Sumter, Gist accompanied Governor Pickens and General P.G.T. Beauregard for the raising of the South Carolina flag and the Confederate flag over the fort. In July 1861, he was under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston; he served as an aide-de-camp to General Barnard Bee. Gist took over for General Bee after he was killed at First Manassas. Gist was slightly wounded during that battle, as well.

On March 20, 1862, he was appointed a brigadier general on the recommendation of Confederate Senator James Chestnut. He commanded the James Island Military District and

(con't on page 7)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

was responsible for the coastal defenses of South Carolina. He fought at Vicksburg (where there is a statue of him, shown at right); also at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Atlanta (where he was wounded in his hand), and at Franklin, where his life ended.

General Gist is one of six generals who died either on the field or in a field hospital at Franklin. Four of them were laid out on the porch of the



Photos of the six generals who fell at Franklin - 1<sup>st</sup> row, top (l to r):- Patrick Cleburne, John Carpenter Carter and John Adams; bottom row - Otho Strahl, States Rights Gist and William Granberry.

Photo by Janet Greentree



Carnton Plantation's porches, where four Confederate generals lay in repose amongst the dead of the Battle of Franklin, TN.

Photo by Janet Greentree

house at Carnton Plantation, which was being used as a hospital – Generals John Adams, Patrick Cleburne, William Granberry, and Otho Strahl. General John Carpenter Carter was also killed at Franklin. Inside Carnton are pictures of the six generals killed at Franklin on November 30, 1864.

Ms. Rebelle has come across four versions of



Gist's death - account no. 1 states: two men from his staff, Captain H.D. Garden and Lieutenant Frank Trenholm, stated that "he rode to the front after ordering a charge and waving his hat to the 24<sup>th</sup>, rode away in the smoke of battle, never more to be seen by the men he commanded on so many fields. His horse was shot, and he was leading the right of the brigade on foot when he fell, pierced through the heart."



Depiction of the Battle of Franklin, where the cadre of the South's remaining generals was decimated.

Another account states: "He was killed leading his brigade during a charge on the field at Franklin during Hood's desperate attack on the city in November of 1864... General Gist's horse was wounded and Gist dismounted. He led his men forward and was shot several times. He was carried from the battle to a field hospital and died later that evening."

The third version comes from the book *Five Tragic Hours, the Battle of Franklin*, by James Lee McDonough and Thomas L. Connelly. The authors uncovered an account of Gist's body servant; according to the enslaved man, "Uncle Wiley"

(con't on page 8)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

Howard of South Carolina: "The wounded general was taken to a field hospital on the far left of the Confederate line. Gist died there on the night of November 30<sup>th</sup>. The next morning, the faithful servant remained with the corpse as it was taken to the residence of William White, where Gist was buried in the yard under a large cedar tree." According to the authors: "The house where Gist died was on the far western side of the battlefield, almost two miles west of the Carter house. The William White home fronted on the Boyd Mill Road."

The last version is etched in stone at a marker for General Gist at Winstead Hill in Franklin



(see below). The marker reads: "Having his horse shot from under him, Gist sprinted for the locust abatis in his front.

Advancing to within a few yards of the abatis, Gist went down with a bullet to the chest. He died the next morning at

The Harrison House. He was buried, first in a private cemetery in Franklin, then and finally, at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbia, South Carolina."

To show how long news took to get to soldiers' homes, the Macon Telegraph of December 19, 1864, had a small article stating: "General S.R. Gist – The Columbian Guardian says: 'In the list of officers reported killed in the battle near Franklin, we notice the name of Brigadier-General S.R. Gist. We caution our readers not to put too much confidence in the report. It seems probable that if it were true, some information of the fact would have been received by his relatives and friends here.'"

A partial funeral announcement was published in the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research; it reads as follows: "The friends and acquaintances of States Rights Gist, deceased and the Members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and of Union Kilwinning Lodge No. 4, are requested to attend his funeral 3 o'clock, this afternoon, at the



Gen. Gist's gravesite in Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery, Charlestown SC.

Photo by Janet Greentree

late residence of the deceased, No. 5 Meeting Street (Charleston, SC). The Members of the State Society in Cincinnati, are invited to attend as Mourners the Funeral of States Gist Esq. from his late residence No. 5 Meeting Street at 3 o'clock this afternoon." The interesting thing about all this is that Gist was first buried in Franklin. He was disinterred and his body taken to Charleston for his funeral. Then his body was taken to Columbia, SC, by some unknown means for interment in the Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery. It is always amazing how many times people of the Civil War era, especially KIA, were disinterred and reinterred. In modern times Columbia is 115 miles from Charleston. General Gist was 33 years old and left no direct descendants.

As a teaser for you all, Ms. Rebelle is heading to Minnesota and Wisconsin for another great "fact-finding" trip. As well as identifying and studying 18 Civil War generals buried in those two states, three other interesting matters have emerged from my research for the trip. However, you are all going to have to wait and see what they are!

**NOTE:** Ms. Rebelle's hobby is traveling the country finding and honoring the graves of our 1,016 Civil War generals. So far, she has located and photographed 420 - 169 Confederate and 249 Union. You may contact her at [jlqtree@erols.com](mailto:jlqtree@erols.com).



# Ox Hill Battlefield Park Soldiers' Monuments Update

by Blake Myers

As previously reported, the long-awaited installation of the Union and Confederate soldiers' monuments at Ox Hill Battlefield Park, and the previously announced dedication ceremony scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, were "postponed indefinitely" by Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) officials on July 11. BRCWRT representatives met on August 29<sup>th</sup> with FCPA Director Kirk Kincannon and members of his staff to discuss the status of, and plans for, installing the soldiers' monuments in the park.

The subject monuments were approved by the Park Authority in 2005. They consist of memorials for the Union and Confederate soldiers who fought in the September 1, 1862 Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill – the only major battle to occur in Fairfax County. Each monument is an obelisk mounted on a pedestal with appropriate text to the memory of the soldiers. The side panels of the monuments are inscribed with the designations of the corps and divisions who met on the field of battle. The rear panels of the monuments are inscribed with verses from the 1867 poem, 'The Blue and the Gray,' by Francis M. Finch. Each monument is to be installed in a small plaza enclosed by granite posts linked by a pipe railing. Each post bears the name of a state, nine Union and seven Confederate, from which these soldiers came. Both monuments and the state posts have been manufactured and are currently in storage in North Carolina.

The BRCWRT was represented at the August 29th meeting by President Mark Trbovich and members Charlie Balch, Ed Wenzel and Blake Myers. In addition to FCPA Director Kincannon, FCPA staff members in attendance were Sarah Baldwin (FCPA Deputy Director), Judy Pederson (Public Information Officer), Liz Crowell (Cultural Resources Manager), Cindy Walsh (Director, Resource Management) and Aimee Vosper (Deputy Director, Chief of Business Development).

The meeting was very positive. BCWRT President Trbovich provided an overview of BRCWRT and its Civil War education and preservation focus and initiatives, and Ed Wenzel provided an overview/summary of the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly, as well as the history/evolution of Ox Hill Battlefield Park. We shared that the BRCWRT strongly supports implementing the approved Ox Hill Battlefield Park plan, including installing the two soldiers' monuments on this

hallowed ground. Director Kincannon recognized the BRCWRT's credibility and its long-standing support for, and involvement in, the establishment of the park, particularly during the four-year planning, design and interpretation effort.

BRCWRT representatives recognized the efficacy of FCPA's postponement decision, given the August events in Charlottesville, and the subsequent reactions and controversy throughout Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, and across the nation - the current environment not being conducive to installing and dedicating new monuments. Director Kincannon stated that FCPA's primary concerns were citizen safety and taking care not to create an opportunity for outside groups to stage protests and confrontations, and that the 'postponement' decision was FCPA's implementation of a 'pause' strategy. The FCPA intends to use the 'pause' period to allow time for emotions to 'cool;' to consult with the National Park Service to learn their strategies for installing and interpreting monuments in battlefield parks, and to develop a plan and timeline for installing the Ox Hill soldiers' monuments.

Director Kincannon indicated the FCPA's intent is to fully implement the plan for the park, as envisioned in the Ox Hill Battlefield Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan approved in January 2005. The two soldiers' monuments, as envisioned in the plan, are key interpretive elements in the park, and there is no advocacy within FCPA to revisit the approved plan. Given the recent controversies surrounding Confederate monuments and the ensuing contentious environment, timing of the monuments installation is key. BRCWRT representatives committed to continuing to partner with FCPA in this effort, and to work with and assist the FCPA staff to help resolve any outstanding issues and implement the approved plan.

Pursuant to BRCWRT's request, FCPA Director Kincannon suggested that we meet again in April 2018 to assess the situation, provide updates on FCPA's research and information gathering initiatives and discuss the way forward. We concurred, and agreed to maintain communications with the FCPA staff as additional information becomes available and the environment evolves. Stay tuned for future updates.



*Lee's Last Move North*  
**The Battle of Bristoe Station**  
*Commemorative Anniversary Events*



**October 14-15, 2017**

**Battle of Bristoe Station Anniversary Weekend Tours and Luminary**

*11 a.m.— 6 p.m.; Luminary begins at 7 p.m.*

Commemorate the 154th Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station.

Weekend events include living history demonstrations, evening luminary, walking tours and educational programs for all ages.

**October 14**

**154th Anniversary Battle of  
Auburn, "In Time" Tour**

*9 a.m.; Free \$5 suggested donation*

Join historians for a special tour in-time walking tour on battlefield land that is not normally accessible to the public.

**October 22**

**Buckland Mills Caravan Tour**

*9 a.m.; Free, donations encouraged*

Join local historians for a special caravan tour exploring what was later called "The Buckland Races". Stops will include Greenwich, Buckland, New Baltimore, and more.

**Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park**

The parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049

[www.pwcgov.org/bristoe](http://www.pwcgov.org/bristoe)



## Stepping into the Past

BY RACHEL LUCKENBAUGH, BA '16, AND COLLEEN KEARNEY RICH, MFA '95

*NOTE: The following article was published in The Mason Spirit, a magazine for the George Mason University community; you can read the original, with photos, at: <https://spirit.gmu.edu/2017/08/stepping-into-the-past/> and leave a complimentary comment.*

A group of Mason students took a trip to an important Civil War site and never left the Fairfax Campus.

On a beautiful November afternoon, George Mason University history professor Christopher Hamner and students from his HIST 373 The Civil War and Reconstruction class ventured into the woods at the edge of Parking Lot K. After a few minutes, they came to what is known as a redoubt, a circular earthen fortification constructed and used during the Civil War. Though covered with underbrush, the structure remains intact and is clearly visible—a valuable historic site, right under our noses, hidden in the woods behind a parking lot.

The tour was organized by members of the Centreville, Virginia-based Bull Run Civil War Round Table. The redoubt stands on a raised site called Farr's Crossroads, which is at the intersection of Braddock and Ox Roads. First constructed by the Fifth Alabama Volunteer Infantry under the command of Colonel Robert Rodes in June 1861, a number of different Union and Confederate military forces occupied the fort over the next few years, including a brigade led by Stonewall Jackson.

"You have to use your imagination," says Hamner, who plans to make visits to the redoubt part of the syllabus for the Civil War course. "You are out along Braddock Road and traffic is going by. Both [roads] have historical significance, and you can see why it would have been valuable to have command of that [intersection] and fortify it."

The redoubt is one of the reasons that corner of campus looks the way it does and has not been changed. The site once contained scores of artifacts, but collectors had removed most of them before Fairfax County officially identified the site in 1979. In the decades since, a handful of local researchers, including those in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, have conducted research on the site.

It was the Round Table members who approached History and Art History Department chair Brian Platt a year ago and told him about the redoubt. Platt was excited about the opportunity the historic site provided for history students.

"Our hope is to actually organize a historic preservation project on the site," says Platt. "First, though, we wanted to raise awareness of it and make it into a learning experience for the students."

The leaders of the tour—Brian McEnany, Blake Myers, and Jim Lewis of the Round Table—explained how the site fits within the larger context of the Civil War in Northern Virginia. The intersection actually dates back to colonial times.

The Round Table members also discussed the nearby transportation routes used by the soldiers and the "corduroy road" route that was constructed just before the war and traveled by both Union and Confederate forces. Named for their resemblance to the fabric, corduroy roads were made of tree trunks.

In December 2015, a well-preserved portion of the corduroy road was discovered during public works construction on Ox Road adjacent to the historic intersection. Lewis brought along some pieces of a corduroy road for the students to examine. He believes the road was used as a major pathway during the war.

"It is a privilege to live where we live," says Hamner. "I grew up in Wisconsin, and there is no Civil War history there. This Round Table group has gone above and beyond. It is truly a labor of love for them. Their generosity with our students is just terrific."

The Round Table is interested in preserving the site and making it part of the Civil War Trails project so more people would know about the redoubt and Fairfax's rich history.

(con't on page 14)



## Perspectives on Civil War Monuments, North and South

by Ed Wenzel

Something to think about: The American Civil War, with an estimated 750,000 dead (based on the latest study of census records) <sup>1</sup>, was fought by a nation of 31 million people. Only 5.5 million of them (18%) were Confederates (there were also 3.6 million blacks, slave and free, in the Confederacy) <sup>2</sup>. If that war was fought today with our current population of 320 million, it would equate with the taking of 7,800,000 American lives. Today, we're shocked if 10 or 15 of our soldiers or Marines are killed in a single day in Afghanistan. But the Civil War killed 4 to 7 times more people than the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.<sup>3</sup> Americans today have little understanding of the horrific death toll in the Civil War, or of why the war's survivors felt it their solemn duty to erect monuments.

Had Abraham Lincoln known the ultimate cost of the war, would he have ordered the armed invasion of the seceding states to force their adherence to the Union? Abolitionist orator, Wendell Phillips, had argued strongly that the South had every right to secede and should be permitted to leave in peace. That would end the protections guaranteed to the slave states by the U.S. Constitution.

By secession, the Confederacy would surrender its interest in the U.S. territories and forfeit all benefits of the Fugitive Slave Law. The South would lose all protections of the National Government in defending against assaults, whether by legislative enactments of other states or by servile insurrections. Thus, peaceful disunion was the key to the eventual downfall of slavery and its ultimate abolition. [Having argued that, however, Phillips (after Ft. Sumter) supported Lincoln and a war to "obliterate" and "overwhelm the despotic South.."] <sup>4, 5, 6</sup>

Lincoln of course, could not foresee the degree of carnage and destruction required to save the Union. Thus, he invaded Virginia and began the costliest and bloodiest war in American history. Could another course have brought down slavery without the carnage? Could the deaths and sacrifices of so many millions in the North and South have been avoided and slavery ended over time without the butchery? Radical abolitionists said no, and clamored for war. Their moral hatred of slaveholders extended to the whole section, but 67% of the white population consisted of those who never owned slaves and

whose family members never owned slaves. That 67% would furnish two-thirds of the troops for the Confederate armies whose principle focus was to defend their States and homes and repel the invaders.<sup>2</sup>

Northern transplants to Virginia often wonder why monuments honoring Confederate soldiers, generals, and sacrifices are so cherished here. This is what they fail to understand: The uncivil War Between the States was a horrific slaughter that held the Union together by force. In the end, the war ended slavery, but it also destroyed the South economically, reduced its infrastructure to ruin, and killed or crippled the flower of its manhood. In some places, the resulting bitterness would last for generations, as much of the South remained a poor, agricultural backwater well into the twentieth century. That was the unforeseen consequence of Lincoln's military invasion. Defeated and subdued, stripped of everything but their honor and self-respect, Southerners built memorials to mourn and honor their dead, their heroes, and their "lost cause" struggle for independence. And they had every right to do so, lest their descendants forget the terrible cost.

The North erected monuments too, in remembrance of their heroic struggle to save the Union. They had suffered heavily as Confederate armies inflicted fearful casualties. The bloody butcher's bill was paid in full by both sides. Throughout the North and South, statues or monuments stand in courthouse squares and city parks in memory of sacrifices made, of heroes honored. The loss to America in human life and wealth was staggering. Americans paid an appallingly high price, but that terrible struggle was the crucible that forged the United States into a modern world power.

The Blue and the Gray will never be forgotten. Their monuments remind us not only of courage, bravery, and duty performed, but of the enormous price paid for human failures and the sin of slavery. Those virtues, the terrible cost, and the ultimate emancipation of fellow Americans are the true legacies of the American Civil War. It's part of our history and heritage. The battlefields of that epic

(con't on page 14)

## WHO IS THAT YOUNG CAVALRYMAN?

by Sandra Cox

Who is that young cavalryman on the front page of the Oct. 1 issue of the Fredericksburg *Free Lance Star's* Region Section? That's the BRCWRT's youngest member, 6-year-old Ben Holtzer,



who is learning to wield a saber from Charles McMahon, reenactor for the 1<sup>st</sup> NC cavalry, Co. D.

Mom Julie brought brothers, Ben, a third grader, and nine-year-old Bryan, now a high school freshman, to the Civil War Trust's Sept. 30 'Generation' event at Fleetwood Hill entitled "Cavalry Charge At Brandy Station."

Historian Bud Hall described the June 9, 1863 cavalry battle to over 200 spectators including 60 children where more than 20,000 mounted Union and Confederate troops engaged in the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America. About 80 reenactors charged, regrouped and charged Fleetwood Hill again.

This event and others held by the Civil War Trust are designed to encourage parents, grandparents and other relatives to share their passion for history with the kids. Other activities included marching commands, the proper use of a saber, respond to bugle calls, etc. The hands-on event stresses teamwork, leadership, ethics and responsibility.

*Photo used by permission of Mike Morones of the Free Lance Star.*

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

Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for  
new or renewed BRCWRT members:

◆ Adam Lehman  
◆ Jonathan Patrick

◆ Jerry Smith  
◆ William Canfield

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

history - with special emphasis on the Civil War. Please continue to spread the word to your family and friends, encouraging them to visit the Scholarship page on our Web site, ensuring that many seniors participate in vying for the award.

Our Preservation Leads Blake Myers and John De Pue have been keeping tabs on several projects, including the Route 28 enhancement project, which would widens Route 28 at the Blackburn Ford battlefield. This possible revamp option critically endangers this battlefield. We have sent a letter to VDOT with our total rejection of this option (2B). Blake and John are also working with George Mason University for the preservation of the redoubt existing in their parking lot. The pair will lead a tour with students this fall, as the last tour we conducted last year was so successful. A great article about the event was featured in a campus publication, which we all appreciated. This is an excellent opportunity for continuing our "youth

movement" for this round table.

Again, this month and every month in 2017, 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. Six years in the making, I believe it is 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. Ed Bearss wrote the Foreword and said this book is a "gold mine of information...." The BRCWRT 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book will also be on sale at the meeting and on the Web site - another great gift idea! As the years move forward, 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.

## BRCWRT at GMU – (con't from page 11)

"We have a lot of interest in public history and historic preservation among our students," says Platt. "I am excited by the prospect of our students having the opportunity to work with local historians on such a preservation project."

*\*Please note that the Stonewall Brigade (5 regiments) did not encamp "at" Farr's Cross Roads, though at least one regiment was nearby. See Ed Wenzel's chronology, pages 163, 166, and 167. The cited sources say or infer that the encampment was in the vicinity of the Courthouse and Farr's Cross Roads west of the Ox Road. One source says his regiment "marched near Fairfax Station." — Editor*

## Perspective on Monuments – (con't from page 12)

struggle were consecrated by blood and deeds. By preserving their monuments and the hallowed ground of their great conflict, we bequeath to future generations visible reminders of the tremendous sacrifices of those whose destiny it was to settle the great issues of the 1860s. North and South, they were all Americans.

<sup>1</sup> Hacker, Dr. David J., Study of Pre-war and Post-war Census Data, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Library of Congress, *Civil War Desk Reference*, p 665-668; Census Results for 1860, on-line

<sup>3</sup> Estimated dead: 105,000 to 200,000 thru Dec. 1945 (on-line statistics)

<sup>4</sup> Stewart, James B., *Wendell Phillips, Liberty's Hero*, p 210-223

<sup>5</sup> Munford, Beverley B., *Virginia's Attitude Toward Slavery and Secession*, p 215-216, 298

<sup>6</sup> Heidler & Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, p 1513



# BRCWRT Members Enjoy BBQ Picnic at The Winery at Bull Run

Photos by Janet Greentree and Nancy Olds

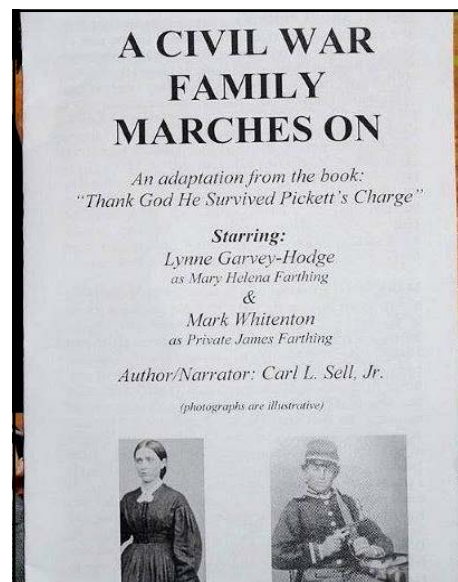
The Second Annual Bull Run Civil War Picnic held recently at The Winery at Bull Run was a resounding success, providing an afternoon of good food, moderate drink and great companionship. Shown here are some of the good sports who came out to enjoy the perfect weather, the unique historical context and the beautiful scenery at the event.



Photo above, (left l to r): Gwen Wyttenbach and Pete Andrews are enjoying the beautiful day at the BRCWRT Picnic; in middle photo above (l to r): BRCWRT stalwarts Pres. Mark Trbovich and Ed Wenzel - two pillars of our great organization - take time to share the great BBQ repast; in photo at top right: musician John Vrana played some spirited tunes to set the happy mood.



At left (l to right): Carl Sell, Jr., Lynne Garvey Hodge and Mark Whitenton presented a great play (see program at right) highlighting Carl's ancestors and their experience during the Civil War, and after. Based on his recently-published book, characters Mary Helena Farthing (Lynne) and Pvt. James Farthing (Mark) provided a heartwarming and poignant look into the past. The players were worthy thespians, adding to the enjoyment of the day.



The success of the recent 2017 BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery at Bull Run can be seen by the huge crowd that attended; the BBQ was delicious, the weather was grand and the fellowship shared will be forever a fond memory.



## BRCWRT Picnic – (con't from page 15)



Above, left: BRCWRT Executive Board admiring the fabulously-decorated cakes provided by “Cake Ladies” Sandy Iasiello & Deanna Bailey; and speaking of great CW ladies—above right (l to r), are: Nancy Olds and Debbie Whitenton. Below, left, adorable brothers (l to r) Bryan and Ben Holzer were on hand to enjoy the day with their CW colleagues; Below, middle: Ed Wenzel (back, right) anchored a table of happy diners at The Winery; and below, right: Mark Whitenton (a.k.a Pvt. James Farthing) brings guests a fine rendition of BRCWRT member Carl Sell, Jr.’s ancestor.



In photo at far left, an elegant couple strolls the grounds at The Winery, adding to the mid-1860's ambience; at near left (l to right) are: BRCWRT Planner Par Excellent Jim Lewis, Stone Wall Editor Emerita Sandra Cox and Ms. Rebelle (Janet Greentree)

# BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

## *COL. JOHN S. MOSBY*

Saturday, December 2, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Warrenton Cemetery



Please join the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society in celebrating the birthday of the legendary Confederate Partisan Ranger, John Singleton Mosby, at his final resting place in Warrenton Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following brief comments about Colonel Mosby and an opportunity to take photos and walk around the cemetery, we will gather at Sibby's Restaurant\* to enjoy BBQ with all the fixin's at 11:30 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you and spending a few hours of friendship and history together!

If you wish to attend, please fill out the form below and send it, along with payment, to SMHS's Treasurer Janet Greentree at 5405 Midship Court, Burke, VA 22015. Cost per person will be \$25.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO JANET GREENTREE, 5405 MIDSHIP COURT, BURKE, VA 22015

\*Sibby's Restaurant - 11 S 2nd St, Warrenton, VA 20186



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## 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\_\_\_\_\_