



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVII, Issue 5, JUNE-JULY 2020

**The July 11 BRCWRT Tour of the Kernstown Battlefield has been POSTPONED**

## **HISTORIAN RICHARD QUEST SPEAKS ON "I HELD LINCOLN - A UNION SAILOR'S JOURNEY HOME" AT THE JUNE 11 MEETING**

Lt. Benjamin Loring (1824–1902) lived the life of an 'everyman' Civil War sailor. Loring was a sailor who wanted to ensure that his men survived their ordeal and that he could again report for duty, where the biggest story of his life awaited him. Covering almost a year of Loring's service, *"I Held Lincoln: A Union Sailor's Journey Home"* (Potomac Books, May 2018) describes the lieutenant's command of the gunboat *USS Wave*, at the Battle of Calcasieu Pass; the surrender of his ship; and his capture by the Confederates. Loring was incarcerated in Camp Groce, a deadly Confederate prison in Texas, where he endured horrific conditions and abuse. Loring escaped twice. Scrambling for 10 days behind enemy lines, he was recaptured just a few miles from freedom. After an arduous second escape, he finally reached Union lines. There is so much more to his story – he later found himself a player at Ford's Theater during one of the most crucial events in American history.

Presenting this fascinating talk is Dr. Richard E. Quest, a former dean and vice president of several colleges in New York State. Quest has appeared on the *Author's Voice* in Chicago and was featured as a guest on *Civil War Talk Radio*. He has been a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table; served as a Civil War Battlefield Guide at the Ball's Bluff Regional Battlefield Park, and served on the Board of Directors of the Mosby Heritage Area Association. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Anthropology and Social Sciences from the State University Center at Binghamton, NY, and completed his Doctorate in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**7 p.m. LIVE via  
~ Zoom and Facebook ~**

**THURSDAY, June 11, 2020**

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
Historian Richard Quest**

**TOPIC:**

**"I Held Lincoln - A Union  
Sailor's Journey Home"**

**THURSDAY, July 9, 2020**

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
Author and NPS Historian  
Emeritus Ed Bearss**

**~ Subject to Change ~**

## **June 11th/July 9th Meetings Going Forward -- Virtually!**

The Round Table's June 11 and July 9 regular meetings will take place... in your house! The meetings will telecast live via **Zoom** and **Facebook** our scheduled speakers Richard Quest and the great Ed Bearss. Viewers will be able to submit questions via a "chat-box."



The meeting will still take place at 7 p.m. - find the instructions for connecting to the meeting posted on the BRCWRT Facebook and Web site pages.

"See" you at the next meeting!

## BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

**President:** Mark Whitenon, mark.whitenon@gmail.com, 703-795-8759

**Past President:** Mark Trbovich, civilwarnut@comcast.net, 703-361-1396

**Vice-President:** Greg Wilson, greg@gregwilsonconsulting.com, 202-494-0652

**Treasurer:** Joe Young, josephyoung2901@gmail.com, 703.281.7935

**Secretary:** John Pearson, brcwrt2009@gmail.com, 703.475.1943

**At Large:** Jim Lewis, John De Pue, Drew Pallo

**Marketing:** Stephanie Vale, brcwrtmarketing@gmail.com

**Membership:** Greg Wilson, greg@gregwilsonconsulting.com, 202-494-0652

**Preservation:** Blake Myers, jb11thva@cox.net

**Student Scholarship:** Nancy Anwyll (njanwyll@verizon.net), Brian McEnany and Charlie Balch

**Education:** Brian McEnany, bmcenany@cox.net; Nancy Anwyll, njanwyll@verizon.net

**Field Trips:** Doug Horhota, oog1775@hotmail.com

**Webmaster:** Alan Day, webmaster@bullruncwrt.org

**Graphic Design:** Drew Pallo, dpallo3@verizon.net

**Fundraising Chair:** Charlie Balch, cabalch@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Nadine Mironchuk, nadine1861@hotmail.com

**Newsletter Team:** Saundra Cox, Mark Whitenon, 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 **August-September 2020 issue**, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, July 20, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August-September 2020 issue**, advertisers - please click on "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on **July 10**, to Charlie Balch at: [BRCWRTads@gmail.com](mailto:BRCWRTads@gmail.com)

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

### JOIN US AT CARRABBA'S

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early to dinner? Join BRCWRT members and their monthly guest speakers for good food and camaraderie. Currently, we gather prior to each meeting around 5 p.m. at Carraba's Italian Grill, located just across Lee Highway from the Centreville Regional Library.

## UPCOMING 2020 MEETINGS

(Virtual - until further notice)

**June 11:** Author and Historian Richard Quest - "Held Lincoln; A Union Sailor's Journey Home"

**July 9:** Author and NPS Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss - **Subject to Change**

**August 13:** Author Historian Chris Mackowski - "Grant's Last Battle - Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant"

**September 10:** Historian Kristen Pawlak - "Battle of Wilson Creek, MO - Aug 1861"

**October 8:** Professor of History Noah Cincinnati - "Capitalism: 1830-1860"

**November 12:** Historian David Dixon - "The Lost Gettysburg Address"

**December 10:** Historian Ron Beavers - "Arlington House - The Last Battle of the Civil War"

### Have You Paid Your BRCWRT Dues Yet?

Don't 'pull a McClellan' and stall around sending in your membership support to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table!! Do it right now!! - A. Lincoln

### In This Issue

<b>President's Column</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Scholarship Winner Named</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>BRCWRT Events Calendar</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Ms. Rebelle</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>BRCWRT Does Virtual Class</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Preservation Corner</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>New Book on Phil Kearny</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>The Book Corner</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Ox Hill Battle App Launching</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>Edward C. Trexler Passes</b>	<b>Page 17</b>
<b>New Civil War Books</b>	<b>Page 17</b>



## The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

### Fellow BRCWRT members -

In looking ahead, we are not sure when Northern Virginia will move into the appropriate 'Phase' to enable us to again have library meetings and in-person field trips. Even when the Centerville Regional Public Library opens for us, which does not appear will be before September, we will be taking an e-mail survey of the membership to see how many will actually come to the library. In the meantime, we will be exploring the options for continuing to have live presentations of the monthly meetings available by your phone or computer, as well as recorded on our Web site and Facebook page. We will not be offering in-person meetings and tours until it is prudent to do so, based on governmental mandates and medical advice.

In addition to our concerns for the public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all aware that our country is in social turmoil. Once again, anger and frustration over racial injustice have reminded all of us that there is much need for healing and change. Our own interests in the Civil War have given us all a better understanding of the causes of today's serious racial issues. However, the current atmosphere has been a challenge to the preservation of local history.

In that connection, we have just seen the removal of the iconic statue of Appomattox, which stood at intersection of S. Washington and Prince Streets since 1889. The statue is owned by the Alexandria Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The chapter removed the statue early on June 2 from its pedestal in anticipation of possibly suffering damage during a planned Black Lives Matter/George Floyd

protest. The chapter's president, Debby Mullins, said the decision to remove the statue was the hardest thing she has had to do as president of the chapter. The UDC has secured the statue in an undisclosed location, while the chapter plans for an appropriate -- and safe -- venue.

This month's virtual meeting, taking place at 7 p.m. on June 11, will be held on Zoom, to see if it is preferable to use, rather than Webex, which was used last meeting. After last month's meeting, our Webex director, Kim Brace, asked members whether they had trouble joining the virtual meeting -- 70 responded, with only 2 saying they were unable to get into the meeting. Kim will be sending out another survey after the June 11 meeting to see if Zoom is preferred over Webex. Our appreciation to Kim and his committee for their service and expertise in making these virtual meetings as flawless as possible. Also, our thanks to Mark Trbovich for working with the speakers to assure their willingness to present their talks and slides in a virtual format.

Please remember to check our website ([www.brcwrt.org](http://www.brcwrt.org)) and our Facebook (Bull Run Civil War Round Table) page often for new items. Specifically, we hope you will check out the 2-5-minute historical videos that have been recorded by several of our members. We think you will enjoy watching these presentations. On these sites we are also including links to other Civil War-related material.

As noted on the front page of this issue, here's reminding all members that the July 11 tour of the Kernstown Battlefield will be postponed to later date.

Please join us this Thursday at 7 p.m. for our meeting featuring historian Richard Quest speaking on "I held Lincoln, a Union Sailor's Journey Home."

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

Here's a grateful "Huzzah!" for these new (or returning) members of the BRCWRT:

◆ John Murphy

◆ Kirk Moberley

◆ Karen Moberley

## The Bull Run Civil War Round Table to Award its Eighth Annual Scholarship

by Nancy Anwyll

This year's Bull Run Civil War Round Table \$2000 Scholarship is being granted to a graduating senior from Westfield High School (Fairfax County) - Jacob Fajer. Jacob has a deep interest in American history, and because of his high academic achievements and numerous extra-curricular activities in high school, his chances to succeed in college are very high, indeed. Jacob is the son of Sue Fajer and the late Salo Fajer of Oak Hill, Virginia. Both Mrs. Fajer and her son are members of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

Jacob proved to the Scholarship Committee his interest in all areas of history, including American, Civil War, European, World, and Medieval history. He received grades of "A" in all of his history courses and has participated in several activities related to history. In addition to being a member of the Bull Run CWRT, he is a member of the National History Honor Society, has tutored history, and has volunteered at the Falls Church Civil War Days, as well as the Fairfax History Day. He won an award at his school's National History Day and achieved Regional Qualifier status. In addition, he won an award in his World History class.

Because of Jacob's work ethic and talents, he has attained a Grade Point Average of 4.2 at Westfield and has earned the distinctive Advanced Placement Diploma, which is given to a student for completing nine AP courses. In addition to these, he was given a Westfield Academic Achievement Award and was involved in the Academic Bowl Team on which he was co-captain. Other extracurricular activities in which he participated and excelled included serving in the drum line of the school's marching band, working with the Children's Science Center, and achieving Eagle Scout rank for his work with Boy Scouts.

Jacob's essay, written for the BRCWRT scholarship, was entitled Chaos and Confusion on the Manassas-Gainesville Road. He described the conflict between Gen. Fitz John Porter and Gen. John Pope at the Battle of Second Manassas, a complicated topic which many students his age would not have tackled. Two primary sources that he used were the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" and the letter that Gen. Pope wrote to Fitz John Porter on August 29, 1862. There were good secondary sources also, one of which was the John J. Hennessy book "Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas."

Our application requirement asks that a student visit a local historical sign and write about the event described on the sign. The sign that Jacob visited was one erected by the Prince William County Historical Commission entitled The Union Fifth Corps at Dawkins Branch, which is located west of Manassas on the Wellington Road at Virginia Meadows Drive, east of Gainesville. This sign's text helps a person to understand what happened at the time of the issuance of Pope's controversial "joint order," which confused his subordinate staff, and may have led to the Union's loss of this battle.

Jacob's adult recommendation was written by a history teacher, Mr. Kenneth Larson, who describes Jacob as being exceptional in understanding events in history, as well as what those events may do to impact the future. He ends his letter by saying this: "I can recommend no other student that I've ever taught higher than Jacob Fajer."

The University of Virginia granted Jacob a Jefferson Book Award, given by UVA alumni to high school students who "display leadership and an unwavering commitment to serving the common good" and who also embody "Jefferson's commitment to innovation, creativity, and the spirit of discovery." Jacob will enter UVA this fall and intends to teach history after graduating from the university.

This is the eighth year that the Bull Run CWRT has given a scholarship. The first winner in 2012 was Taylor McConnell from West Springfield H.S. Other winners since then were: Caroline Howard from Osbourn Park H.S.; Brooke Roberts from Robinson H.S.; Aaron Pirnat from Herndon H.S.; Alexander



The 2020 BRCWRT Scholarship winner Jacob Fajer.





## Bull Run Civil War Round Table 2020 Program of Events

**NOTE – ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO COVID-19  
DEVELOPMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

by Greg Wilson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Comment</u>
June 11	Annual Scholarship Presentation and Monthly Meeting Speaker: Richard Quest – “I Held Lincoln”	To be held virtually; check Web site for details
July 9	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ed Bearss – “Civil War Q&A Session”	<b>Tentative</b> - to be held virtually; check Web site for details
July 11	<u>Field Trip</u> – “Kernstown” – Larry Turner	Postponed
August 13	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Chris Mackowski – “Grant’s Last Battle – Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant”	Confirmed
September 5	<u>Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly Commemoration</u>	Confirmed
September 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kristen Pawlak – “Battle of Wilson Creek”	Confirmed
September 12	<u>Field Trip</u> – “Antietam” – David Welker	Full-day tour
September 27	<u>Annual BRCWRT Free Fall Picnic</u> – The Winery at Bull Run	Confirmed
October 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Noah Cincinnati – “The Political Crisis of Slavery”	Confirmed
October 10	<u>Field Trip</u> – “The Civil War from Mount Vernon to Pohick” – Greg Wilson	Half-day tour
November 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: David Dixon – “The Lost Gettysburg Address”	Confirmed
November 21	<u>Fall Special Event</u> at Manassas Battlefield National Park – Speaker TBD – Open to the Public	TBD
December 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ron Beavers – “Arlington House – The Last Battle of the Civil War”	Confirmed

**NOTE: All events are sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. More logistics, sign-up and contact information will be posted on the BRCWRT Web site and Facebook page as the individual events get closer and are confirmed.**

## BRCWRT Scholarship – (con’t from page 4)

Hughes from Osbourn H.S.; Joseph LaVigne from Seton H.S.; and Jack Tatum from Oakton HS.

All applicants submit a grade transcript, description of extra-curricular activities, an essay, a ‘selfie’ taken at a local historical sign, and an adult recommendation. The top few are interviewed before the Scholarship Committee chooses one winner. Members of the Scholarship Committee are Charlie Balch; Brian McEnany; Mark Knowles, and myself, Nancy Anwyll, who serves as chair of the group.

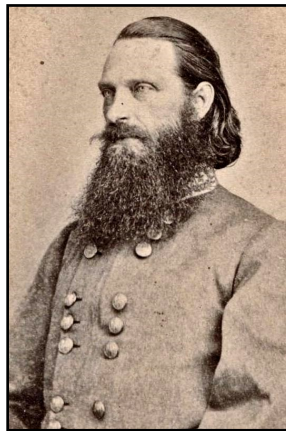


## CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

**Maj. Gen. Ambrose  
Ransom "Rans"  
Wright, CSA**

By Janet Greentree

There have been many articles about strange first names for Civil War generals, but would you name your child Malvern Hill? This is exactly what Gen. Ambrose Ransom Wright called his son, who was born on July 13, 1862, just 12 days after the battle of Malvern Hill. Wright fought at the battle of Malvern Hill, and it must have made a lasting impression on him. But more about that later. Young Malvern Hill would die twelve years after his father (1872), at the young age of 22, of fever and delirium. The *Augusta Chronicle and Constitutionalist* of September 28, 1884, stated in part: "Malvern Hill Wright was the youngest son of the late gallant Gen. Ambrose R. Wright, and was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> (sic) of July, 1862, on the day of the celebrated battle of Malvern Hill. It was upon this historic field in Virginia that his distinguished father won promotion and secured such proud prestige in the service of the country, and it was from this event that he bestowed the memorable name upon his fair-haired son."



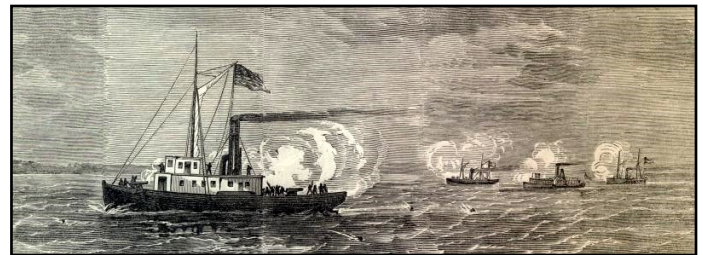
Gen. Ambrose Ransom Wright

Rans was born April 26, 1826, in Louisville, GA, the son of Ambrose Ransom Wright, Sr. and Sarah (Sallie) Hammond. His father was a captain in the Revolutionary War. His mother's father was Col. Abner Hammond - also in the Revolutionary War - and served as Secretary of State of Georgia from 1811-1823. At the very young age of 14, he read for the law in the office of Herschel Johnson, Esquire. At the similarly young age of 17, he married Mary Hubbell Savage, the half-sister of Johnson's wife Anne Polk Johnson, on April 26, 1843. Mary's father was Dr. William Savage, founder of the Medical College of Georgia. Rans and Mary would have six children - William Ambrose, Sarah, Elinor (Ellen), Henry Gregory, and twin daughters Ann and Mary. His wife died in childbirth,

along with both of the twins, in 1854. On September 3, 1857, in Burke Co., GA, Rans married Caroline "Carrie" Hazelhurst. They had three children - Carrie, Robert and Malvern Hill.

Rans became a successful lawyer with a lucrative practice and was interested in politics. He was a Democrat in the American Party, formerly known as the 'Know Nothing' Party, which later took the name of the Constitutional Union Party. They nominated John Bell of Tennessee for president, with Edward Everett of Massachusetts tapped for vice president, in 1860. Abraham Lincoln, however, won the election. Rans favored secession, and was sent to Maryland to try to get the state to agree to secession.

When Georgia seceded from the Union, Rans enlisted as a private in the Georgia Militia. He was soon commissioned a colonel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Infantry, on May 18, 1861. He was originally stationed on Roanoke Island, NC, and participated in the capture of the *U.S.S. Fanny* on October 1, 1861, under Flag Officer W.F. Lynch. The *Fanny* was operated by the Quartermaster Corps and was used for



An illustration of the *USS Fanny* fighting off the assault of Confederate vessels off the coast of North Carolina on October 1, 1861.

launching balloons off its deck. It was said that the *Fanny* was the first aircraft carrier. The ship was pursued by three Confederate craft - the *USS Curlew*, *Raleigh*, and *Junaluska*.

On April 19, 1862, he fought at the battle of Camden (South Hills), NC. He then fought at the battle of Seven Pines, replacing Gen. Albert G. Blanchard, and was commissioned a brigadier general for his performance. Rans was then assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, and 48<sup>th</sup> regiments of the Georgia Infantry and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Battalion.

On July 1, 1862, he fought at the battle of Malvern Hill in Anderson's Division of A.P. Hill's Corps. Gen. D.H. Hill wrote: "I never saw anything more grandly heroic."

Armistead's men had been pinned down by  
(con't on page 7)



## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 6)

the Union Artillery - they then rose up and gave a cheer when Wright's Regiment came to support them as they continued up their path to Malvern Hill. Both units tried six times to come up the hill. The 38<sup>th</sup> VA took the most casualties, losing eight color bearers trying to scale the hill. Wright stated: "Upon them we rushed with such impetuosity that the enemy broke in great disorder and fled." The Confederates lost 5,500 men and the Union lost 3,200. A Northerner wrote after the war "The grand charge of the Confederates at Malvern is worthy of more than passing notice; it is worthy, as an exhibition of manly daring, of immortality." Gen. D.H. Hill saw the battle as a terribly expensive defeat and said: "It was not war, it was murder." One can see how this battle must have affected Gen. Wright and caused him to name his son after the battle.

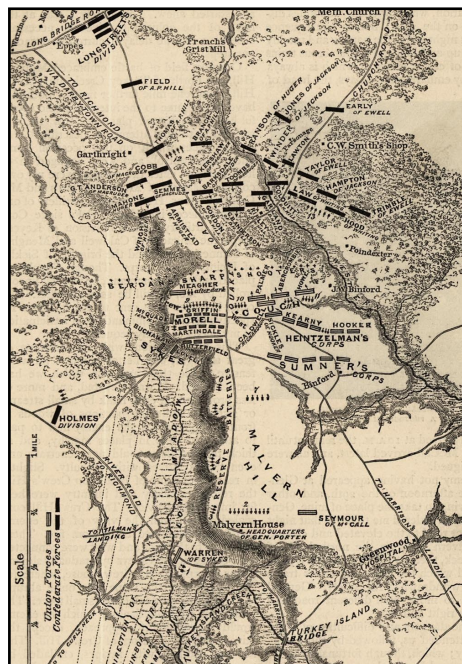
At 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas, his oldest son William served on his father's staff. Unfortunately, William was severely wounded at the battle of Antietam and lost a leg. His father, Rans, was wounded twice at Antietam and had to be carried from the field. He recovered to fight at the battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. About six miles from Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863, Rans became sick and was unable to report for duty until later that day.

Rans is the only officer that I know of who has two monuments at Gettysburg. There is a shield marker near the Virginia Monument, where his unit stepped off on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is also a small black marker near the 'High Water Mark' to the left of the Codori Barn, and behind the 58<sup>th</sup> NY marker, where his troops ended up. His unit was part of Gen. Richard H. Ander-

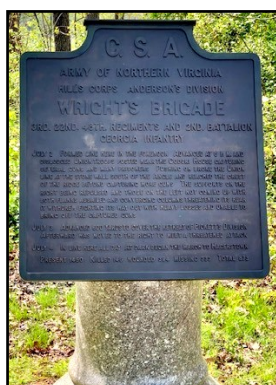
son's division and Gen. A.P. Hill's Corps. His unit advanced at 6 p.m. He and his men seized two Union batteries, the 15<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts and the 82<sup>nd</sup> New York, but had to fall back when they were not supported. In his general's report, which he did not write until September 28, 1863, he states: "We are now within 100 yards of the crest of the heights, which were lined with artillery, supported by a strong body of infantry, under protection of a stone fence. My men, by a well-directed fire, soon drove the cannoners from their guns, and, leaping over the fence, charged up to the top of the crest, and drove the enemy's infantry into a rocky gorge on the eastern slope of the heights, and some 80 to 100 yards in rear of the enemy's batteries. We were now complete masters of the field, having gained the key, as it were, of the enemy's whole line. Unfortunately, just as we had carried the enemy's last and strongest position, it was discovered that the brigade on our right

had not only not advanced across the turnpike, but had actually given way, and was rapidly falling back to the rear, while on our left we were entirely unprotected, the brigade ordered to support having failed to advance. We were in a hot place, and looking to my left through the smoke, I perceived that neither Posey nor Mahone had advanced and that my left was totally unprotected."

On July 3, his men covered the retreat of Pickett's charge. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, after being in line all day, they began their retreat to Hagerstown, MD. Wright attributed his lack of greater success to other commanders not giving him better support. He was court-martialed for his comments after



The official map of the Battle of Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862.



Wright's Brigade at Gettysburg is chronicled in two markers on the battlefield: (left to right) - where they stepped off of Seminary Ridge and where they ended up near the stone wall on Cemetery Ridge. On July 2, 1863.

Photos by Lisa Greentree Tully

(con't on page 8)

## Ms. Rebelle – (con't from page 7)

Gettysburg by Gen. Richard H. Anderson, who was alleged to have said: "Wright has too much dash and that a little more coolness would have brought better results."

During the Overland Campaign he fought at the battles around Richmond and Petersburg. He was commissioned a major general on November 26, 1864. He was also elected to the Georgia Senate in the fall of 1863 and was elected as president of the Senate. He was then sent back to Georgia with his division, composed of the brigades of Gens. Hugh W. Mercer and John K. Jackson. He was ordered to take command of Augusta in preparation for Sherman's March to the Sea by Gov. Joseph E. Brown. Brown wanted Wright to evacuate the capital in Milledgeville. On November 21, 1864, Gen. Wright notified Gov. Brown that using his continuing authority as president of the senate, he had changed an order of the governor and taken command of the militia east of the Oconee River. Brown said Wright's order was an unconstitutional usurpation of gubernatorial authority. Towards the end of the war, he commanded Georgia troops around Savannah and in the Carolinas. On May 1, 1865, he helped stop paroled Confederate soldiers who were not being paid from looting shops in Augusta.

After the war Rans returned to his law practice in Augusta, GA, and formed a partnership with William Gibson. He also became part owner and editor of the *Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel* newspapers. Wright was known to be impetuous and combative in his personal decisions, and publicly whipped another Augusta newspaper editor who had insulted him. He was accused of belonging to the Ku Klux Klan, but there was no evidence he was a member.

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives but died before he could take his seat. The cause of death in Augusta on December 21, 1872, was brain inflammation. He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia.

Rans did not get as much press as some of the generals who I've profiled before. He was, however, spoken of very highly in the press in his obituaries in different newspapers. The *New York Herald* of December 22, 1872, reported: "By telegram from Augusta, GA, under date of yesterday, we were informed

last night of the occurrence of the death of General Ambrose Ransom Wright, one of the editors of the *Chronicle and Sentinel* newspaper and member elect to Congress from the Eighth District of Georgia. General Wright expired at his residence, in Augusta, at an early hour in the forenoon. He was carried off by general debility, resulting from an attack of nervous fever, which endured upon him, with more or less severity, during a period of three weeks. He was an exceedingly popular man, and to some extent, a representative Georgian, of rare abilities. His death causes very profound grief and is mourned throughout the State as a public calamity, for the reason that he was distinguished alike by his military record, his legal attainments, political ability and fine social amenities. General Wright was forty-seven years of age."



Gen. Wright's grave marker in Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta, GA.

Photo by Janet Greentree

The *Augusta Chronicle* wrote on December 29, 1872: "That no braver soldier ever shed his blood beneath 'the starry cross of the Lost Cause,' and when ages shall have rolled on, the descendants of Southern soldiers will revere his memory as a hero in the strife for constitutional liberty." From the *Wilmington Journal*: "General Wright was one of Georgia's most distinguished sons. As an officer of the Confederate army, as a member of the bar, in the editorial sanctum, and in the social circle, he was alike distinguished and honored. A man of great personal magnetism, he made friends in every sphere of life." The *Columbia Carolinian*: "He commanded his troops in some of the most hotly contested battles of the war, and by his coolness and intrepidity did much to gain the victories or to smooth over the reverses with which our arms met."

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 426 - 169 Confederate and 257 Union. You may contact her at [jlgrtree@erols.com](mailto:jlgrtree@erols.com).



## BRCWRT Member Conducts Distance Learning Session with Local School

by Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis

As many are aware, one of BRCWRT's primary objectives is the education of our members and the general public about the Civil War. An integral part of meeting that objective has been our academic outreach program, which has resulted in numerous presentations/tours at colleges and elementary schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties. Periodically, an opportunity comes our way, and the following is an excellent example of how we satisfied a local request.

Jim Lewis, a member of BRCWRT's Executive Committee and well-known local historian/tour guide, was approached by teachers from the Cunningham Park Elementary School in Vienna about how their students needed to learn more about the history of their town. Jim undertook the opportunity to not only present local Civil War and Vienna town history but did so using a new approach to delivering information - through a virtual presentation. His background as the author and narrator of the Vienna Sesquicentennial Commemorative Reenactment in June 2011 placed him in good stead to create the class.

On Monday, June 1, Jim conducted a 1-hour online distance learning session with the Cunningham Park Elementary School sixth-grade class, located in Vienna, Va. One half-hour was allotted for the slide-oriented presentation, which was entitled "The Battle of Vienna, June 17, 1861," and one-half hour was allotted for questions and answers.

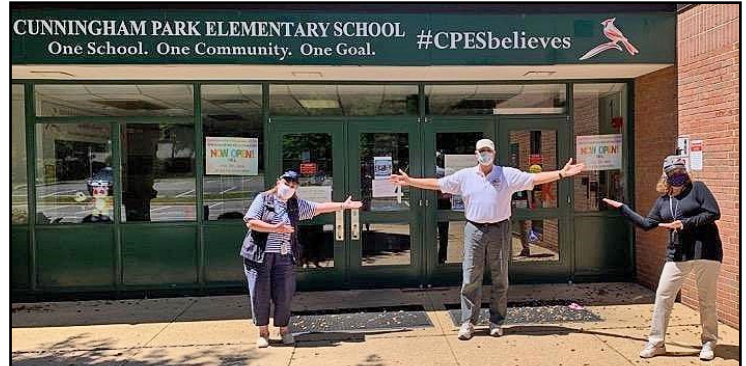
The objective of the session was to enrich the students' study of the American Civil War and bring a local relevance to a very diverse group of students. The school services 500+ families who speak over 150 different languages. Ms. Kathleen Coles and Ms. Jen Ramella, co-instructors for the grade, sponsored the session. As Ms. Coles mentioned, "We have found over the years that it is often the case that students, especially those who are moving here from other countries, simply don't have much background information about the town in which they are now living."

The session was conducted just outside the front door of the school and as part of their regular daily classes. The weather was absolutely superb. In order to bring relevance into the presentation, a number of 'Then & Now' slides of well-known town sites were incorporated. Parents were sent a special link in order for them to join the presentation.

In order to prepare for the session, Jim had to practice beforehand, in order to conduct the class via this new medium. This allowed him to better understand how to present to a remote audience without the typical interaction of a live audience.

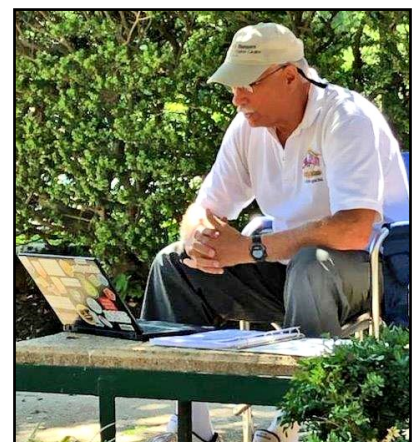
Most gratifying for him was to learn shortly thereafter that 68 students/parents/teachers had attended the session, and it was deemed a tremendous success. A day later, Ms. Coles said, "It was fun to hear how much the kids remembered later when we were chatting about the presentation." As one might wonder, what might have caught their fancy, Ms. Coles proceeded, "Many of them thought the part about the train going backwards and periodically having issues with 'bubbles' was hilarious." So, I guess we can call that 'mission accomplished,' particularly with Ms. Coles' concluding comment, "Our students will look at their town with new eyes."

The teachers, Ms. Coles and Ms. Ramella, deserve our gratitude for engaging the BRCWRT in order to enrich their students' appreciation for history and their surrounding environs. The Round Table hopes that such presentations become a regular feature at Cunningham Park Elementary School.



L to r: teacher Kathleen Coles, historian and BRCWRT member Jim Lewis, and teacher Jen Ramella join forces to present local history to the students of the Cunningham Elementary School in Vienna, VA.

Photo courtesy of Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany



Jim Lewis, outside the Cunningham School, conducting his local history class via online streaming.

Photo courtesy of Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis



## PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

Greetings to all, and we trust that you and your families are doing well and remain safe and healthy during these challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic. Due to the restrictions established as protective measures in combating coronavirus spread, many of the preservation projects and activities that the Bull Run Civil War Round Table is involved in have slowed or paused, particularly those projects that involve the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Section 106 consultation process. While digital technologies and the Internet allow many preservation activities to continue, many that require in-person meetings, consultations and physical work have 'paused'. That said, the BRCWRT and its Preservation Committee remain active in multiple preservation projects. For descriptions of those projects, please see the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) 2020 Preservation Focus at: [http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/Preservation/BR CWRT%20Preservation%202020\\_2%2028%202020.pdf](http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/Preservation/BR%20CWRT%20Preservation%202020_2%2028%202020.pdf).

This edition of The Preservation Corner includes an update on the Historic Conner House in the City of Manassas Park, an update on the Civil War Trails (CWT) program in Virginia and the search for CWT historical marker sponsors, and a discussion on the recently announced Rapidan Front Study in Culpeper County.

### Historic Conner House Update

As reported in April 2020, the BRCWRT became aware of a preservation threat to the City of Manassas Park's Historic Conner House. A March 31, 2020, *Potomac Local News* article indicated the City of Manassas Park was considering a plan to redevelop the area around the current City Hall at 1 Park Center Court. The article described a four-phased project that would replace the current City Hall with a new multi-story City Hall, retail stores, a city square public plaza, an apartment complex and a nine-screen movie theater, along with the attendant public parking lots and a multi-story parking garage. Phase 4 of the development concept as

presented by City Manager Laszlo Parker at a virtual Public Meeting on March 31, 2020, includes two six-story apartment complexes, one of which is envisioned to be built on the Historic Conner House site.

Below is a presentation slide depicting the Phase 4 Concept with the Conner House site location indicated by the red dot, and a satellite image of the Conner House site, indicated by the red dot, in the vicinity of 8220 Conner Drive.



City Center Development, Phase 4 Concept.



Satellite image of proposed Phase 4 site, including Conner House site location (red dot).

The Conner House, located in the vicinity of 8220 Conner Drive in the City of Manassas Park, served from July to November 1861 as the headquarters of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, at that time the commander of the

(con't on page 11)



## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 10)

Confederate Army of the Shenandoah, and in August 1862 as the headquarters of Col. Lewis B. Pierce, commander of the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, witnessing the action associated with the Battle of Bull Run Bridge on August 27, 1862. The house was also used as a field hospital during the Civil War and is one of the few remaining antebellum homes in the Manassas region.



Conner House (May 2017).

The fact that the Conner House is the City of Manassas Park's only historic structure would argue for the city to preserve and interpret the structure and its historical significance to the city, Prince William County and Virginia. Early in the City Center Development Concept discussions of the project, the City of Manassas Park's Governing Body determined that "considering the amount of work needed, the wonderful availability of so many other historic sites in the immediate area and the need for Manassas Park to obtain financial resources," (presumably to perform preservation of the building) that the Conner House not be a factor in their decision-making.

The BRCWRT has submitted three letters concerning the Conner House to City of Manassas Park Mayor Jeanette Rishell and the other members of the Governing Body. These letters (<http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/Preservation/Conner%20House.html>) included information on the history of the Conner House; a summary of the restoration, preservation and interpretation work previously done on the Conner House; information on the value of historic sites in local communities; and the availability of preservation grants in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BRCWRT continues to strongly urge Manassas Park's Governing Board to reconsider its initial decision regarding the Conner House. Our

letters have been warmly received by Mayor Rishell, and recent indications are that the Governing Body is conducting discussions on the Historic Conner House. If accurate, that is a positive development; however, only time will reveal the ultimate destiny of the Conner House.

BRCWRT members, especially those members who are Manassas Park residents, are strongly encouraged to send letters and or e-mails to the mayor and Governing Body members encouraging them to reconsider their decision and to commit Manassas Park to completing restoration, preservation and interpretation of Manassas Park's only historic site. Contact information for the Mayor and City Council members can be found at:

<http://cityofmanassaspark.us/mpgovernment/governing-body.html>.



Conner House and Civil War Trails (CWT) Signs (May 2017).

### Civil War Trails Historical Markers

Civil War Trails® began in 1994 as a group of historians working to successfully link together key Civil War sites from Petersburg, VA, to Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse. It has since evolved into a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, and grown the program to include trails and sites across Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, North Carolina and West Virginia. Today, the program includes more than 1,200 interpretive signs across these five states, of which 700+ offer site interpretation for the first time.

Civil War Trails (CWT) is governed by a

(con't on page 12)



## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 11)

board of directors comprised of state and municipal tourism officers and other stakeholders and has more than 800 partners (state tourism offices, destination marketing organizations, chambers of commerce, businesses, museums, etc.), who support and promote the Civil War Trails program on a daily basis. CWT produces, in collaboration with its partners, 14 map-guide brochures that are distributed domestically and internationally and are available online and at travel/visitor centers, historic sites, and facilities across the United States and internationally (<https://www.civilwartrails.org/about.html>).



"Mystery of the Centreville Six" CWT Interpretive Sign (Centreville, Va.).

Once CWT signs are designed, fabricated, and installed, the follow-up work of sustaining the Trails program begins. This work includes two major efforts — marketing the sites and maintaining the signs. Every CWT interpretive sign is marketed through placement in the appropriate CWT map-guide(s) and other CWT print and digital media. CWT distributes several thousand map-guides each month, and their partners promote the sites through the cooperative nature of the program. CWT endeavors to ensure that visitors, whether by chance or design, find an attractive and well-maintained interpretive sign at each site they visit. CWT staff conducts periodic site visits to check the physical infrastructure that supports each site,

including the directional signs that accurately guide visitors to the sites along the Trail.

The funds for marketing and maintaining the interpretive signs come from sign sponsorship annual fees of \$200. CWT's program calls for each of its interpretive signs to have a designated sponsor, which may be an organization, a business or an individual. The BRCWRT currently sponsors the CWT interpretive signs at five local historic sites - Mitchell's Ford (Yorkshire Elementary School, Old Centreville Road); the McLean House (Yorkshire/Manassas Park, Route 28/Centreville Road in the CVS lot); the Old Stone Church (Braddock Road, Historic Centreville); Fairfax Station (Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, Fairfax Station Road); and the Reid-Ballard House (Cedar Lake Drive just south of Ox Hill Battlefield Park).

In recent years, CWT has found it increasingly challenging to maintain sponsors for each of its interpretive signs, and continues to seek organizations, businesses and individuals who are history lovers and are interested in sign sponsorship. In our immediate area, there are five CWT interpretive signs that currently have no sponsor and therefore are in danger of removal:

- Cedar Creek, Union Left Flank (Middletown, Va.)  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=78137>
- Mile Hill – Cavalry Clash (Leesburg, Va.)  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=1219>
- St. Johns Episcopal Church – Still Faithful After the War (Historic Centreville, Va.)  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=57135>
- Pohick Church – Civil War Balloon Outpost (Lorton, Va.)  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=65051>
- St. Mary of Sorrows Church – Skirmish at St. Mary's, Victory or Death (Fairfax Station, Va.)  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=186>

Recently, two BRCWRT members signed up as sponsors of the interpretive signs listed above at St. John's Episcopal Church and at St. Mary of Sorrow Church, effective July 2020.

(con't on page 13)

## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 12)

Any BRCWRT members interested in learning more about sign sponsorship or sponsoring an interpretive sign is encouraged to contact CWT Executive Director Drew Gruber at: [executivedirector@civilwartrails.org](mailto:executivedirector@civilwartrails.org), or contact CWT Assistant Director Chris Brown at: [administrator@civilwartrails.org](mailto:administrator@civilwartrails.org).

As a contribution to the CWT, sponsorship fees are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

### Rapidan Front Study

As announced by Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt on Friday, May 15, 2020, the U.S. Department of Interior is funding a study of Culpeper County's "Rapidan Front" area of Civil War battlefields and historic sites. The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield has been awarded a \$86,740 grant to research Culpeper's Raccoon Ford, Morton's Ford and Sommerville Ford battlefields, sites that were fought over in 1863 and 1864 during the American Civil War. The three battlefields and associated historic sites lie along the Rapidan River, which separated the Confederate and Union armies during the 1863-64 time period.



Aerial Photograph of the 'Rapidan Front', Including Morton's Ford and Raccoon Ford.

The grant is part of the \$3 million 2020 grant program recently awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), a program managed by the National Park Service. In announcing the grant awards during a visit to Gettysburg National Military Park, Secretary Bernhardt said, "Battlefields such as Gettysburg are sacred sites where Americans gave the last

full measure of devotion. These grants enable us to partner with communities and organizations to preserve these places and connect visitors with their historical importance."

Culpeper County resident Diane Logan, President of the Friends of Cedar Mountain, expressed the Friends' appreciation for the Interior Department's support, saying, "The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield are thankful for the opportunity this grant award has given us. We realize and appreciate the many layers of Culpeper's rich Civil War history, and are excited at the prospect to explore, research and document events and historical sites that contribute to the full story of battle-torn Culpeper."

Susan Ralston, president of Citizens for Responsible Solar, a Culpeper advocacy group, praised the local battlefield stewards, who have protected and maintained part of Culpeper County's 1862 Cedar Mountain battlefield since 2004. "Citizens for Responsible Solar is so proud of the leadership the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield is providing in the preservation efforts of these important sites in Culpeper County," Ralston said. "Without their hard work, the rich history of Culpeper's many battlefields and historic sites, which are not as well-known or visited, could be lost to development that would destroy the rural and agricultural heritage we love."

The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield has requested Culpeper leaders to delay the county's consideration of a 1,000-acre solar energy plant near Stevensburg until it can finish its historical study of this area, which includes the area proposed for a solar-energy plant. The all-volunteer Friends group has requested the Culpeper County Planning Commission and the Culpeper Board of Supervisors to halt the Greenwood solar project proposed by Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources. Development of the Greenwood plant "would create an integrity hole in the center" of the Rapidan Front study area that could jeopardize other sites from being recognized as nationally significant.

The Rapidan Front study will continue research begun in 2016 to identify threats to the

(con't on page 14)

## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 13)

Culpeper area's most important Civil War battlefields and the cultural and agricultural landscapes. For much of the Civil War, the Rapidan River in southern Culpeper County was the geographical border separating Union from Confederate territory, as controlled by the warring armies. Heavy fighting, marching and troop encampments occurred repeatedly along the Old Carolina Road south from Stevensburg toward Morton's, Raccoon and Somerville fords.

The armies hotly contested the fords' river crossings from 1861 to 1864. Heavy casualties took place along the river as both armies jockeyed for control of what historian Clark B. Hall calls the 'Rapidan Front.' "This extraordi-

narily historic acreage - dotted today by several pristine antebellum mansions - is little-changed since the Civil War and richly deserves full preservation protection," Hall says. "This study proposes cultural landscape assessments that will increase protection for the nationally-significant Civil War cultural landscape along the Rapidan River Front, extending northward to vital 1863-64 Union winter encampment venues and the Cedar Mountain battlefield. This assessment is long overdue, and I will do everything I can to support this threshold initiative."

*(Photos courtesy of Blake Myers, unless otherwise noted)*

## Upcoming Speakers – (con't from page 1)

of Pennsylvania. Dr. Quest is currently the National Director of Education with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps based in Arlington, VA.

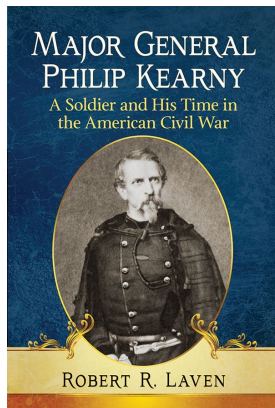
### **AUTHOR AND FAMED NPS HISTORIAN EMERITUS EDWIN C. BEARSS ANSWERS YOUR CIVIL WAR QUESTIONS AT THE JULY 9th MEETING - (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

During World War II, Ed served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps, first with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion, commanded by Col. Harry "The Horse" Leversedge; and then with the 7th Marine Regiment. While serving with the latter unit, he was severely wounded at Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain in the South Pacific theater. After convalescing for more than two years, he entered Georgetown University, earning an undergraduate degree. Ed spent three years working at

the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, MD. He then attended Indiana University, where he received a Master's Degree in History. In 1955, Ed joined the National Park Service (NPS) and worked his way up the promotion ladder to become its chief historian. In that position, he gained the respect of presidents and lawmakers for his vast knowledge of history and for his ability to passionately present it to the public (especially to Congressional funders of the Park Service!).

Following his retirement in 1998, Ed became a much-sought-after guest speaker and tour guide to battlefields where Americans fought, spanning the French and Indian War through World War II - both the European and Pacific theaters of operation. We would all love to ask him at least ONE question regarding Civil War history – here is your chance!

## **New Book on Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny Sure to Be Added to Local Reading Lists**



Jim Burgess at Manassas National Battlefield has referred BRCWRT members to a new book being published on Gen. Phil Kearny, who was killed in action at the Battle of Chantilly, VA, September 1, 1862, at age 47. Written by Robert A. Laven, "*Major General Philip Kearny: A Soldier and His Time in the American Civil War*" chronicles the military life of one of the most talented field officers in the Army of the Potomac at the outbreak of the Civil War, who famously led a charge at the Battle of Williamsburg with his reins in his teeth, and sometimes disobeyed Gen. George McClellan, once protesting an order to retreat as "prompted by cowardice or treason." Kearny was on the verge of higher command when he was killed at the Battle of Chantilly.

Laven is a U.S. Army veteran and retired Department of Defense Intelligence analyst. His book is available for purchase in paperback or on Kindle at Amazon.com.





## THE BOOK CORNER



**By Dave Button**

*“Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Fremont Mapped the West, Invented Celebrity, and Helped Cause the Civil War,”* by Steve Inskeep, is a biography, initially, of John C. Fremont, from his birth up through his elopement with Jessie Benton (daughter of Senator Thomas H. Benton); his many trips to the far west; his many adventures which, could have resulted in his death; his amassing of great wealth as a result of the Gold Rush; his helping to establish the state of California (being allied with a local military group which founded the Bear Flag Republic); his singularly unsuccessful campaign for president in the 1856 election; his less than spectacular career as a general in the Civil War; and his latter years when, most likely because of his lack of financial acumen, he went from multi-millionaire to, essentially, poverty.

Using the thread of John's life upon which to hang much of the story, we are introduced to and intrigued by his wife Jessie Benton Fremont who, to quote one of the many newspaper articles included in the book, was “more of a man than her husband.” Jessie was the daughter of Senator Thomas H. Benton and was much more liberated than most of the women of her era. Since her father had known every president since Andrew Jackson, she grew up among the political elite of her era. Jessie counted as a relative Albert Sidney Johnston, a “rising star in the army.” She attended the inaugural balls of presidents, and she had the audacity to elope at the age of 17 with John Charles Fremont – many years her elder.

Thus, the story of these two intertwined is the story of the United States in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fact that both John and Jessie were of “Southern Blood” did not keep them from opposing slavery. That during their early marriage they were apart more than they were together did not impact the devotion that they had for each other, particularly hers toward him. She spent the better part of her energy either building up his reputation or defending his reputation. To say that her political contacts

helped would be an understatement.

While he was out west exploring and trying to cross the Continental Divide in snow, she was back in Washington worrying about him and raising their children. Eventually, she went to California, taking a ship to Panama, crossing the isthmus and then taking a ship to California and arriving at San Francisco, passing through the “Golden Gate” (which her husband had named, upon seeing it). Being a believer in Manifest Destiny, he had given the opening into San Francisco bay that name because he saw it as the gateway to the orient.

The book is filled with intrigue, including the settling of the northern border of the United States with Canada as a result of the “fifty-four forty or fight” mentality, and the fear that what is now California might be settled by the British before the United States got there. The story of the Navy's arrival is part of this saga, and is the cause of some of the difficulties Fremont got into because of the forever-rivalry between the army and the navy. While he was exploring, he was an officer in the army; however, the navy got to the Pacific Coast first, so he attached himself to the commander of the navy flotilla. When the army did get there, he remained loyal to the navy commodore. He was summarily arrested and sent back east for court-martial – thereby hangs another tale – where he was found guilty but was permitted to return to service (but not exonerated). He took this as a personal affront and resigned his commission.

Tied into all of his narrative, we have the Mexican War; the annexation of Texas; the fight over slavery (as in “will it be admitted as a slave state and how do we balance it with a free state”); the gold rush of 1849, the “who owns this land” issue over sales of land under Mexican law, United States law, The Bear Flag Republic, etc., and the generally chaotic state of affairs in the country. Throw into this narrative fascinating characters such as Kit Carson; Horace Greely; every president from about 1830 through 1860; and John Brown, and you have a fast paced, easy-to-read story.

Having a NOOK (Barnes & Noble) I read it on -line. On-line, it costs about \$15 for either the NOOK or the Kindle. In hardback, it is less than \$30. I think the read is well worth the price.

# New Ox Hill Battlefield App Arrives June 30!

by Greg Wilson

The new Ox Hill Battlefield app, developed jointly by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and the American Battlefield Trust, currently is scheduled for public release on June 30, 2020. All Round Table members, however, as well as anyone who has signed up on the Trust's website in advance, will get a head start on June 16 (tentative) and be able to access the app from either their computer or phone. The app will be free to the public and available for mobile phones from either Apple or Google. Look for this icon:



Like other Trust battle apps, the Ox Hill Battlefield app gives the user a full menu of pertinent content about the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) and Fairfax County's Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Thanks to the Fairfax County Park Authority, the user can follow the interpretative trail's points of interest inside the park while using the app, and thanks to our team member, Ed Wenzel. For the first time, points of interest nearby but outside the park will be available on the app. Also, thanks to Ed's recent efforts working with the Trust, four new, detailed maps of the battle will be available for the first time. A screenshot of the app's menu is below.

Most everything you want to know about Fairfax County's only major Civil War battle fought in a blinding late afternoon thunderstorm on September 1, 1862, and the efforts to preserve a small portion of that hallowed ground since, are on the app. The app also has links embedded in it that allow the user to find more suggested reading as well as additional resources about the battle and the park.

Members should watch the Round Table's Web site for more information as we get closer to the release date. We also will send everyone a reminder e-mail alerting them to app's URL and availability in advance of the early release to members.

In addition to Ed, the core BRCWRT team helping with the development of the app includes Charlie Balch, Blake Myers, Eric Sebastian, and Greg Wilson. Round Table members David Welker provided early research help, and Jim Lewis provided publicity support. Version 2.0 of the app will be available later this year - that will include an audio tour, as well as many new points of interest about the battle located outside the park's boundaries. Stay tuned!



The new Ox Hill Battle app is being released June 30th - it will feature the history of the battle, and preservation efforts made since then to commemorate the only major Civil War battle to have taken place within Fairfax County.

**EDWARD COLEMAN TREXLER Jr.**

NOVEMBER 14, 1931 – MAY 12, 2020

Edward Coleman Trexler passed May 12<sup>th</sup>, leaving a long legacy of sharing his love of history with others around the Northern Virginia area.

He was born in Richmond, a descendent of Virginia families that trace their heritage back to the Virginia colony. A longtime resident of Fairfax, he became an outstanding local historian who possessed much knowledge of Fairfax County and Virginia, in general. His reverence for learning and sharing its history, along with his commitment to scholarship and preservation over the years, allowed him to provide counsel and friendship to several historic societies in the area. He has served on the City Planning Commission and the Board of Historic Fairfax City. He was an active member of Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, among other historical organizations.

His writings reflect the perspective of his heritage, and his various activities. Edward's books focused on the history of Fairfax Court House, the Virginia families that occupied the area and what the Civil War did to that community. The photo included here reflects his frequent appearances at the Lee Circle McDonald's on Friday mornings to discuss Civil War history. His obituary was filled with thoughts from other historians and officials in the Northern Virginia area, such as Carol Herrick, the Mayor of Fairfax City, and author Don Hakenson.

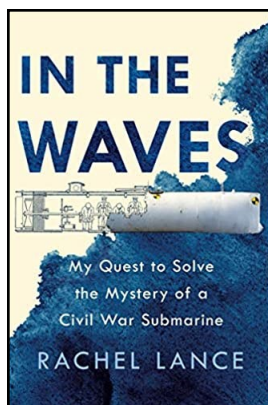
His gifts of knowledge and insight into Fairfax County and Fairfax Court House history will be sorely missed.



Edward C. Trexler, authoritative local historian of Fairfax County.

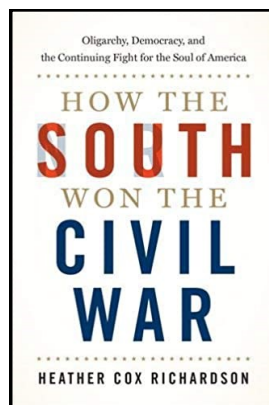
Photo courtesy of Brian McEnany

## Some New Civil War Titles for Your Reading Enjoyment While Passing Time in Your Home Hidey-Holes



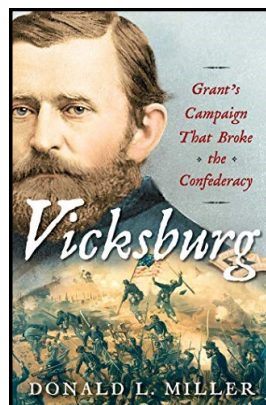
For 131 years the eight-man crew of the HL Hunley lay in their watery graves. Why did it sink? Why did the men die?

Archaeologists and conservationists have been studying the boat and the remains for years, and now one woman has the answers.

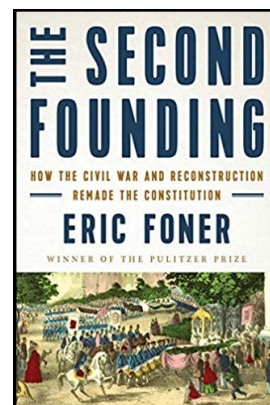


While the North prevailed in the Civil War, ending slavery and giving the country a "new birth of freedom,"

Heather Cox Richardson argues in this provocative work that the system that had sustained the defeated South moved westward and there established a foothold.

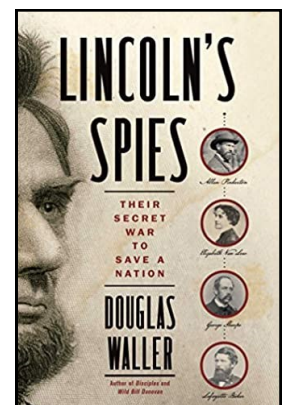


Vicksburg solidified Grant's reputation as the Union's most capable general. Today, no general would ever be permitted to fail as often as Grant did, but ultimately he succeeded in what he himself called the most important battle of the war—the one that all but sealed the fate of the Confederacy.



Reconstruction amendments abolished slavery, guaranteed all persons due process and equal protection of the law, and gave black men the right to vote.

In grafting the principle of equality into the Constitution, these marked the second founding of the United States.



Douglas Waller, who has written groundbreaking intelligence histories, focuses on the shadow war of secret agents for the North. It's a fast-paced narrative of the heroes and scoundrels who informed Lincoln's generals on enemy positions for crucial battles and broke up Rebel networks.



---

## **BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

***The Stone Wall***

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

### **2020 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:**

**Bull Run Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122**

**You also may join using your credit card by going to our website at [BRCWRT.org](http://BRCWRT.org) and clicking on "Membership Application."**

**NAME**\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS**\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY**\_\_\_\_\_ **STATE**\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP**\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE**\_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL**\_\_\_\_\_