



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXVIII, Issue JUNE/JULY 2021

## **HISTORIAN/AUTHOR JONATHAN NOYALAS SPEAKS ON "ARE WE TRAITORS AND COWARDS: DISSENT IN VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY" AT THE JUNE 10th MEETING**

The Shenandoah Valley was the scene of many bloody battles throughout the Civil War. Although in the heartland of Virginia, many Valley citizens were not in favor of secession from the United States in 1861. Our June presentation will explore the various ways Unionists attempted to undermine the Confederate war effort in the Shenandoah Valley. We are so lucky to have both an expert on the subject and a wonderful advocate for all Civil War activities in the Valley to speak to us.

Jonathan A. Noyalas is director of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute and is a professor in the history department at Shenandoah. He is the author or editor of 14 books. He has also authored more than 100 chapters, essays, articles, and reviews for a variety of scholarly and popular publications including Civil War History, Civil War Times, America's Civil War, Civil War Monitor, Hallowed Ground, and Blue & Gray.

Jonathan has worked on a variety of public history projects for organizations such as the National Park Service, Civil War Trust, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, and National Geographic. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his teaching and scholarship, including Shenandoah University's Teaching Excellence Award for the First Year Seminar and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award - the highest honor that can ever be bestowed upon a professor teaching in the Old Dominion.

## **HISTORIAN/AUTHOR MICHEAL SHAFFER SPEAKS ON "IN MEMORY OF SELF AND COMRADES OF THE 1st VIRGINIA CAVALRY" AT THE JULY 8th MEETING**

Thomas W. Colley served in one of the most active and famous units in the Civil War, the 1st

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

7 p.m. LIVE via

~ Zoom and Facebook ~

**THURSDAY, June 10, 2021**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**HISTORIAN/AUTHOR  
JONATHAN NOYALAS**

**TOPIC:**

**"ARE WE TRAITORS AND  
COWARDS: DISSENT IN  
VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH  
VALLEY"**

~

**THURSDAY, July 8, 2021**

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MICHEAL SHAFFER**

**TOPIC:**

**"IN MEMORY OF SELF AND  
COMRADES OF THE  
1ST VIRGINIA CAVALRY"**

## **BRCWRT Meetings Going Forward -- Virtually!**

The Round Table's regular meetings will take place... in your house! The meetings will telecast live via **Zoom** and **Facebook**. 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

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**Vice-President:** Kim Brace  
**Treasurer:** Joe Young, BRCWRTTreasurer@gmail.com, 703-281-7935  
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The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.

General Membership meetings will resume as soon as responsible under Covid guidelines.

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

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August 2021** issue, e-mail articles by 9 a.m., Monday, June 28, to Nadine Mironchuk at: [nadine1861@hotmail.com](mailto:nadine1861@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **August 2021** issue, advertisers - please click "Instructions for Advertisers" at: <http://bullruncwrt.org> and e-mail ads by noon on June 18, 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**



**If you have ever benefitted from touring a battlefield or historic site with the BRCWRT, consider giving that joy to others by volunteering to join the ad hoc Tour Committee. Please contact Blake Myers if you can help with future tours.**

## UPCOMING 2021 MEETINGS (Virtual - until further notice)

**June 10:** Historian/Author Jonathan Noyalas - "Are We Traitors & Cowards: Dissent in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley"

**July 8:** Historian/Author Michael Shaffer - "In Memory of Self and Comrades of the 1st Virginia Cavalry"

**August 12:** Historian/NPS Ranger Patrick Schroeder - "The Battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House: The Final Fury and the Last to Die"

**September 9:** Historian/Author David Welker - "The Cornfield - Battle of Antietam - September 1862"

**October 5:** Author/Historian John Quarstein - "Cmdr. Worden and the *USS Montauk* Destroy the CSS *Nashville*"

**November 18:** Author/Historian Brian McEnany - "Federal Cavalry Early Warning Camps in Northern Virginia in 1864"

**December 9:** Authors/Historians Gene Schmiel, Frank Simone and E.L. Dutch Schneider - "Searching for Irvin McDowell, Forgotten Civil War General"

**ZOOM to your computer for the June-August BRCWRT meetings -**

**HOP, SKIP and JUMP to the Centreville Regional Library for the meetings, from September, onward!**

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## The President's Column by Mark Whitenton

### Fellow BRCWRT members -

I am happy to announce that the BRCWRT will begin in-person meetings at the Centreville Library beginning on September 9. From September on, our general meetings will be both in-person and available by Zoom to accommodate those who are unable to attend meetings at the library. Note that our meetings on June 10, July 8 and August 12 will continue as Zoom (and Facebook) meetings only.

Jim Lewis is again working to arrange for our Annual Picnic! He is scouting appropriate venues (hopefully, the Bull Run Winery again) and will be focusing on late September or early October. This has always been a fun afternoon event – and it is free to active members! Details will be provided once Jim has locked in a day and place.

On a less happy note, our venerable past president, Mark Trbovich, will be moving out of the area later this year and will be unable to continue to be in charge of arranging for speakers for our general meetings. Nevertheless, he has continued his excellent job of securing speakers through the end of this year and has

generously agreed to work with volunteers to hand off his master list and to assist in scheduling speakers for 2022. PLEASE CONTACT Mark Trbovich or me if you are interested in assisting in scheduling speakers going forward. To Mark: we thank you for your substantial contributions to the BRCWRT and we are pleased to know that you will remain a member. We all wish you the very best in your retirement and your move to be closer to your family.

Finally, Stephanie Vale invites interested members to tour the Dogan House on Sunday, June 13. The Dogan House is an 1879 home built on the site of and with many materials from the original Dogan House believed to have been destroyed during the Second Battle of Manassas. See the article by the Manassas Battlefield Trust on page 4. If you are interested in a tour, please register with the Manassas Battlefield Trust for either of two available times: 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. time slot: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/DoganJune13th1PM>, or: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/DoganTo June13th3PM>.

Please join us by Zoom on Thursday (June 10) for Historian/Author Jonathan Noyalas - "Are We Traitors and Cowards: Dissent in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley" – it sounds very interesting!

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

Virginia Cavalry, which fought in battles from First Manassas/Bull Run to the defense of Petersburg. In May 1861, along with the other members of the Washington Mounted Rifles, Colley left his home in Washington County, Virginia, and reported to camp in Richmond. During the war, he received wounds on three different occasions: first at Waterloo Bridge in 1862, again at Kelly's Ford in 1863 and finally at Haw's Shop in 1864. The wound received at Haw's Shop resulted in the amputation of his left foot, thereby ending his wartime service. We are so happy to have such a well-known author to bring this story to our Round Table in July.

Michael K. Shaffer is a Civil War historian, instructor, lecturer, newspaper columnist, and author. He is a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, Historians of the Civil War Western Theater and Georgia Association of Historians. Michael teaches Civil War courses at Kennesaw State University's College of Graduate and Professional Education and at Emory University. He serves on the boards of both the Civil War Round Table of Cobb County and the River Line Historic Area and assists the Friends of Camp McDonald as a Civil War consultant. He frequently lectures to various groups across the country.

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

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

◆ James Hearn





## The History Within the Walls: Saving the M.J. Dogan House at Manassas

Printed with permission from the Manassas Battlefield Trust

Each weekday, thousands of commuters unknowingly pass through the historic village of Groveton as they travel on Route 29 through Manassas National Battlefield Park. With only two structures remaining at the intersection of 29 and Groveton Road, it's difficult to imagine that a small community once existed there. In fact, it was Groveton, not Manassas (then just a rail junction), that was at the center of the devastating 2nd Battle of Manassas.

One of these structures, the Mary Jane Dogan House, is presently being documented and restored by the National Park Service, with the support of the Manassas Battlefield Trust. Located next door to the wartime Lucinda Dogan House, it is an integral part of the historic landscape and must be saved to preserve the narrative of Groveton and its inhabitants. The stories of this lost community give voice to local citizens caught in the crossfire of battle and show how they overcame the devastation of war.

During the Second Battle of Manassas, on the 29th and 30th of August 1862, Groveton sat at the eye of the storm. Fighting raged around the small community, with shells from dueling Union and Confederate artillery whizzing by. Citizens were forced to abandon their homes, and their livelihoods were threatened by loss of livestock, food, crops and fences. A decisive blow for the Confederacy was struck as Gen. James Longstreet's forces swept across the battlefield and through Groveton. As the Southerners advanced, New York Zouaves positioned at Groveton took record casualties when they were overrun in just minutes. While some documentation exists regarding the extent of battle damage to homes and structures, the M.J. Dogan House gives historians physical clues to the destruction and recovery that the community faced.

The Manassas Battlefield Trust (MBT), official philanthropic partner of Manassas National Battlefield Park, pledged to fund the documentation, stabilization and exterior restoration of the M.J. Dogan House, recognizing that it is likely the last opportunity to save a signifi-



The Mary Jane Dogan House at the Manassas Battlefield, VA, undergoes historic renovations, thanks to the National Park Service and the Manassas Battlefield Trust. Supports hold up the structure while preservationists rebuild the foundation.

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

cant historic structure on the battlefield. The MBT has received a Centennial Challenge Grant from the National Park Service to cover half the cost of the project and has been working with longtime members and generous donors to raise the match. Nearly 2/3rds of the required funding has been raised thus far. The final \$100,000 must be raised by the end of 2021 to keep the project on track.

The project is timely - as neglect had taken its toll, with portions of the structure on the verge of collapse. After taking ownership of the M.J. Dogan House in 2019, NPS preservationists began the removal of non-historic materials. Then, throughout the last year, experts in architecture, archaeology, dendrochronology (dating through growth rings in timber), paint analysis and more have investigated and documented the secrets hidden in the building's architecture, revealing some surprises in the process.

Some of the most significant discoveries relate to the age of the building. The year "1879," inscribed by the builder, puts the construction date after the Civil War, but carbon dating tells us that wood used in the house was harvested in the winter of 1824-1825. Coupled with presumed battle damage on some of the

(con't on page 5)

## Dogan House – (con't from page 4)

beams, experts believe the home was constructed with materials from an earlier structure, perhaps on the same location.

Currently, preservation workers with the group HistoriCorps are working to stabilize the building, as a result of an engineering plan funded by the MBT earlier this year. The final stage of the project will be an exterior restoration of the building, informed by the discoveries made by preservation experts.

The house was built by Mary Jane Dogan, who operated a store from the site. She was influential in establishing the Groveton Ladies Memorial Association and nearby Groveton Confederate Cemetery. Her half-brother and his wife, William H. and Mary Ellen Dogan, inherited

the home upon her death. Mary Ellen had ministered to wounded soldiers as a teen during the war and was later a Dogan family spokesperson when Congress was considering purchasing battlefield land. Another Groveton resident, whose home and blacksmith shop sat across Rt.29 from the Dogan's, was Andrew James Redmond. Redmond, an enslaved blacksmith, gave several interviews about his wartime experiences, making his record one of the few at the time by an African American in their own words.

To learn more or to donate, visit: [www.save-dogan.org](http://www.save-dogan.org) or contact [cforman@manassasbattlefield.org](mailto:cforman@manassasbattlefield.org). Follow the Manassas Battlefield Trust on Facebook for project updates!

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## Enjoy These Upcoming Virginia Civil War Activities

**JUNE 12: Colonel Mosby Sites Walking Tour** \* Saturday, June 12: 1 – 2 p.m.

The Fauquier History Museum at the Old Jail \* 10 Ashby St., Warrenton, VA

Explore the history of the Civil War with a walking tour highlighting the life of Colonel John S. Mosby. This tour will guide visitors to numerous sites associated with the "Grey Ghost" and his legacy in Old Town Warrenton. We will start at the jail and move through the town from there.

Walking tour fee is \$10/person, \$8 for FHS members, and \$5 for children under 12.

Member promo code: FHSmembers; Child promo code: FHSkidz

**JUNE 28: Civil War Camp in Newport News Park** \* Monday, June 28, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Ave. \* Newport News, VA

Additional Dates: (all 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.): Monday, June 28; Tuesday, June 29; Wednesday, June 30; Thursday, July 01; Monday, July 19.

Price: \$165.00 to \$200.00 —There is a \$25.00 discount for sibling enrollment.

In the spring of 1862, Civil War armies, stationed in what is now Newport News Park, built fortifications, fought battles, and navigated the landscape, children will be able to learn about these soldiers and their daily lives by hiking, map-making, interacting with artifacts and features within the Park, and much more! Ages 8 to 15 are eligible to sign up. Those ages 12-15 will participate in an Officers' Camp, focusing on leadership skills and more advanced activities. Two five-day sessions will be offered, June 28 – July 2 and July 19 -23, hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$165.00 per camper. Before camp care (8 a.m. – 9 a.m.) and/or after camp care (4 p.m. – 5 p.m.) is available. The cost is \$20.00 for Before OR After care and \$35.00 for Before AND After care. There is a \$25.00 discount on tuition for more than one child enrolled from the same family. For a link to online registration visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/nnparks-rectourism/Home> and search Civil War. For additional information email [nnhistoricsites@nnva.gov](mailto:nnhistoricsites@nnva.gov) or call 757-887-1862.

**JULY 17: National Civil War & Antique Arms Show** \* Saturday, July 17, 9 [p.m.](#) – Sunday, July 18, 2 p.m.

The Meadow Event Park \* 13191 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, VA

Founded in 1973, NSTCW is the first and finest periodical dedicated to the collectors, relic hunters, researchers, and historians of the War Between the States. North and South, we present it all, from weaponry to uniforms, from accoutrements to cannon. We are pleased to announce our annual summer show on July 17 & 18, 2021, at the Meadow Event Park's Farm Bureau Center. This is a new location north of Ashland VA with easy access off I-95. We will have another great show with roomy surroundings, comfortable rest rooms, better lighting, and ample parking.



## PRINCE WILLIAM \* Join in These Fun and Meaningful PWC June and July Events

Historic Preservation

### June 19

#### African American History Trail Car Caravan Tour

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$10 per vehicle \* Join local historians on a daylong tour exploring the unique and powerful stories behind the African American history of Prince William County. We will travel the county stepping back in time from the 1800s to the 1960s and will be stopping at many special (and sometimes forgotten sites) to learn about the lifestyle, challenges, and the power of education. Participants will drive around to the different stops in their own vehicles. The June tour will depart from Barnes House Historic Site and the August tour will depart from Ben Lomond Historic Site. Admission is \$10 per vehicle. Advanced Registration is required for space is limited. Visit [www.pwcparks.org/historicprograms](http://www.pwcparks.org/historicprograms) to register. For more information, please call 703-792-4754.

### June 19

#### Juneteenth at Lucasville

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; FREE - donations welcome \* Join us at Lucasville in honor of Juneteenth to learn about the celebration marking the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the South. Visit the one-room schoolhouse to learn about the development of freedmen communities throughout Prince William County and the progression of education throughout Prince William County throughout Reconstruction and the Jim Crow Era. Lucasville School, 10516 Godwin Dr., Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.

### June 26

#### Freedmen's Bureau at Brentsville Tours

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; FREE - donations welcome \* In the years after the Civil War, a period of Reconstruction commenced as the nation worked to rebuild and transition millions of freed African Americans into society. This work was left to the Freedmen's Bureau and in Prince William County, the Freedmen's Bureau office was established at Brentsville. Join us at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre for special tours and living history to learn more about the Freedmen's Bureau, and about this little known, yet turbulent time in the County's history. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Rd., Bristow, VA. 703-365-7895.

### July 7

#### Wednesday Walk at Bristoe Station Battlefield: The Medal of Honor at Bristoe Station

6 p.m.; Free - donations welcome \* The tour will focus on the actions of five soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor at for actions at Bristoe Station. One Medal of Honor was awarded to Sergeant John Haight (72nd New York) for his actions during the August 27, 1862, Battle of Kettle Run and four were awarded for actions during the October 14, 1863, Battle of Bristoe Station. The latter recipients are Corporal Thomas Cullen and Private Michael Emmet Urell (both from the 82nd New York); Corporal Moses Hanscom (19th Maine) and Assistant Surgeon Joseph Corson (6th Pennsylvania Reserves/35th Pennsylvania Volunteers). Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. The parking lot is located off Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049.

### July 10

#### On These Walls: Graffiti at Ben Lomond

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; \$5 per person, free for children under 6 \* Take special tours focusing on the visible and invisible graffiti that still marks the walls of Ben Lomond. Who were the people that signed their names here, and why and when did they do it? Learn about the Civil War history of Ben Lomond after it was a hospital to find out! Masks are required when indoors and are recommended when outdoors. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.

### July 24-25

#### Ben Lomond Civil War Anniversary Weekend

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free - donations welcome \* After the Battle of First Manassas, Ben Lomond served as a field hospital to treat the wounded. Visit Ben Lomond on the 158th anniversary of the battle and learn from historians and Civil War living historians how soldiers were treated during the war and how the conditions of these hospitals differ from the hospitals we have today. The weekend will consist of demonstrations, tours, children's activities, and more. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.

### July 24

#### All Told Sad Tales: Candlelight Tours of the Hospital at Ben Lomond

7 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; \$10 per person, advanced registration strongly recommended \* Ben Lomond has a grim history as serving as a Confederate Field Hospital after the Battle of First Manassas. Come experience a unique opportunity to tour the house and grounds in the recreated hospital and hear the stories of soldiers, doctors, and loved ones who were forever changed during the Civil War. Guided tours every twenty minutes. Advanced reservations strongly recommended, as spaces fill quickly. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.



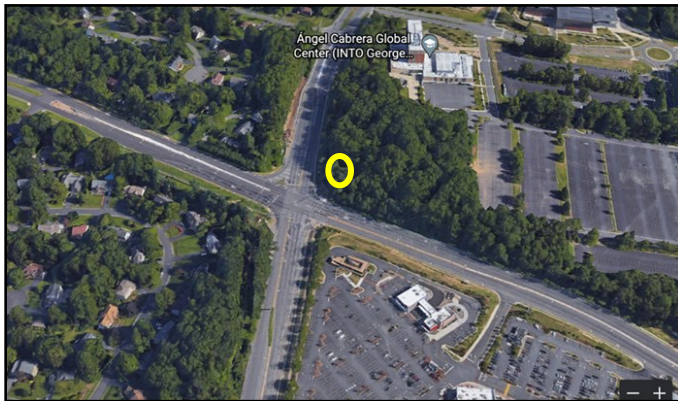


## PRESERVATION CORNER

BY BLAKE MYERS

### Farr's Cross Roads & Civil War Redoubt – A Unique Preservation and Education Opportunity

(photos courtesy of the author unless otherwise indicated)



Local historians have long known of the significance of the area surrounding the Ox Road (Route 123)/Braddock Road (Route 620) intersection in Fairfax, VA. Several studies, including the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory (prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. in 2002), have documented the existence of remnants of Civil War-era redoubts, earthworks and camps on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus and in the area surrounding this intersection – an intersection historically known as Farr's Cross Roads.

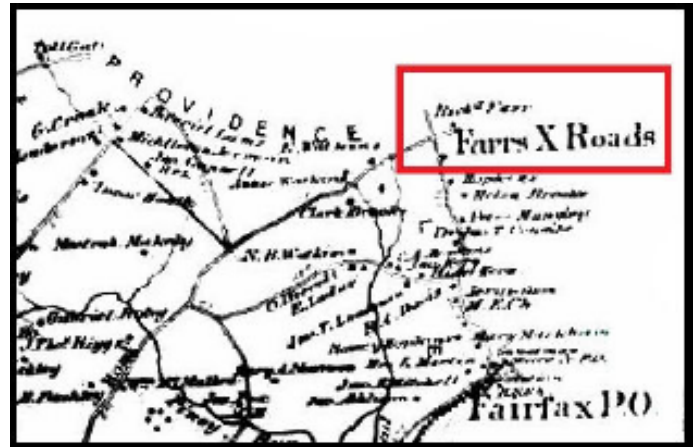
This is the story of the preservation and interpretation of this historic site located on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus.

#### Site Historical Significance

The Farr's Cross Roads historic site was once part of the 283-acres of land owned by local resident and farmer Samuel Ratcliffe Farr. Upon his death in 1819, Samuel's landholdings were subdivided into several parcels and distributed among his heirs. One of his three sons, Richard Ratcliffe Farr, received roughly 183 acres that stretched from what is now University Drive to the southern boundary of University Mall and east toward the center of the GMU campus. Richard later married Margaret Willcoxon and they had two sons, Rezin Samuel Farr and Richard Ratcliffe Farr, Jr. When Richard died in 1843, Margaret inherited the Farr home and

property.

Because the Farr family lived in this area for such a long time, the intersection came to be known as "Farr's Cross Roads." Civil War maps from 1861 include a notation for the home of Widow Farr near the "Farrs X Roads," and the name Farr's Cross Roads appears on early (1879) Fairfax County maps.



1861 map with locations of "Farrs X Roads" and "Widow Farr" home.

The Farr home burned to the ground during the Civil War in circumstances that remain unclear. Later, Richard Ratcliffe Farr, Jr. built a new home to replace the one destroyed; it included an attached cottage for his widowed mother. This cottage, locally known as "Grandma's Cottage," was moved several times to accommodate development projects in Fairfax and is now located on the grounds of Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center at 3610 Old Lee Highway.

In 1958, Wilson Farr and his daughter-in-law, Viola Orr, offered the remaining 146-acre Farr tract to the Town of Fairfax. The Town Council accepted the offer, purchased the tract for \$300,000 and subsequently offered the site to the University of Virginia Board of Visitors as a site for George Mason College, the predecessor to today's George Mason University (GMU).

#### The Civil War Redoubt

Of particular interest are the redoubt and earthworks located in the wooded area in the northeast quadrant of the intersection. While construction of GMU's Mason Global Center and its adjacent parking lot, and the enlargement of Parking Lot K, reduced the overall size of the site and obliterated some of the earthworks, the

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## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 7)

redoubt remains as the last extant Civil War fortification/earthwork on the GMU campus; it is in remarkably good condition.



Farr's Cross Roads Civil War redoubt - October 2017.

The redoubt was constructed in the early summer of 1861, prior to the July 21, 1861, First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas. The redoubt, part of the Confederate screen line established to provide early warning of a Union advance, was built and initially occupied by Col. Robert Rodes' 5th Alabama Infantry - Regiment of Brig. Gen. Richard Ewell's Brigade. When Confederate forces withdrew to their main defensive line along Bull Run on July 17, 1861, the site was occupied by advancing Union forces under the command of Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell.

During the course of the war, various Confederate and Union units occupied the site when guarding the intersection known as Farr's Cross Roads. Unit reports note that the redoubt and other fortifications in this area were reoriented from east to west, and vice versa – depending on the respective force (Confederate or Union) occupying the site.

- 5th Alabama (Rodes' Regiment), Ewell's Brigade, June-July 1861
- 16th New York Infantry (Davies' Regiment), Miles' Brigade, 5th Division on its way to Centreville and the Battle of First Manassas, July 17-18, 1861
- 27th Virginia Infantry, Jackson's Brigade, 18 September 1861
- 1st New Jersey Infantry, March 9, 1862 (following the Confederate Army withdrawal from Northern Virginia in March 1862)
- Various Union cavalry units, November 1862 – May 1863
- Cavalry Units of the 1st Separate Brigade, 22nd Corps, Defenses of Washington (part of Union early warning line established in Eastern Fairfax County), 1863 – 1865

### Preserving and Interpreting the Site

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) has long sought to preserve and interpret this historic site and in, particular, its Civil War redoubt. Beginning with confirmation of the redoubt's existence during ground reconnaissance done in compiling the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory (2002), BRCWRT members John McAnaw, John DePue and Jim Evans led the round table's early efforts to gain support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) for preserving the site and the redoubt. These BRCWRT members conducted site tours for county supervisors and FCPA leaders, held discussions with county supervisors, and provided research and documentation in support of FCPA that ultimately led to establishing an Archaeological Site Record for Farr's

Fort/Braddock Road Redoubt (44FX0185) with Virginia's Department of Historical Resources (October 18, 2018). The goal of preserving the site was, however, ultimately unsuccessful, primarily because the site was not on property owned by, or under the control of, Fairfax County. It was on land owned by George Mason University (GMU) and at that time (early 2000s), GMU's focus and top priority was on building its research capabilities and programs, and on growing the university regionally and internationally.

### An Education Opportunity

Fast forward to 2015 - when BRCWRT Executive Committee members Blake Myers (Preservation Committee Chair), Brian McEnany (Education Committee Chair) and Jim Lewis (Preservation Committee member) began thinking anew about how to preserve this historic site. It was clear that previous preservation initiatives had failed primarily because there had been no engagement with the property owner, GMU. Their assessment concluded that preserving the site and the redoubt could not be "forced on GMU" by external entities and would only result from any interest situated within GMU paired with BRCWRT advocacy. This might lead eventually to establishing a partnership with GMU that will involve several years of engage-

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## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 8)



Farr's Cross Roads Civil War redoubt, December 2015.

ment to effectively generate and grow that interest and advocacy.

The trio quickly settled on GMU's Department of History and Art History as the most likely candidate for a GMU "partner," and Brian McEnany took on the task of arranging a meeting with the department chair. On January 6, 2016, Brian, Jim and Blake met (for the first of many times) with Dr. Brian Platt, chair of GMU's Department of History and Art History, to talk about Farr's Cross Roads and its historical significance, as well as its relevance to local, state and national history. It was immediately evident that the current history department faculty was not unaware of the site, its location on campus and its historical significance. Dr. Platt, intrigued by the site and its history, and the fact that it was located on campus, recognized the value of potentially incorporating the site into relevant history courses; he expressed a keen interest in visiting and learning more about the site.

This initial discussion led to subsequent site visits with Dr. Platt and Professor Christopher Hamner, professor for GMU's HIST 373 Civil



Left to right: BRCWRT members John McAnaw, Brian McEnany and Jim Lewis at the Farr's Cross Roads Civil War redoubt - January 10, 2016.

War and Reconstruction course, and additional meetings and discussions. Very quickly, an agreement was reached to incorporate an on-site class at Farr's Cross Roads and Civil War redoubt, conducted by the BRCWRT, into Professor Hamner's HIST 373 course. On Monday, November 7, 2016, Brian, Jim and Blake conducted the first of what has become an annual on-site Civil War History at Farr's Cross Roads class for GMU's Civil War and Reconstruction course students. Focused on the history of Farr's Cross Roads, the Civil War redoubt and other nearby earthworks, the historic Ox Road and Braddock Road, and the connection to GMU's history, these on-site classes became increasingly popular - attracting students from throughout GMU and interested individuals from other GMU departments and offices, as well as media coverage by the Mason Spirit alumni magazine.



GMU Civil War and Reconstruction Course Students On-Site Class – November 7, 2016. Top photo above: initial discussion at access trail entrance, Parking Lot K; bottom photo above: class discussion at the redoubt.

In preparation for the conduct of each on-site class, Brian, Jim and Blake developed the instruction content, which evolved over time to incorporate newly-acquired information and facts related to the site's history, and provided student handouts. A good example of new information acquired during research was the discovery of

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## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 9)

the existence of a site archaeological assessment done by GMU graduate student Bryan Corle. Although a complete copy of the assessment could not be located, Blake was able to contact Bryan and obtain a complete copy of the Archaeological Assessment of Site 44FX0185, The Earthwork At Farr's Crossroads, Fairfax County VA (Submittal Draft) by Bryan Corle and Academic Advisor Ann Palkovich, Ph.D. Bryan never completed or submitted the documentation for his archaeological assessment - to date the only site assessment known to have been conducted; however, he willingly shared the digital files of the assessment document and its appendices and granted his permission to use any of the information included in the document – information that served to confirm and expand knowledge of the site's history.

As the site had not been preserved or properly maintained, and to ensure unencumbered student access, prior to each class, Brian, Jim and Blake, using weed trimmers, machetes, hand saws and axes, cleared a 'rough' access trail to the redoubt of vegetation and timber, and cleared sufficient sections of the redoubt of



Redoubt Access Trail – cleared by BRCWRT.

saplings and vegetative undergrowth that allowed the redoubt to be recognizable as a redoubt.

This very successful academic outreach program with GMU, led by the BRCWRT's Education Committee Chair Brian McEnany, is

ongoing and has continued to grow – the annual on-site classes paused only in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, and GMU's temporary suspension of all in-person classes. The program's success, within GMU's academic community and beyond, generated, over time, increasing awareness of, and interest in, the site and its historical significance. The benefits to both GMU and the general public of preserving and interpreting the site were recognized, and advocacy within GMU for site preservation and interpretation grew.

### A Preservation Opportunity

The BRCWRT's efforts to engage GMU administrative leaders (beyond just faculty) began in May of 2016, when Blake, Jim and Brian met with both the then-Vice President (VP) of Facilities and the Director for Campus Planning and presented a historical overview of the redoubt site. Following that presentation and ensuing discussions in the Vice President of Facilities office, an on-site "tour" was conducted, with additional discussion on the potential for incorporating and interpreting the site as green space in any future development planned for that area of the campus. While attentive to the presentation and discussion, GMU's representatives exhibited minimal interest and no further discussions or actions were planned or conducted. This outcome confirmed the group's earlier assessment that preserving and interpreting this site would require advocacy from within GMU. The primary focus remained working with the Department of History and Art History to build and increase, over time, site awareness and interest.

Having become aware of a virtual tour project by GMU for Fairfax County, Blake contacted Dr. Sven Fuhrmann, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science at GMU. A March 23, 2018, meeting and discussion with Dr. Fuhrmann included a viewing of an early version of the graduate student project – a virtual tour of Fairfax County's Riverbend Park. This immediately led to discussions concerning the potential use of virtual and augmented reality technologies in interpreting the Farr's Cross Roads and Civil War redoubt site. Dr. Fuhr-

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

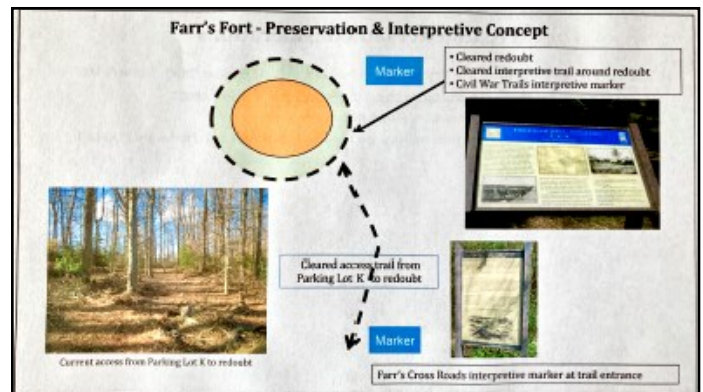
mann expressed great interest in supporting such a project, recognizing the value it would provide his department and students as real-world projects. Dr. Fuhrmann and the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science agreed to join our GMU “partner” team.



GMU Civil War and Reconstruction Course students - On-Site Class – October 23, 2018; top photo above: Brian & Jim presentations at the redoubt; bottom photo above: BRCWRT members who attended the class.

During 2018, building on the success of the 2016 and 2017 on-site classes and the Mason Spirit (Summer 2017) article, *Stepping into the Past*, about the on-site class, the BRCWRT and its GMU partner team, with support from two professional archaeologists, developed a Preliminary Treatment Plan and Assessment that included an initial site assessment and a concept for preserving and interpreting the site. On September 14, 2018, Dr. Platt, Dr. Fuhrmann and Blake met with a select group of GMU administration leaders – the VP of Facilities, Assistant VP of Planning and Design, Associate VP of Business Services and Real Estate and Senior VP for Administration and Finance (who was ultimately unable to attend the meeting/presentation) to again consider and discuss preserving and interpreting the Farr's Cross Roads site. Following a presentation by Dr.

Platt, Dr. Fuhrmann and Blake, these leaders indicated that they better understood the history of Farr's Cross Roads and the redoubt, and expressed interest in pursuing the concept of preserving and interpreting the site. No definitive decisions were reached; however, specific follow-up actions were identified - among them removing four large trees threatening the redoubt's structural integrity, verification of the site's historical significance and maturing the treatment plan and preservation concept.



As a means to verify the site's historical significance in October 2018 research began on the process for nominating the redoubt (now referred to as Farr's Fort (or Fort Farr) in order to be consistent with its listing in Virginia's Department of Historic Resources (DHR) archaeological site record database) for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register and in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. Blake compiled and completed the required Farr's Fort Preliminary Information Form packet and on January 25, 2019, GMU submitted that packet to Virginia's DHR. On December 17, 2018, Fairfax County Park Authority's Senior Archaeologist submitted a Farr's Fort Significance Statement to GMU, and on March 21, 2019, The Virginia State Review Board determined that, based on the submitted Preliminary Information Form, Farr's Fort was eligible for listing on the Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic Places. Achieving Farr's Fort's inclusion on these respective listings requires GMU to complete and submit a National Register of Historic Places Application for the site.

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

To remove the natural threat to the redoubt's structural integrity, the GMU Grounds Department, in consultation with BRCWRT and the project team's archaeologists, developed a plan to remove the four trees and to clear the site to be preserved of undergrowth vegetation. During the period January 30 – February 2, 2019, those four trees, the surrounding deadfall and undergrowth and smaller tree saplings within and on the redoubt were removed, resulting in the redoubt being completely visible for the first time in many, many decades.



Above, view of Farr's Fort prior to tree and undergrowth removal - January 30, 2019. Below, tree-trimmer at work - January 30, 2019.



### The Breakthrough

The critical breakthrough occurred on June 5, 2019, when, after months of coordination and schedule deconfliction, Dr. Platt and Blake met with GMU's Senior VP for Administration and Finance, Carol Kissal and Frank Strike, VP Facilities, to discuss the Farr's Fort site and this



View of Farr's Fort after tree and undergrowth removal - February 4, 2019.

unique preservation and education opportunity for GMU. Following Dr. Platt's presentation and a short discussion, Senior VP Kissal expressed her strong support for preserving the historic site, and directed the site be preserved and interpreted under Frank Strike's purview. Based on recommendations from Dr. Platt and Blake, Senior VP Kissal directed the project be addressed in two components; a near-term component to preserve and interpret Farr's Fort, and a long-term component to include a broader consideration of the historical aspects of the site as a GMU cultural and historical asset as part of the development of the Mason Master Plan, scheduled to begin in late 2019. The significance of Senior VP Kissal's decision and direction was that it expanded our GMU partner team to include GMU's Facilities, Grounds and Campus Planning Departments, and that senior GMU leaders now supported the preservation and ongoing interpretation of the Farr's Cross Roads\Farr's Fort site.

Following this meeting a core preservation team, consisting of BRCWRT's Blake Myers, Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany, GMU's Dr. Brian Platt, FCPA's Senior Archaeologist and GMU's Grounds Program Manager, was established to turn the Preliminary Treatment Plan and Assessment into a viable treatment plan. The resulting Farr's Fort Treatment Plan (Initial Draft), developed to serve as a guide for site preservation and interpretation, was published on June 27, 2019. Its publication led to a series of meetings and discussions involving GMU's Facilities department, Campus Planning office and History

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

department, Virginia's DHR and BRCWRT representatives to review and discuss the plan and applicable requirements. A key consideration was that, as a recorded archeological site, any modification and/or improvement to the site that involved ground disturbance (e.g., grading, leveling, digging, excavation, etc.) must be preceded by an archaeological assessment designed and conducted to locate and protect other cultural and historical archaeological sites that may be located on the site.



Virginia DHR visit to Farr's Fort, March 12, 2020 - left to right: FCPA Archaeologist Chris Sperling, Dr. Brian Platt, DHR's Adrienne Birge-Wilson & Jennifer Belville-Marrion, and the BRCWRT's Jim Lewis.

These meetings and discussions, conducted during the period September 2019 – March 2020, included an on-site visit by Virginia DHR representatives and served to clarify the scope of both the near-term and the long-term components of the project, and to clarify and resolve questions related to each.

At this time, the Mason Master Plan development process had begun and was in its formative stages. Discussions continued between the core preservation team and GMU's Facilities department on ensuring that documents relevant to the historical significance and preservation of the Farr's Cross Roads and Farr's Fort site were included in the Mason Master Plan development process. During a July 7, 2020, meeting to review the status of the development process, it was confirmed that documents, including Bryan Corle's Archaeological Assessment of Site 44FX0185 The Earthwork at Farr's Crossroads (Nov 2008) and the Farr's Fort Treatment Plan (Initial Draft), were being incorporated into the master plan development process. During meeting discussions, the subject of ADA accessibility requirements and their consideration in preserving and interpreting the site was high-

lighted. Meeting attendees agreed that site plans must be compliant with Virginia and GMU ADA accessibility policies and requirements. Dr. Platt agreed to contact GMU's ADA Coordinator for clarification and guidance.

Dr. Platt's discussions with the ADA Coordinator led to an August 7, 2020, on-site visit to review the plan's near-term and long-term components and identify potential ADA accessibility compliance issues. The on-site visit and discussion consisted of a review of the scope of both near-term and long-term components of the preservation project and clarification of ADA accessibility requirements. It was confirmed that ADA accessibility is a consideration when any site improvement involves land grading or adding permanent infrastructure (pathways, structures, etc.), and that technology options, including virtual and augmented reality technologies, may be employed to help ensure compliance with state and GMU ADA accessibility requirements and policies. Based on this clarification, it was determined that while the site's preservation and interpretation long-term component may require the inclusion of features specifically designed to ensure compliance with ADA accessibility requirements, the near-term component included no site improvements that would result in an ADA accessibility issue.

Despite the significant progress, it had become increasingly obvious that without a detailed project plan to turn the Farr's Fort Treatment Plan and concept into a reality, the envisioned near-term preservation and interpretation component might never be realized. So, the core preservation team by Blake Myers, developed the Farr's Fort Interim Preservation and Interpretation Project Plan. This plan, using the Farr's Fort Treatment Plan as a basis and developed in conjunction with GMU's Grounds Program Manager, consisted of two sections: *Section I* – an introduction including a description of the site and its features and a historical significance overview; and *Section II* – the Project Plan that included specific preservation and interpretation actions with associated responsibilities and time frames. The Farr's Fort Interim Preservation and Interpretation Project Plan was approved and adopted by GMU's VP

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

Facilities, Frank Strike on August 17, 2020.

Implementation of the project plan began almost immediately, and on October 6-9, 2020, GMU's Grounds Maintenance department cleared and treated the redoubt, and cleared and covered with wood chips the site's access and interpretive trails.



Access Trail entrance - October 9, 2019.



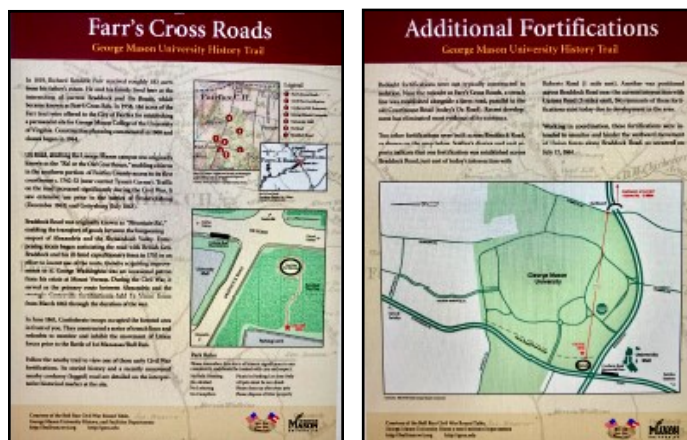
Access Trail to redoubt – October 9, 2019.

In November 2020, BRCWRT members Jim Lewis, Brian McEnany and Blake Myers worked with GMU Graphic Designer, John Forgy to develop the two historical markers called for in the project plan. Given his expertise and experience in creating historical markers, Jim led the marker panels design effort with GMU's John Forgy. The two markers, a two-sided vertical marker located at the access trail entrance adjacent to Parking Lot K, and a horizontal marker located at the redoubt, were designed to reflect GMU's brand and color scheme commensurate with the fledgling GMU History Trail, and to reflect the GMU – BRCWRT partnership.

The access trail vertical marker's front (side A) provides information on Richard Ratcliffe Farr's property and Farr's Cross Roads, historical overviews of Ox Road and Braddock Road



Farr's Crossroads Civil War redoubt and interpretive trail – October 9, 2019.



Both sides of the trailside marker at Farr's Cross Roads.

and directions to the Civil War redoubt, while the back (side B) provides information on additional Civil War fortifications located on and near the site.

The marker at the redoubt provides information on the redoubt and its history and the nearby Civil-War era corduroy road, remnants of which were uncovered during road and sidewalk construction along Ox Road in 2014 and 2016.

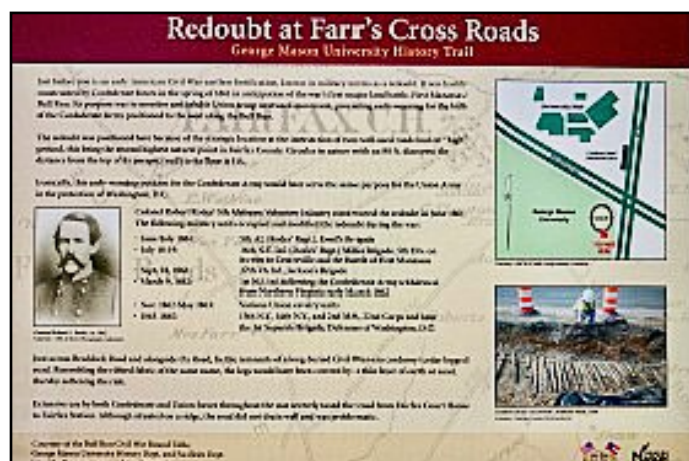
The historical markers were completed in April 2021, and installed May 7-10, 2021, thus completing the interim (near-term) preservation and interpretation of the Farr's Cross Roads and Farr's Fort historic site. As indicated on the markers the Farr's Cross Roads site is one of the sites that will constitute the George Mason University History Trail. The design and make-up of this trail remains under development, but Farr's Cross Roads historic site is the first of the multiple sites planned for the trail to be so designated.

Fort Farr (44FX0185) (January 2019). BRCWRT will remain engaged in the development of the Mason Master Plan, providing assis-

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## Preservation Corner – (con't from page 14)



Horizontal historical marker.



Above, left: vertical historical marker at Access Trail entrance; above, right: Horizontal historical marker at redoubt

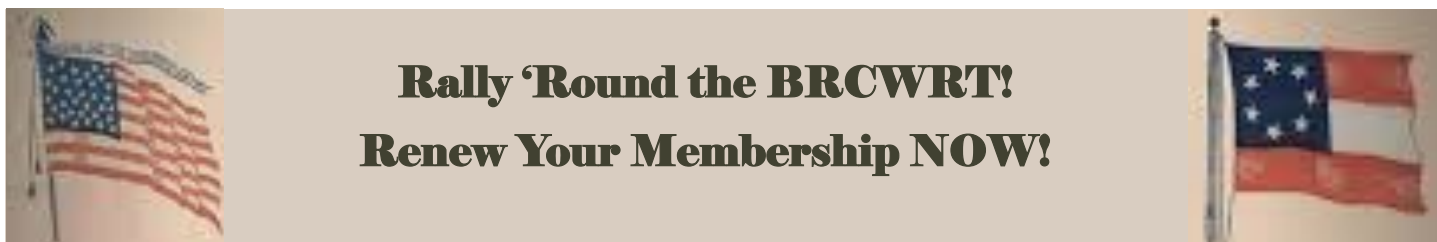
tance, advice and support where possible and appropriate, to ensure the long-term component of the site's preservation and interpretation is accomplished and that the site is nominated for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Future interpretation plans will also likely include virtual and augmented reality technologies – a very interesting and exciting development.

### The Long-Term Component and the Mason Master Plan

As previously described, the long-term component of the preservation and interpretation concept for this site envisions, within the on-going development of the Mason Master

Plan, a broader consideration of the multiple aspects of the site's history and of the site as a GMU cultural and historical asset. At a recent (March 2, 2021) Mason Master Plan Town Hall (virtual engagement session via Zoom) conducted by GMU's Senior VP for Finance and Administration, Carol Kissal and the projects lead consultant, Gregory Jenks, presentations confirmed that the focus in this phase (Phase I) of the development process is on developing a living framework (underpinning) for each of the three main campuses that supports, and is a basis for, future decision-making for the respective campuses.

Phase II of the process will focus on master plan development. In response to a question from Blake Myers, Greg Jenks responded that the plan framework will definitely include a section that addresses historical, cultural and archaeological sites located on GMU campuses, and specifically the Farr's Cross Roads site on the Fairfax Campus. Greg also stated that a survey team has already conducted several Farr's Cross Roads site visits to identify potential historic, cultural and archaeological sites. GMU's Mason Master Plan planning team has copies of the relevant Farr's Cross Roads and Farr's Fort documents; Archaeological Assessment of Site 44FX0185 The Earthwork At Farr's Cross Roads (November 2008), Farr's Fort Treatment Plan (Initial Draft) (Revised) (June 2019) and Virginia DHR Preliminary Information Form, Fort Farr (44FX0185) (January 2019). BRCWRT will remain engaged in the development of the Mason Master Plan, providing assistance, advice and support where possible and appropriate, to ensure the long-term component of the site's preservation and interpretation is accomplished and that the site is nominated for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Future interpretation plans will also likely include virtual and augmented reality technologies – a very interesting and exciting development.



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