



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXI, Issue 7, JULY 2024

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR JONATHAN NOYALAS SPEAKS ON "THE BATTLE OF COOL SPRINGS, JULY 1864" AT THE JULY 11th, 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

The Shenandoah Valley was the scene of many bloody battles throughout the Civil War. In the heartland of Virginia, the breadbasket, battles fought to control the valley began in 1862 and continued through 1865. One of these battles, Cool Springs, was strategic and hotly contested. Confederate General Jubal A. Early attacked the Union capital's defenses on July 11, 1864, then withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley. Federal General George Crook, pursuing Early, decided to make a reconnaissance in force across the river near Cool Springs on July 18, after his cavalry had been repulsed the previous day. For the rest of the battle story, we are happy to have an old friend visit us in the 160th Anniversary month of the battle.

Jonathan A. Noyalas is the director of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute and a history professor at Shenandoah. He is the author or editor of sixteen books and has written more than 100 articles, essays, chapters, and reviews for a variety of scholarly and popular publications. He has worked on a number of public history projects with the National Park Service, the American Battlefield Trust, and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his teaching and

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, July 11, 2024

6 P.M. Social Hour

**7 P.M. In-person at the
Centreville Regional Library &
Streamed on Facebook Live &
Zoom**

GUEST SPEAKER:

Jonathan Noyalas

TOPIC:

**"The Battle of Cool Springs,
July 1864"**

scholarship, including the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award - the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a professor teaching in the Old Dominion.

Come join us early at our July 11th, 2024, Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Jonathan and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

The Spotsylvania tour, originally scheduled for June 22nd but cancelled due to the extreme heat, will be reprogrammed at a later date, probably next spring. Stay Tuned!

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

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For meeting dates and other information, please
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 11 Jonathan Noyalas - "The Battle of
Cool Springs, July 1864"

August 8 Doug Crenshaw - "Fort Harri-
son and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm"

September 12 Melissa Weeks -
"Rendezvous with Destiny: Gen. J.E.B.
Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse"

October 10 Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi
Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle
of Cedar Creek, October 1864"

November 14 Gene Schmiel - "The Bat-
tle of Nashville, TN, December 1864"

December 12 Scott Patchan -
"Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley
Campaign"

January 9, 2025 Melissa Winn -
"Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An
Indirect Way"

February 13 Eric Buckland - "Mosby:
When The Story Ended, The Legend Be-
gan"

March 13 Dawn Diehl & Linda Harrison -
"The Healing: Conversations With Civil
War Nurses"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kim Brace

Photo: Gwen Wyttbach

The summer is generally thought of as a time to recharge the batteries, to enjoy some vacation time with the family, or to learn something new. For persons interested in Civil War history, there are a number of conferences being held, including, in August, the Emerging Civil War conference in Spotsylvania organized by one of our previous May speakers, Chris Mackowski, Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute in the first week of June, and next week Lincoln's Cottage in DC is having a panel on Lincoln in the 1864 election. Your own BRCWRT plans a number of events throughout the year, but we're always concerned with the wellbeing of our members. When the DC area was hit with what has become a series of heat waves, we canceled the tour of Spotsylvania and expect to conduct it in early 2025, when it's cooler.

This ongoing concern for our members' health and well-being has caused your Exec Comm to review how we conduct our monthly Thursday evening membership meeting. Last month's primary election caused the Centreville Library to be closed to outside groups from meeting on our normal schedule. As a result, we moved the meeting to the end of June when our regular scheduled speaker Brad Gottfried was available. The fall's November general election may also cause us to change our schedule and move the meeting date or venue. We'll keep everyone informed through our monthly newsletter, as well as e-mail blasts. The Washington area's ongoing traffic problems, as well as members' desire to avoid night-time driving, also affect our members attendance.



Brad Gottfried, our June speaker

I would encourage all members to let members of the Exec Comm know how the monthly membership meeting should be held. Other round tables around the nation stopped their in-person meetings when Covid hit. Many went to just Zoom meetings and have continued that practice today. Other groups, like the BRCWRT, set up hybrid meetings where meetings continued via Zoom as well as being conducted in person. We are now debating how we should conduct our meetings. We have been collecting attendance numbers for several decades, and I've asked the keepers of those numbers, Charley Balch and Blake Meyers, to write a summary of the information for the newsletter. This information will help inform your leaders on possible direction.

Like all organizations, it takes money to run the operation. The BRCWRT is no different. Your Round Table has found different mechanisms to gather funds, including the sale of Civil War related paintings, many of which have been donated from outside individuals and/or groups. At the July 11 meeting, we will offer a beautifully framed print of J.E.B. Stuart by Michael Gnatek for \$100. To

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suggest a comparable, there is one seller on eBay asking \$200 for an unframed print. Please add this colorful, framed print to your collection for such a modest price. Remember, all proceeds from these print sales go into the BRCWRT's Preservation account! Thanks again for your involvement.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Welcomes New Members

Paul Bresnahan

Dan Cox

Peter Hogan

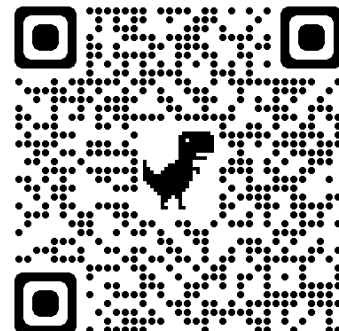
John Sowdon

SUPPORT BRCWRT ACTIVITIES

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that relies on your donations to continue our excellent programs and initiatives throughout the year. There are many select programs to donate to, including: the BRCWRT Scholarship Fund, Preservation efforts, Civil War Trails sign preservation and maintenance, educational programs, and of course the General donation category (which the Round Table uses as a discretionary fund to offset various expenses, to help keep our membership dues at a reasonable rate). Please consider your Round Table for tax-deductible donations every year. We are a special organization and appreciate our members very much.

There are a number of ways to make a donation. On the BRCWRT website, click the link labelled "Renew/Donate" and select the link at the bottom of that page. Alternatively, you can give a check to our Treasurer at a membership meeting, or mail it to: BRCWRT Treasurer, PO Box 2147, Centreville VA 20122. Make checks payable to BRCWRT, and be sure to note whether it is for the Scholarship Fund, Preservation Fund, or the General Fund.

Finally, you can scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to make a donation.



Bull Run Civil War Round Table



Upcoming 2024-2025 Program of Events

Date	Event
July 11	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Noyalas - "The Battle of Cool Springs, July 1864"
August 8	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Doug Crenshaw - "Fort Harrison and the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, 1864"
September 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Weeks - "Rendezvous With Destiny: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Spotsylvania Courthouse, 1864"
September 22	Annual BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery at Bull Run
October 5	Fall Field Trip: "Battle of Cedar Creek" - Tour leaders Blake Myers and Jim Lewis (rain date October 26th)
October 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"
November 14	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 1864"
December 12	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"
January 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Winn - "Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way"
February 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Eric Buckland - "Mosby: When The Story Ended, The Legend Began"
March 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speakers: Dawn Diehl & Linda Harrison - "The Healing: Conversations with Civil War Nurses"
April 10, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Garrett Kost - "The Spirit Fled to God Who Gave It: Dr. Charles Leale & The Medical Treatment of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater"
May 8, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Schroeder - "Myths About R.E. Lee's Surrender At Appomattox VA, April 1865"
June 12, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Hennessy - "The People's Army: The Life and Mind of the Army of the Potomac"
July 10, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ronald Coddington - "Civil War Portrait Photography: Reflections of a Generation"
August 14, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dana Shoaf



PRESERVATION CORNER

By Blake Myers

Photos by Blake Myers
unless otherwise noted



Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* highlights two recent and significant preservation events – the dedication of the *Culpeper Battlefields State Park*, and the dedication of the *Andrew Redman Blacksmith Shop* at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Culpeper Battlefields State Park

Culpeper Battlefields State Park opened on June 8, 2024. Governor Glenn Youngkin led a host of dignitaries and battlefield preservationists, including the Director of

Virginia State Parks Dr. Melissa Baker, the Director of Culpeper Tourism and Economic Development Paige Read, the President of the American Battlefield Trust David Duncan, the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Matthew Wells, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles, the Chairman Emeritus of the American Battlefield Trust John Nau III, and renowned preservationist Clark 'Bud' Hall, in dedicating and opening Virginia's newest state park.

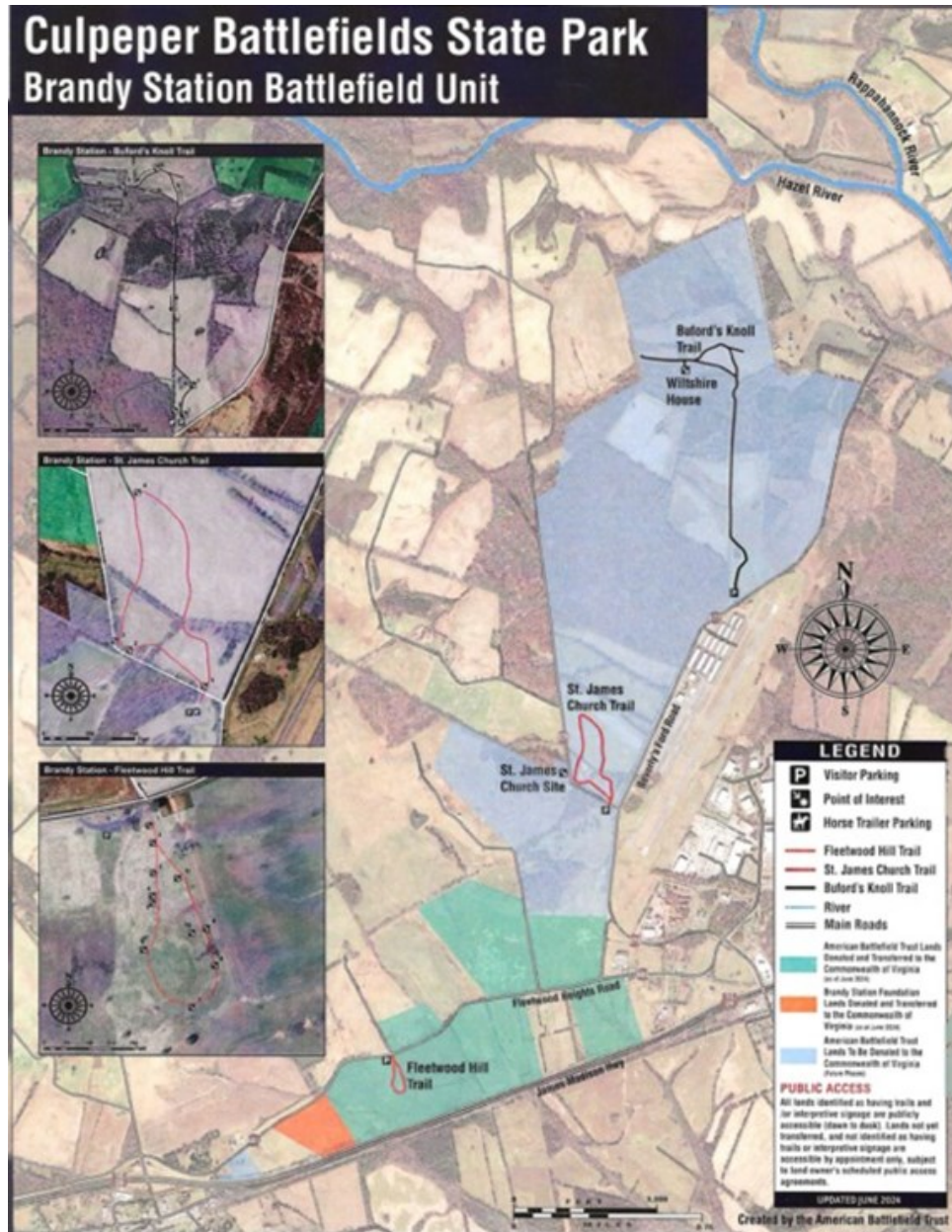


Clark 'Bud' Hall and American Battlefield Trust Personnel at the
Culpeper Battlefields State Park Sign - June 8, 2024 (photo courtesy of Clark 'Bud' Hall)

Culpeper Battlefields State Park is Virginia's 43rd State Park and opened with 263 acres, centered around the crest of Fleetwood Hill on the Brandy Station Battlefield, the site of the largest cavalry battle fought on the North American continent. After a series of land and property transfers to be completed between June 2024 and December 2027, the park will provide Culpeper area residents and visitors 2,200 acres of historic battlefield land. The park lands are and will be composed of lands preserved by the private sector, in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and include Hansbrough's Ridge and significant portions of the battlefields of the four major Civil War battles fought in Culpeper County - Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station.

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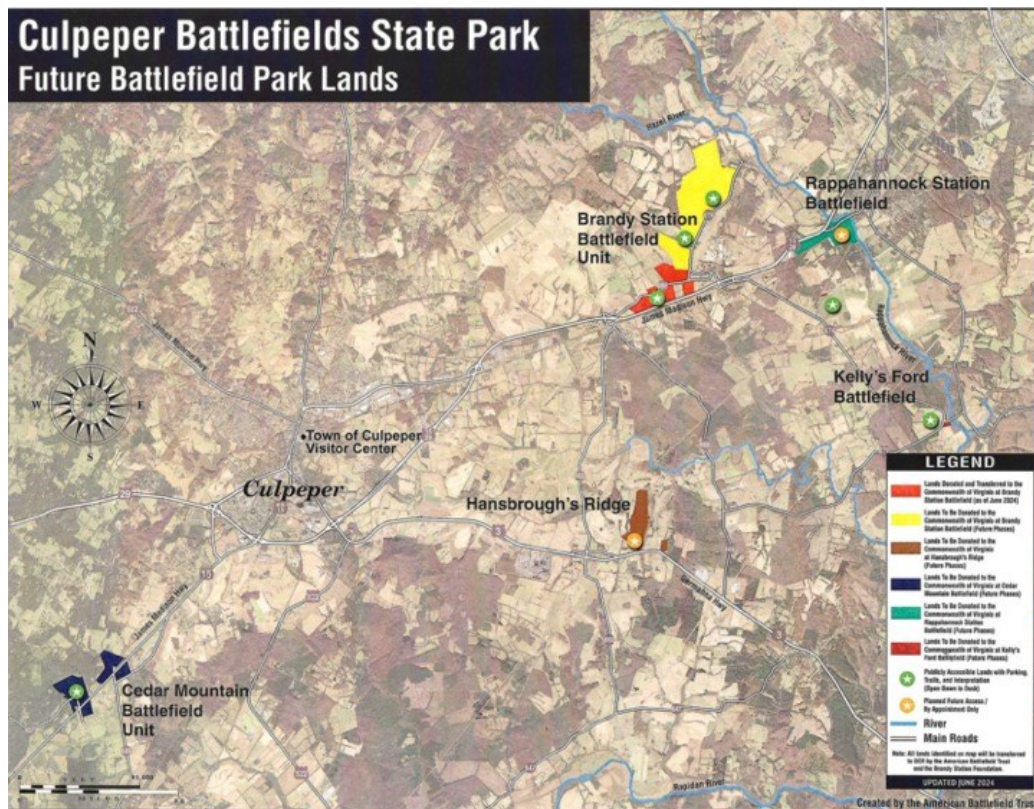


Culpeper Battlefields State Park – Brandy Station Battlefield Unit

The story of this park and of the Brandy Station Battlefield, from one of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 1993, to its saving, preservation, and interpretation, to its incorporation as the base battlefield unit into the park in 2024, is a battlefield preservation story unlike any other and a battlefield preservation legend. It represents the culmination of more than 35 years of dedication, perseverance, and hard work by many individuals and organizations, who embraced the preservation mission and vision, and helped make preservation of the Brandy Station Battlefield and the establishment of this park a reality.

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Culpeper Battlefields State Park – Future Battlefield Park Lands

This preservation story begins with Clark 'Bud' Hall and Tersh Boasberg, who first stood on the front lines (in the 1980s), first to protect the Brandy Station Battlefield, and then to build the requisite local, regional, and national advocacy for saving, preserving, and interpreting the battlefield. Key to this effort was Tersh Boasberg's legal expertise in challenging, through litigation, battlefield threats from development plans, zoning ordinances and rezoning applications first impacting Brandy Station, and then the Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford Battlefields and Hansbrough's Ridge. As word and awareness of the development threats to these battlefields spread, multiple organizations joined the effort, including the Brandy Station Foundation, the Friends of Cedar Mountain (now the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation), the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, the American Battlefield Trust, and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, to name a few.

The emergence of the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) as a leader in the effort to save these historic lands has been a key and vital piece of the overall effort. As Clark 'Bud' Hall noted, ABT deserves full credit for the Virginia leaders' approval of the park. ABT, a national nonprofit organization, will turn over 1,700 acres it has saved at the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields, and a Union encampment near Stevensburg, and will work directly with the other respective landowners and county entities to turn over the designated future battlefield park lands to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Culpeper Battlefields State Park. "Thanks to the leadership of the

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Trust, its distinguished board members, its president and staff, in particular its Director of Policy and Communications Jim Campi, we now have a state park,” Hall said in an interview. “As one who has been involved in the fray from the beginning, I could not be more happy, gratified and appreciative of the thousands of people who have supported this preservation effort,” he said. “Now, thanks to all their efforts, they’ll have a Virginia state park.”



Tersh Boasberg, Clark ‘Bud’ Hall and Ed Wenzel
Three Stalwarts of Battlefield Preservation

The dedication ceremony was superb and was well attended. Remarks by Dr. Walker, Paige Read, David Duncan, Matthew Wells, Travis Voyles, and John Nau focused on their respective organization’s role and responsibilities in the park’s establishment and in its future operations. American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan highlighted the landowners and organizations that were and continue to be involved in saving, acquiring, transferring and preserving these battlefield lands and ABT’s significant role in saving, acquiring and transferring the respective battlefield park lands. Governor Youngkin’s keynote address praised the extraordinary preservation effort initiated and sustained by so many for more than 35 years, and was a from-the-heart statement of the importance of knowing state and local history and of the significant importance of historic sites and lands as outdoor, learning classrooms.



Attendees Arriving at the Dedication Ceremony Tent

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ABT President David Duncan



Governor Glenn Youngkin



Cannon Firing Preparation



Governor Youngkin Firing the Cannon

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All in all, June 8, 2024 was a great day for Culpeper County and Virginia State Parks, for Bud Hall and Tersh Boasberg, for the American Battlefield Trust, and for the dozens of landowners and preservation groups who have saved, preserved, and interpreted these historic lands and directly supported those efforts.



Governor Youngkin Leads the Cutting of the Ribbon to Open Culpeper Battlefields State Park
(Photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust)



BRCWRT Members Attending the Dedication Ceremony
Mike Block, Ed Wenzel, Blake Myers, Jimmy Dean,
and Melissa Winn (not pictured)

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Andrew Redman Blacksmith Shop at Groveton, Manassas NBP

On Saturday, June 15, 2024 the Manassas Battlefield Trust (MBT) sponsored the dedication of the Andrew Redman Blacksmith Shop as part of Manassas National Battlefield Park's (MNBP) Juneteenth commemoration. The construction of the working, period replica of the blacksmith shop at Groveton was made possible in part by an *Inclusive Storytelling* grant from the National Park Foundation that the Trust received in collaboration with the National Park Service.



The Blacksmith Shop at Groveton

Born enslaved in 1831, Andrew Redman learned the blacksmithing trade at an early age. As his reputation as a skilled craftsman grew, Redman was likely hired out by his enslaver, William M. Lewis of Brownsville, to other nearby farms. By the outbreak of the Civil War, Redman worked as a blacksmith at the corner of the Groveton intersection. From Groveton he witnessed the contending armies' maneuvers and battles during the Battles of 1st and 2nd Manassas.

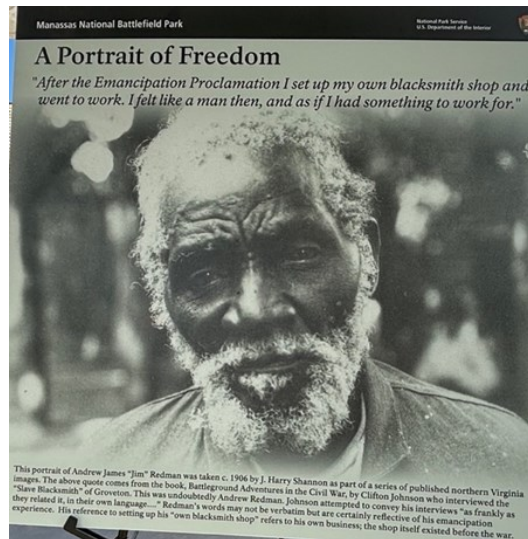
According to his own account, Redman received his freedom by virtue of the Emancipation Proclamation. In an interview with Clifton Johnson in 1906, Redman said, "After the Emancipation Proclamation I set up my own blacksmith shop and went to work. I felt like a man then, and as if I had something to work for." In 1871, after renting the property for several years, Redman purchased the shop and two acres of land from his former enslaver's family. For the next four decades, Redman worked as a blacksmith and farmer and lived as part of the Groveton community with his wife and five children.

The June 15th dedication ceremony included remarks by Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent Kristopher Butcher, Manassas Battlefield Trust Board Member Russ Muter, and Amanda Jeffries, Andrew Redman's Great-Great-Great Granddaughter. Superintendent Butcher's remarks focused on the importance of Juneteenth and MNBP's commemoration, and on the construction of the blacksmith shop based on

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period photographs and historical research, given no plans or description of the original blacksmith shop have ever been found. MBT Board member Russ Muter's remarks focused on the historical significance of the blacksmith shop's dedication, and on the partnership of the Trust, the National Park Service and MNPB that made the blacksmith shop and its dedication a reality. Amanda Jeffries' remarks focused on her discovery of her family lineage, largely through *Ancestry* and its digital archives, and her research on her ancestor Andrew Redman, including his life and times. She also expressed her surprise and gratitude for MBT contacting her, via *Ancestry*, regarding the blacksmith shop project and today's dedication.



Andrew Redman, A Portrait of Freedom



The Dedication Ceremony, June 15, 2024

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MNBP Superintendent Kristopher Butcher



MBT Board Member Russ Muter



Great-Great-Great Granddaughter Amanda Jeffries

Following the formal remarks, Russ Muter invited everyone to join him for the ribbon 'cutting' and official opening of the blacksmith shop.

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Preparation for and Conduct of the Ribbon 'Cutting' - The Blacksmith's Way

Blacksmithing demonstrations were conducted throughout the day by Blacksmith living historian Matt Walker, from Luray, Virginia, and MNBP Intern Nilreign 'Niles' Johnson, from Long Island, New York, a student at Tuskegee University.



Blacksmith Assistant & MNBP Intern Nilreign 'Niles' Johnson
and Blacksmith Matt Walker

The blacksmith shop construction helps bring Groveton, the rural village at the heart of the 2nd Manassas Battlefield, to life. This working blacksmith shop will serve as a new and vital living history interpretive site to share Andrew Redman's story and his trade with MNBP visitors.

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Blacksmithing Demonstration by Matt Walker & Niles Johnson



Persons Involved in Recreating and Constructing the Blacksmith Shop



BRCWRT Members at the Dedication: Mark & Debbie Whinton, Stephanie Vale, Blake Myers, Don Richardson, Alan Day & Gwen Wyttenbach

Culpeper Battlefields State Park and the Blacksmith Shop at Manassas National Battlefield Park are two excellent examples of battlefield preservation, interpretation and education. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of Civil War history preservation and education.

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Chair

PRESERVATION OF THE CULPEPER BATTLEFIELDS

By Michael Block

The preservation fight for Brandy Station, and more importantly Fleetwood Hill, was a generational fight, begun in 1988, thirty-eight years ago. The transfer and dedication of Unit One, Fleetwood Hill, Culpeper Battlefields State Park took place on June 8, 2024. I have no data to support this, but it has to be one of the longest preservation fights in our country.

Governor Glenn Youngkin gave the primary address, firing a cannon at its conclusion 'opening' the park. Youngkin called out politicians and citizens who helped make the day possible, but he also recognized two preservationists, Clark B. "Bud" Hall and Tersh Boasberg. Bud is well known to many in this Round Table and was the most prominent of the Brandy Station preservation advocates. Bud has spoken before us and to countless round tables and Civil War organizations. But let me introduce you to a few other key participants in the fight for Fleetwood.

Tersh Boasberg has been described as the single most indispensable person to the salvation of the Manassas and Brandy Station Battlefields. It was Boasberg's article in the *Washington Post* calling for a study on the state of battlefield preservation that led to the establishment of the congressional Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Tersh's papers regarding the preservation fight at Manassas are now housed at the Manassas NBP.

Benjamin Burruss Mitchell, B.B. to everyone who knew him, was the first President of the Brandy Station Foundation (BSF), and along with his wife Page, were literally on the front line of the preservation, as their home rested on Fleetwood. The ten-year president held many meetings in the early years in their front room, with the attendees gazing out the windows and onto the battlefield. All the time, they were living next to a neighbor who refused to speak to them for their preservation stand.

Johanna Quandt, deputy chairwoman of the board of directors of BMW, spent time in Brandy Station at her farm, Beauregard, now adjacent to the State Park. Born in West Germany, she was introduced to the Brandy Station fight upon receiving a copy of Heros Von Borcke's "The Great Cavalry Battle at Brandy Station: June 1863," in German. Twice, during the first decade of the fight, she facilitated bridge loans for land purchases on ground that had been earmarked for the industrial park and motorsports complex.

The list of others who played important roles includes JEB Stuart IV, Brian Pohanka, Don Pfanz, John Hennessy, and Gary Gallagher. It would be impossible to list all of the preservationists who contributed in some way to the fight. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table, with our reputation for battlefield preservation advocacy and passion, contributed in many ways to this victory.

Multiple organizations supported the preservation effort in Culpeper over the years. In 2015, the Brandy Station Battlefield Alliance evolved into the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields. The organization supports battlefield-focused preservation,

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stewardship, and heritage tourism across the historic Culpeper region. Those groups partnered under the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields include:

- **American Battlefield Trust**
- **Brandy Station Foundation**
- **Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation**
- **Culpeper Chamber of Commerce**
- **Culpeper Tourism**
- **Historic Germanna**
- **Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area**
- **Museum of Culpeper History**
- **Piedmont Environmental Council**
- **Preservation Virginia**
- **Remington Community Partnership**
- **Virginia Association for Parks**

As you are well aware, there have been many threats to the Brandy Station battlefield. The Culpeper airport was constructed on it in the 1960's. That land was lost before any preservation organizations existed.

In 1988, Lee Sammis, a California-based commercial developer, brought the first preservation challenge to Brandy Station. And the first one successfully met.

Sammis purchased more than 5,300 acres of farmland in his quest for development. On November 13, 1988, he was quoted in the *Richmond Times* as saying "we are farming a big piece of ground, but the historic preservation people are making it out to be something it is not." Sammis had previously claimed that he purchased the farm "as more of a personal hobby" and "as a family investment." The California developer stated he did not have development plans for this battlefield land.

That would change just two months later. On January 26, 1989, 'Farmer' Sammis announced the intentions of "Elkwood Downs Limited Partnership" to construct a massive "corporate office park" and "planned community" on the Brandy Station Battlefield. Sammis paid 21.2 million for the 5,300 acres. The preservation battle had begun.

The four year fight with Sammis ended in June 1993 with the developer filing for bankruptcy. The battle was far from over. A key element in the reorganization filing was the sale of 683 acres for \$3.4 million to Benton Ventures, Ltd. — an entity that planned to build an automobile racetrack (Formula One) on the battlefield. Two months later, Hall, along with a group of preservationists, met with James Lazor of Benton Ventures and members of his team on the battlefield. Lazor stated to Hall that "whether you like it or not, I'll build my racetrack right here." Hall's response was, "We'll see."

Two years later the racetrack development project was finished after experiencing unpaid bills, mounting debt and failing to making payments on the property.

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The acreage was purchased by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and in June 2003, CWPT and the BSF marked the opening of the Brandy Station Battlefield Park.

I would highly recommend that if you haven't already purchased or read "Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust," by Bob Zeller, you should. Zeller's book tells the preservation story up to 2017, with the Brandy Station fight holding a prominent spot in the telling.

There were smaller fights, but they were just as important to the preservation of what is now a state park. I had the privilege of being a member of the Brandy Station Board of Directors during both the Willow Run and Golden Oaks preservation fights.

Willow Run was a 513 acre commercial development concept to be built along the western side of Route 15, between that road and the Culpeper Airport. The development would include loft style living, as well as an elementary school. The footprint of Willow Run, if fully developed, would have been one and one-half times the size of Central Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The developer in his statements touted the creation of nearly 6,200 jobs.

Sounded great for the local economy, but the super-majority of those positions would have been entry-level or minimum wage positions. The impact traffic would have in the region would have been overwhelming for the road network. Environmental concerns abounded. Sprawl would have swallowed the then undeveloped and historic ground.

Willow Run misrepresented themselves by stating to the *Culpeper Star Exponent* "[The developer] has even spoken with the Brandy Station Foundation and plans to work with the nonprofit historical group to build a visitor center in the area", giving the false impression of support from the Foundation. The development team offered that the BSF would receive the "donations" from the proposed visitor center, and offered to provide a bus service from Willow Run to the Graffiti House. None of it was in writing, and was easily exposed as the late Robert Luddy, longtime President of the BSF said in his statement before the Culpeper Board of Supervisors "his offers could have been interpreted as a blatant attempt to 'buy our support' rather than form a working relationship!" Fortunately, the Board of Supervisors rejected the Willow Run package.

Luddy was also at the forefront of the Golden Oaks housing development fight. The planned residential community was to be built on the ground of Federal BG Percy Wyndham's cavalry brigade approach on June 9, 1863, between Fleetwood Hill and the village of Brandy Station. Worry and angst were felt at times by the board as our efforts were proving fruitless. The inability to reach a compromise lasted for months. At one point it appeared that the fight to save the ground was lost. The BSF board decided to offer to transfer property titles on adjacent property, thereby moving the

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development closer to the village and away from Fleetwood Hill, but we were rebuffed. In the end, *the land* saved itself: the ground would not perk.

Fleetwood Hill, the principal desired location on the Brandy Station Battlefield, evaded every opportunity for purchase until 2013. The owner of the land had two homes on the property, a discreet ranch home and a McMansion. The property owner had no intention to sell. However, this all changed when he dammed Flat Run, which runs at the base of Fleetwood Hill, to create a personal pond. This action violated a number of federal laws and through negotiations, the American Battlefield Trust purchased Fleetwood and surrounding properties in 2015. As part of the settlement, the owner was ordered to remove the dam and repair all damages to the run and landscape. Both homes were removed and today the property is Unit One of the Culpeper Battlefields State Park.

My small role in the effort was mostly in communicating the issues and challenges before us, working on preservation issues while serving on the BSF and Friends of Cedar Mountain Board of Directors, community outreach at venues such as Culpeperfest and Culpeper County Schools Industrial Days, presentations, and tours of the hallowed ground in Culpeper (and elsewhere). The members of this Round Table played a role as well by being proactive in preservation and public education of the real threats to American history.

The latest issue of the American Battlefield Trust's magazine *Hallowed Ground* (Summer 2024) is dedicated to comprehensive coverage of the fight to save the Culpeper battlefields and the dedication of the Culpeper Battlefields State Park.

Unfortunately, the fight to save Brandy Station is not over. It will never be. It's the same with every battlefield across America. In northern Culpeper County, a data center is being built in the shadow of Hansbrough Ridge. Another Data Center was recently recommended by the Culpeper County Planning Commission for disapproval in the village of Brandy Station, but the county's Board of Supervisors has yet to act. The industrial park adjacent to the Culpeper Regional Airport expands their footprint. The airport desires to extend its runways north (which would cause the re-routing or even loss of access to Beverly Ford Road) and the area farms are always at risk. A threat will always exist.

Organize, do your homework and pick your fights. Hopefully, it won't take 38 years.



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

By Janet Greentree

General Albert Sidney Johnston, CSA

Did you know that General Albert Sidney Johnston was the highest ranking general ever killed in an American war? I must say that is pretty impressive given how many wars this country has been through since the Civil War. He was killed at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. We will get into more of that later.

Albert Sidney Johnston was born on February 2, 1803 in Maysville, Mason Co., KY to Dr. John Johnston and Abigail Harris. His boyhood home is still standing. Dr. Johnston was a physician. Albert was one of eight children: John Harris (Judge), Alfred, Lucius, Anna Maria, Clarissa, Albert, Elizabeth, and Abigail. Alfred, Elizabeth, and Abigail all died as children. His father was first married to Mary Stoddard and Albert had three step-brothers: Josiah Stoddard (Judge, Representative/Senator from Louisiana), Darius (attorney), and Orramel (doctor). His father married a third time to the widow of James Byers. They had two children as well. The Johnston family is of Scottish descent. His great-grandfather John Johnston was born in Scotland. His grandfather Capt. Archabell (perhaps Archibald) Johnson was born in Connecticut. Archabell is the name on his cemetery marker but family history lists him as Archibald. Archabell was a captain of the 1st Duchess Company, NY Regiment in the Revolutionary War. He later owned an iron works and was a land owner. Albert's family lived in Connecticut and then moved to Kentucky.



Johnston Boyhood Home

Albert was schooled by private tutors, then attended Transylvania College in Lexington, KY where he first met Jefferson Davis, who was two years behind him. Both Davis and Johnston were appointed to West Point. Johnston graduated 8th out of 41 cadets with the class of 1826 as a brevet 2nd lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Infantry. His classmates who were generals in the Civil War were: Union – Silas Casey, Amos Beebe Eaton, Samuel Peter Heintzelman, and Augustus J. Pleasonton, who was the older brother of Alfred Pleasonton. The lone Confederate besides Johnston was John Breckinridge Grayson. His first duty assignment was at Sackett's Harbor, NY. In 1826 he was with the 6th Infantry at Jefferson Barracks, MO.

Albert was described as more than six feet tall with a powerful build and a commanding presence. His complexion was tanned from constant exposure to the sun. His mind was clear, strong, and well cultivated.

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He married Henrietta Preston on January 14, 1829 in Jefferson Co., KY near Louisville. They had two children, William Preston and Henrietta Preston, born in 1831 and 1832. His wife contracted tuberculosis and was extremely sick. Albert resigned his commission on April 22, 1834 to care for her and their children. He took up farming near St. Louis. Unfortunately, Henrietta passed away on August 12, 1835. Later his son William Preston served in the Confederacy as major of the 1st Kentucky Infantry. In May 1862 he became aide-de-camp to President Jefferson Davis. William served with Davis until the end of the war and was captured with Davis near Irwinville, GA on May 10, 1865. He was imprisoned at Fort Delaware and released after several months. He chose to live in Canada for a while instead of going back to the practice of law in Kentucky; he eventually went back to Kentucky.

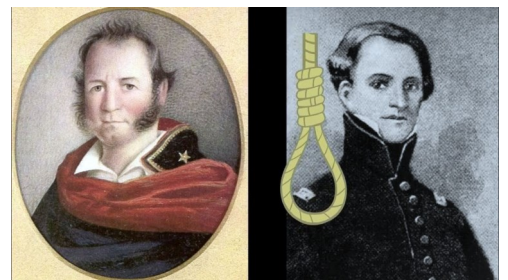


William Preston Johnston
(left)

Monument to capture of
Jefferson Davis (right)



In 1836 Albert moved to Texas and enlisted as a private in the Texas Army. Albert's older brothers Darius and Orramel were already in Texas. His oldest brother Josiah was a recruiter in Texas. On August 5, 1836 Albert was appointed adjutant general and became a Texas senior brigadier general, replacing Felix Huston who was downgraded to a junior brigadier general. Unfortunately, Huston did not take kindly to being replaced and challenged Albert to a duel on February 5, 1837 on the Lavaca River in Texas at the "Duelling Oak". Albert did not bring dueling pistols since the duel was a spur of the moment event. Both of them used Huston's 12" barreled horse pistols which had hair triggers. Albert waited for Huston to take aim and in turn he would quickly raise his gun and fire. Albert's shot grazed Huston's ear. On Huston's sixth shot, Albert was shot in the pelvic area. No bones were broken but the shot injured his sciatic nerve. The doctor on site said the wound was mortal. At this point Huston said he was sorry and would be willing to serve under him.



Felix Huston / Albert Sidney Johnston

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Albert was moved to Texana where he was treated. He was pretty much incapacitated until December 1837. He walked with a limp for the rest of his life and had problems with his foot and numbness. Later Albert would say "he fought Huston as a public duty but he had but little respect for the practice of dueling." He said "the duel was a shameful piece of business, and I wouldn't do it again under any circumstances. Why, when I reflect upon the circumstances, I hate myself ... that one act blackened all the good ones of my life. But I couldn't challenge Congress; and President Houston, although a duelist, was too far above me in rank. Well, thank God, I didn't kill him."



The Dueling Oak

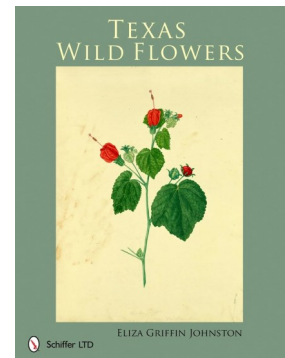
On October 3, 1843 Albert married Eliza Griffin, a cousin of his first wife. He began courting her when she was 18. Eliza was an artist and loved the wildflowers of Texas. The family lived at China Grove Plantation in Brazoria Co., TX until 1849. She had 101 of her paintings made into a book and gave it to her husband on his birthday. Later, long after she passed away, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas had it made into a book called Texas Wild Flowers; it was published in 1972. You can still buy it on Amazon for \$37.03. Eliza followed her husband around the country to his various commands.



Eliza Johnston



China Grove Plantation



Eliza's book

Albert and Eliza had five children: Albert Jr., Hancock McClung, Margaret, Griffin, and Eliza Alberta. Eliza Alberta was born on August 30, 1861 in California. Albert never saw her but wrote to Eliza in December 1861 saying: "You and the children occupy every thought not devoted to business ... I was rejoiced to know that you & the dear little ones were all safe and well ... I shall love the youngest better if you give her your own name...."

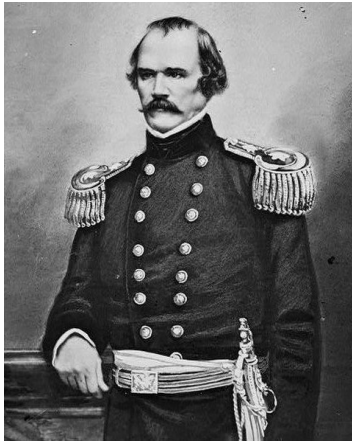
During his military career Albert fought in the Black Hawk War, Texas-Indian Wars, the Battle of the Neches, the battle of Monterrey in the Mexican War, the Utah War, and lastly the Civil War. He fought under Gen. Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Monterrey. After his commander Gen. William O. Butler was wounded, Johnston took over. Gen. Taylor said of Johnston: "It was through Johnston's agency, mainly, that

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our division was saved from a cruel slaughter ... The coolness and magnificent presence [that he] displayed on this field ... left an impression on my mind that I have never forgotten." Gen. Taylor considered Johnston "the best soldier he had ever commanded."

Johnston resigned after Monterrey and went back to his plantation with his family. Albert, like others in the South at the time, was a slave owner and owned four slaves. In 1855 President Franklin Pierce appointed him as colonel of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry. He organized the 2nd with Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and Majors William J. Hardee and George H. Thomas. In February 1860 the family moved to the San Francisco, CA area, taking one slave (Randolph/Ran) with them. Ran insisted on a contract with Johnston of \$12/mo. for 5 years of servitude. Albert had just been appointed to command the Department of the Pacific.



Albert was still the commander of the Department of the Pacific when the Civil War began, even though he was 57 by that time. He submitted his registration, and it was accepted by the War Department on May 6, 1861. The family then moved to Los Angeles where his wife's brother John Griffin had a home. Many of his family later stayed in California. Albert left California after joining the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles, a pro-Southern militia unit. He departed California on May 27th to come east to join the Confederacy. He didn't arrive in Richmond, VA until September 5, 1861. His longtime friend Jefferson Davis, then president of the Confederacy, appointed Albert a full general and he was confirmed by the Confederate Senate

on August 31, 1861. He became the second highest ranking general in the Confederacy; only Gen. Samuel Cooper was above him.

He was appointed on September 10th to command all of the area west of the Allegheny Mountains, except for coastal areas. He had 40,000 men spread out in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri. The Union had captured Forts Henry and Donelson; Johnston and his men tried capturing the forts to no avail. Johnston went on to Corinth with a combined army of 44,669 men; some of them were new recruits. Johnston's hope was to stop Grant, who was at Pittsburgh Landing on April 5, 1862.

The battle of Shiloh took place on April 6-7th between Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River and a little church three miles away named Shiloh Church. Albert rallied his troops by riding up and down the line on his horse Fire Eater. While at the Peach Orchard area at 1:30 in the afternoon, still rallying his troops, he was shot above his knee from behind in the popliteal artery deep in his thigh. Since his sciatic nerve was damaged earlier in 1837, he never felt his wound. His boot quickly

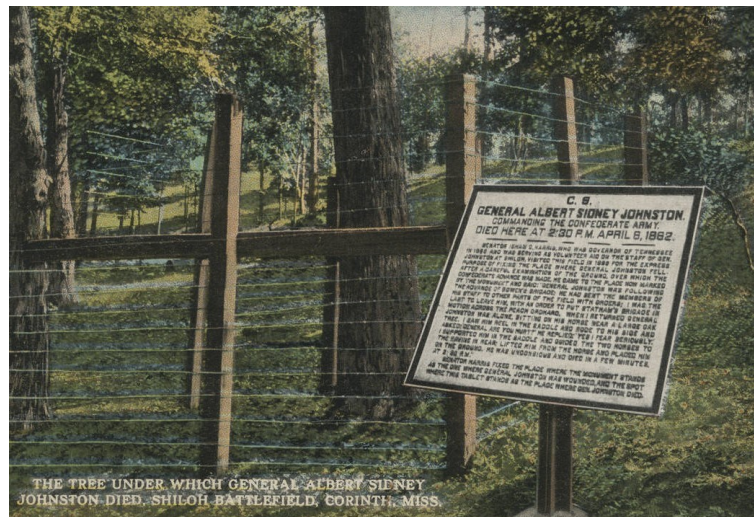
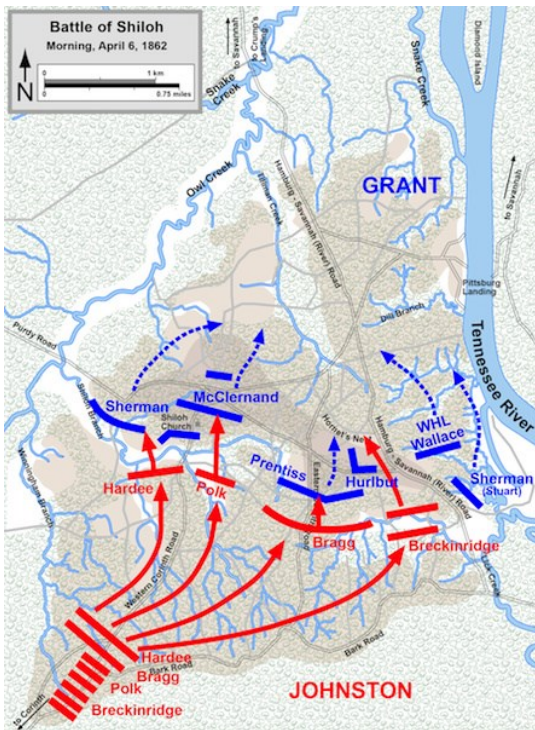


Replica of Shiloh Church

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filled up with blood. There were no surgeons around and in just a few minutes he was close to fainting. Isham Harris, the Governor of Tennessee was in the fight as well. He saw Albert's face turning very pale and he was slumping in his saddle. Harris asked Albert "General, are you wounded?" Albert glanced down at his leg and his last words were: "Yes ... and I fear seriously." He was taken to a small ravine near the Hornet's Nest under a tree where he died around 2:30. Ironically, he was carrying a tourniquet in his pocket.



Tree under which Johnston died

Harris and Johnston's officers wrapped the body in a blanket and put it in a tent until the battle ended. General Beauregard took over for Johnston. It was then taken to his field headquarters house on the Corinth Road owned by Colonel William Inge. The body was covered with a Confederate flag and lay in state for several hours. After extracting the bullet, it was determined that it came from a Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle, which was standard issue for the Confederate Army but not the Union troops who were present. After the war, Jefferson Davis wrote, "When Sidney Johnston fell, it was the turning point of our fate; for we had no other hand to take up his work in the West." There is a large monument on the Shiloh battlefield for Gen. Johnston in his memory. There is also a mortuary cannon located where he was killed.



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Gen. Johnston was originally buried in New Orleans at Metairie Cemetery. There is a large statue of Johnston on his horse Fire Eater at the Army of Tennessee memorial there. General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was later buried inside the mausoleum. In 1866 the Texas Legislature voted to have his body reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, TX, which was done in 1867. In 1905 a monument and recumbent sculpture was erected on his grave site. He is buried in the Confederate Field Section 2, Row A, Grave 13. A big huzzah to Gary Haskins, who was visiting relatives in Austin and kindly took beautiful pictures of Johnston's grave for Ms. Rebelle.



Monument At Metairie Cemetery
(Photo: Lisa Greentree Tully)



Johnston's Grave at Texas State Cemetery (Photos: Gary Haskins)

His wife Eliza lost her husband in 1862, and then their oldest child Capt. Albert S. Johnston, Jr. was killed aboard a ferry while trying to board the steamship S.S. Ada Hancock in San Pedro Harbor, CA on April 27, 1863 when the boiler exploded. Eliza moved from Los Angeles to the Pasadena area and owned a home called Fair Oaks, which still is standing at 2072 Oakwood Avenue in Altadena, CA. It appears to have been largely renovated since Eliza lived there. She sold the home in 1864 after her son Albert Jr. died. The house has some notoriety as it was used in the movie *Scream 2* as a sorority house. Eliza died in Los Angeles on September 25, 1896 and is buried in the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA.

The *Times-Picayune* reported on April 10, 1862: "Reception of Gen. Johnston's Remains. The remains of the gallant General, Albert Sidney Johnston, who so nobly perished in the battle of the 6th, on the banks of the Tennessee, were received, on their way to Texas, yesterday morning, by Gen. Lovell, with the military honors due

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to the rank of the distinguished deceased. On their arrival at the depot of the Jackson Railroad, they were taken in charge by Gen. Lovell, accompanied by his full staff, at the head of the regiment of Confederate Guards, a battery of six guns, and a squadron of cavalry, and were escorted to the City Hall, where, in the Mayor's parlor, they now lie in state, a detachment of the Louisiana State Guards (Confederate Regiment) doing guard duty. The staff of Gen. Johnston accompanied the honored dust from the battlefield to this city. The remains will be taken to Texas, today, after the performance of the usual funeral solemnities."



Eliza Johnston's Home, Fair Oaks

The Baltimore *Sun* reported on January 29, 1867: "General Albert Sidney Johnston. The funeral ceremonies preceding the removal of the remains of General Albert Sidney Johnston, from New Orleans to Austin, Texas, were of a most solemn and impressive character. The *New Orleans Bulletin*, of the 24th, describes the funeral ceremonies in that city as follows: At 3 o'clock the procession commenced moving through the principal streets; first, the hearse, with the pallbearers on each side - among whom we noticed Generals Bragg, Hays, Beauregard, Hood, Longstreet, Jeff. Thompson, Gibson and others. Then followed a carriage containing Rev. Drs. Leacock and Beckwith, and another containing General Hood; after which followed in regular procession and on foot, through the center of the street, about five hundred ladies, then about the same number of gentlemen, and a long row of carriages closed the procession. Impressive funeral exercises at the St. Louis Cemetery, where the remains of the General had been placed in the tomb of Mayor Monroe, were conducted by Rev. Drs. Beckwith and Leacock, in the presence of a large number of ex-Confederates and ladies. The procession moved in the order above described from the cemetery through Conti, Rampart, Canal and other streets, to the Second district ferry landing. Here quite a large number of ladies and gentlemen crossed over to the cars of the Opelousas railroad, held in readiness to receive the precious freight. The procession moved, without music, to the cars, and the remains of General Johnston were quietly placed on the train, to be borne to their final resting place near his late home in Texas."

The *Columbian Register* (New Haven, CT) reported on May 9, 1867: "From the *Austin (Texas) Gazette*. The Burial of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. The final funeral rites over the remains of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, were performed on last Saturday at the Capitol. All that was mortal of him now rests in the State cemetery. There his honored dust must remain in an humble tomb, without monument or inscription, until the time shall come when it will be no crime to erect memorials or to speak well of the illustrious dead. That it cannot now be safely done, we know, nor is it worthwhile ... to speak of these things. The orders of General Sheridan or General Griffin are not without precedent and the *Telegraph* is mistaken in supposing them so."

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 427 - 169 Confederate and 258 Union. You may contact her at jlgtree@erols.com.

LITTLE ROUND TOP OPENS AFTER RENOVATION

By Don Richardson

Little Round Top officially reopened to the public on Monday, June 24, 2024, following a two-year rehabilitation and renovation project – just in time for the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The site had significant needs, such as overwhelmed parking areas, accessibility issues, significant erosion and vegetation degradation. The Federal government combined with the Gettysburg Foundation, the National Park Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust to provide nearly \$13 million in funding for the project.

Little Round Top now has ADA ramps and better pathways that make the site wheelchair accessible. Additional parking was provided, along with satellite parking areas further out, which are accessible through trails that lead to the summit. Larger gathering areas were constructed around the summit to better accommodate large tour groups.

According to a National Park Service spokesperson, Little Round Top is the No. 1 tourist spot on the battlefield. Ninety percent of the more than 1 million people who came in 2017 visited Little Round Top. The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center ranks as second, and Devil's Den comes in third.



Monuments to BG Gouverneur K. Warren and the 12th & 44th NY Infantry at Little Round Top
(Hanover Evening Sun)



THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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Are there any BRCWRT activities you would like to help with (tours, selling used books, member recruitment, newsletter articles, annual picnic)?

Do you have any suggestions for additional BRCWRT activities? _____
