



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXI, Issue 10, OCTOBER 2024

HISTORIAN & AUTHOR SARAH BIERLE SPEAKS ON “WHAT IF RIENZI STUMBLED? A DIFFERENT LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK, OCTOBER 1864” AT THE OCTOBER 10th, 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

If you're interested in the Battle of Cedar Creek or like a little bit of “what if” with your Civil War history, this program is for you! Was Federal General Sheridan actually the deciding factor in the famous Shenandoah Valley battle? This presentation takes a “boots on the ground” look at the factual, historical battlefield situation on October 19, 1864, up to the point when Sheridan arrived ... but then goes into the realms of realistic possibilities about what might have happened if Sheridan never came? We are happy to have a friend from the Emerging Civil War come to visit us at our general membership meeting.

Sarah Kay Bierle graduated from Thomas Edison State University with a BA in History and works in the Education Department at American Battlefield Trust. She has spent years exploring ways to share quality historical research in ways that will inform and inspire modern audiences, including school presentations, writing, and speaking engagements. Sarah has published three historical fiction books, and her first nonfiction book, *Call Out The Cadets: The Battle of New Market*, is part of the Emerging Civil War series. She is the managing editor of Emerging Civil War, which serves as a public history-oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, October 10, 2024

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Sarah Bierle

TOPIC:

“What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864”

the American Civil War. Sarah is also assistant to the director at the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust in Fredericksburg, Va.

Come join us early at our October 10th, 2024, Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Sarah and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

TIS THE SEASON....

To support your Round Table. As we approach the end of the tax year, please remember that your donations to the BRCWRT are Tax Deductible! Please see Page 4 for a list of the programs you can support and the ways you can give.

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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
visit the Web site: <http://bullruncwrt.org>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **November 2024 issue**, e-mail articles by
November 4th to the editor, Don Richardson, at:
don.richardson@erols.com

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and e-mail ads by **November 4th** to Don Richard-
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

November 21 Gene Schmiel - "The Bat-
tle of Nashville, TN, December 1864"

December 12 Eric Buckland - "Mosby:
When The Story Ended, The Legend Be-
gan"

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

February 13 Scott Patchan -
"Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley
Campaign"

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

April 10 Garrett Kost - "The Spirit Fled to
God Who Gave It: Dr. Charles Leale &
The Medical Treatment of Abraham Lin-
coln at Ford's Theater"

May 8 Patrick Schroeder - "Myths About
R.E. Lee's Surrender At Appomattox VA,
April 1865"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kim Brace

Photos by Janet Greentree

I must start this month's column with apologies to Round Table members, particularly those who attempted to sign onto Zoom for the September 12th general membership meeting, where Melissa Weeks was our keynote speaker. Those on Zoom unfortunately didn't have any sound for the presentation, only the video of her slides, and most of the 29 participants dropped off after 5 minutes of her talk. Those at the Centerville Library had no problem hearing the speaker because of the podium speaker system, but attempts to catch that sound for Zoom generated feedback early in the meeting when Jim Lewis was giving his presentation on our tours. The feedback was too much and I had to cut off the mike, which killed sound for Zoom. Melissa's talk on J.E.B. Stuart at the Spotsylvania Battle was very informative, but as the saying goes "you had to be there".



The Round Table's monthly meetings have become more complicated as we've attempted to add both Zoom and Facebook LIVE through the library's sometimes sketchy WiFi connections. Zoom changes to their system don't always appear until the meeting starts and people are scrambling to maintain connections for everyone. Things were not helped last month by my travel schedule that put me on a flight from Europe that was delayed and didn't arrive at Dulles until 1 AM on the day of our meeting.

For this month's meeting on October 10th, I'm downtown at a previously scheduled meeting, and our Secretary Deb Whitenton (our backup for getting connections to Zoom) is also out of town. As a result, the BRCWRT Exec Committee decided to temporarily suspend our Zoom coverage for this meeting and instead recommended that we send people to our Facebook page (reachable at our website <https://brcwrt.org/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bullruncwrt>). Attendance at the library is always available, and our speaker Sarah Kay Bierle will also have copies of her books available for sale.



All of this points out the need for other members of the Round Table to step up and help the organization. If you have any computer experience and are able to help set up our computer connections, podium, projector and/or run the technical aspects of our meetings, we can definitely use the help. It's more than just a one-person job. Contact me or other members of the Exec Committee about your availability to help.

(cont on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Annual BRCWRT Picnic at Bull Run Winery

Elsewhere in this month's *Stone Wall* newsletter you'll find a report on our very successful annual picnic at the Bull Run Winery. I must offer a sincere thank you to member Jon Hickox, owner of the winery, for his continued assistance and presence in the Civil War community in our region, including this Round Table. Thanks Jon.

Marketing Committee

I'm happy to report that one of our members has agreed to step up and help with our Marketing Committee. Our previous chair, Stephanie Vale, has moved to Louisa in southern Virginia. Member Kate Bitely has agreed to help lead the Marketing Committee, in conjunction with Stephanie, for the next year. Thanks immensely to Kate, who has been active volunteering at Bristoe Station along with her graduate study work.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Welcomes New Members

Reid Clark

Maria Forte

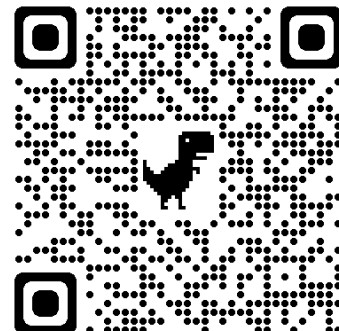
Christopher, Jacob, and
Yin Me Hueskes

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
October 10	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Sarah Bierle - "What If Rienzi Stumbled? A Different Look at the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 1864"
November 21	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Gene Schmiel - "The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 1864"
December 12, 2024	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Eric Buckland - "Mosby: When The Story Ended, The Legend Began"
January 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Melissa Winn - "Sideways Sites: Civil War History In An Indirect Way"
February 13, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Patchan - "Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign"
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 - "Gutbusters: The Development of the Ambulance During the Civil War"
September 11, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Theodore Savas - "Handshakes, Gambling, & Gunpowder: How George W. Rains and Jefferson Davis Changed The Course of the Civil War"
October 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Falci - "30th Anniversary of the Making of the Gettysburg Movie"

Monthly Meetings in "Black" [Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in "Red"](#) [County or outside sponsored events in "Green"](#)

BRCWRT ANNUAL PICNIC

By Mark Whitenton

A good time was had by all at our eighth annual picnic on September 22. This was the second year in a row that Debbie Whitenton has managed the picnic, which was again held at the Winery at Bull Run. Thank you, Jon Hickox, for again providing us with a big tent at no charge. This helped us provide barbecue from The Bone for the 76 attendees and stay within the BRCWRT member-approved budget of \$1,500.

Prior to eating, President Kim Brace made a few comments and then turned the floor over to Mark Whitenton for some quiz questions. Instead of a free used book, the eight quiz prizes consisted of various Civil War items to choose from. Thank you, Jim Lewis, Blake Myers and Melissa Winn, for your many donations to the quiz gift table!

As was the case last year, a silent auction was held for several framed Civil War prints. This year, the auction included two framed items donated to the BRCWRT by ex-member Bud Porter in his will: a replica of a .36 Navy revolver and an arrangement of Civil War relics. Three of the four framed prints sold, as did the two Bud Porter items, a framed lithograph donated by Melissa Winn and a modest statuette of Stonewall Jackson donated by Jim Lewis, for a total of \$610! As with the previous sales of our framed prints, these auction proceeds will be deposited into the BRCWRT Preservation Account, adding to the \$625 in print sales since January. Thanks to those of you who purchased these items. It is a good cause.

Please check out the great photos of the picnic taken by Janet Greentree, beginning on page 7. Finally, a special thanks to Sandra Cox for reprising her role as “cake lady” at this year’s picnic.



Watch for our After Action Report of the Cedar Creek Fall Tour, coming in November!

BRCWRT ANNUAL PICNIC

Photos by Janet Greentree



Nancy Anwyll, Sandra Cox,
Gwen Wyttenbach, Janet Greentree
& Wendy Swanson (Gwen's guest)



Norma & Clatie
Cunningham



Jim Burgess, our speaker



Joe Young & Charlie Balch
(The gate keepers)



John De Pue & Doug Cox



Dan Lundeen, Alan Day, Ed Wenzel



Pat Hutterman, Janet & Alan Rems,
Patrick McGinty



Jack & Gayle Machey



Bernie & Pam Ungar



Mary Jo & John Isoldi,
David & Sheila Hunt



John & Lillian Grady, Melissa Winn



Jim Lewis & Nancy Anwyll

MORE PICNIC PHOTOS



Pete Andrews
(Janet's assistant)



Saundra Cox, Cake Lady



Chow Line – Brian McAnany, Pam Ungar,
Dan Paterson, Ed Wenzel, Kay Peterson,
Gwen Wyttenbach with her Kilroy impression



Worker Bees: Mark & Debbie Whitenton,
Blake Myers, Jeff Joyce



Drew Pallo



Mark & Debbie Whitenton



Blake Myers & Jeff Joyce



Rose Nelson & Randy Moller



Lynne Garvey-Hodge



Sharon & Harlan Lenius



Kay Peterson



Mike & Nancy Buckley, Mike Shannon



Mark & Laurie Allen

AND EVEN MORE PICNIC PHOTOS



Ed Fruit, Kathryn & Gene Schmiel



Marvin Wilson



Gerry Watson



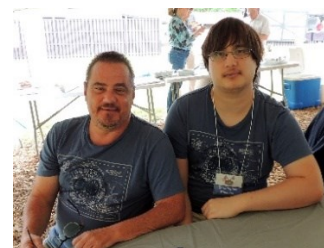
Jayne & Joe Young



Dennis & Rebecca Pick



Debbie Whinton, John Myers,
Jeff Joyce



Jacob & Christopher Hueskes



Pete Andrews &
Janet Greentree



Margie & Jack Miller



Photo by Melissa Winn



PRESERVATION CORNER

By Blake Myers

Photos by Blake Myers unless otherwise noted



Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides updates on the Prince William Digital Gateway (data centers) lawsuits, the Wilderness Crossing development threat to the Wilderness Battlefield, and a reminder of the pending Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study on data centers commissioned by the Virginia State legislature.

Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) Lawsuits

On May 23, 2024, Prince William County Circuit Court Judge James A. Willett dismissed the Oak Valley HOA lawsuit challenging the PWDG Comprehensive Plan Amendment approved by the PW Board of County Supervisors in 2021, but ruled that the plaintiffs, which included the Oak Valley Homeowners' Association and 10 individual residents, had standing to sue, meaning they had the right to challenge the issue in court. That holding is significant as the plaintiffs have a second lawsuit pending that challenges the rezonings. A hearing has yet to be scheduled for the HOA's second lawsuit.



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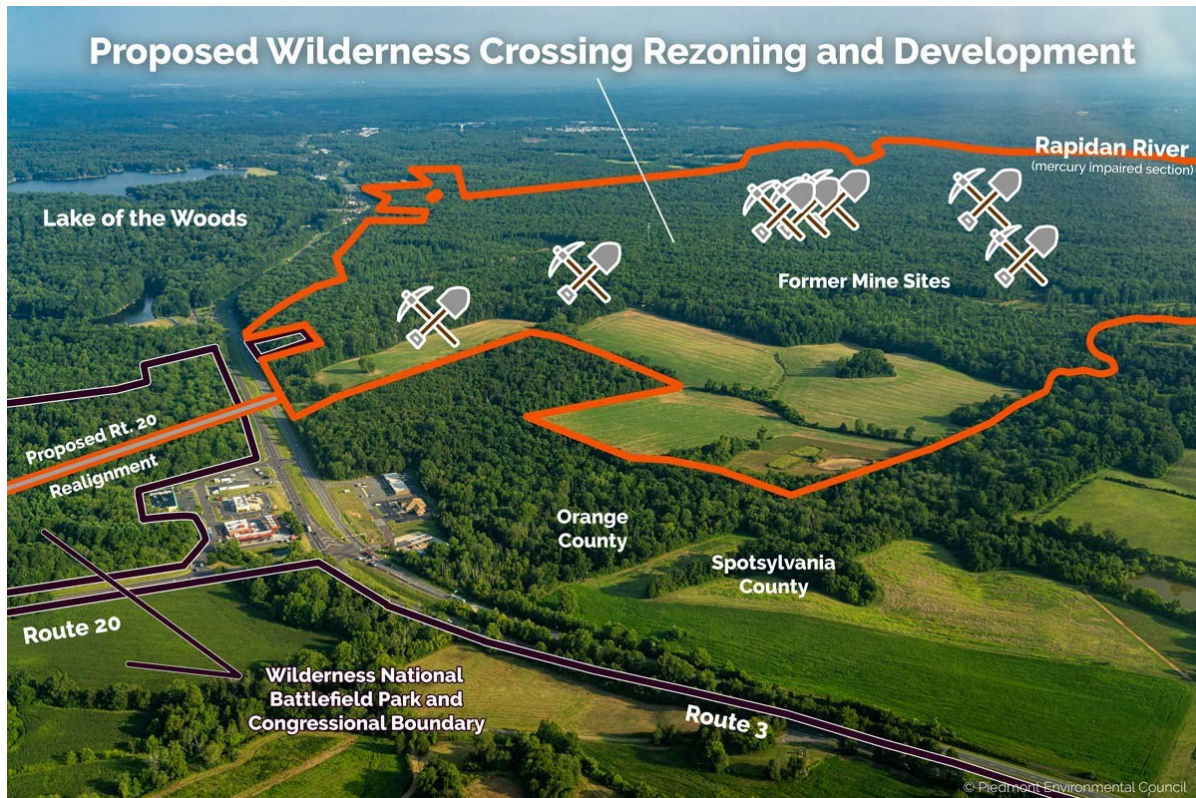
PRESERVATION CORNER

The Coalition to Protect Prince William County, 20 residents whose properties border the PWDG corridor and the American Battlefield Trust, represented by attorney and former state senator Chap Peterson, filed a lawsuit challenging the PWDG rezoning approvals in January 2024. A demurrer hearing for this lawsuit is scheduled for October 31, 2024. In this hearing the judge will rule on legal objections to the lawsuit filed by QTS Realty Trust and Compass Data Centers, claiming that the complaint is insufficient to make a case against the defendants.

Wilderness Battlefield

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition announced that the Wilderness Battlefield was named on the 2024 list of the nation's 11 most endangered historic places based on the threat of the proposed Wilderness Crossing development, a massive 2,600-acre development proposed for neighboring land in Orange County, Virginia.

Approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors despite overwhelming opposition, the project represents the largest rezoning in Orange County history. The rezoned area directly abuts battlefield land on which the May 5-7, 1864, Battle of the Wilderness raged and marked the opening of what became known as the Overland Campaign. It includes hundreds of acres within the Battlefield Study Area, an area representing the historic extent of the battle as it unfolded across the landscape, including where soldiers maneuvered and deployed and historic and archaeological resources.

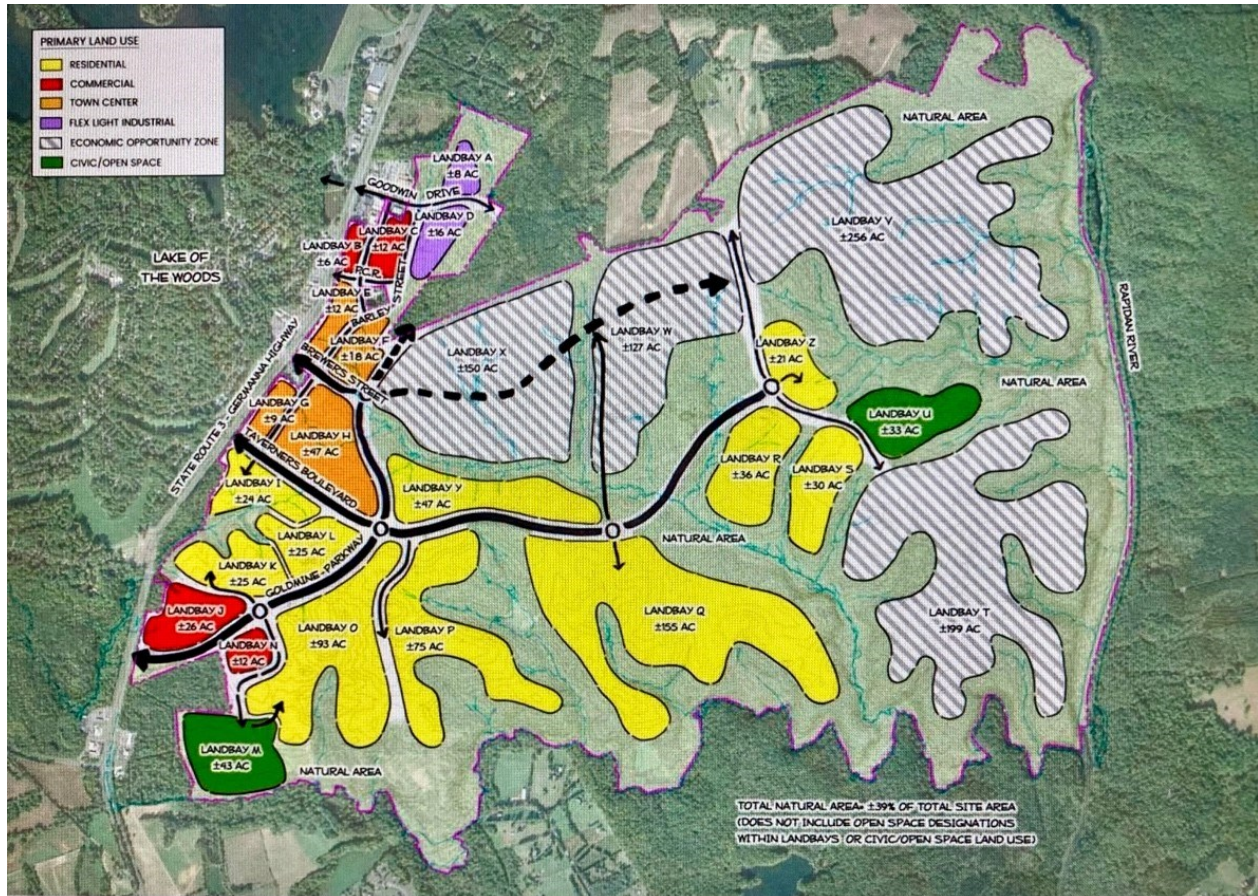


(Courtesy American Battlefield Trust)

(cont on page 12)

PRESERVATION CORNER

All told, the approved rezoning could result in up to 5,000 residential units, and more than 800 acres of commercial and industrial development, as much as 750 acres of which could be data centers and distribution warehouses.



(Courtesy American Battlefield Trust)

The Wilderness Battlefield Coalition (whose partners include the American Battlefield Trust, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation, Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Historic Germanna, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Piedmont Environmental Council and Preservation Virginia) was formed to build legal and public pressure on Orange County officials to reconsider allowing the project to move forward, and to educate the public about the proposed development and its impact on the battlefield.

Identifying significant failures in both the substance of the rezoning proposal and the process by which it was approved, the Trust believes that the rezoning vote was fundamentally flawed and, together with Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc., filed a legal challenge in Orange County Circuit Court in May 2023. A parallel lawsuit against the County was filed by the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) over alleged violations of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. No court hearings have been scheduled to date.

(cont on page 13)

Teachers may receive 6 CCEU's for attendance!



Please Join Us!

The 20th Anniversary
Fairfax County History Commission's
Annual History Conference

“WE Are Fairfax County, Part IV The Power of Place: Home!”

Saturday November 2, 2024
8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center
3740 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030



LIVE STREAM: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream>



Historical Interpreters:

George Washington (Brian Hilton) George Mason (Don McAndrews) Nancy Mason (Janis Harless)

Keynote Speakers

*** Ron Maxwell, Film Director and Screenwriter**

*** Dr. Doug Owsley, Forensic Anthropologist, The Smithsonian**



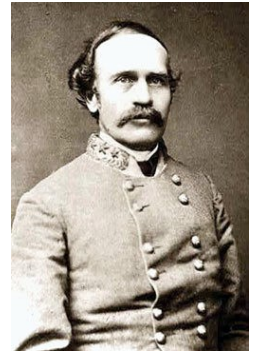


CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

By Janet Greentree

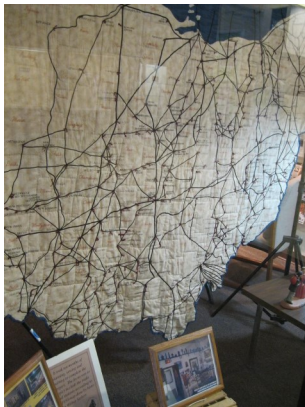
Major General Bushrod Rust Johnson, CSA

This is definitely my first Bushrod. Such names families gave their children in the 1800s! Did you know that Johnson is one of 23 generals from the state of Ohio in the Civil War? The three most famous Union ones were U.S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Phil Sheridan. Other Union generals include: Charles Griffin, William Lytle, Emerson Opdycke, Don Carlos Buell, George Crook, George Armstrong Custer, George McClellan, the “fighting McCooks” (Alexander, Edward, and Robert), Irvin McDowell, James McPherson, and William Rosecrans. There were six Confederate generals: Charles Clark, Robert H. Hatton, Bushrod Rust Johnson, Philip N. Lockett, Daniel H. Reynolds, Roswell S. Ripley, and Otto F. Strahl.



B. R. Johnson

Bushrod Rust Johnson was born on his family’s farm in Morristown, Belmont Co., Ohio on October 17, 1817 to a Quaker and abolitionist family. Many Quakers had come north since they were morally opposed to slavery. Belmont County’s county seat is St. Clairsville, not too far from Wheeling, WV and just over the Ohio River. (As a side note, I can’t tell you how many times I have driven through St. Clairsville on old Route 40 with my parents to visit relatives in Ohio.) Bushrod’s parents were Noah Johnson and Rachel Spencer French. Noah was born in Bucks Co., PA. Rachel was born in Loudoun Co., VA. They were married in Frederick Co., MD. There is not much information about Noah but his mother’s line goes back to New England and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Rachel’s family had immigrated to the U.S. from England. Bushrod had one brother, Nathan, who was a doctor and was born in Virginia. Bushrod and Nathan were born 19 years apart. Bushrod did work with his uncle on the Underground Railroad. The Belmont Co. Heritage Museum displays a quilt marking the routes of the Underground Railroad. There were 25 stations in Belmont County.



At age 17 Bushrod sought to get an appointment to West Point. His father was very much opposed to him going there. He had been living with his older brother Nathan in Belmont and teaching school in Barnesville, OH. Farming or being a doctor did not appeal to Bushrod. He was interested in the free education at West Point, unlimited travel, and adventure even though he was quiet and a self-effacing young man. Bushrod graduated with the class of 1840 and was 23rd out of 42 cadets. In his class, there were 14 cadets who made general and fought in the Civil War. Five Union:

(cont on page 16)

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George Getty, William Hays, William Tecumseh Sherman, George H. Thomas, and Stewart Van Vliet. (One of Bushrod's roommates at the Academy, future Union general Israel B. Richardson, should also have graduated with the class of 1840, but had to repeat his sophomore year due to academic issues.) Eight Confederates: Richard Ewell, Paul Octave Hebert (No. 1 in the class), Bushrod Johnson, Thomas Jordan, James Green Martin, Robert Maclay, John Porter McCowan, and William M. Steele (ancestor of Round Table member Harriett Condon's husband).



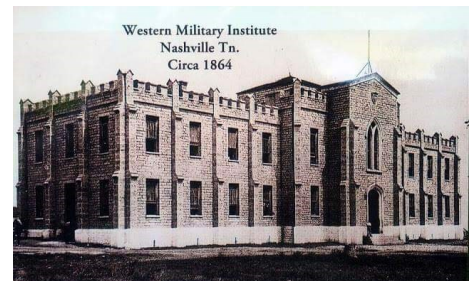
Paul Octave Hebert



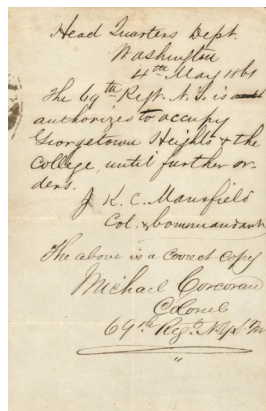
William M. Steele

Bushrod was commissioned as a 2nd Lt., Army Engineer Officer, in the 3rd U.S. Infantry. His first taste of war was in the Seminole and Mexican Wars, serving under both Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott. In 1847 he was serving as a commissary officer and was forced to resign from the Army on charges of conspiring to sell government goods for personal profit (sounds like Hugh Judson Kilpatrick).

Johnson began teaching at the Western Military Institute in Georgetown, KY, which moved to Nashville, TN in 1855 and merged with the University of Nashville. The former campus is now part of Vanderbilt University. The WMI campus from 1855-1861 was located at 724 Second Avenue, South. It is now the Metropolitan Nashville City Government's Planning Building. Bushrod was first a teacher, then a professor of philosophy and chemistry, and later became superintendent. When the school became the University of Nashville, he was a professor of engineering until the beginning of the Civil War. In 1860 he owned \$5,000 in Nashville real estate and \$12,000 in personal property.



Joseph K.F. Mansfield



Mansfield's Order

On May 4, 1861 the college was occupied by the 69th New York (so famous at the battle of Gettysburg) at the order of General (then Colonel) Joseph K.F. Mansfield. The building was used as Hospital #2 with 300 beds during the Civil War. One of the students at the college was James Ryder Randall, who attended from 1848-1856. He was raised in Baltimore, MD and after hearing of the Baltimore riots at the beginning of the Civil War wrote *Maryland My Maryland*, the state song of Maryland.

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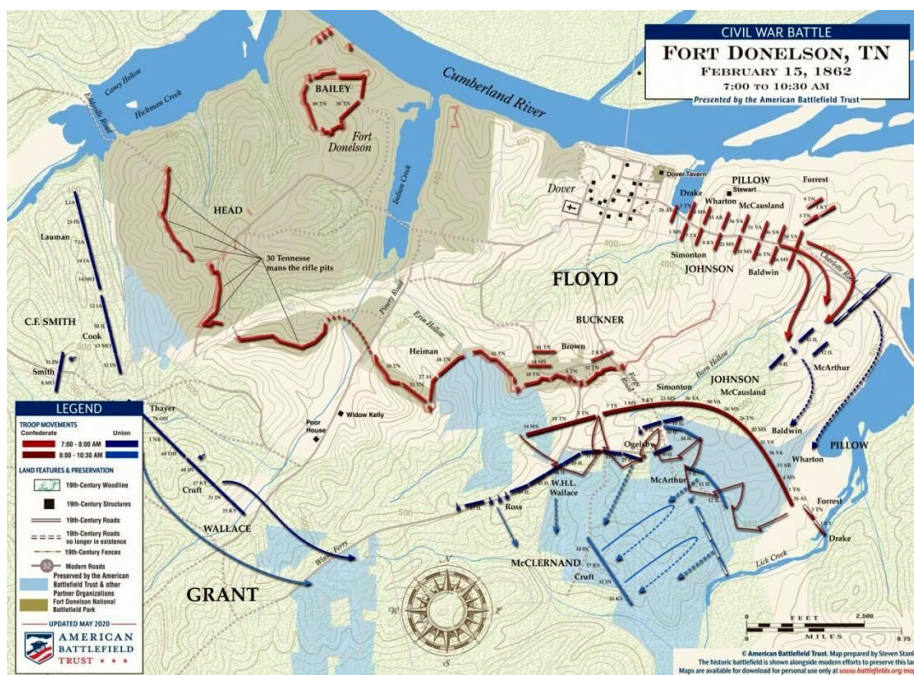
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On April 15, 1852 he married Mary Elizabeth Prudentia Hatch in Henry, KY. She was a Virginia girl born in Dinwiddie, not too far south from Petersburg. They would only have one child, Charles, who was mentally and physically handicapped his entire life. Charles' problems took a huge toll on his mother and she passed away on April 22, 1858 of nervous fever. Bushrod became a widower at the age of 41. He took care of his child for most of his life with aid from a nanny. He bought a cemetery plot for his wife for \$20 in the Nashville City Cemetery. This will come into play later.



James Ryder Randall

On June 28, 1861, while living in Nashville, he rejoined the military on the Confederate side as a colonel of engineers of the Tennessee Militia. He sent his son Charles back to Ohio so his relatives could care for him. Charles grew up believing his father was fighting for the Union. His first assignment was at Fort Donelson and he had a part in the construction of the fort. He was promoted to brigadier general in January, 1862 and commanded a division during the battle. His brigade lost 740 men and his horse was shot out from under him. When the fort was taken by the Union, Bushrod was able to escape. He then commanded a brigade in Shiloh, where he was seriously wounded by an artillery shell. After a short time of healing, he fought at the battles of Perryville, Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, and Stones River. At Perryville he had five horses shot from under him. His brigade included the 17th, 23rd, 25th, 37th, and 41st Tennessee as well as the Jefferson Artillery of Mississippi. He fought at Hoover's Gap where he and his men were the first soldiers to face Spencer repeating rifles under the command of Col. John T. Wilder.

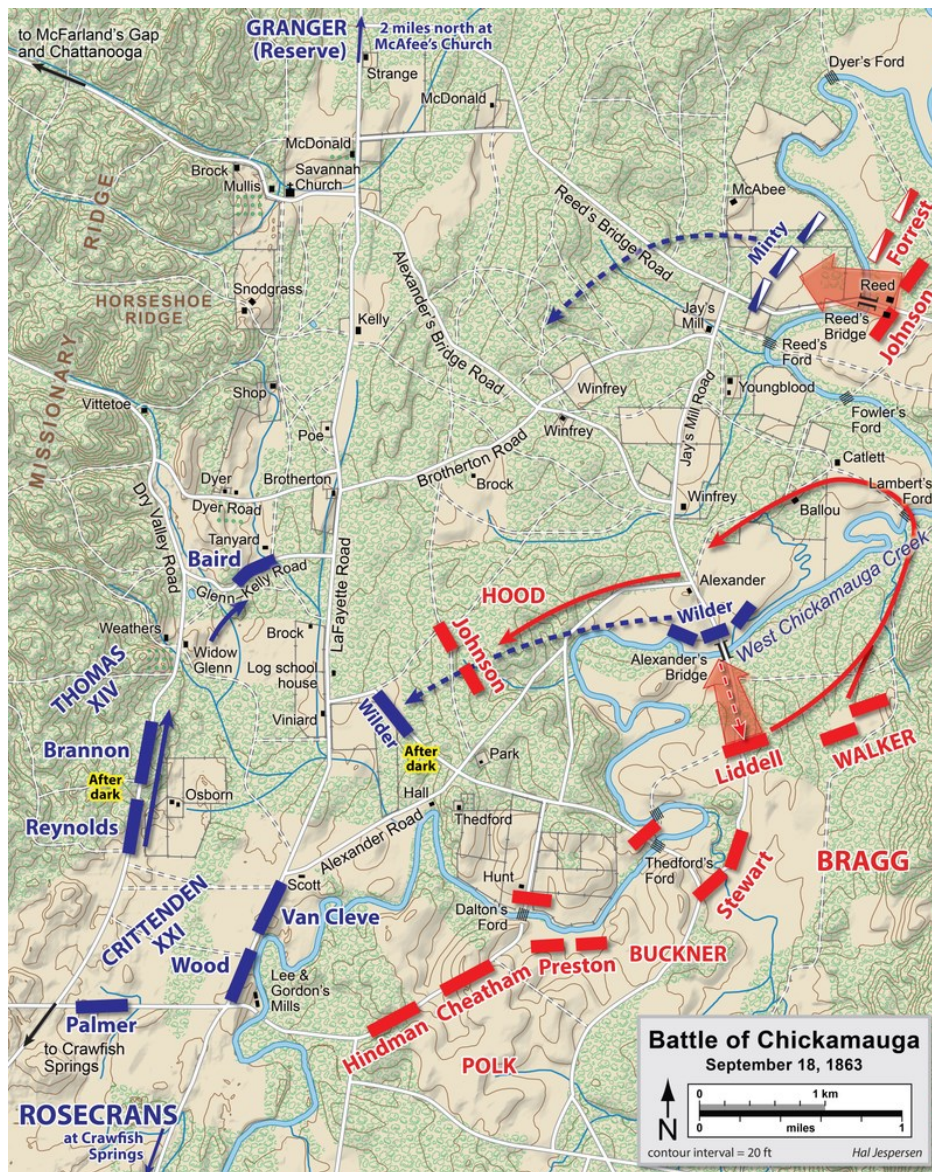


Fort Donelson
February 15, 1862

(cont on page 18)

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He then fought at Chickamauga, which was his greatest day in the Civil War. Bushrod spoke about the Confederate charge at Chickamauga as follows: "The scene now presented was unspeakably grand. The resolute and impetuous charge, the rush of our heavy columns sweeping out from the shadow and gloom of the forest into the open fields flooded with sunlight, the glitter of arms, the onward dash of artillery and mounted men, the retreat of the foe, the shouts of the hosts of our army, the dust, the smoke, the noise of fire-arms - of whistling balls and grape-shot and of bursting shell - made up a battle scene of unsurpassed grandeur. General Hood gave me the last order I received from him on the field, 'Go ahead, and keep ahead of everything.'" Johnson and his men captured 19 cannons, a wagon train, a Union hospital, and killed and captured hundreds of Union soldiers.

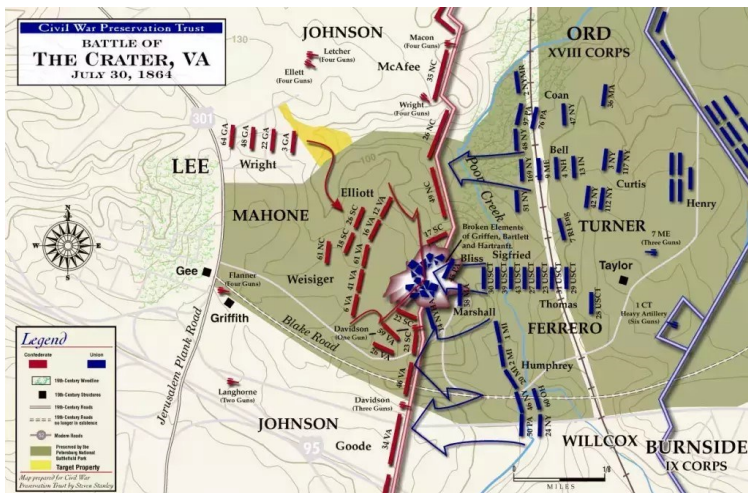


Chickamauga, September 18, 1863

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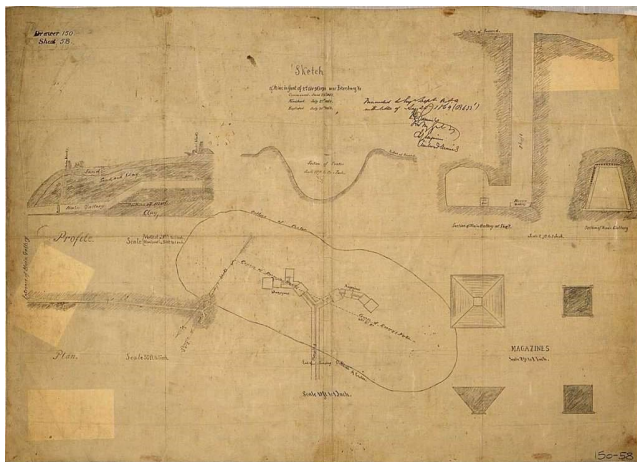
In the spring of 1864 he went with Gen. Longstreet to the Eastern Theatre and fought in the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, the siege of Petersburg, and the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. He and his men served in the trenches surrounding Petersburg. The Union exploded a mine underneath him and his men. A huge crater was created by the explosion and made a hole in the Confederate line. Even though his men captured three flags and 130 men, he was criticized for his slowness in mounting a response after the explosion. After Petersburg he fought at the battle of White Oak Road and Five Forks.



The Crater, July 30, 1864



Janet Greentree and Gwen Wytenbach at the Mine



Sketch Map of The Crater



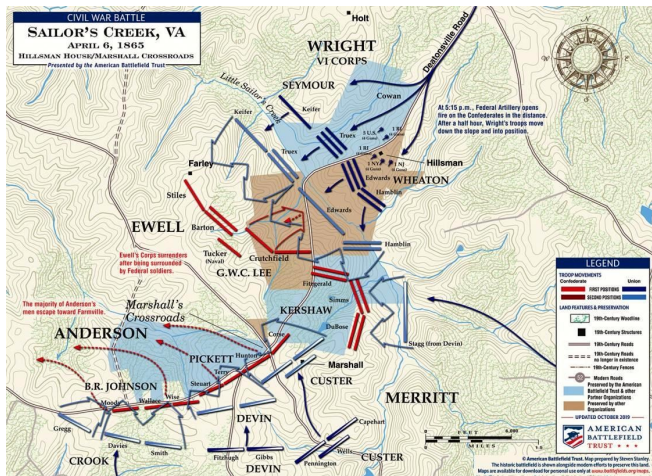
The Crater, modern view

After Gen. Lee evacuated Petersburg, Johnson and his division were part of the Appomattox Campaign, fighting at Sailor's Creek with disastrous results. There were over 7,500 casualties plus the capture of nine generals. Many of Johnson's division were captured and there was evidence that Johnson's division abandoned their command on the field. Gen. Lee was incensed and relieved Johnson, Pickett, and corps commander Richard Anderson on April 8, 1865. Johnson's military career was over at

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this point. Gen. Lee did allow him to be present at the surrender at Appomattox on the 9th but without his command. Johnson was paroled on April 10, 1865. His dismissal by Lee was very hard on him, considering he had won commendations from Beauregard, Longstreet, Hardee, Polk, Buckner, Cleburne, Hindman, Pillow, and Floyd. The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, TN, reported on July 4, 1971 in part: "Two



days before there had been a disaster in the retreat from Richmond. Contact had been lost between some of the units of hungry and tired men with scrawny horses and broken down wagons, frequently attacked by Federal cavalry. Two gray units became entangled with each other and the horsemen in blue swarmed in. Some Confederates stampeded into the woods to get away. Three generals went with them and two stayed in the woods. Bushrod Johnson reported to Lee, and drew down a shower of resentment the others escaped."

Sailor's Creek, April 6, 1865

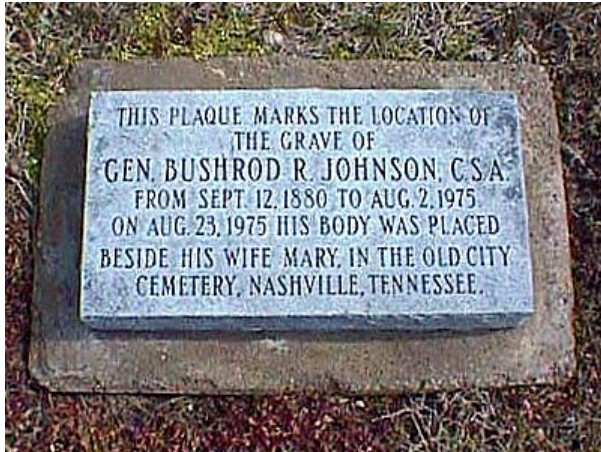
After the surrender at Appomattox, Bushrod went back to teaching at the University of Nashville. He was named co-chancellor in 1870. Bushrod was then able to take care of his son Charles again. In 1875 he retired because of his failing health and moved with his son to a farm in southwestern Illinois. The 1880 census for Brighton, Macoupin Co., IL lists Charles C. Johnson, age 27, living with his father, with his occupation as a farmer. He is married to Ida May Hayward Johnson and they had a 1 ½ year old son Alonzo C. Johnson. Additionally, Nashville City Cemetery's list of famous people buried there lists the same information for Charles. They also noted that he and Ida were married on April 10, 1879 in Jerseyville, Illinois. Charles' condition must have improved as he became older or some medicine was found that helped him. I cannot find any information on Charles other than that and the fact that he died of stomach cancer on December 14, 1881, 15 months after his father, in Alton, IL.

Less than a month before Bushrod's 63rd birthday, he passed away in Brighton, Macoupin Co., Illinois on September 12, 1880 of a stroke. He was buried in the Miles Station Cemetery in Brighton Township, Illinois. The cemetery is named after Jonathan Miles, who fought at Chickamauga for the Union. Miles met Southerner Bushrod after the Civil War in St. Louis when Bushrod was down on his luck and trying to find somewhere to live with his disabled son. Miles invited Bushrod to move to Miles Station. Bushrod's body remained in Illinois for 95 years, until the remains were exhumed on August 2, 1975, shipped to Nashville, and reburied in Nashville on August 23. The obelisk on his grave at Miles Station was also relocated to Nashville. He does have a cenotaph in the Miles Station Cemetery where his body had lain. He is now buried next to his wife at the Nashville City Cemetery, Section 12, Map 18, Lot 4.

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The GPS coordinates are: Latitude: 36.1478344 and Longitude: 86.7693295. His Memorial ID on www.findagrave.com is 2399. On August 17, 1996 the Major General Bushrod R. Johnson Camp #1718 dedicated a new marker in front of his grave in Nashville. He shares his final resting place with three other Civil War Generals: Samuel Read Anderson, Richard Stoddart Ewell, and Felix Kirk Zollicoffer.



First Gravesite, Illinois



Nashville, marker by B. R. Johnson Camp #1718



Bushrod R. Johnson's final resting place, Nashville TN (photos by Janet Greentree)

There is quite a story about how all of this did not happen until 1975. Dennis Montgomery, an Associated Press writer, wrote the following in the August 7, 1975 *Mobile Press*, Mobile, AL – "Alton, Ill. (AP) – A Confederate hero who lay in an obscure Yankee graveyard for 95 years is being returned to Southern soil. With the help of a Son of the Confederacy named Noble Wyatt, rebel Maj. Gen. Bushrod Rust Johnson will take his place among Confederate commanders resting in a historic Nashville, Tenn., cemetery. Wyatt, a 55-year-old labor relations specialist who says his great-grandfather fought for Dixie, said in an interview that he became interested in

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Johnson about four years ago when a local woman told him the general was buried at Miles Prairie {Station}, Ill., a few miles north of Alton. "It was pretty obscure and not too many people knew about it" he said. He said the grave was neglected and the tombstone fractured. As Wyatt tells it, Johnson was born in Ohio but settled in Nashville after the Mexican War and became superintendent of the Western Military Institute. When the Civil War broke out, he fought at Chickamauga and was later paroled with Lee at Appomattox. Failing in attempts to start fresh in Nashville and St. Louis, he moved with his retarded son to Miles Station and died there of a stroke on Sept. 12, 1880. "He was, you might say, buried in unfriendly territory," Wyatt said. "He was not buried in his uniform and there was no reference to the Confederate Army on his tombstone." Wyatt said that during a visit to Nashville he found Johnson had buried his wife in the old city cemetery in 1858 and had purchased three other plots nearby. Four Confederate generals now lay in the graveyard and it is a stop on the city historical tour. Wyatt said he secured permission from Johnson's three closest descendants to exhume Johnson's remains and move them to Nashville. "He claimed Nashville as his home," Wyatt said. "His main livelihood, his interests and activities were in Nashville. He lay unconscious for several weeks before he died. He couldn't say to the people, I bought this lot, take me back to Nashville. His mentally retarded son couldn't tell them." The grave was opened on Aug. 2. On Monday the body was shipped home. On Aug. 23, with full honors and "with much dignity," Maj. Gen. Bushrod Rust Johnson will be reburied."

The *Tennessean* in Nashville of August 17, 1975 wrote: "Bushrod Johnson died in 1880 and was buried at the Miles Station (Ill.) Methodist Church cemetery. His lips sealed by a cerebral hemorrhage, he was unable to tell neighbors of the grave lot in Tennessee, nor was his only son able to do so. In recent years, at Miles Station, Mrs. Chloris Yost and her husband Elmer researched the background of Gen. Johnson, buried in the churchyard. By this time the church had disappeared, and vandals had pushed over the marker on his grave. Mrs. Yost thought Johnson's body should be taken to Nashville, and she interested a friend, Noble K. Wyatt, a native of West Virginia now living in Illinois, the grandson of a Confederate soldier. She took the story of Bushrod Johnson to her heart and told Wyatt – "Take him home." In Nashville Wyatt called on Stanley F. Horn, author, editor and nationally known authority on the Civil War. He checked on the Bushrod Johnson lot of four graves in the City Cemetery. Horn put the matter before Lanier Merritt, a member of the Joe Johnston Camp 28, Nashville, Tenn., Sons of the Confederate Veterans. That group, in turn, agreed to sponsor the reburial of General Johnson beside his wife, Mary, in the Nashville cemetery."

Noble Kendall Wyatt was quite an interesting man. After high school in Charleston, WV, he moved to Alton, IL and worked in the Owens-Illinois Mold Manufacturing Company. After retirement he returned home to Charleston and studied history, especially the Civil War. He was awarded the Virgil A. Lewis Award by the WV Historical Society in October, 1999, for historical projects, programs, and preservation in WV.

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Wyatt was also given the Jefferson Davis Medal by the Daughters of the Confederacy for moving the body of Major General Bushrod R. Johnson to Nashville. Along with many volunteers, he built and had dedicated a monument in September 1977 on the Chickamauga National Battlefield near the spot where Johnson led his troops into battle. He founded the Kanawha Valley Civil War Round Table in 1983, and also helped author James Robinson with his book *Stonewall*. In addition to all these historical things he was interested in, he was a magician. The picture of him shows him doing his magic.



Noble K. Wyatt



Marker at Chickamauga



Birthplace Marker, Morristown OH

A birthplace monument was placed by the Ohio Valley Civil War Round Table on October 7, 1984 near the place where Johnson was born in Barkcamp State Park in Morristown, Ohio. The inscription reads: "Nearby on October 7, 1817 was born Bushrod Rust Johnson, Major General Confederate States Army. Died Sept. 12, 1880 and is buried in Nashville, Tenn." Johnson has another monument in Fort Oglethorpe, GA on Brotherton Road, 0.2 miles east of Lafayette Road. The monument was installed by the Cleveland, OH CWRT.

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 jlgrtree@erols.com.



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? _____