



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXII, Issue 4, APRIL 2025

**NPS RANGER AND HISTORIAN
GARRETT KOST SPEAKS ON "THE
SPIRIT FLED TO GOD WHO GAVE
IT: DOCTOR CHARLES LEALE AND
THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT FORD'S
THEATER, APRIL 1865" AT THE
APRIL 10th, 2025 GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

By Mark Trbovich

On the evening of April 14, 1865, while attending a performance of the comedy *Our American Cousin*, President Abraham Lincoln was shot. Accompanying him at Ford's Theater that night were his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln and two guests. As the play was in progress, a figure with a drawn pistol stepped into the Presidential Box and fired. To the horror of all, the President slumped forward in his chair. For the rest of the story, we have a NPS Ranger who worked at Ford's Theater to present it to us in the 160th Anniversary month of the assassination.

Garrett Kost is a 2021 graduate of Gettysburg College with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies focusing on "War and Memory Studies", with minors in Civil War Era Studies and Public History. He studied under the late Dr. Peter Carmichael, Professor Ian Isherwood, Dr. Ashley Luskey, Dr. Jill Titus and others at Gettysburg College with the Civil War Institute. After graduation, Garrett began a career with the National Park Service. His first post was at the National Mall and Memorial Parks from May of 2021 until October of 2022. That month Garrett was transferred

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, April 10, 2025

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Garrett Kost

TOPIC:

**"The Spirit Fled To God Who
Gave It: Doctor Charles Leale
and the Medical Treatment of
Abraham Lincoln at Ford's
Theater, April 1865"**

to Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, telling the fateful story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. While there he specialized in interpreting 1860's Theatre history, Medical Treatment of Lincoln, and Shakespeare at Ford's Theatre. In April of 2024, Garrett participated with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine to produce videos about the Petersen House, Ford's Theatre, as well as tonight's topic. In June of 2024, Garrett transferred, in a temporary Park Ranger position, to Manassas National Battlefield Park and now works in Digital Content Management, Living History Coordination, and Special Event planning. This will be Garrett's first time presenting to the Bull Run Civil War

(cont on page 4)

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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>

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and e-mail ads by **April 25th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

June 26 John Hennessy - "The People's Army: The Life and Mind of the Army of the Potomac"

July 10 Ronald Coddington - "Civil War Portrait Photography: Reflections of a Generation"

August 14 Dana Shoaf - "Gutbusters: The Development of the Ambulance During the Civil War"

September 11 Theodore Savas - "Handshakes, Gambling, & Gunpowder: How George W. Rains and Jefferson Davis Changed The Course of the Civil War"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By **Melissa A. Winn**

Photos: **Janet Greentree**

Happy Spring everybody! April, of course, is a big month in Civil War history, including the start of the conflict on April 12, 1861, with the firing on Fort Sumter, and the end of the war four long, deadly, and brutal years later with the surrender by Confederate General Robert E. Lee of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, and Confederate General Joseph Johnston's surrender of the Army of Tennessee and all remaining Confederate forces still active in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida at the Bennett Place on April 26, 1865. And, of course, also momentous, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

It's the story of Abraham Lincoln that first sparked my interest in the Civil War as an elementary school child in Milwaukee, Wis., in the early 1980s. Every 3rd and 4th grade school report or project assigned to me ended up as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln. It was my favorite subject to learn about, read about, and discuss. I remember vividly a business trip my father took to Washington, D.C., when I was 9 or 10. My mother joined him and before they left home for the flight out there, I begged them to get me a photo of the pillow that Lincoln had died on at the Petersen House across the street from Ford's Theatre, as I had read it was on display there still. They acquiesced but I am sure that in their minds they wondered why I couldn't be a normal kid asking for a pony for Christmas or a snow globe souvenir. Even last year when I joined the staff of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, after careers

with the American Battlefield Trust and *Civil War Times* magazines, my mother marveled, "Wow! Who could have known how big of a role the Civil War would have played in your life?" I can tell you that 9-year-old Melissa did, and she is thrilled! She would also be ecstatic to hear this month's presenter, NPS historian Garrett Kost, who will be sharing the fascinating story about the moments after President Lincoln's assassination and the medical treatment of the wounded and dying president, including by Dr. Charles Leale. I first met Garrett a few years ago when he was a park ranger at Ford's Theatre Historic Site. He's now a ranger at Manassas National Battlefield Park, which is lucky for us! He's a young, enthusiastic historian and a great storyteller! We will be hearing lots from him in the future, I am sure, so we're very lucky to have him speak to the BRCWRT this month! I hope you enjoy his program.

Likewise, April has several opportunities for you to attend special events in the area, including our tour of Spotsylvania Battlefield on April 26th and Fairfax HisTree Day at Historic Blenheim the same day. If you're interested in participating, please feel free to email me to find out how to get involved! melissaannwinn@gmail.com

Our March speaker, Carolyn Ivanoff, gave a fascinating warmup for our March tour of Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office in downtown Washington D.C., which you will hear about in the May edition of the *Stone Wall*. More pictures on the next page!

Huzzah!



(cont on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



The real Clara Barton (left) and Barton presenter Carolyn Ivanoff (below)



SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Round Table and he's incredibly grateful and excited to present to you.

Come join us early at our April 10th, 2025 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Garrett and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

THE 2025 FAIRFAX MUSTER

Looking for an enjoyable evening of music? Check out the Fairfax Muster, taking place this year on Saturday April 26th. The BRCWRT will be manning a vendor table there beginning at 3 PM, and the event itself gets underway at 5 PM. See this link for further details:

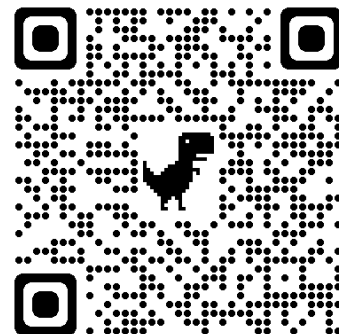
<https://allevents.in/fairfax/the-2025-fairfax-muster/200027246292035>

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 2025-2026 Program of Events

Date	Event
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 Theatre”
April 26, 2025	Spring Tour 2: “Battle of Spotsylvania Court House” (rescheduled from June 2024) Tour Guide Greg Mertz
May 8, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Schroeder - “Myths About R.E. Lee’s Surrender At Appomattox VA, April 1865”
June 26, 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 6, 2025	Fall Tour 1: “Civil War Vienna/Oakton” Tour leader Jim Lewis
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”
November 1, 2025	Fall Tour 2: “Grant Hall, Fort McNair” Tour leaders Sam Laudenslager and Andy Monahan
November 20, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jari Villanueva - “24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotions: The Story of America’s Most Famous Bugle Call”
December 11, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Robert Dunkerly - “The Other Surrenders: Spring/Summer 1865”
January 8, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Aaron Siever “Battle of Pickett’s Mill, Georgia, 1864”
February 12, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: William Connery “Civil War Northern Virginia 1861”
March 12, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Tim Dustin - “The Mexican War: Training Ground For The Civil War”

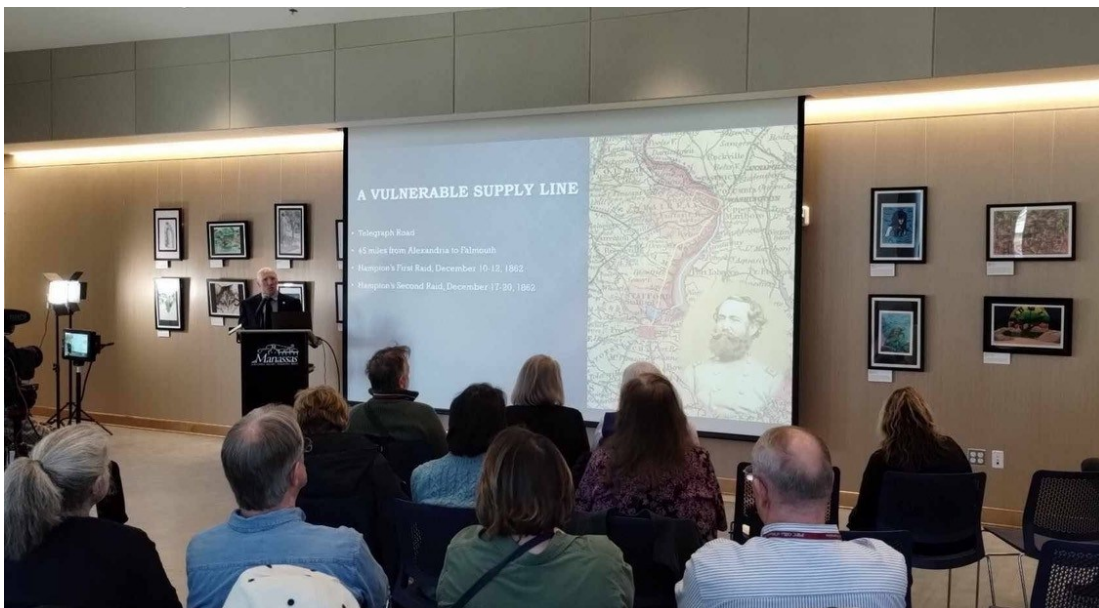
Monthly Meetings in “Black” Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in “Red” County or outside sponsored events in “Green”

BRCWRT ATTENDS ANNUAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table was well represented at the 2025 Prince William/Manassas History Symposium, held on March 22nd at the Manassas Museum. Among the many topics presented, our members heard an interesting presentation about Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's raid through Prince William County in December of 1862. The speaker was Kevin Pawlak, a Historic Site Manager for PWC Historic Preservation Division and BRCWRT member. Other BRCWRT members in attendance included Blake Myers, Debbie and Mark Whitenton, Drew Pallo, Gary Haskins, Rob Orrison, Kim Brace, John DePue, Kate Bitely, David Dexter, Karen Connair and Mary Shine.



Blake Myers, Debbie Whitenton, Mark Whitenton, and Drew Pallo (not pictured) worked the BRCWRT table
Photo: Blake Myers



Kevin Pawlak presents on Stuart's Christmas 1862 Raid
Photo: Rob Orrison

TREE PLANTING THIS WEEK - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As part of its restoration work on the Manassas Battlefield, on Thursday, April 10 (11 AM - 3 PM) the American Battlefield Trust is hosting a volunteer tree planting on the ABT-owned *Crewes Tract* located near historic Sudley Methodist Church (see ABT announcement, below). No experience is necessary – those interested in participating in this tree planting can meet the ABT team at 5305 Featherbed Lane in Manassas; registration is not required.

Tree Planting at Historic Manassas Battlefield

Thursday, April 10th, 2025

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(Social After!)



Hey, we had a blast at the last volunteer tree-planting event! So, if you are interested in restoration work and you want to get your hands dirty, then please join us for another *volunteer* workday at ABT's *Crewes Tract* at the historic Manassas Battlefield, Thursday, April 10th.

Please dress for the weather and be prepared to hike around and/or kneel in the grass – you will probably get dirty

Note: If you have it, you can bring work gloves and a hand-trowel to prep the holes.

Also bring a brown bag lunch, a water bottle and if you are so inclined, drinks, snacks, games, etc. for the social.

Where:

5305 Featherbed Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

Also:

- 1) No experience necessary (easy work – training on site)
- 2) There will be a variety of assignments: some kneeling, some standing, some walking
- 3) Parking is available, but may be limited, so carpool if possible
- 4) Stay for the after-work social and bond with co-workers!

Hope you make it!!

Battle of Spotsylvania tour

Saturday April 26

The tour is free (rescheduled from June 2024)



Tour highlights: Beginning of the battle, Upton's attack, and walking approximately two hours in the Bloody Angle.

Tour guide: Greg Mertz, retired interpreter at the battlefield (after a 40-year career with the National Park Service)

Assembly time and location: 9:30 AM at Spotsylvania Courthouse (in front of the Richard Holbert Memorial Building, 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania). We will finish about 3 PM.

Mode of transportation: Carpool caravan leaving from Spotsylvania Courthouse (individuals may want to arrange carpools with friends prior to leaving northern Virginia).

Lunch break: at Subway or a Mexican restaurant.

Sign up on the website or at a meeting.

BRCWRT Contact: John Scully at scullycivilwar@gmail.com or text to 703-869-4036



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 data center bills passed during Virginia's 2025 Legislative Session and the proposed Wilderness Crossing development.

Virginia State Legislature & Data Center Legislation

Of the twenty-one (21) data center bills submitted in the House and the Senate for the Legislature's consideration/action, three (HB 1601, SB 1449 and SB 1047) were approved by Virginia's General Assembly and forwarded to Governor Youngkin for action.

HB 1601 & SB 1449 - Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility.

Provide that prior to any approval of a rezoning application, special exception application, or special use permit for the siting of a new high energy use facility (HEUF), as defined in the bill, a locality shall require that an applicant perform and submit a site assessment to examine the sound profile of the HEUF on residential units and schools located within 500 feet of the HEUF property boundary. The bills also allow a locality to require that a site assessment examine the effect of the proposed facility on (i) ground and surface water resources, (ii) agricultural resources, (iii) parks, (iv) registered historic sites, and (v) forestland on the HEUF site or immediately contiguous land. The provisions of the bill shall not apply to a site with an existing legislative or administrative approval where an applicant is seeking an expansion or modification of an already existing or approved facility and such expansion does not exceed an additional 100 megawatts or more of electrical power. Finally, the bills provide that their provisions shall not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise supersede existing local zoning authority.

Governor Youngkin amended the bills and sent his recommendations to the House of Delegates on March 24, 2025. As written, the bills required applicants to submit site assessments before rezoning or special use permits could be approved, examining the impact of the facility's sound profile on nearby residential units and schools, and examining the potential effects of the facility on other environmental factors, including water resources, agricultural land, parks, historic sites and forests. The Governor's amendment changed the word 'shall' to 'may', making the sound profile site assessment optional for localities, and added a provision that the bills will not go into effect unless reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly.

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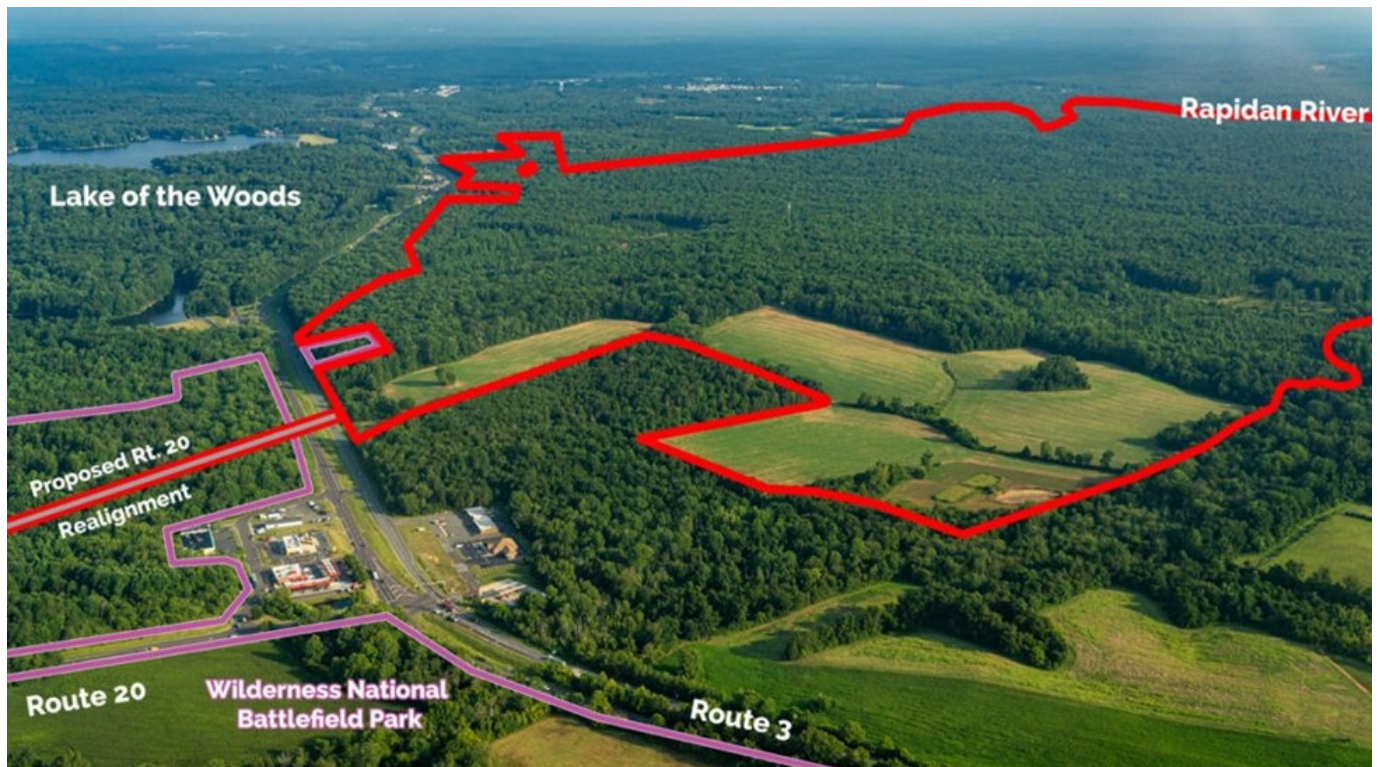
PRESERVATION CORNER

SB 1047 - Electric utilities; demand response programs; evaluation and assessment; report.

Directs the Department of Energy to evaluate and assess benefits, impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for demand response programs in the Commonwealth and to report such evaluation and assessment by November 1, 2025. Governor Youngkin vetoed this bill on March 24, 2025.

Wilderness Crossing Development

As readers may recall, in May 2023 the American Battlefield Trust, together with local nonprofits and private citizens, filed a legal challenge in Orange County, Virginia against a proposed 2,168-acre Wilderness Crossing development adjacent to the Wilderness Battlefield. The proposed development would include residential, commercial, and industrial development that could include data centers and distribution warehouses.



(Courtesy American Battlefield Trust)

The lawsuit filing, made in Orange County Circuit Court, identified a host of substantive and procedural flaws with the development project and the County's approval. "To approve a project of this scale and magnitude without conducting analysis of the impacts to the hundreds of surrounding acres of protected historic landscape is unacceptable, as was the County's complete lack of response to repeated requests by the preservation community and the National Park Service to meet and discuss our concerns," said American Battlefield Trust (ABT) President David Duncan.

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PRESERVATION CORNER

ABT was joined in the lawsuit by the nonprofits Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. - all of which own or steward historic properties that stand to suffer significant adverse impacts from the proposal in immediate proximity to the rezoned land - and private citizens whose homes are directly adjacent the proposed development site.

During a March 17, 2025, update webinar the ABT, the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and the plaintiffs' lead attorney provided an update on the lawsuit. They reviewed the proposed mixed-use development that includes 2,000 residential houses, 80-ft tall structures including power transmission lines, and 732 acres for commercial and industrial (data centers, warehouse distribution centers, etc.) structures, along with the requisite energy demands. To date only generic descriptions of the proposed development, with no specific details, have been provided by the developer.

The direct adverse impacts of this development project on the extant rural open space and the historic Wilderness Battlefield and Route 3 Corridor would be substantial, as would be the increased demand for water (for consumption, cooling and sewer) and for energy/electrical power for the development's residential, commercial and industrial components. Directly threatened areas include the historic Route 3 Corridor, the Wilderness Battlefield, the Rappahannock River watershed, and wildlife habitats throughout this rural area.

In an initial hearing on Friday, March 21, 2025, Orange County Circuit Court Judge David B. Franzén heard arguments on a motion filed by Orange County, its Board of Supervisors, and the owners of the Wilderness Crossing site to dismiss the lawsuit. Judge Franzén chose not to rule from the bench but will contemplate further and issue his verdict later in the spring.

Judge Franzén did rule in the plaintiffs' favor on the matter of two amicus curiae briefs filed by the National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, as well as the Piedmont Environmental Council, in support of the lawsuit. The "friend of the court" briefs, which the defendants sought to exclude, emphasized the conservation efforts undertaken to preserve the Wilderness Battlefield and the irreparable harm the Wilderness Crossing development would have on the Wilderness Battlefield Unit of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park. Both briefs will be admitted into the case's official record.

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, Civil War historic preservation in general and in BRCWRT's preservation projects, actions, and activities.

Blake Myers, BRCWRT Preservation Committee

44th Annual Spring Civil War Mosby Bus Tour

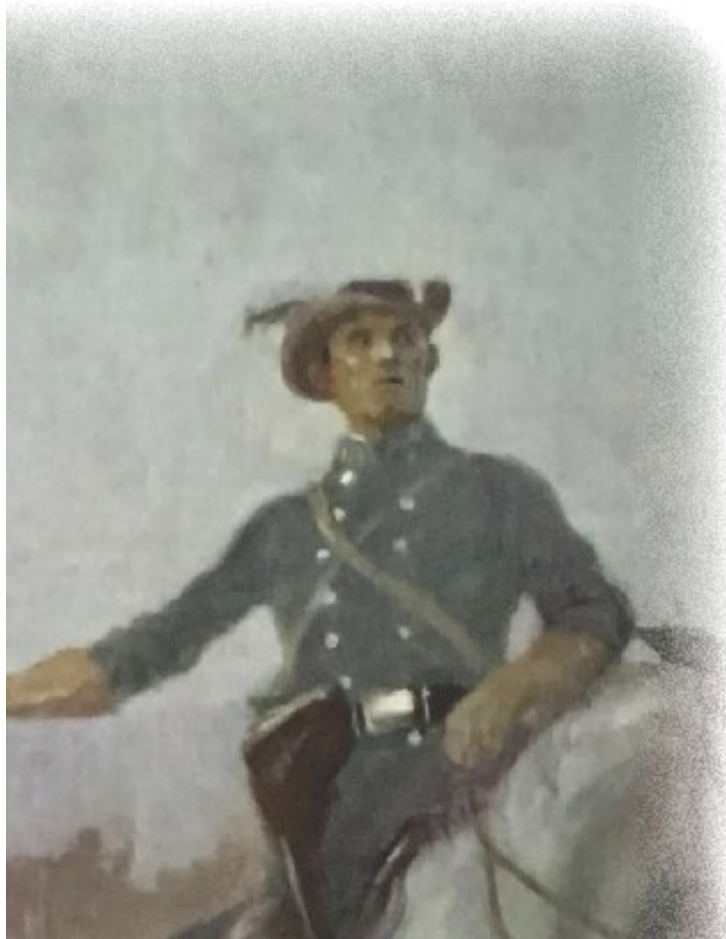
Mosby and the End of the War

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Sponsored by the Stuart - Mosby Historical Society

Tour Leaders will be
Kevin Pawlak and Rob Orrison

We will follow Mosby's Rangers during the closing acts of the Civil War, from the final fights to the disbandment at Salem. Save the date now and join us in 2025 to be a part of the longest-running Mosby tour in the United States.



**\$80 members of the Stuart-Mosby
Historical Society**

\$90 for non-members

Tour does not include lunch.
Lunch will be on your own.

To sign up contact Rob Orrison
at 703-431-2869 or email
mosbytours@gmail.com
or send your check to Rob
Orrison (make checks payable to
Rob) at

102 Melody Lane
Stafford, VA 22554.

Venmo: @Robert-Orrison

No refunds after May 1, 2025.



CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

Brigadier General Randolph Barnes Marcy, USA

By Janet Greentree

General Marcy has intrigued me since he was the father-in-law of one of the more famous generals who had quite the personality – Gen. George Brinton McClellan. Both Marcy and McClellan are buried in Riverview Cemetery in Trenton, NJ. McClellan's marker is so large and tall that it can be seen driving along Route 295 on the left before the Trenton exit. It is almost impossible to photograph it in its entirety since it is so tall. Marcy is buried not too far from McClellan near the Delaware River with a modest marker. Marcy was not thrilled when his daughter Mary Ellen ("Nellie"), who was 18, was courted by McClellan, who was 27. Nellie had first been courted by A.P. Hill, who she wanted to marry. Her father told her that he did not want her marrying a military man. Marcy said to her: "I cannot tell what my feelings toward you will become. I fear that my ardent affections will turn to hate." He felt that his daughter would be separated from her husband while he was on deployment to remote areas, and she would have to live on his meager pay. He thought McClellan would be a better match, as he planned to resign from the Army and pursue a civilian career. McClellan asked her to marry him nine times; she finally accepted when she was 25. A.P. Hill never got over losing Nellie. During the Civil War, Hill tried to have his Confederates in the front of any battle where McClellan was in command. Hill's troops were tired of these attacks and one soldier said: "My God, Nellie, why didn't you marry him."



G.B McClellan's monument in Trenton NJ
(Photos: Janet Greentree)



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MS. REBELLE

Randolph Barnes Marcy was born on April 9, 1812, in Greenwich, MA. He was the oldest son of Leban Marcy and Fannie Howe. Leban was a postmaster. His siblings were: Erastus Edgerton (doctor), William Ainsworth, Marcia Ann, Mary Ann, and Frederick Augustus. Dr. Erastus' medical office was across the street from Tiffany & Co. in New York City. Erastus became interested in homoeopathic medicine and wrote and edited the *North American Journal of Homoeopathy* until 1865. Marcia Ann married Rev. David Patten, Jr. Marcy's grandfather Asahel Marcy was a corporal in the Revolutionary War. His great-grandfather was Benjamin Marcy. His second great-grandfather was John Marcy, who came to America from Bristol, England at the age of six as an indentured servant on the ship *Frances & Mary*. He had been captured in Limerick, Ireland along with 33 others. He was brought to Roxbury, MA and sold. John remembered his mother and others rushing to the pier with frantic gestures and cries trying to get him back. That was the last he saw or heard of her. He worked on Benjamin Rozer's plantation in Charles Co., MD. Rozer was a wealthy plantation owner. His plantation was in Chandler's Town, which later was renamed Port Tobacco. I am sure all of you know what later happened in Port Tobacco. Rozer also owned a plantation named Lower Notley Hall near the Oxon Hill area of Prince George's Co., MD.



Dr. Erastus Marcy



Port Tobacco Courthouse



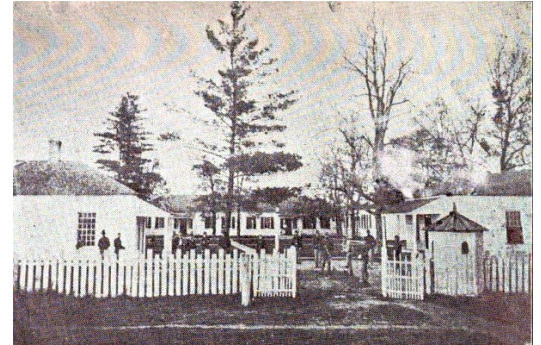
Lower Notley Hall

Marcy was educated at the New Salem Academy in Massachusetts. Marcy then entered West Point on July 1, 1828, and graduated 29th in his class out of 45 students in 1832. His fellow future general classmates were top heavy with Confederates: Phillip St. George Cocke, George Bibb Crittenden, Richard Cadwell Gatlin, and Humphrey Marshall. There were only three future Union general graduates: Albert G. Edwards, Erasmus Darwin Keys, and of course Marcy. Marcy graduated as a 2nd LT in the 5th Infantry. He made 1st LT on June 22, 1837, and Captain on May 18, 1846. Most of his time in this period was spent on the "frontier" at Fort Gratiot, MI and Fort Howard, WI. His first combat experience was during the Black Hawk War. He also served as a recruiting officer.

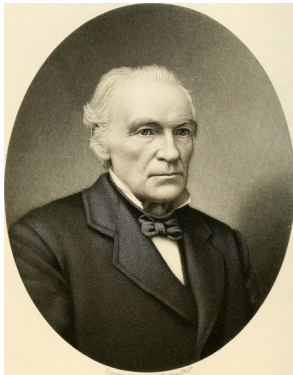
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MS. REBELLE

1st Lt. Marcy married Mary Amelia Mann in Syracuse, NY on May 18, 1833. Mary was the daughter of Gen. Jonas Mann, a general in the state militia and a merchant for most of his life. Mary's great-grandfather was Capt. Benjamin Mann, who served in the Revolutionary War. Randolph and Mary would have four children: Mary Ellen, Marcy (died as an infant), Fanny, and Frederick. Mary Ellen married Gen. George Brinton McClellan on May 22, 1860 in NYC. Their son George, Jr. was Mayor of NYC from 1904-1909, served in the U.S. House of Representatives, and served in WW1 in the U.S. Army Ordnance Dept. He lived at 33 West 51st Street in NYC. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery off McClellan Drive near the McClellan Gate. Marcy's wife Mary Amelia died in 1878.



Fort Gratiot



Captain Benjamin Mann



George McClellan Jr.



McClellan House, NYC



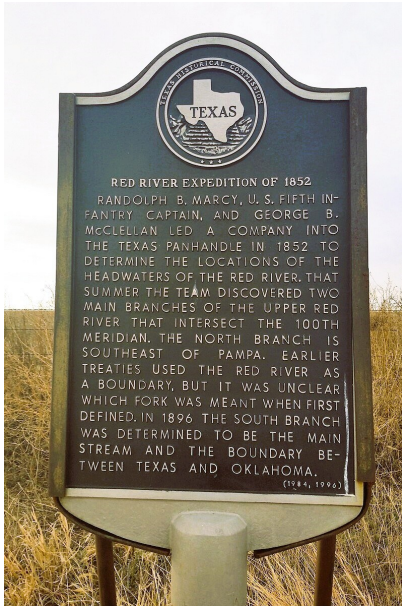
George McClellan Jr. Grave

Randolph Marcy served his country for 49 years from 1832-1881. For a man who did not want his daughter to marry a military man, he must have spent a lot of time not being home with his family. It was said by his men that he had a dry sense of humor, was well-read, and observant. He was also willing to accept other opinions. He loved hunting. He had many accomplishments in his service to his country, mostly on frontier after frontier. He served in the Mexican War with Gen. Zachary Taylor's army, seeing action at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. In 1851, he was the escort for Gen. William Belknap, selecting sites for forts on the Texas frontier. In 1852, he commanded a 70-man expedition across the Great Plains searching for the source of the Red River. He had been instructed to collect and report everything that might be useful. Doesn't this sound like the Lewis & Clark expedition requested by President Thomas Jefferson? Marcy met his future son-in-law McClellan when he was appointed 2nd in command. Between May 2-July 28, 1852, the expedition crossed over 1,000 miles of undocumented land in the Texas and Oklahoma territories. They collected mineral deposits and found new unknown reptiles and mammals. They also found a prairie dog town that covered 400,000 acres. Marcy's expedition was called the most significant of his career, the best organized, best conducted, and most successful in that region.

(cont on page 16)

MS. REBELLE

He was also the first to find the headwaters of the Red River. Others, including Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, and Thomas Freeman had tried to find the headwaters but were unsuccessful. In 1854, Marcy surveyed Indian reservations in Texas. In 1856, he explored the headwaters of the Big Wichita and Brazos rivers. In 1857, he was in Florida fighting the Seminole Indians. He then served under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson's expedition against the Mormons. He and his men traversed over a thousand miles to help relieve Johnson's army when they were stranded in the Utah mountains.



Marker and Map of the 1852 Red River Expedition

From November 1857 to June 1858, he was out west going from Fort Scott to the Utah Territory and then to Santa Fe, NM in absolutely terrible conditions. His route became the Marcy Trail. He had about 450 men in his party. One of their problems was that the Mormons would try to stampede Marcy's animals at night. They had to have sentries to deter the Mormons, who would steal their animals but not fight them. Marcy's party was waiting for Col. William Loring and his party to reach theirs.



Fort Scott



Loring left from Fort Union. The units met in April 1858. Up until then the weather had been good. Then it started snowing. Of three Mexican herdsmen following behind them, one froze to death, one was crawling on the prairie fighting off insanity, and the third man died 200 yards from the camp. By April 30, the snow was even worse. The animals stampeded and many died. The snow subsided on May 2, but it was 4 feet deep. Marcy's horse fell and was unable to stand after that. The snow was 20 feet deep surrounding the corral they had made beforehand due to winds. Most of Marcy's animals were rounded up.

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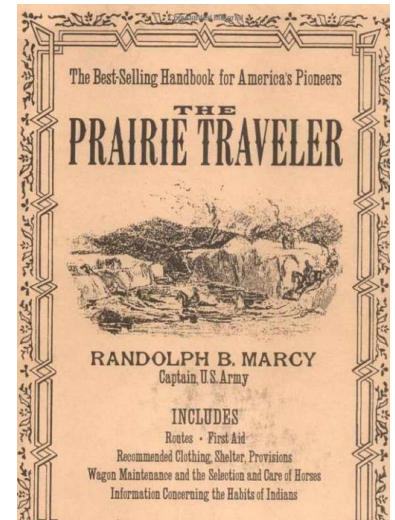
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Between Loring and Marcy, they lost 350 sheep, 10 horses, 35 mules, and 75 cattle. Finally they were able to restart their journey. Men they passed on the way said they had never seen a storm like that before. They passed many of their animals along the way that were frozen to death. They finally reached their destination on June 11, 1858.

Gen. Scott's Aide-de-Camp sent the following to Marcy: "Sir, I am instructed by Scott to say to you in reply to your letter of March 29, that the unconquerable energy, patience, and devotedness to duty displayed by yourself and the command entrusted to your skillful guidance and direction, have been highly appreciated by himself, and that the unusual sufferings and hard labor to which the troops were exposed in accomplishing their arduous march in the depth of winter has been made known to the whole country by the public press. It is impossible, under such circumstances, that your name should be dissociated from the efficient aid rendered to the army of Utah by the return of the expedition which you so successfully conducted. But the General-in-Chief, upon information communicated by General Johnston, of a probable attempt on the part of the Mormons to cut off the expedition, deemed it proper to instruct General Garland to reinforce your escort, and the extent of that reinforcement perhaps necessarily involved the addition of an officer senior in rank to yourself, to take charge of the troops thus detached from the department of New Mexico after their connection with your expedition shall cease. The General-in-Chief will not fail to commend your admirable conduct to the special notice of the War Department."

In 1859 Marcy wrote a book called *The Prairie Traveler: A Hand-book for Overland Expeditions*. This book had many hints for travelers including the following suggestions on what to bring:

- 2 blue or red flannel overshirts, open in front, with buttons
- 2 woolen undershirts
- 2 pairs thick cotton drawers
- 4 pairs woolen socks
- 2 pairs cotton socks
- 4 colored silk handkerchiefs
- 2 pairs stout shoes, for footmen
- 1 pair boots, for horsemen
- 1 pair shoes, for horsemen
- 3 towels
- 1 gutta percha poncho
- 1 broad-brimmed hat of soft felt
- 1 comb and brush
- 1 tooth-brush
- 1 pound Castile soap
- 3 pounds bar soap for washing clothes
- 1 belt knife and small whetstone
- Stout linen thread, large needles, a bit of beeswax, a few buttons, paper of pins, and a thimble, all contained in a small buckskin or stout cloth bag.

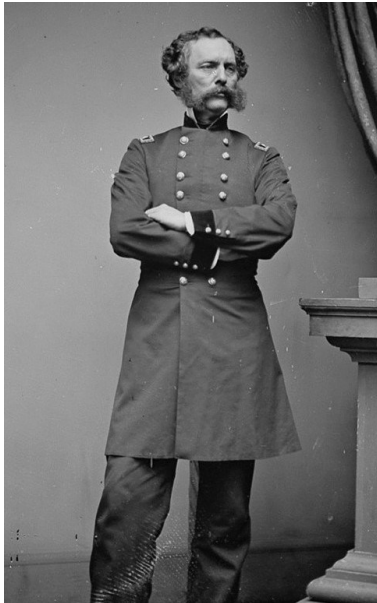


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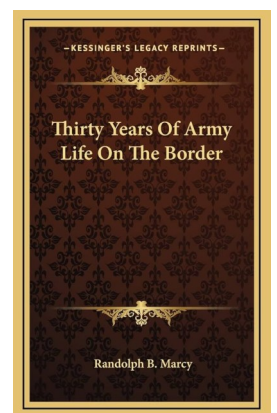
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In addition, he suggested what equipment to carry, methods of organizing a wagon train, techniques to avoid Indian attacks, advice from French and British medical journals, Norwegian saddling techniques, Mexican pack practices, African methods for carrying rifles while riding, and detailed notes on 34 of the most important overland trails. Some of his advice is still relevant today. (Ms. Rebelle would never be able to do such a trip as all her trips need the “what ifs”, which is known to her travel mates Nancy Anwyll and Gwen Wyttenbach.)

In 1861 he was in the Pacific Northwest serving as paymaster. When the Civil War began, he came back east and was promoted to colonel and appointed inspector general of McClellan’s Army of the Potomac. He was then appointed as Chief of Staff for his son-in-law, serving in that role until November 5, 1863. McClellan often turned to his wife Nellie and to his father-in-law for support and counsel during the Civil War. Marcy also served twice in 1862 and 1863 as acting general of volunteers. He was also in one of the famous Lincoln pictures at Antietam. He is 4th from the left, McClellan is two in front of him, and of course you know who the tall guy is in the hat.



Marcy was promoted brigadier general and then major general of volunteers on May 13, 1865. In 1870, he accompanied General Sherman on an inspection tour of Texas. Marcy then served as inspector general of several departments of the army. He was promoted to brigadier general on December 12, 1878, and also inspector general of the army. During this time he was able to write two books: *Thirty Years of Army Life on the Border* in 1866 and *Border Reminiscences* in 1871. He retired from Army life on January 2, 1881.



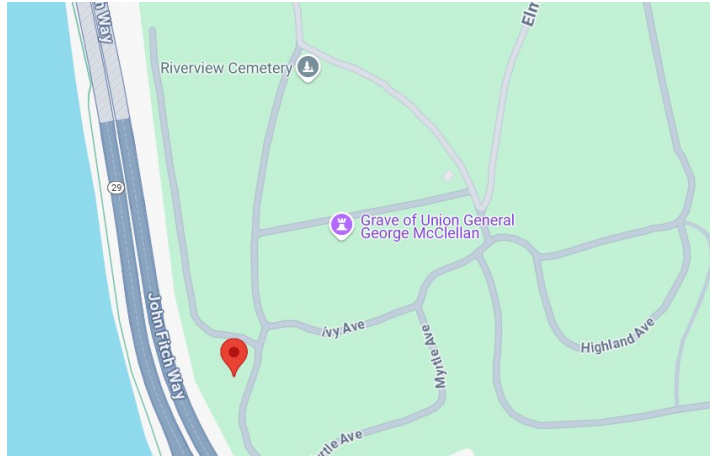
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General Marcy died at his home in West Orange, NJ on November 22, 1887, outliving his son-in-law Gen. McClellan by two years, who died of a heart attack at 58. Marcy was 76 years of age and suffered from general debility. He is buried next to his wife at Riverview Cemetery in Trenton, NJ. Their graves are in Section C, Lot 5, Findagrave Memorial No. 12937, GPS Latitude: 40.1935005, Longitude: 74.7563629.

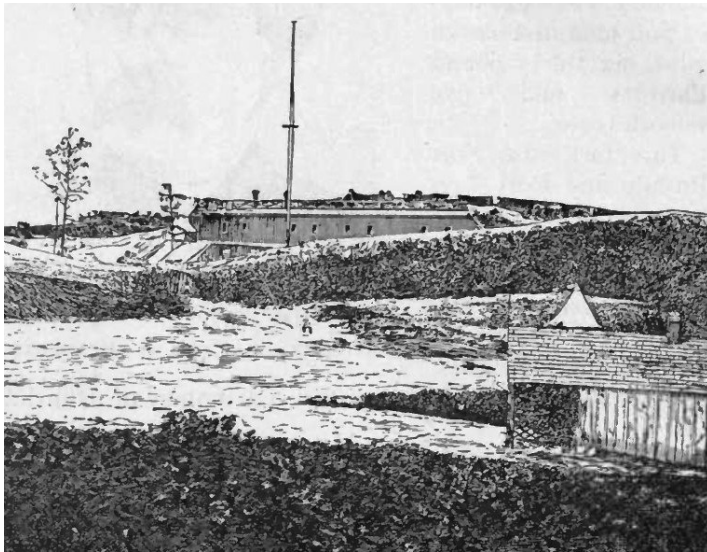


Graves of Randolph and Mary Amelia Marcy
(Photo: Janet Greentree)

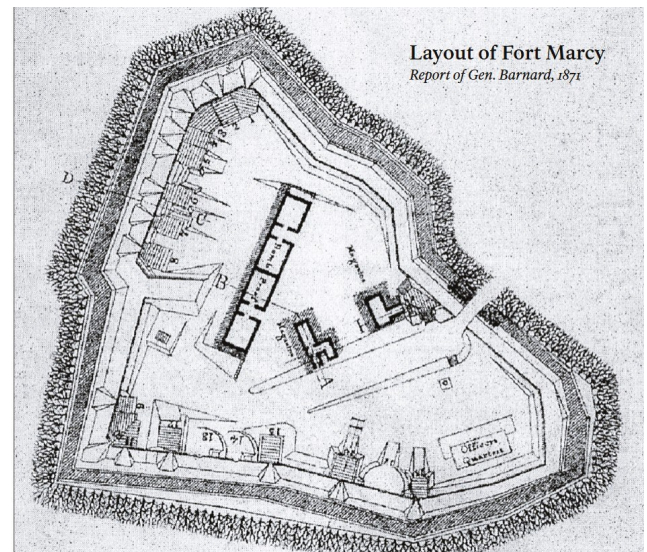


Marcy gravesite by Delaware River, Trenton NJ

Fort Marcy in McLean, VA is named after him as one of Lincoln's Defenses of Washington. The fort was originally named Baldy Smith after Gen. William Farrar Smith. Units at the fort were: 79th NY Infantry, 142nd PA Infantry, 152nd NY Infantry, 4th NY Heavy Artillery, 130th PA Infantry, and 3rd PA Heavy Artillery.



Contemporary View of Fort Marcy



Plan of Fort Marcy

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His obituary was published in the *New York Herald* on November 23, 1887: "Obituary. General Randolph R. Marcy, U.S.A. – Brigadier General Randolph B. Marcy, the father of Mrs. George B. McClellan, died in Orange, N.J., on Monday night. He had been ill for some months. His daughter, Mrs. Dr. E.E. Clarke [Fanny], was with him when he died. Mrs. McClellan is in Europe. These were his only surviving children. General Marcy was born in the State of Massachusetts, in 1811 [sic]. He entered the West Point Military Academy as a cadet in 1828 and graduated on the 30th of June, 1832. He was a classmate of General Keys, and among his fellow graduates was George B. Crittenden, who afterward became a rebel major general ... During 1852 he, in company with the young brevet Captain McClellan, was engaged in the survey and discovery of the sources of the Red River of Louisiana, and during the year 1854 he surveyed the sources of the Brazos and Big Wichita rivers ... When General McClellan was removed from command in November, 1862, General Marcy returned to his old position of Inspector General, with the rank of colonel. After a continuous term of honorable service lasting over forty-eight [sic] years General Marcy was, at his own request, placed on the retired list January 4, 1881, and has since resided in Orange, where he was greatly beloved by a large circle of friends."

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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table Scholarship Committee is looking for additional members to serve on the committee. Each year we review local applicants from Prince William and Fairfax County public and private schools who show an interest in history, and are competing for our \$2,000 scholarship.

Previous experience is not required and we can guide you through the decision making process that we employ. We meet by Zoom only during two months of the year, March and April. Application reviews and the interviews for finalists are conducted by Zoom during April. The scholarship winner will be invited to attend our June membership meeting, where the scholarship will be presented.

It's a great opportunity to reach out to the high school community while helping the Round Table in assisting high school seniors to meet their educational goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to serve on the committee.

John Carter
Chair of the Scholarship Committee
johnca2@yahoo.com

PRINCE WILLIAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025 LECTURE SERIES

Each program is free and will begin at 7 pm.

MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE RETURNS

Elizabeth Reese

January 23

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN THE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR

Scott Patchan

March 27

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LUMINARIES

Joe Motheral

May 22

Occoquan Town Hall
314 Mill Street, Occoquan

ATROCITIES AT BULL RUN

Harry Smeltzer

July 24

Pat White Center at Ben Lomond
10501 Copeland Drive, Manassas

POTOMAC MARBLE: HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE IDEAL STONE

Paul Kreingold

September 25

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas

VIGILANTE JUSTICE IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Kate Bitely

November 20

Occoquan Town Hall
314 Mill Street, Occoquan

PRINCE WILLIAM
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www.historicprincewilliam.org

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THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122

<http://www.bullruncwrt.org>

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Thank you for your continued interest in the BRCWRT!

Here are your payment options:

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$25.00

Student (21 & under): FREE!

Three-Year Option:

\$55.00

\$65.00

You may use PayPal by going to http://brcwrt.org/?page_id=962 and then emailing this form to BRCWRTtreasurer@gmail.com. Note that \$1 is added to cover the PayPal fee.

-OR-

You may pay by check, made payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table) and give the form and check to the President or Treasurer at a General Membership meeting.

-OR-

You may mail this form and the check to:

**BRCWRT Treasurer
P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, VA 20122**

NAME(S)_____

NAME(S) FOR BADGE (if different)_____

If there are any changes:

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE_____ EMAIL_____

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? _____
