



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXII, Issue 12, DECEMBER 2025

**NPS RANGER AND AUTHOR
ROBERT DUNKERLY SPEAKS ON
"THE OTHER SURRENDERS:
SPRING AND SUMMER 1865" AT
THE DECEMBER 11th, 2025 GEN-
ERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

By Mark Trbovich

Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender to Gen. U.S. Grant at Appomattox, VA, in April 1865 is the moment most consider to be the end of the Civil War. However, while the war in the Eastern Theater was over, there were still Confederate armies under arms elsewhere, especially in the Western Theater. As Richmond fell, and government officials fled south, it would be up to each commander in the field to independently decide to surrender his army when the news of Lee's capitulation in the East reached him. This is a 160th Civil War Anniversary event, and at this meeting, we will now hear the stories of their ordeals, brought to us by a prominent speaker on this subject.

Robert M. Dunkerly is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He is not a stranger to the BRCWRT, having visited us many times in the past. Robert has worked at nine historic sites and written twelve books and over twenty articles. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration. He is a past President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and serves on the Preservation Commission for the American Revolution

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, December 11,
2025**

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Robert Dunkerly

TOPIC:

**"The Other Surrenders: Spring
and Summer 1865"**

Round Table in Richmond. He has taught courses at Central Virginia Community College, the University of Richmond, and the Virginia Historical Society. Robert is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He has visited over 500 battlefields and over 1000 historic sites worldwide.

Come join us early at our December 11th, 2025 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Robert and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there. [There will be CAKE!]

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

Newsletter Team: Sandra Cox, Janet Green-tree, Melissa Winn, Debbie and Mark Whitenton.

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2026 issue**, e-mail articles by **December 29th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **January 2026 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

and e-mail ads by **December 29th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 11 Robert Dunkerly - "The Other Surrenders: Spring/Summer 1865"

January 8, 2026 Aaron Siever - "Battle of Pickett's Mill, Georgia, 1864"

February 12 William Connery - "Civil War Northern Virginia, 1861"

March 12 Tim Duskin - "The Mexican War: Training Ground For The Civil War"

April 9 Dr. Curt Fields - "An Evening with Gen. U. S. Grant"

May 14 Rich Condon - "Emancipation in the Department of the South"

June 18 Patrick Falci - "30th Anniversary of the Making of the Gettysburg Movie"

July 9 Scott Mingus - "Human Interest Stories from the Gettysburg Campaign"

August 13 Frank O'Reilly - "Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"

September 10 Bill Backus - "Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, and the Battle of Brawner Farm, 28 August 1862"

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
BRCWRT Officer Election	Page 4
BRCWRT Calendar of Events	Page 5
2026 Tours Preview	Page 6
Preservation Corner	Page 9
Welcome New Members	Page 12
Ms. Rebelle	Page 13



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By **Melissa A. Winn**

Photos: **Janet Greentree**

As we enter the holiday season and prepare to close out another year of scholarship, camaraderie, and shared passion for Civil War history, I want to take a moment to reflect on what our Round Table has accomplished — and where we are headed in the new year.

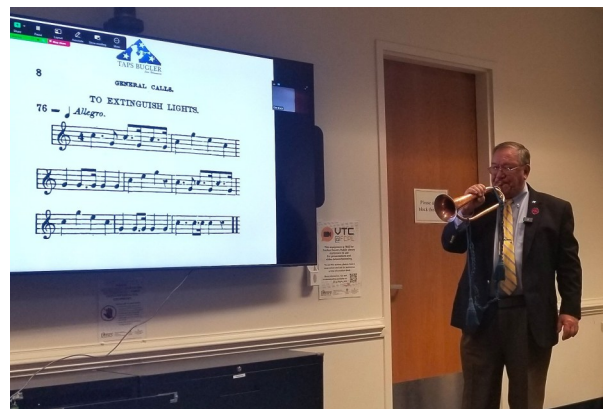
This has been a year marked by lively discussions, unforgettable presentations, and the steady growth of a community deeply committed to understanding America's defining conflict. It's my first year as President and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such a committed and active group. From exploring battlefield tactics and leadership decisions to uncovering the personal stories of soldiers, civilians, and even medical pioneers and photography, our monthly programs have reminded us that history is not static. It continues to reveal new layers, challenge old assumptions, and invite us to look deeper. I am grateful to every speaker, member, volunteer, and guest who helped make this year so rich and special!

This year, we've also seen some victories and exciting developments in preservation efforts in our area. Thank you to Blake Myers for his vigilant coverage and engagement in these efforts on behalf of the BRCWRT. We'll be hearing more about his endeavors in the coming year! Likewise, many thanks to Don Richardson for his fantastic work on our unparalleled member newsletter. The production is always on time and full of engaging content and information. Don is always thinking of ways to keep the content fresh and useful. Thank

you! We're grateful to all of you who contribute regularly and provide us such great content, as well, especially Janet Greentree for her regular contributions of Ms. Rebelle and fantastic photo coverage of meetings, events, etc.

I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude for all the members of the BRCWRT Executive Committee. It's a volunteer organization and a big commitment to donate precious time and energy to work together not only to keep our Round Table running, but also continuously improving. In the coming year we are working on a new website, new field trip agendas, innovative meeting opportunities, and new outreach ideas to expand our memberships and partnerships.

Lastly, THANK YOU! This group is only as strong and exciting as its members. Your participation and continued excitement and engagement with our programs, field trips, fundraising, and more, are what it's all about. As we look toward the final days of the year, I hope you will consider supporting the Round Table in any way you can - whether



Our November speaker, Jari Villanueva, sounded "Taps" to finish his presentation

(cont on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

through renewed membership (yes, it's that time of year), volunteering, inviting a friend to a meeting, or participating in our upcoming initiatives. Your involvement ensures that we can continue bringing high-quality speakers to our programs, supporting educational outreach, and preserving a space where history truly comes alive.

Thank you for a wonderful year. May your holidays be filled with warmth, peace, and moments of reflection — and may the new year bring renewal, curiosity, and continued dedication to the study of our nation's past. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Huzzah!

NOTICE OF OFFICER ELECTIONS

Under our Bylaws, our President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected for one-year terms commencing on January 1st each year and terminating at the end of December. During our October General Membership meeting, nominations for these positions were opened. Nominations were closed and the names of the members running for office were announced during our November General Membership meeting. The officer election will be conducted during our December General Membership meeting. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for one of these offices or to nominate another member in good standing with his or her consent.

The following members have been nominated for election:

President:	Melissa Winn
Vice President:	Mark Whitenton
Treasurer:	Joe Young
Secretary:	Debbie Whitenton

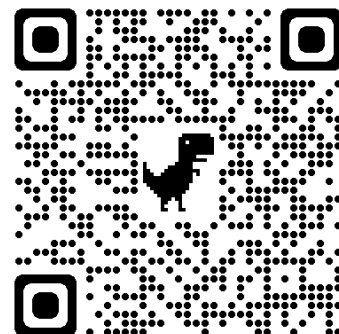
Respectfully,
Jeff Joyce, Nominating Committee Chair

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 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 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 also accept donated Civil War prints to auction for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund.) We 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
December 11, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Robert Dunkerly - "The Other Surrenders: Spring/Summer 1865" (there will be a holiday cake!)
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 Duskin - "The Mexican War: Training Ground For The Civil War"
March 21, 2026	Spring Tour 1: "Wolf Run Shoals - The Best Kept Secret in Fairfax County" Tour leaders Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany (rain date April 4th)
April 9, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dr. Curt Fields "An Evening with Gen. U. S. Grant"
May 14, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Rich Condon - "Emancipation in the Department of The South"
June 13, 2026	Spring Tour 2: "Harper's Ferry: Bolivar Heights Battleground & Kennedy Farm" Tour leader Kevin Pawlak (rain date June 20th)
June 18, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Falci - "30th Anniversary of the Making of the Gettysburg Movie"
July 9, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Mingus - "Human Interest Stories from the Gettysburg Campaign"
August 13, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Frank O'Reilly - "Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"
September 10, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Bill Backus - "Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, and the Battle of Brawner Farm, 28 August 1862"
October 8, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Bryan Cheeseboro - "The Early Days of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, from Fort Sumter to 1st Bull Run"
October 17, 2026	Fall Tour: "Civil War Alexandria (AM) / Fort Ward (PM)" Tour leaders Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro (rain date October 24th)
November 19, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Lisa Samia - "Nameless and Faceless of Manassas And Gettysburg"
December 10, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Jones - "Opium Slavery: Civil War Veterans And America's First Opioid Crisis"
January 14, 2027	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jared Peatman - "Hell of a Regiment: The 20th Maine"

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

2026 TOURS PREVIEW

The BRCWRT Tours & Field Trips committee strives to offer programs that are "practicable", informative (led by knowledgeable local guides), that may complement BRCWRT monthly speakers, or may coincide with dates of Civil War events, and above all, will be interesting to Round Table members. During 2025, our Round Table visited the Spotsylvania battlefield; the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office and the Matthew Brady and Alexander Gardner photographic gallery locations in Washington DC; Civil War sites "just across the street" in Vienna and Oakton, Va.; and hiked the path of the Goose Creek & Little River canal in Loudoun County, Va.

Here is a preview of our forthcoming BRCWRT 2026 field trips:

Spring Tour 1: WOLF RUN SHOALS (Saturday, March 21)

As we begin our celebration of our National 250th anniversary year, BRCWRT begins our 2026 tour season with a pilgrimage down the historic wagon road on which Generals Washington and Rochambeau moved their supply train to besiege the British army at Yorktown and win American Independence. "Four score and seven years" later, the Army of the Potomac's II Corps would cross the Occoquan River and move up that trail en route to the decisive battle at Gettysburg. BRCWRT members Jim Lewis and Brian McEnany will guide our walk alongside the road that enabled the Revolutionary War Yorktown campaign, and amongst the traces of Civil War earthworks and encampments, as we retrace the steps of the Army of the Potomac's onerous march to Gettysburg. Afterwards, dine and enjoy Round Table fellowship at Los Toltecos in Fairfax. **WARNING:** much like the recent Goose Creek Canal tour, this event is not for the "mobility challenged".



Co. A, 13th VT Infantry - camp at Wolf Run Shoals (LOC)



Washington Rochambeau Wagon Route (Jim Lewis)

(cont on page 7)

2026 TOURS PREVIEW

Spring Tour 2: HARPER'S FERRY (Saturday, June 13th)

Our Round Table's last visit to Harper's Ferry was "way back when" - not only Pre-Covid, but also (1) PRE-American Battlefield Trust preservation of the Bolivar Heights battlegrounds; (2) PRIOR to National Park Service restoration of the Kennedy farmhouse site, where John Brown planned the Harpers Ferry Arsenal raid; and (3) BEFORE the opening of the Harpers Ferry Brewery.

Our second Spring field trip will cover all three of these bases, PLUS a visit to the fabled "John Brown's Fort." Our guide will be BRCWRT member Kevin Pawlak, who previously worked as a NPS Ranger at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Kevin is the author of five books about the Civil War, including "John Brown's Raid: Harpers Ferry and the coming of the Civil War", and "To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862", both part of Savas Beatie's "Emerging Civil War" series.

After visiting the Bolivar-Kennedy Farm-Armory/John Brown's Fort locales, our group will reconvene for an "After Action Debriefing" at Harpers Ferry (Adventure Center) Brewery. This brewery not only serves delicious pizza and savory micro-brews, but offers spectacular scenic views of Harpers Ferry and the Potomac River rapids. Bring your cameras and binoculars!



Bolivar Heights, Harpers Ferry (National Park Service)

Fall Tour: CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA & FORT WARD (Saturday, October 17th)

Remarkably, the Round Table has yet to visit the Civil War landmarks of our neighbors "just down the Pike"! (Little River Turnpike, Rt.236, and the old Mountain Road, today's US Rt. 29/50). Our Fall 2026 field trip corrects this historic omission.

Our morning begins at the Lyceum and Atheneum - meeting halls that became hubs for both Secessionist and pro-Union "rallies" (a/k/a "riots") prior to Virginia's secession. Both venues remain in active use today. Our tour leaders, BRCWRT members Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro, will reprise the "debates" that led to Virginia's secession, in the very same lecture hall where these "discussions" took place.

(cont on page 8)

2026 TOURS PREVIEW

Don and Chuck will then lead us on a walking tour of Old Town Alexandria Civil War era sites, including: the Marshall House hotel where Union Col. Elmer Ellsworth was "martyred"; Grosvenor, the site of the Civil War hospital complex featured in the popular PBS TV series "Mercy Street"; and the OTHER Mount Vernon - the prison barracks that housed Confederate officer POW's.



Fort Ward entry gate (Fort Ward Museum)



Elmer Ellsworth
(Leslie's Illustrated)



Marshall House hotel, Alexandria VA
(Smithsonian)

Lunch and social time will be at Cooper's Mill. Today's Alexandria waterfront pizzeria began its storied culinary history as the "Mess Hall" for "Heintzelman's Hessians" (2nd Brig., 3rd Div., Federal forces, prior to 1st Bull Run; then Commissariat, III Corps, Army of Potomac, prior to 2nd Manassas). After lunch, our group will tour Fort Ward, the best preserved of "Mr. Lincoln's forts", and view an excellent collection of Civil War artifacts.



PRESERVATION CORNER

By Blake Myers

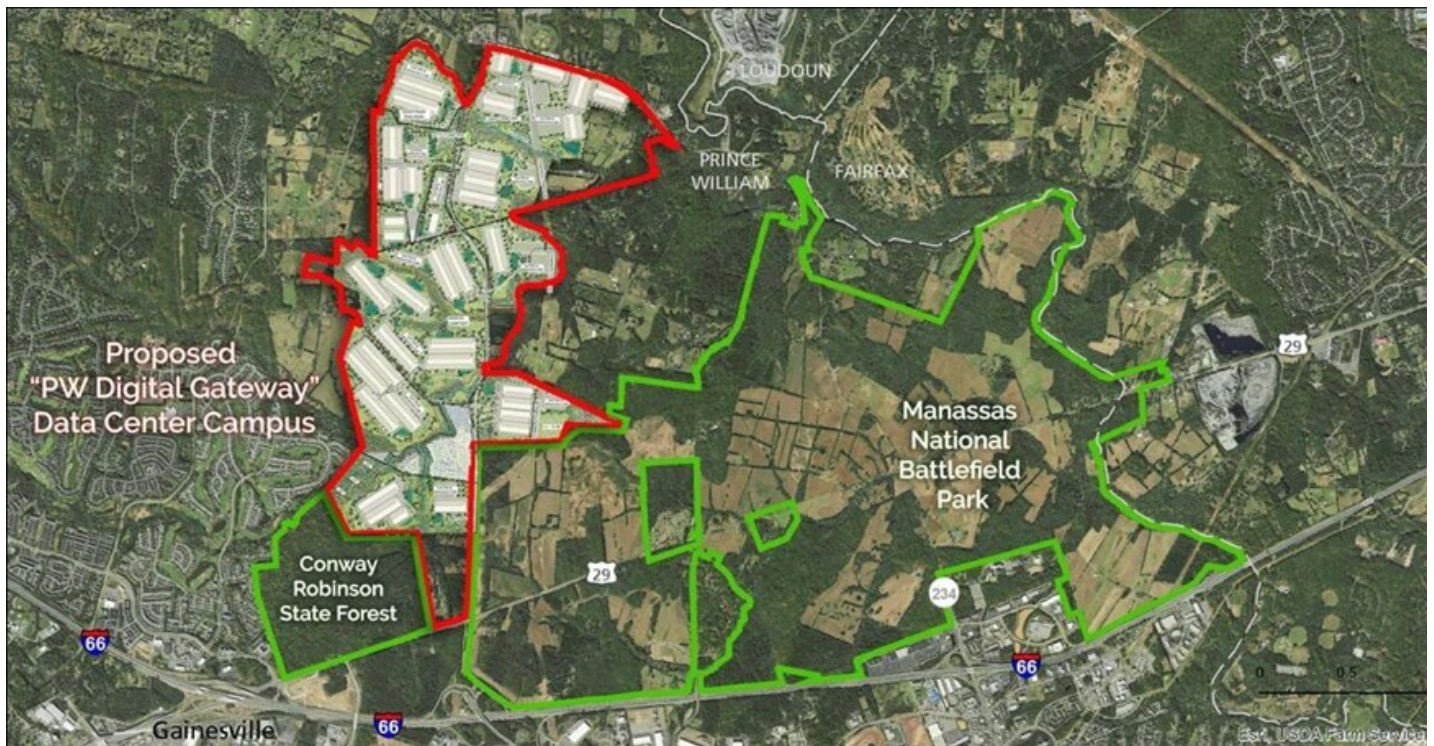
Photos by Blake Myers
unless otherwise noted



Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends - This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides an update on the Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG).

Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG)

As readers will recall two lawsuits challenged the Prince William Board of County Supervisors' (PW BOCS) December 12-13, 2023 approval of three rezoning applications for the PWDG. The applications changed the zoning of specific land parcels along Pageland Lane from Rural/Agricultural to Industrial/Technical, thus allowing up to 37 data centers on about 1,700 acres of land along the Pageland Lane corridor, directly adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park and Conway Robinson State Forest.



Rendering of proposed PWDG Data Center Campus depicting data center site schematics in relation to adjacent historic sites

The lawsuits were filed by the Coalition to Protect Prince William County and the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) with nine co-plaintiffs, and by the Oak Valley Homeowners Association (HOA) and twelve co-plaintiffs, respectively. Both lawsuits assert that the process used by the PW Board of County Supervisors to inform PWC residents

(cont on page 10)

PRESERVATION CORNER

of the scheduled public hearing and the substance of the rezoning applications was not compliant with the applicable Virginia law or PWC zoning ordinance. The requirement is for public hearings to be advertised twice over a two-week period and placed no fewer than six days apart and not less than five days before the public hearing. PWC requested the Washington Post to run the ads on November 28 and December 5. The ads ran on December 2, December 5 and December 9, 2023, with the last ads appearing just three days before the public hearing.

The Coalition to Protect PWC/ABT lawsuit was dismissed by PWC Circuit Court Judge Hudson at an October 31, 2024 demurrer hearing, ruling that the advertisement of the Board's meeting was indeed defective, but that it complied with the "savings" provisions of applicable laws pertaining to the notice. The Coalition and ABT appealed Judge Hudson's ruling, and filed their appeal brief on April 28, 2025.

The Oak Valley HOA lawsuit hearing was conducted June 17-23, 2025 by PWC Circuit Judge Kimberly Irving. On June 20, Judge Irving denied a request to dismiss the case and ruled that the plaintiffs had "standing" to proceed. On August 7, 2025 Judge Irving ruled that the advertised notices provided by the County did not comply with the applicable Virginia Code or PWC Zoning Ordinance, that the plans, ordinances and amendments referenced by the advertised notices were not made available to the public, and that therefore the Board of Supervisors approval of the Rezoning Applications was void.

On August 15, 2025 PWC attorneys filed a motion requesting Judge Irving stay her ruling until the likely appeal(s) process is completed. The motion states that putting a stay in place is necessary to "avoid conflicting rulings, inefficiencies, reassessments, citizen confusions, and the potential for unnecessary enforcement actions if defendants are ultimately successful on appeal." PWC also joined a motion filed earlier by Compass Datacenters and QTS, the two PWDG data center companies, seeking clarifications on Judge Irving's ruling so the appeal process could proceed.

Also, on August 15 the PWC Board of County Supervisors filed a motion for support of the Defendant-Developers' motion to clarify the final ruling and their motion to stay (suspend) the August 7 ruling until Defendants have exhausted their options on appeal. "The stay would simply preserve the status quo pending the likely appeal," the Board wrote in its motion; however, a stay would also mean the approved rezoning applications would remain in effect thus allowing continued planning and coordination activities for the proposed PWDG data centers.

On August 27, 2025 Judge Irving denied the motion requesting a stay of her August 7 ruling that voided the Board of County Supervisors' approval of the PW Digital Gateway rezoning applications. Separately, Judge Irving agreed to grant the Board of Supervisors' motion to suspend the ruling for 14 days in order to accommodate the Board's September 9 meeting, during which the supervisors planned to deliberate and determine whether to appeal Judge Irving's August 7 ruling.

(cont on page 11)

PRESERVATION CORNER

On October 28th, 2025 the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled to stay the August decision by Prince William Circuit Court Judge Irving, which had voided the rezonings. This means the rezonings are temporarily reinstated, allowing pre-construction work that includes planning for Pageland Lane upgrades and a promised trail network, and coordinating with utility (power, water, etc.) providers in planning for extending service to the Pageland Lane area to resume. The Court also agreed to expedite the appeals and to consolidate the appeals of the two lawsuits.

Based on a motion for reconsideration initiated by the Oak Valley Homeowners Association aimed to revisit the Court of Appeals October 28 stay of PW Circuit Court Judge Irving's August ruling, the Court of Appeals issued an order on November 17, 2025 clarifying the October 28 stay by stating in part, "...The trial court's judgement is not stayed to the full extent, in that it prohibits appellants from engaging in land-disturbance or actual construction of the facilities authorized by the rezoning ordinances at issue here. Enforcement of the judgment is otherwise stayed pending further order of this Court." In the order, the Court of Appeals also declared the case has been scheduled for oral argument the week of February 23, 2026.

As a reminder, no utility infrastructure (power, water, gas) exists in the Pageland Lane area to support any industrial development. One of the utility providers being coordinated with by the data center developers is Dominion Energy, as Dominion continues its planning for new and upgraded transmission lines. Of specific interest is the Morrisville-Wishing Star infrastructure upgrade spanning Fauquier, Prince William

Important Transmission Project Updates

Morrisville-Wishing Star 500 kV Project

Dominion Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean electricity. As a valued stakeholder, your input helps us plan essential electric infrastructure projects. We're writing to share an important update on the proposed Morrisville-Wishing Star 500 and 230 kV Transmission Line Project.

After continued evaluation, public feedback, and input, the three alternative routes previously identified in Loudoun County have been eliminated for consideration. These route alternatives will be described in our application to the Virginia State Corporation Commission and identified as "studied but rejected," to demonstrate the full extent of our routing evaluation. These route alternatives will not be offered by the Company for Commission consideration or approval.

We found that the route alternatives would have a greater impact on wetlands, wooded stream areas, and natural buffers in many places.

The Morrisville-Wishing Star 500 kV Project involves adding a new 500 kV transmission line through Fauquier, Prince William, and Loudoun counties within an existing corridor to increase our capacity to deliver electricity efficiently and ensure the continued reliability of the electric grid.

The project will expand the existing transmission corridor where feasible to accommodate the new 500 kV line. Where expansion is not possible, we will rebuild existing lines to fit the additional 500 kV line.

This map is intended to serve as a representation of the project area and is not intended for detailed engineering purposes.

Morrisville-Wishing Star Transmission Line Updates in Loudoun County

Visit [DominionEnergy.com/MorrisvilleWishingStar](https://www.dominionenergy.com/MorrisvilleWishingStar) for ongoing project updates

Protecting the grid against natural and man-made acts is a top priority. You can learn more about our commitment to safety at powerlines101.dominionenergy.com.

CONTACT US

Website: [DominionEnergy.com/MorrisvilleWishingStar](https://www.dominionenergy.com/MorrisvilleWishingStar)
 Email: powerline@dominionenergy.com
 Phone: 888-231-4790

(cont on page 12)

PRESERVATION CORNER

and Loudoun Counties. This project includes installing a new 500kV transmission line along (or near) 36.5 miles of existing right of way (ROW) and adding a new 230 kV transmission line in Fauquier County. Based on input received during their public outreach and engagement, Dominion adjusted the planned route so it does not pass through Manassas National Battlefield Park or take additional Park land for the ROW. Remaining under consideration is an alternative section of the planned route that runs along the Pageland Lane corridor through the area proposed for the PWDG (see Dominion Energy Update, below). This alternative section is envisioned to likely be used only if the PWDG is ultimately approved.

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



The BRCWRT welcomes back returning member Jim Anderson. Jim has spoken to the BRCWRT twice. Last year, he gave a talk on "Our Lady in Richmond - Union Spy Elizabeth Van Lew". In July 2023, he gave a talk on Intelligence during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Jim is an Air Force vet of 3 years active duty, and retired after a 28-year career with CIA. He's also a member of the Civil War Round Table of DC and has spoken there a couple of times and also at the Cosmos Club in DC. Jim has been lecturing and leading tours at the George Mason Lifelong Learning Institute since 2009. He lives in Ashburn.





CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE

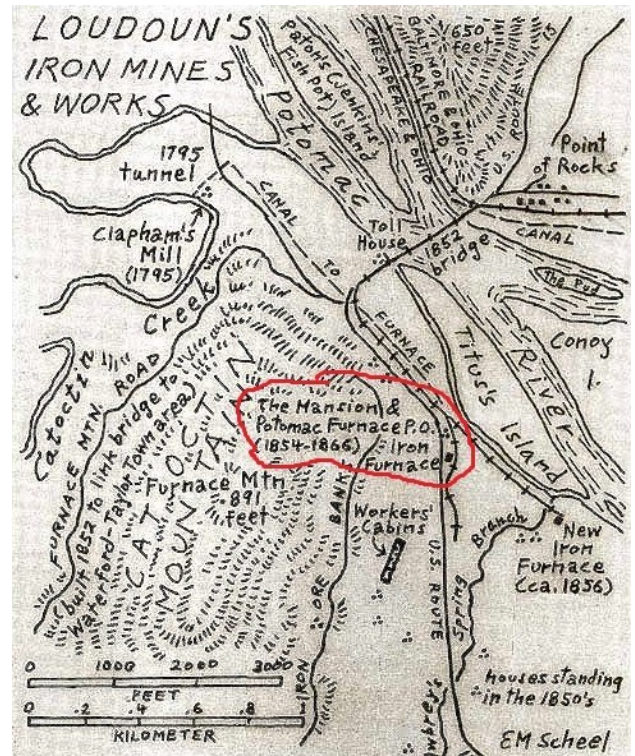
By Janet Greentree

Brevet Major General

David McMurtrie Gregg, USA

When I chose General Gregg for my article this month, I had no idea he was in so many battles and had such a remarkably interesting life, interesting ancestors, and fought in so many battles during the Civil War.

David McMurtrie Gregg was born on April 10, 1833 in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. His parents and ancestors were all interested in politics. Gregg was one of nine children of Matthew Duncan Gregg and Ellen Frances McMurtrie, so you can see where his middle name came from. Ellen was the daughter of David and Martha (Elliott) McMurtrie; they married in 1828. David was the third of nine children. His siblings were Martha, Andrew, Martha Amanda, Mary McMurtrie, Ellen, George Henry, Henry Harrison, and Thomas Jackson Gregg. His brother Henry Harrison was a Colonel during the Civil War. His brother Thomas Jackson was also in the Civil War in several different Infantry/Cavalry troops: the 125th PA Infantry, 6th PA Cavalry, 8th PA Volunteer Cavalry, 16th PA Cavalry, and as a Captain in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry. His father Matthew was born in Penn's Valley, Centre County, PA: an attorney, he was admitted to the Bar in Huntingdon in 1825. He was also an Iron Master in Bellefonte, PA. Matthew and his brother James decided that they would do some prospecting in Virginia. They found an old iron works in Loudoun County and with the help of his brother-in-law David Mitchell bought the Potomac Furnace. It was located one mile south of the Potomac River near Leesburg. The family moved into the ironmaster's mansion. Matthew passed away in 1845 of a severe fever and died in Potomac Furnace, Loudoun Co. He was part owner of Loudoun's Iron Mines & Works. [I must say that I never knew that Loudoun Co. had iron works and mines.]



David lived in several different places in Pennsylvania: Huntingdon, Holidaysburg, Pine Grove Mills, and Bellefonte. His mother Ellen passed away in 1847 so the children were orphaned at an early age. David's aunts and uncles on his mother's side stepped in to take care of the children. David and two of his brothers were taken

(cont on page 14)

MS. REBELLE

to the home of his Uncle David McMurtrie in Huntington. The house still stands at the southeast corner of Fourth & Penn Streets. The house is now the McMurtrie Museum. David was only 14 when his mother died. He went to school at Mr. Hall's private school in Huntington and then went to Milnwood Academy at Shade Gap, PA. In 1850 he entered the University of Lewisburg, which is now Bucknell University. His older brother Andrew also went to the same schools. His brother died at age 19 after becoming ill in Philadelphia on a trip with David.

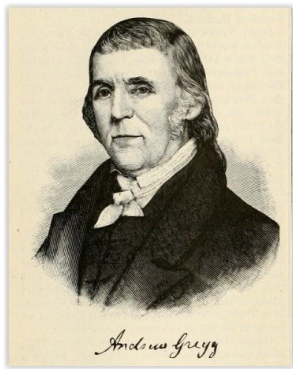


McMurtrie Museum

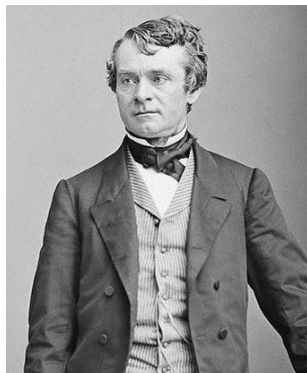


University at Lewisburg (later Bucknell)

David's grandfather was Senator Andrew Gregg. He served briefly in the Delaware militia during the Revolution. He later became a U.S. Congressman and served in the House of Representatives from 1791-1807. He was elected as a senator from Pennsylvania from 1807-1813 and President Pro Tem of the 11th Congress. His great-grandfather was Andrew Cooke Gregg who was born in Ballyarnett, Londonderry, Ireland and died in Carlisle, PA. His 3rd great-grandfather was John Henry Gregg, born in Waterford, Ireland. His fourth great-grandfather was Captain David Grieg, a/k/a MacGregor who was born in Scotland. His fourth great-grandmother was Lady Janet Jesse Stewart. Her parents were Sir James 1st Baronet Stewart of Ardmaleish and Lady Grizell Isabella Campbell. There must be some royal blood in his family. Captain David



Sen. Andrew Gregg



Gov. Andrew Gregg Curtin

Grieg, his wife and children immigrated to and settled in Ireland near where he, his wife, and son John were massacred by the Irish Catholics in 1689 in County Londonderry, Ireland. Going further back most of his ancestors after that were from Scotland so he has Scotch-Irish ancestry. David McMurtrie Gregg was also a first cousin to Gov. Andrew Gregg Curtin who was governor of Pennsylvania during the Civil War.

(cont on page 15)

MS. REBELLE

In 1851 David was recommended by the Honorable Samuel Calvin to attend West Point. He graduated from West Point on July 1, 1855, and was assigned to the dragoons as a 2nd Lieutenant in September of 1855. He was considered one of the best horsemen at West Point. He was also very tall for the time at 6'1". He was modest and unassuming as well. David graduated 8th out of a class of 34 students. He was ranked 30th on the conduct roll of 204 cadets. Robert E. Lee became commandant in David's 2nd year. Members of his class who were later Union generals were William Woods Averell, William Babcock Hazen, Alfred Torbert, John Wesley Turner, Alexander Stewart Webb, and Godfrey Weitzel. The future Confederate generals were Francis Redding Tilou Nicholls and Francis Shoup. William Whedbee Kirkland was also a Confederate General but he did not graduate with his class as he entered the U.S. Marine Corps. David was also friends with members of the class of 1854: J.E.B. Stuart, Hugh Weedon Mercer, and William Dorsey Pender. David was commissioned a 2nd Lt. of Dragoons and assigned to Co. C, 2nd Dragoons. He was then promoted to the First Dragoons and sent to their headquarters at Fort Union, NM.



Gregg at West Point



Fort Union, northeastern New Mexico

Like most men in the Army, he was sent all over the country. Travel had to have been hard back then. First he reported to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri, then he was transferred to Fort Columbus on Governors Island in NY. This fort is now known as Fort Jay. From New York he started his long trip west to Fort Union. He went the Southern route through New Orleans, Galveston, San Antonio, and then joined a small Army train to Fort Clarke, TX. He trekked to El Paso another 380 miles through country that was unsettled except for Indians. He did not reach Fort Union until February 2, 1858. His West Point friend William Dorsey Pender accompanied him on the trip. David and William bought a race horse together. This seems very strange as they were travelling all the time. He next went to Fort Teton, CA which was 1,200 miles from Fort Union.

In August, 1857 he was sent to Fort Vancouver, WA, another 800 miles of traveling. David was the commander of Co. H. His first combat was near Colville, 175 miles north of Fort Vancouver with 153 men against 1,000 Indians of the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene tribes. They were only saved from a massacre by retreating to the Snake River.

(cont on page 16)

MS. REBELLE

His time in the west was spent fighting different tribes of Indians. When the Civil War began, he came back East. He was first appointed captain of the 3rd U.S. Cavalry. He was then appointed colonel on May 14, 1861 and was part of the Defenses of Washington with his Co. E of the 6th Cavalry. Unfortunately, he contracted typhoid fever and was sent to the City Infirmary on E Street, N.W. in Washington. The building was destroyed by fire while he was a patient on November 18, 1861. An orderly carried him out and he survived. The site was rebuilt and called Judiciary Square General Hospital.



Fort Vancouver, Washington (Janet Greentree)



DC City Infirmary Fire, 1861

He was married on October 6, 1862 in White Marsh, PA to Ellen (Emma) Frances Sheaff, a great-granddaughter of Governor Joseph Hiester of Reading, the 5th Governor of Pennsylvania, and also of the Rev. Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, the first Speaker of the House of Representatives in the first Congress of the United States from 1789-1791. Muhlenberg was also a Lutheran Minister. David married into one of the most prominent families in Reading, PA. David met Ellen at his West Point commencement ceremony. She was on a trip with her aunt, and they decided to stop and see the festive activities of the graduation. David and Ellen honeymooned in NYC. They had only two children, George Sheaff and David McMurtrie Gregg, Jr. George never married. David served in the Army in the Spanish American War but was in no battles. He later was in the banking business.



Campaigns that David Gregg participated in include the Peninsula Campaign, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Stoneman's Raid during the Chancellorsville Campaign, Brandy Station, the Gettysburg Campaign (Aldie, Middleburg, Upperville, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station and Mine Run), Rapidan Station, Beverly Ford, Auburn, New Hope Church, the Overland Campaign, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Yellow Tavern, Haw's Shop, Trevillian Station, Saint Mary's Church, Petersburg, 2nd Deep Bottom, 2nd Battle of Ream's Station, and Peebles' Farm. What an accomplishment!

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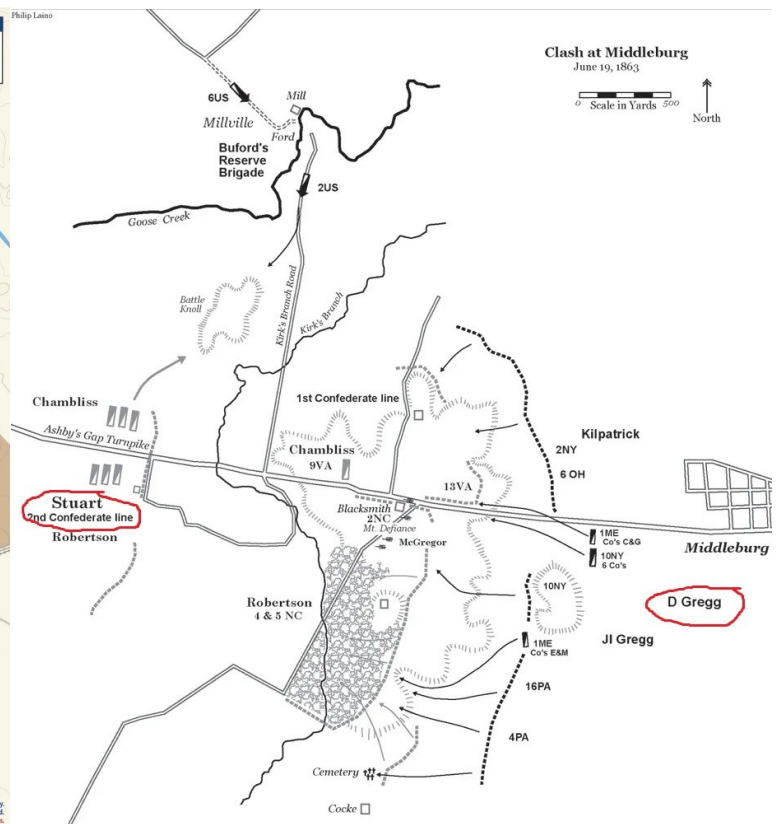
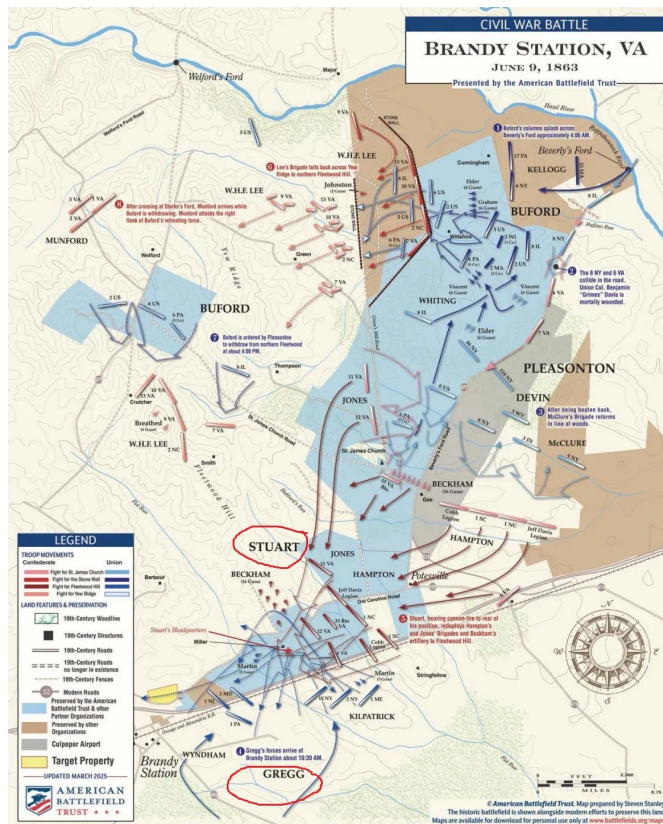
MS. REBELLE



In the Peninsula Campaign he commanded the 8th Pennsylvania and was promoted to brigadier general after the battle. His cavalry remained in Petersburg while Gen. Sheridan cleared the Valley of all remaining Confederates. At both Antietam and Fredericksburg, his unit was held in reserve. At the battle of Brandy Station he commanded the left wing of the Union Cavalry against his friend and classmate J.E.B. Stuart.

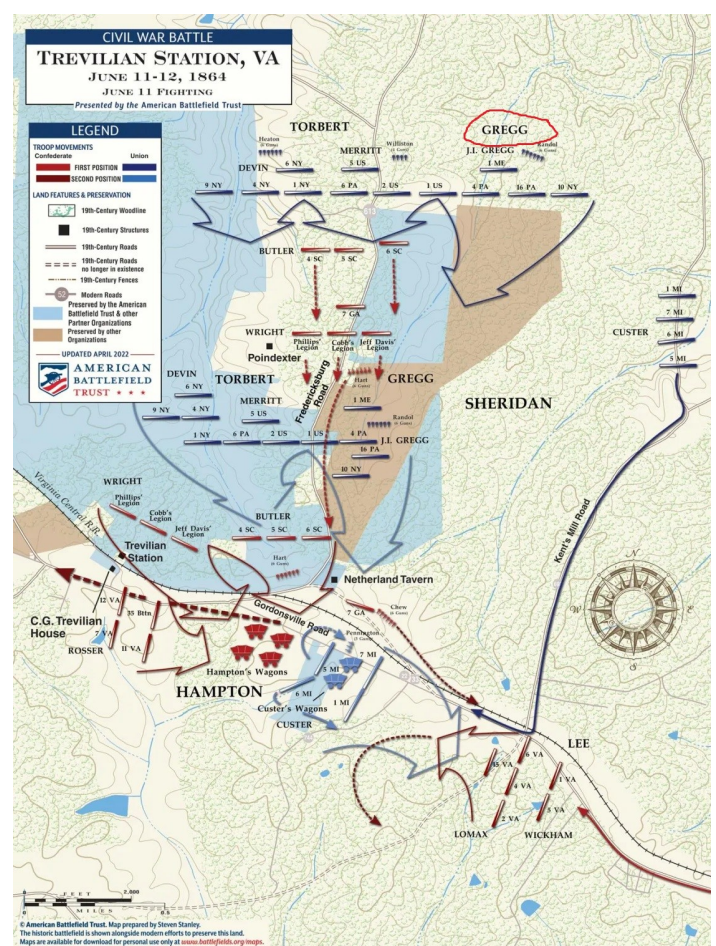
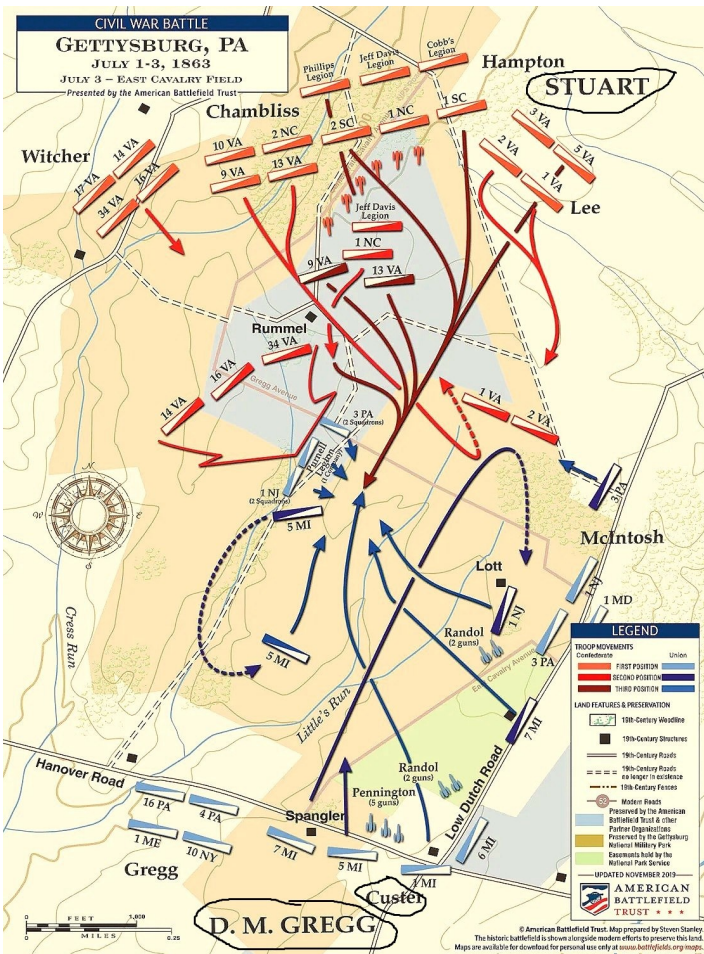
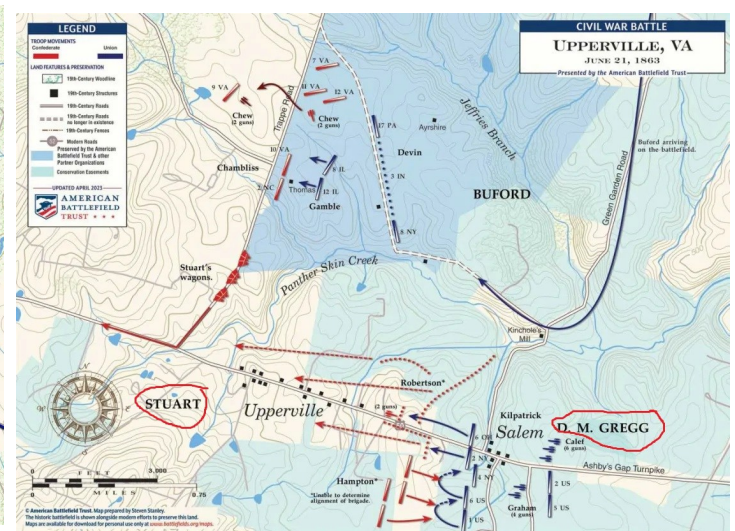
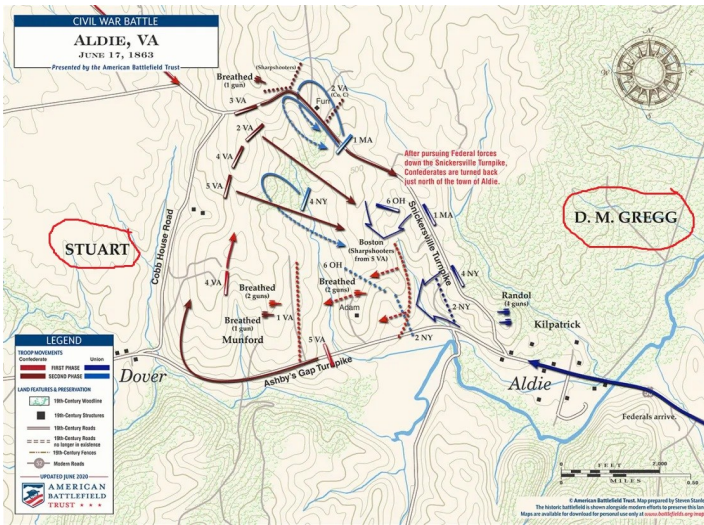
Gregg encountered his friend Stuart again at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville in the Gettysburg Campaign. He came up against him again at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse and Yellow Tavern where Stuart was killed.

During the Gettysburg Campaign, Gregg was under orders to protect the right flank and rear of the Union Army. He arrived at the intersection of Low Dutch Road and Hanover Road outside of Gettysburg shortly after 2 p.m. on July 2nd. Gregg had 10,000 men with him. Gregg and Custer fought on the East Cavalry Field in Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. There are many trees now in that area which most likely were not there during the battle. If you know where Custer's monument is on the left as you come in on Gregg Avenue, Gregg's monument is on the right, recessed back a bit from the road. Gregg and Custer were in this area and not far from Stuart and his cavalry on the right loop side of the road.



(cont on page 18)

MS. REBELLE

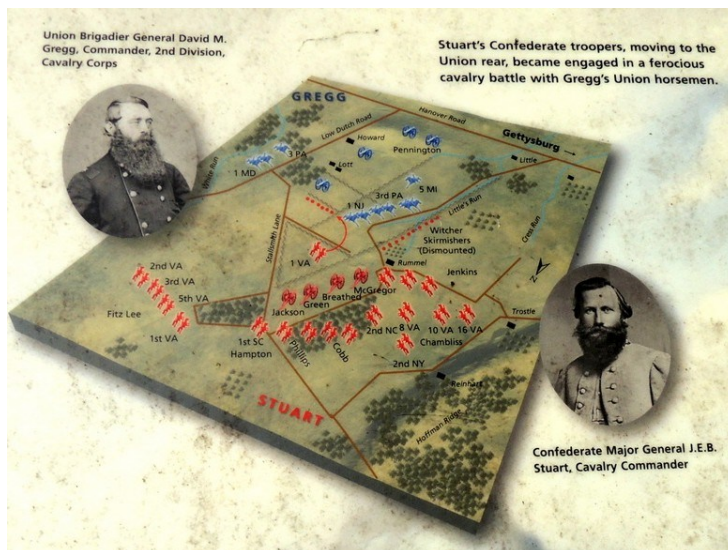


(cont on page 19)

MS. REBELLE



Gregg's Monument, East Cavalry Field on Gregg Avenue, Gettysburg (Janet Greentree)



Action at East Cavalry Field



Gregg's statue at the Pennsylvania Monument



J.E.B. Stuart

The battle was long and included hand to hand combat. Custer and Gregg stopped Stuart from a plan to flank the Union rear during Pickett's Charge. Both sides claimed victory. I would love to have an overhead shot of this area but could not find anything. When the battle was over, Gregg left Gettysburg with his men and went to Chambersburg. On August 1, 1864 he was made a brevet major general of the U.S. Volunteers for his meritorious and distinguished conduct throughout the campaign. Gregg also has a statue next to Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock on the northeast side of the Pennsylvania Monument. Gregg was present in September 27, 1910 when the monument was dedicated and gave a speech.

(cont on page 20)

MS. REBELLE

On January 25, 1865 he resigned his commission. No clear reason was given by him for doing that. In his resignation letter he said: "Having more than three years been on uninterrupted service in the field, commanding cavalry in the Army of the Potomac, I at this time find such an imperative demand for my continued presence at home that my personal attention may be given to pressing private duties and business, that I can no longer defer action to secure my discharge from the service." Several historians speculated that Gregg feared a violent death in battle.

His civilian life started when he and his wife settled in Reading, PA, his wife's hometown. He decided to farm near Milford, DE but he could not stand the dullness of being a farmer and applied to join the Army again in 1868. The cavalry command that he wanted went to his 2nd cousin John Irvin Gregg. President Grant stepped in and appointed Gregg in 1874 to be the U.S. Consul to Prague, Austria, and Hungary. His wife became homesick, so he resigned and they returned home.

In September, 1865 he officiated a memorial service for fellow Gettysburg Gen. Alexander Schimmelpfennig. Schimmelpfennig is buried in the same cemetery as Gregg. Gregg was active in state and local affairs in Pennsylvania and raised funds to preserve Valley Forge as a national shrine. He visited the Gettysburg Battlefield many times and gave speeches about the Civil War. Later he became active in politics and was elected to a four year term as Auditor General of Pennsylvania. Due to declining health he refused his nomination in 1899 for state treasurer.



Equestrian statues of Meade and Hancock, Gettysburg (Janet Greentree)

On June 5, 1896 David gave an oration at the equestrian statues of Generals Meade and Hancock on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The *Emporia Gazette* of June 6, 1896 reported on the oration given by Gen. Gregg: "To Meade and Hancock, Statues Erected on the Field of Gettysburg are Unveiled. Gettysburg, Pa., June 6. An immense crowd of veterans of the late war, and others, gathered at the battlefield today to witness the unveiling of equestrian statues erected by the state of Pennsylvania in honor of General G. G. Meade of Pennsylvania and Winfield S. Hancock. The Meade memorial was unveiled by Master George Gordon Meade, a grandson of the dead hero. General David McMurtrie Gregg, the famous commander of the Second Cavalry division at the

(cont on page 21)

MS. REBELLE

battle of Gettysburg, concluded the Meade ceremonies. At 1 o'clock this afternoon the Hancock statue was unveiled. Among the distinguished people present were General Nelson A. Miles, Colonel George Meade, son of General Meade, and Lieutenant Colonel William Brooke Rawley.

David appears in several famous pictures including the 1893 Gettysburg reunion, Gen. Sheridan and his staff (L-R Henry E. Davies, David M. Gregg, Phil Sheridan, Wesley Merritt, Alfred Torbert, and James H. Wilson), a colorized group shot showing David with his staff at Bristoe Station, and a picture from October 15, 1884 showing the ceremony dedicating the Gregg monument on the East Cavalry Battlefield.



1893 Gettysburg Reunion



Sheridan and staff



Gregg and staff

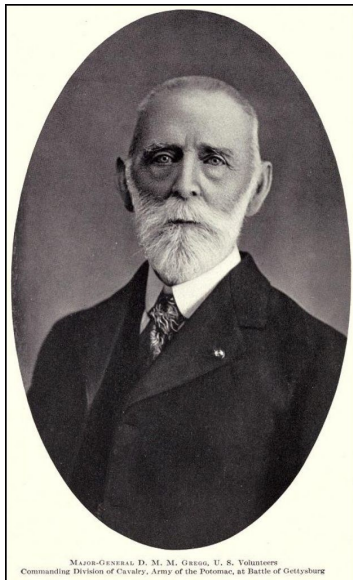
After Custer's death at Little Big Horn, whenever his name came up, Gregg would look down pursing his lips and being very distraught. He would say: "Ah, Custer. There was a man!" He felt the same way when someone would mention the Battle of Yellow Tavern where his friend J.E.B. Stuart was killed.

(cont on page 22)

MS. REBELLE

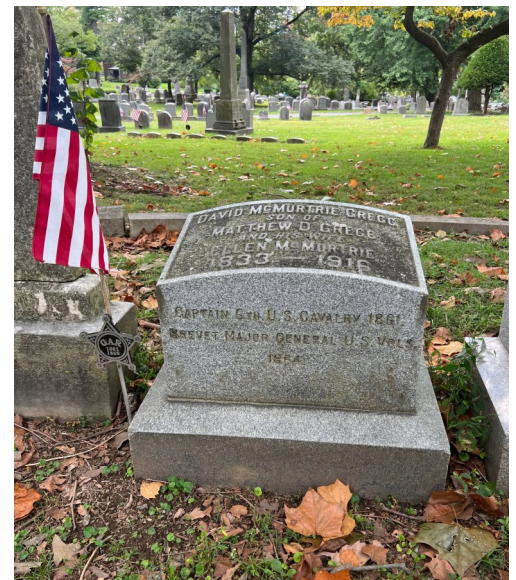
In 1907 Gen. Gregg wrote a 26 page book called "The Second Cavalry Division of the Army of the Potomac in the Gettysburg Campaign." In July, 1914 he brought his wife and eldest son to the East Cavalry Field and showed them the wooded area near the Rummel Farm where the Confederates started their charge.

1884 Dedication of Gregg Monument



David McMurtrie Gregg

Gregg Grave Marker
(James Scott)



David McMurtrie Gregg died at 83 years of age on August 7, 1916 in Reading, Pennsylvania. He was the last surviving brigadier general from Pennsylvania in the Civil War. The cause of death is unknown but he was sick the last four weeks of his life. His wife predeceased him on October 27, 1915 at their home at 106 North 4th Street in Reading. Unfortunately, the house appears to be divided into at least 3 shabby houses or apartments now. They are both buried in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, Berks Co., Pennsylvania in Section 8, Lots 18-20, Memorial ID 5831353, GPS coordinates 40° 21'15.5"N 75°55'55.7"W. I would like to thank my friend James Scott for finding Gregg's grave for me. He also found Schimmelpfennig's grave for me.

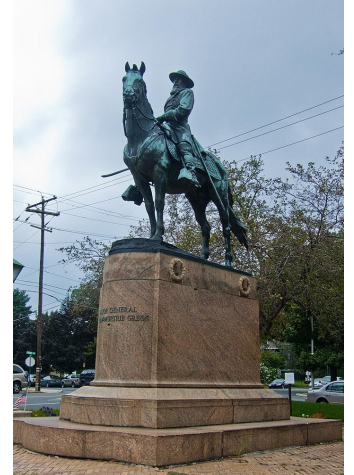
In 1922 Reading erected a large bronze statue of Gregg on horseback at Centre Ave. & North 4th St. The statue was sculpted by Augustus Lukeman in New York at the cost of \$28,000. In 1995 Reading decided that the statue needed to be repaired and re-finished. The amount to accomplish this was \$28,000. A rededication ceremony took place on June 1, 1996. After WWI the local American Legion Post No. 12 was named for him. The cemetery where he is buried is just a short distance from the monument.

(cont on page 23)

MS. REBELLE

General James H. Wilson wrote about Gregg in his book *Under the Old Flag* stating "it has been often said that he was the best all 'round cavalry officer that ever commanded a division in either army . . . whose superb figure, knightly bearing, and perfect self-possession won the admiration of his companions in arms and secured for him the reputation of a soldier 'sans peur et sans reproche'."

The Reading *Eagle* listed his obituary on August 9, 1916 entitled: "No Military Ceremony at Gen. Gregg's Funeral – His Wish for Simplest Service to be Carried Out – Many Messages of Condolences Pouring In. Telegrams of condolence by the score have been received by David M. [Jr.] and George S. Gregg, on the death of their father, Gen. David McMurtrie Gregg. Acquaintances of the general in this city, have stopped at the residence, 106 North Fourth Street, in great numbers to express their sorrow at the passing of the hero of Gettysburg. Until Friday, the day of the funeral, it will be impossible to determine just how many people will be present from other cities to attend the service in Christ Episcopal Church at 12:30 o'clock. No military ceremonies will be observed at the funeral. It was the wish of the general that his funeral be of the simplest and his desires will be strictly adhered to. The body will not be viewed by any persons other than members of the family. In the church the casket will be closed. Intimate friends of the deceased have received invitations to be present at the service and special provision will be made for them. It is expected that many friends will attend the church service. Silently the cortege left the home of North Fourth Street and proceeded to Christ Episcopal Church, little more than a square distant. There was nothing in the procession to indicate that the most gallant of soldiers was going to his last resting place. Persons bared their heads as a small column filed slowly past. A strange quiet seemed to fall over the heart of the city. On Fifth Street between Washington and Penn, not a vehicle moved. The following members of the family were present: Col. H.H. Gregg of Joplin, MO. the only surviving brother of Gen. Gregg and his daughter, Mrs. T.F. Lennan. Mrs. Spencer Murray, Annapolis, a niece of Gen. Gregg. Gen. Gregg's remains were attired in a black suit and reposed in a black broadcloth-covered casket." [As a side note, Spencer Murray and his wife Ella Rush Murray are buried in St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis.]



The Philadelphia *Inquirer* wrote on May 5, 1898: The Chester *Evening News* says "Although Major-General David McMurtrie Gregg has a perfect right to feel that he has accomplished his share of duty on the field of battle in defense of his country, yet if the hero of the cavalry battle at Gettysburg could be prevailed upon to accept a leadership in the present crusade, we believe he would render more efficient service than either Lee, Wheeler, Wilson, Woodford [Revolutionary War] and other men of military reputation, who are being urged to accept major-generals' commissions. His record is one of the best of the Civil War. Unfortunately, he is not of those who press their own claims for preferment of any and all times, choosing modestly as General Gobin did."

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.



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