



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXII, Issue 9, SEPTEMBER 2025

**AUTHOR AND CIVIL WAR
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIAN
ROBERT ZELLER SPEAKS ON
"THE GRAND REVIEW: DISCOVERIES
AND EXPLORATIONS IN
CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHY" AT
THE SEPTEMBER 11th,
2025 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

By Mark Trbovich

The Grand Review features the latest discoveries and revelations with the war's amazing images, with the second half in 3-D. The visual treasures taken by the war's photographers are still revealing themselves with discoveries of previously unknown images as well as exciting new ways to look at known images, including photos showing movement. Believe it or not, Civil War motion pictures exist – created from four images taken in quick succession that capture wagons, ships and other scenes in motion. The show is a "greatest hits" of Civil War photo discovery over the past half-century, and more unknown images continue to come to light on a regular basis. The presentation will transition from 2-D to 3-D to show the photo the way it was originally taken and meant to be seen. Wearing 3-D glasses, viewers will feel as if they can literally step into the tableaux of some of the war's most famous photographs, many reproduced directly from original glass-plate negatives, providing unmatched clarity. The Grand Review shows the best of this new photo-history scholarship in a compelling and memorable way.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, September 11,
2025**

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Robert Zeller

TOPIC:

**"The Grand Review: Discoveries
and Explorations in Civil
War Photography"**

Bob Zeller is co-founder and president of The Center for Civil War Photography www.civilwarphotography.org which was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in 2001. Over twenty years ago, Zeller pioneered the reintroduction of the war's 3-D photographs into Civil War studies with his groundbreaking stereoscopic photo history of the war: *The Civil War in Depth – History in 3-D* (Chronicle Books, 1997). It was the first book to present Civil War stereo photos the way they were taken and meant to be seen. "No one has gone into the 3-D aspect" wrote Civil War historian James I. Robertson in a review. "He is a pioneer in an exciting new field." As the *New York Times Book Review* said, the images "seem to jump out at the viewer." Since then, Zeller

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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 **October 2025 issue**, e-mail articles by **September 29th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **October 2025 issue**, advertisers please see "Instructions for Advertisers" at:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 11 Robert Zeller - "The Grand Review: Discoveries and Explorations in Civil War Photography"

October 9 Patrick Falci - "30th Anniversary of the Making of the Gettysburg Movie"

November 20 Jari Villanueva - "24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotions: The Story of America's Most Famous Bugle Call"

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"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By **Melissa A. Winn**

Photos: Debbie Whitenton

I love to go running and especially on the Manassas National Battlefield. I took my morning run there on August 30th, to commemorate the 163rd anniversary of the Second Battle of Manassas. I feel so fortunate that I ran into several members of our Round Table on the battlefield that day, also there to commemorate the anniversary. At least one of our members asked me that day, and several since, if we'll be commemorating Patriot Day on September 11th, which is also the day of our next meeting.

On **September 11**, our country observes **Patriot Day** to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the terrorist attacks of 2001. Just as we honor the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers on the fields of Antietam, Gettysburg, or Manassas, Patriot Day calls us to reflect on courage, resilience, and unity in the face of tragedy. We will take a special moment of silence that day in our meeting to commemorate those lives lost.

There are also several ways you can pay tribute this year right here in Fairfax County and Washington, D.C.:

- **Visit the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington** – Open year-round, this moving memorial honors the 184 lives lost at the Pentagon on September 11. Its design of illuminated benches invites quiet reflection.
- **Participate in a service activity** – The organization *Carry the Load* will host a **Patriot Day volunteer event in Alexandria**, where participants will help clean and care for veterans' headstones. Find out more at: <https://www.carrytheload.org/patriot-day-national-day-of-service/> A simple act of service is a powerful way to honor the day.

- **Walk or ride along the 9/11 National Memorial Trail** – This 1,500-mile trail network connects the Pentagon, the Flight 93 Memorial, and the 9/11 Memorial in New York.
- **Attend commemorations in Fairfax County** – Many local churches, veteran groups, and civic organizations will hold ceremonies or moments of silence. Even if you cannot attend in person, pausing at **8:46 a.m.** or observing the national moment of silence at **3:00 p.m.** helps unite us in remembrance.

Just a few days after Patriot Day, on **September 17**, we also mark the anniversary of the **Battle of Antietam**, the bloodiest single day in American history. More than 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing in just hours of combat. Out of the carnage came a turning point - the opportunity for President Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The echoes of Antietam remind us that sacrifice can lead to transformation, and that remembrance is our duty as students of history.

This September, I encourage you to visit a site of remembrance, take part in a community event, or simply pause in gratitude for those who gave their lives in service to something greater than themselves.

Our August speaker, Dana Shoaf, who detailed the development of the Civil War ambulance



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SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

and Chronicle have published *The Civil War in Depth Volume I*, (2000), as well as *Lincoln in 3-D*, co-authored with John Richter (2010). Zeller is also the author of *The Blue and Gray in Black and White: A History of Civil War Photography* (Praeger, 2005), the first and only book-length narrative history of the photography of the war. Zeller's latest book, published in May 2017, is *Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of The Civil War Trust*.

Bob Zeller, 73, is a native of Washington, D.C., and a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism (B.J. '74). He is married to former newspaper photographer and city manager Ann G. Bailie. They have two grown children and live on Lake Norman in Troutman, NC.

Come join us early at our September 11th, 2025 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Bob and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We had a most enjoyable lecture at our August General Membership meeting. Dana Shoaf explained the evolution of the battlefield ambulance during the Civil War.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meeting as we continue to study, remember, and reflect together.

Huzzah!

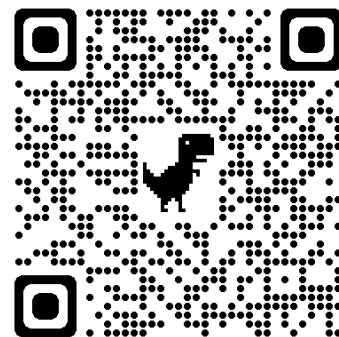


SUPPORT BRCWRT ACTIVITIES

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
September 11, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Robert Zeller - "The Grand Review: Discoveries and Explorations in Civil War Photography"
September 28, 2025	Annual Bull Run Civil War Round Table Picnic The Winery At Bull Run
October 9, 2025	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Patrick Falci - "30th Anniversary of the Making of the Gettysburg Movie"
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 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: TBD
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"
Monthly Meetings in "Black"	Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in "Red" <u>County or outside sponsored events in "Green"</u>

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

9th Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 28, 2025

The Winery @ Bull Run

New Museum Tour 10 am – 11 am

BBQ Served 12-2 pm

Food Provided by...

THE BONE
hand-shredded pulled pork platter

(OR)

certified angus beef brisket platter

platter includes

Sandwich + homemade sides: cole slaw, potato salad, ranch beans

A drink (coke, diet coke, sprite, water)

and cake

Individual Members @ No Cost

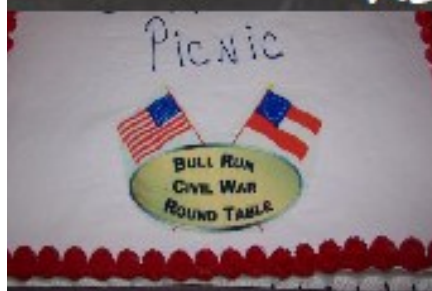
Family Memberships (husband & wife or equivalents) plus children

@ No Cost

All others will be considered as "guests"

Guests: Pork (or) Beef brisket platter @ \$18.00

RSVP at BRCWRT.org



**Silent Auction
With Civil War Prints**

**Proceeds go to the
Scholarship Fund!**



SILENT AUCTION!!

For BRCWRT Picnic Attendees Only
Bid on these Excellent prints



"Fierce Men Provoked"
by Bradley Schmehl.
Starting bid \$250.

"Hell for Glory"
by Keith Rocco.
Starting bid \$250.



"Robert E. Lee"
by Michael Gnatek.
Starting bid \$75.



"Little Round Top"
by Don Troiani.
Starting bid \$100.

**"Stonewall's Foot
Cavalry"**
by Clyde Heron.
Starting bid \$75.



BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL 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 are opened. Nominations are closed and the names of the members running for office are announced during our November General Membership meeting. The officer election is then 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.

If you are interested in throwing your hat in the ring or in nominating another member for one of these offices, you can do so during our October 9, 2025, General Membership meeting. Alternatively, you can express your interest in running for office or in nominating another member by notifying the undersigned prior to the closure of nominations at jeffreyjoyce@sprintmail.com or by telephone (703) 862-6417 (mobile).

Respectfully,
Jeff Joyce, Nominating Committee Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Your Round Table Needs You! It takes many volunteers to carry out our programs and mission to educate and preserve. However, there are several areas where we could really use more member involvement.

One committee that needs new membership is our Marketing Committee. These folks represent the BRCWRT at various history-related events in the community, telling visitors about what we do and encouraging them to consider joining. If you enjoy meeting and talking with people about the Civil War, this committee is for you.

Another area we really need folks to step up is part of our Fundraising efforts. Regular attendees at our membership meetings know that we sell donated Civil War books to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. We sometimes take them along to Marketing events in the community, as well. Since our stock of books resides at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Park HQ, it would be ideal if we could find a couple of Prince William County members who could bring selected books to meetings, sell them to our members, and receive and organize the books that members donate.

At one time the Round Table had an Education Committee that partnered with area schools to bring programming to students and augment what their schools can provide. The Executive Committee has a desire to find motivated folks to rebuild this committee. Folks with a background in education would be most appreciated!

If you are interested in joining any of these committees - or indeed, any of our committees listed on page 2 - please contact our President, Melissa Winn, at melissaannwinn@gmail.com.

While we have a number of regular contributors to the *Stone Wall*, if you like to write and have a particular topic of interest or would like to submit a book review, your humble Editor would be glad to hear from you at don.richardson@erols.com.



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 (PWDG) and on Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

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 that changed the zoning of specific land parcels along Pageland Lane from Rural/Agricultural to Industrial/Technical, thus allowing data centers along the Pageland Lane corridor and directly adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park.



Rendering of Proposed PWDG Data Centers depicting proposed data centers site schematics in relation to adjacent historic sites
(Courtesy of American Battlefield Trust)

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 Home Owners 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

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of the scheduled public hearing and the substance of the rezoning applications was not compliant with the applicable Virginia law or PWC zoning ordinance. (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. The county asked the *Washington Post* to run the ads on November 28 and December 5. The ads instead 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 the 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 the ruling, and on April 28, 2025 filed an appeal brief specifying the basis for the appeal:

- The Circuit Court erred in deciding a factual dispute at the Demurrer stage
- The County notices were defective under both state law and county ordinance and not subject to the "Safe Harbor" doctrine
- The failure of the county to require Special Use Permits, as required by Prince William County ordinances, was not a "Fairly Debatable" decision
- The failure of the applicants to provide required detail regarding the rezoning is not "Fairly Debatable"
- The failure to send the applications back to the Planning Commission after "Substantial Changes" were made to proffers was not a "Fairly Debatable" error

An appeal hearing date has not been set but is expected by mid- to late-September.

The Oak Valley HOA lawsuit hearing was conducted June 17-23, 2025 by PWC Circuit Judge Kimberly Irving. On June 20, Judge Kimberly Irving denied a request to dismiss the case and ruled that the plaintiffs had "standing" to proceed. At the close of the hearing on Monday, June 23 Judge Irving stated she would decide the case after considering written closing arguments, which were submitted by July 7 followed by written rebuttals, which were submitted on July 14.

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 Friday, 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, re-assessments, citizen confusions, and the potential for unnecessary enforcement actions if defendants are ultimately successful on appeal." This motion was not filed, nor was it discussed or voted on, by the Board of County Supervisors. It appears to have

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been filed as a legal matter to avoid taking action to revert the zoning of the affected land parcels to Rural/Agricultural from Industrial/Technical, and the subsequent associated actions that would be required, including reassessment and reimbursement of real estate taxes paid based on the higher land values assessed based on the Industrial/Technical zoning classification. 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 appeals process can proceed. This motion was likewise not discussed or voted on by the Board of County Supervisors.

Also on Friday, 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, coordination, etc. for the proposed PWDG data centers.

On Wednesday, August 27, Judge Irving denied the motion requesting a stay of her Aug. 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 plan to deliberate and determine whether to appeal Judge Irving's August 7 ruling.

In Judge Irving's evaluation of the defense's "motion to clarify" the ruling, she stated there was "no way on Earth" she was going to go through another trial on whether Counts Two through Seven were "fairly debatable." Irving said a ruling in favor of the plaintiffs on the lawsuit's first count – regarding the issues of actual notice and improper advertisements of the December 2023 Digital Gateway public hearing – would render the six remaining counts moot. As the plaintiffs have indeed prevailed, Irving stated she was not inclined to reconsider the other six counts – though she did ultimately agree to dismiss them "without prejudice," meaning the defense is free to re-file the claim in a different court.

It will be interesting to see what PWC ultimately does regarding an appeal. The current Board of County Supervisors is not the same Board that approved the rezoning applications in December 2023. Board Chair Deshundra Jefferson and several of the 'new' Supervisors are longtime opponents of the PWDG. Remember as well that in the most recent (2022-2023) update to the PWC Data Center Overlay District, the Pageland Lane corridor was not included due to its lack of supporting infrastructure (energy, water, storm water management, etc.) and the potential environmental Impact on the Occoquan River watershed reservoir, and that in 2023 the PWC Planning Commission and the PWC Staff both recommended disapproval of the PWDG rezoning applications. So, things could get very interesting.

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Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park

On August 14, 2025 Prince William County acquired 22 acres of core battlefield land of both the Battle of Kettle Run (August 27, 1862) and the Battle of Bristoe Station (October 14, 1863) that is planned for incorporation into Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. Originally purchased by the American Battlefield Trust in 2021, this historic land is bordered by Bristow Road and what is now the Norfolk Southern Railway line and includes the former Rollins Farm property.



During the Battle of Kettle Run (see map, above), the 60th Georgia Infantry occupied positions on the south side of the then Orange and Alexandria Railroad (O&A RR) line on this ground, engaging the 5th NJ in fierce fighting that included hand-to-hand fighting before the 60th Georgia retreated towards Bristoe Station.

During the Battle of Bristoe Station (see map, next page), Owen's Brigade (111 NY, 39th NY and 125 NY) of Rutherford B. Hays' Division, Warren's V Corps charged, under fire, across this land reaching the safety of the O&A RR line's embankment. Backed by Arnold's artillery, the Brigade repulsed the Confederate attack at Bristoe Station.

This preserved 22 acres is the newest addition to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, which opened in 2006 and now encompasses more than 160 acres of core battlefield land, which now extends southeast across the historic railroad track embankment. Currently there is no public access to this newly acquired land, and none is planned for an estimated 12-18 months. Prince William County and the Park plan to restore the newly acquired 22 acres to its 1863 appearance, including removing all Rollins Farm buildings and associated structures and items, and to add a parking area and an interpretive trail with signage to enhance access and the visitor experience on this historic land.

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Battle of Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863

On August 27, 2025, the 163rd Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Run, Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park's Kevin Pawlak and Lance Russell conducted an inaugural first tour on this site. The tour for a robust group of Civil War enthusiasts focused on the Battle of Kettle Run, the precursor to the 2nd Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). The tour focused on the fighting that occurred on this land and the stories of individual soldiers who fought there.



Kevin, Lance and the Tour Group at the Rollins Farmhouse

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Kevin Discusses the Fighting Between the 60th Georgia and the 5th NJ
on the Land Upon Which the Fighting Occurred (the Railroad Line and
Embankment are Just to the Right of the Tree Line on the Group's Right)

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



Annmarie Geddes Baribeau is a national investigative journalist and researcher who has published more than 600 business and insurance articles. Currently, she is a communications and marketing services consultant. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, she has lived in Northern Virginia for 30 years and now resides in Fairfax City with her husband, Alan. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, genealogy, and sewing.

Her interest in the Civil War began after uncovering long-hidden Virginia ancestors whose lives were forever changed by the conflict. Her book *Survivor or Scoundrel: How One Working Class Richmond Man Avoided Battle and Endured the Confederacy* centers on a dishonorable soldier from a working-class household in Richmond and a young woman who watches the war from her family's Shenandoah County farm near the Valley Turnpike while her two brothers are active in battle.

THE VIEWS OF JEFFERSON DAVIS AND ROBERT E. LEE ON SLAVERY

by Tim Duskin

In his talk before the Bull Run Civil War Round Table on June 26, John Hennessy said that although Abraham Lincoln's view of black people was the same as that of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, his view of slavery was different. However, he did not say anything about what the views of Davis and Lee were concerning slavery. As I dealt with Lincoln's view of slavery in my last article, I will examine those of Davis and Lee in this article.

One thing that Hennessy said was that the Confederate States of America intended to maintain slavery in perpetuity. When Davis was in the Senate, he made the following remarks:

"There is a relation belonging to this species of property, unlike that of the apprentice or the hired man, which awakens whatever there is of kindness or of nobility of soul in the heart of him who owns it; this can only be alienated, obscured, or destroyed, by collecting this species of property into such masses that the owner is not personally acquainted with the individuals who compose it. In the relation, ... the mere domestic connection of one, two, or at the most half a dozen servants in a family, associating with the children as they grow up, attending upon age as it declines, ... for this is the high-road and the open gate to the condition in which the masters would, from interest in a few years, desire the emancipation of every one ..."

Senator John Adams Dix of New York stated in a speech in 1848 that "free blacks would continue to be an inferior cast and simply die out." Davis, a slaveholder himself, replied as follows:

"With surprise and horror, I heard this announcement of a policy which seeks, through poverty and degradation, the extinction of a race of human beings domesticated among us. We, sir, stand in relation to that people as creates a feeling of kindness and protection. We have attachments which have grown with us since childhood – to the old servant who nursed us in infancy, to the man who was the companion of our childhood, and the not less tender regard for those who have been reared under our protection. To hear their extinction treated as a matter of public policy or of speculative philosophy arouses our sympathy and our indignation."

Dix was to become a Union general during the Civil War. As a slaveholder, Davis took steps to improve the condition of his slaves. Jefferson Davis's plantation, Briarfield, was located close to Hurricane, that of his older brother Joseph Davis, in Mississippi. Jefferson sought to instruct his slaves in order to enable them to take their place in society as free men. This is described by James R. and Walter D. Kennedy as follows:

"Among the innovations established by Joseph Davis, and copied by Jefferson Davis, were (1) providing a slave system of justice, where slaves sat as jurors against offenders of the law of the plantation and where no slave could be punished except when found guilty by a jury; (2) limiting the arbitrary authority of an overseer, preventing an overseer from punishing a slave unless conviction had been obtained by a

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DAVIS AND LEE ON SLAVERY

jury; (3) allowing slaves appellate rights to their master in cases where a conflict with an overseer arose; (4) providing technical training in trades and crafts to improve slave productivity and to improve their skills allowing slaves to keep any money above the value of their daily work; (5) encouraging slaves to grow crops and raise various livestock for sale and allowing them to keep the profits; (6) giving gifts to each person on special days, such as birthdays, weddings, and other special occasions."

Jefferson Davis described his effort as "the preparation of that race for civil liberty, and social enjoyment ... When the time shall arrive at which emancipation is proper; those most interested will be most anxious to effect it." Their attitudes toward slavery caused the Davis brothers to be known throughout Mississippi as "friends to the Negroes."

In the debates in the U.S. Congress before the war over whether slavery should be allowed or prohibited in the territories, Davis, as Senator, argued for allowing it because he argued that allowing slavery to spread to the territories would diffuse it. He felt that if it were not allowed to spread there and were kept in the states, this would strengthen it by concentrating it there. In a speech in the Senate on February 13, 1850, in opposition to Senator Henry Clay's attempt to ban slavery in the territories, Davis stated:

"What has been the progress of emancipation throughout the whole history of our country? It has been the pressure of free labor upon the less profitable slave labor, until the slaves were transferred to sparser regions, and their number, by such transfer, was reduced to a limit at which, without inconvenience or danger, or serious loss, emancipation of the few who remained might occur."

In a letter to his wife in February 1861, Jefferson Davis wrote, "In any case, our slave property will eventually be lost." This is when the Confederacy was being formed. There was no knowledge at that time as to whether the Confederacy would go to war or whether or not it would continue as a nation uncontested. He saw the end of slavery as inevitable in any case. After the Civil War, when the Davis brothers fell on hard times and had to sell their plantations, they sold them to a former slave even though they had an offer for more money from a wealthy Northerner.

Robert E. Lee expressed his sentiments about slavery in a letter to his wife on December 27, 1856. In it, he said, "In this enlightened age there are few, I believe, but will acknowledge that slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil in any country. It is useless to expatiate on its disadvantages." He said of the slaves, "Their emancipation will sooner result from a mild and melting influence than the storms and contests of fiery controversy. This influence, though slow, is sure."

The only slaves Lee owned were those which were inherited through his wife. His father-in-law left provisions in his will for freeing these slaves. When that time came, Lee set aside a year's worth of his pay to give to them in order to help them in their new life of freedom. This occurred ten weeks before Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

(cont on page 17)

DAVIS AND LEE ON SLAVERY

In short, Lincoln, Davis, and Lee all sought the emancipation of slaves. The difference was that Lincoln sought to free slaves immediately, whereas Davis and Lee felt that emancipation should be gradual, with giving the slaves training and assistance in being able to live in freedom after they were emancipated, which Davis referred to as the high road to emancipation. Furthermore, Lincoln only sought to free certain slaves in order to defeat the Confederacy and win the war, as I pointed out in my last article.

Sources:

James R. and Walter D. Kennedy, *Jefferson Davis: High Road to Emancipation and Constitutional Government*. Columbia, SC: Shotwell Publishing, 2022.

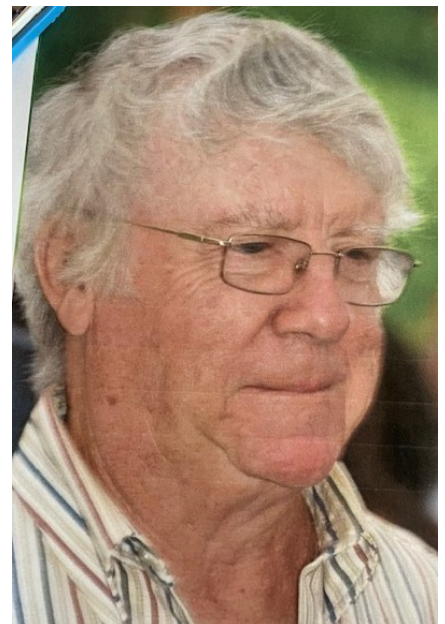
Rod O'Barr, "Jefferson Davis on Slavery in the Territories," Abbeville Institute, August 26, 2021. www.abbevilleinstitute.org/jefferson-davis-on-slavery-in-the-territories/

Ralston B. Lattimore, ed., *The Story of Robert E. Lee: As Told in His Own Words and Those of His Contemporaries*. Source Book Series, No. 1, Philadelphia: Eastern National Park & Monument Association, 1964.

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE "BUD" PORTER

One of the things that binds Round Table members together, regardless of their backgrounds, is the desire to keep learning more about the most significant challenge our nation has ever faced, and to pass that knowledge on to future generations. The BRCWRT recently received a large bequest from the family of former member Bud Porter, which will be added to our Scholarship Fund. The Round Table has for some time awarded an annual scholarship to gifted high school seniors who plan to study history, which is our way of encouraging rising generations to continue our work. The Porter donation will significantly strengthen our efforts in that area. We are grateful to Bud's family for their support.

In addition to the financial donation, the family passed on to the Round Table his collection of six new Kunstler coffee mugs (which will be prizes for quiz questions at the Annual Picnic later this month) and three prints, which will be part of the Silent Auction at the picnic. You can preview them (the ones by Rocco, Troiani, and Schmehl) on page 7. Proceeds from the sale of prints will also go to the Scholarship Fund.





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

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Student (21 & under): FREE!

Three-Year Option:

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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
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If there are any changes:

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CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

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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? _____